

Item 9

Questions on Notice

1. Maintenance and Repair of Escalators and Lifts at Railway Square

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. For how long have the escalators at Railway Square (on the Western side of George Street) been out of operation?
2. Why have these escalators not yet been repaired?
3. Which other escalators and lifts at Railway Square are currently out of operation, or have been out of operation for extended periods this year?
4. How many enquiries and complaints have been received about escalators and lifts at Railway Square?
5. In January 2024, it was reported that the City was appointing a new contractor to replace all lifts and escalators at Railway Square. Has a contractor been appointed?
6. How are members of the community, particularly those who have made enquiries and complaints, being kept updated?
7. Across our Local Government Area, how many City owned, managed or maintained escalators and lifts are currently out of operation, or have been out of operation for extended periods this year?
8. What processes and targets do we have to ensure the maintenance and repair of vital accessibility infrastructure?

X086670

2. Dormant Public Bike Parking and End-of-Trip Facility

By Councillor Scott

Question

We understand the City of Sydney owns a public bike parking and end-of-trip facility at 180 George Street, Sydney.

Construction was completed in November 2022; however, it is currently dormant.

In light of this, could you please advise:

1. When did construction for the bike parking facility begin?

2. What is the exact date the construction was completed?
3. How long has the parking facility been empty/closed for?
4. In light of public reports, why has the parking facility been dormant/empty since the construction was completed in November 2022?
5. Why has there been significant delays in the opening of the bike parking facility?
6. Has the City received any feedback from community members requesting the opening of the bike parking facility?
7. How many bikes will this facility hold?
8. What is the current opening date for public use of the parking facility?
9. What are the current delays that restrict the bike parking facility from opening right now?
10. How much money has it cost the City to keep the bike parking facility vacant?

X086668

3. August Update - Asbestos in the City of Sydney

By Councillor Scott

Question

We understand the City's parks and open space maintenance contractor is currently meeting remediation costs in accordance with the contract. We also understand the City is continuing to work with its contractor to ensure parks are cleaned and reopened as quickly as possible. We thank the staff who have cleared up the asbestos.

In light of this, could you please advise:

1. According to the City of Sydney's website (13 August 2024), Cook + Phillip Park is the only area in the City with clean-up still underway. What is the proposed timeframe for the completion of the asbestos clean-up in this park?
2. Has clean-up been completed for all garden beds in the City?
3. If not, what is the proposed timeframe for completion?
4. What is the exact timeframe that the City has taken to clear all asbestos in garden beds and parks across the City?

X086668

4. Use of Agency Staff

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

In Item 3 of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee 12 August 2024 – 2023/24 Quarter 4 Review – Delivery Program 2022-2026 - it was reported the Actual Expenditure for Agency Contract Staff in 2023/24 was \$25.3 million, a 134% increase on the budget of \$10.8 million.

1. What were the main drivers or reasons for the increase in use of Agency Contract Staff in 2023/24?
2. In 2022/23 there was a reported 92% increase in the budget for Agency Contract Staff. What were the main drivers of the increase in use of Agency Contract Staff in 2022/23?
3. In 2021/22 there was a reported 82% increase in the budget for Agency Contract Staff. What were the main drivers of the increase in use of Agency Contract Staff in 2021/22?
4. In 2023/24:
 - (a) What was the breakdown in terms of numbers (FTE) and budget of Agency Contract Staff by Council divisions, units or work areas?
 - (b) What was the breakdown in terms of numbers (FTE) and budget of directly employed, ongoing Council staff by Council divisions, units or work areas?
5. What were the number of staff (FTE) directly employed by the Council (not including agency staff, or externally contracted staff) in:
 - (a) 2021/22?
 - (b) 2022/23?
 - (c) 2023/24?
6. In 2024/25:
 - (a) What number of directly employed staff (not agency or externally contracted staff) (FTE) are budgeted to be employed by the Council?
 - (b) What number of Agency Contract Staff (FTE) are budgeted to be employed in 2024/25?
 - (c) What number of staff (FTE) are estimated to be employed through outsourcing or private contracting of services by the Council?
7. In 2024/25:
 - (a) What is the total approved budget for directly employed Council staff, not including agency or externally contracted staff?

- (b) What is the total budget for Agency Contract Staff?
- 8. What data does Council collect or track about the wages and conditions of Council staff compared to agency or privately contracted staff? Where can Councillors access this information? Where can the public access this information?

X086664