

Attachment C

Summary of Public Exhibition Submissions

Summary of Submissions and Responses: draft Operational Plan 2024/25 and draft Resourcing Strategy 2024

16 submissions were received in total (including via email and through the Sydney Your Say survey) following the exhibition of the Draft Operational Plan 2024/25 and Draft Resourcing Strategy 2024. A summary of the issues raised in the submissions and responses, and the recommendation following their assessment by staff are included in the table below.

No	Background	Response	Recommendation
1	A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public noting support for the plans.	The City appreciates and notes this statement of support.	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.
2	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public concerned with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. sharing footpaths with cyclists and pedestrian safety, and 2. safety and storage of bike share facilities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We share these concerns about unsafe behaviour and illegally modified e-bikes. We are allocating resources to specifically work with other authorities (including Fair Trading, Safe Work NSW and NSW Police), companies and people riding to improve safety and compliance. 2. City staff are working with bike share operators to implement mandatory designated bike share parking spaces in busy areas, including on street spaces where walking space is constrained. We are continuing our advocacy to the NSW Government to regulate bike share to enforce a cap on operators and bikes and have performance measures with financial penalties for non-compliance. 	That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.

No	Background	Response	Recommendation
3	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. increased greening in developments; and 2. concern with cyclists' behaviour, and 3. the sale of public land. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sentiment of the submission is noted as general feedback. 2. Only NSW Police can enforce road rules relating to dangerous riding or driving. The City provides education through cycling courses teaching safe and courteous riding, road rules information on our cycling map, and on site education on shared paths two to four times per week. 3. Query was not related to the exhibition of the draft plan. 	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>
4	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public requesting gaps in cycling routes to be completed.</p>	<p>The Parramatta to CBD foreshore path is a NSW government project. All the sections under the control of the City of Sydney are existing, though within our borders there are sections under the control of other landowners (e.g. Botanic Gardens).</p> <p>We have constructed over half of our regional bike network and we are keen to complete it.</p>	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

No	Background	Response	Recommendation
5	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public requesting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. cycling infrastructure in O’Dea Avenue, Waterloo, and 2. all planned cycling projects to be brought forward as much as possible. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We consulted the community on plans for a cycleway on O’Dea Avenue a year ago (https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-say-new-cycleway-odea-avenue-waterloo) and council approved the project scope in August. We are currently working on the detailed design. 2. We have built over half of our regional bike network and we are keen to complete it. We have been working on ways to deliver the bike network faster and will continue to refine our design and construction approach. 	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>
6	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public noting support for the City’s cycling plans and cycling infrastructure.</p>	<p>The City appreciates and notes this statement of support.</p>	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>
7	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public noting support for the City’s affordable housing program.</p>	<p>The City appreciates and notes this statement of support.</p>	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

No	Background	Response	Recommendation
8	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public commenting on the cost of the budget for the office of the Lord Mayor.</p>	<p>Submission on the cost of the budget for the Office of the Lord Mayor noted.</p>	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>
9	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public commenting on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the provision of housing, and requesting improvements to: 2. the Wigram Road bridge, and 3. missing path/cycle link Canal Reserve to Tramsheds. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City is not a provider of social or affordable housing and the operational plan does not call for the City to become a provider. The City uses its planning levers, sells land to community housing providers below cost, and provides grants to increase the amount of affordable housing in the local area. The NSW Government is responsible for social housing and the City advocates for more social housing in the renewal of estates. 2. The City and Inner West Council share ownership of this bridge. The handrail repairs are a precautionary interim response resulting from our condition monitoring of assets. The bridge has significant asset life remaining, and Council is not exploring a bridge renewal at this time. The missing cycleway link on Wigram Road is in most part on sections of Inner West Council road. The City will progress plans for improvements to the bridge handrail and cycleway contingent upon finalising an agreed approach with Inner West Council. The City's Operational Plan 2024/25 includes a funding allocation to design and construct a compliant 	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

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		<p>bridge balustrade and traffic barrier, as well as associated kerb, footway and road renewal works.</p> <p>3. Refer response to submission 4 and 5.</p>	
10	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public commenting on the budget.</p>	<p>Local government rates are councils' largest source of income, and under the NSW rate peg system, annual increases are approved by the Minister for Local Government on the recommendation of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). A general rate increase of 5.1 per cent has been approved for 2024/25, while this is in line with recent Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases it does not reflect the City's cost experiences of rising labour, materials, contracts, service and construction costs. Existing funds and future surpluses are allocated toward the delivery of the City's largest 10-year capital works program and operational services for the community.</p> <p>Peak parking fees in the CBD are proposed to be increased for 2024/25 at slightly less than CPI. In addition, peak and off peak rates are to be aligned in order to deliver the simplification of rates. This is designed to encourage parking turnover, improve traffic flow and increase the opportunity for parking.</p> <p>Other fees have been set in accordance with Council's pricing policy, which requires consideration of a number of factors including community service obligations, the cost of service</p>	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

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		<p>provision. Proposed fee increases are generally limited to CPI or below.</p> <p>As noted above, the City is not a provider of social or affordable housing and the operational plan does not call for the City to become a provider. The City uses its planning levers, sells land to community housing providers below cost, and provides grants to increase the amount of affordable housing in the local area.</p> <p>The spending on the Office of Lord Mayor aligns with the Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy endorsed by Council and is reflective of roles and extensive responsibilities of the function.</p> <p>Funding for the library collection is reviewed annually by the libraries team. Current funding has been assessed as sufficient to maintain the high standard delivered by the service.</p> <p>The City has been a long-time supporter and sponsor of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival, as is the NSW Government. It is a costly event to deliver and relies on funding from both business and government to be financially sustainable. The event is recognised as providing significant economic and cultural benefits to the community.</p> <p>In the 10 year Long Term Financial Plan significant funding is to be set aside towards the construction costs of a future Town Hall Square. The specific legal, financial, design and construction details of</p>	

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		<p>the project will be finalised closer its commencement, currently forecast to occur in 2035.</p> <p>Council, after many years of careful management, is in a strong financial position. Nonetheless, it faces considerable financial pressures due to cost increases, supply chain constraints, skilled labour shortages and rising service expectations. These challenges are similar to many other government and non-government entities.</p>	
11	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from Potts Point Preservation Group commenting on heritage planning.</p>	<p>Heritage is primarily managed through the planning system and the City's Local Strategic Planning Statement sets out the long term direction for management of heritage. The City has a number of heritage studies for 2024/25 which will be reported under operational plan deliverable 4.1.2. These include investigation of post war residential buildings in Potts Point, Elizabeth Bay and Rushcutters Bay, and heritage assessments of Powerhouse Museum, sites in Chinatown and City Architect buildings.</p>	<p>Update operational plan deliverable 4.1.2 to insert 'and consider heritage listings' as follows:</p> <p>Review planning controls for centres, high streets, heritage areas and other strategic precincts, and consider heritage listings to create great places.</p>

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12	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public commenting on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. cost of living measures, and 2. requesting the City use unoccupied buildings for emergency accommodation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer to the City of Sydney Fees and Charges – Revenue Policy; Waiving, discounting or reducing fees. As noted in the policy: Section 610E of the Local Government Act 1993 allows council to waive payment of or reduce a fee in a particular case, if it is satisfied that the case falls within a category of hardship or any other category that council has determined it may consider in waiving payment or reducing a fee. 2. Housing and addressing homelessness is the responsibility of the NSW Government – Homes NSW. The City owns a small number of residential properties. We are in the process of selling these residential properties at a discount to not-for-profit groups and community housing providers for affordable and diverse housing. One other dwelling is being sold at market value and funds from the sale will go towards our affordable and diverse housing fund. All other City of Sydney residential properties are leased or being leased to artists at subsidised rates through our grants programs. 	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

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13	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public requesting assistance for the homeless.</p>	<p>Housing and addressing homelessness are the responsibility of the NSW Government – Homes NSW.</p> <p>The City of Sydney was the first council in Australia with a dedicated homelessness unit and has been assisting people sleeping rough in the inner city for many years.</p> <p>Our homelessness unit currently consists of 7 employees.</p> <p>Every day our public space liaison officers check in on people sleeping rough in the city and link them up with services and organisations that can further assist them. These officers have social work backgrounds and carry out their role with compassion and respect.</p> <p>We invest more than \$2.4 million each year to reduce homelessness and its impacts, and to support specialist homelessness services in our local area.</p> <p>We also make additional funding available to organisations working to support people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness through numerous grants programs and accommodation and planning initiatives.</p>	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

No	Background	Response	Recommendation
14	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from the Surry Hills Business Alliance commenting on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. commercial rates, 2. street cleansing, and 3. the budget. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rates increase each year by the rate peg determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, while valuations changes that occur every 3 years will impact the distribution of rates. The 2024/25 rating year is not impacted by a general revaluation. 2. The City of Sydney regularly cleans streets and lanes across our local area, using both manual and mechanical sweepers. We have response trucks that remove illegally dumped rubbish, and staff use steam cleaning equipment to remove stains and odours from the roads and footpaths. We also empty street litter bins. 3. Noted. The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework provides the mechanism for the implementation of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision. <p>The Community Strategic Plan Delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 (also referred to as the community strategic plan) is the highest-level plan within this framework.</p> <p>It guides all our other strategies and plans. It was developed with, and on behalf of, the communities we serve.</p> <p>This plan identifies the community's main priorities and aspirations and the strategies we can take to achieve these.</p>	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

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		<p>The operational plan is an annual plan with more details of individual activities. It includes the City of Sydney revenue policy for rates and annual charges, the fees and charges schedule, and other relevant budgetary information.</p> <p>Long term financial plan: a 10-year plan that identifies current and future financial capacity to act on the aspirations of the community strategic plan, including providing high quality services, facilities and infrastructure to the community.</p>	
15	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public requesting improvements to traffic flow in Redfern.</p>	<p>The City's Access Strategy and Action Plan outlines our vision for reducing unnecessary through traffic in our area, to keep people connected but also create the highest quality places for our residents and businesses.</p> <p>The City is advocating for improved transport connections between its southern areas and the city centre – including Metro to Zetland and Green Square light rail. These projects would provide the appropriate transport connections between those areas, reducing through traffic on streets such as Redfern, Chalmers, Regent and Gibbons Streets.</p>	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

No	Background	Response	Recommendation
16	<p>A submission was received during the exhibition period from a member of the public requesting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the City cease production of its newsletter 2. opening public toilets 24 hours a day 3. improvements to local flooding 4. the City use unoccupied buildings for emergency accommodation 5. speeding up development 6. a phone app, and 7. providing information to new residents on council services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. Sydney City News provides the community with updates on projects we're working on, latest news and upcoming events in our local area. 2. The opening hours of public toilets are determined by the location of the toilet, safety considerations and community demand for facilities. Generally automated public toilets are open 24 hours a day, public toilets in parks are open between sunrise and sunset and public toilets in City owned buildings are available for public use during opening hours of the building. 3. The City has completed Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans for the entire local government area. Flood levels and impacts for various rain events are fully assessed in keeping with NSW Government requirements. These plans set priorities and funding required to address known flooding. The City has staff that do monitor flood levels when rain events occur and we compare these to our flood assessments. The City is soon to commence a full review of all flood studies and plans, and this will include opportunities for further community input on future flood mitigation priorities. 4. See response to submission 12.2. 5. Four new senior planner positions and a fast-track team manager have been added to the 	<p>That the submission is noted with no change to the documents as exhibited.</p>

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		<p>City's establishment. Existing staff resources have been reorganised to improve processes and support faster determination times.</p> <p>6. Our online forms are mobile enabled and responsive. We encourage residents to create an account on our new online platform which includes automatic status updates as we work through a service request.</p> <p>7. Information for all residents and access to City Connect, our online services are available on the City website. We are exploring methods to deliver digital information to community members based on their individual preferences and interests. Personalisation and the increased use of these digital notifications are important for improving the effectiveness of communications to the community, including new residents.</p>	