

Item 13

Supplementary Answers to Previous Questions

Supplementary Answers to Questions on Notice are as follows:

Question on Notice – Council 29 July 2024

Bartlett Late Bins Update

By Councillor Jarrett

On Monday 22 April and Wednesday 24 April 2024, community pop-up sessions were held by City staff to address the ongoing systemic issues around the Bartlett Lane community bins scheme.

Question

1. Has the Council finalised their observations and community consultation on the Bartlett Lane bins scheme?
2. If not, why not?
3. If so, what is the City's final recommendation? Will the community bins scheme continue or will the City be implementing individual bins?
4. Could a CEO Update be prepared to outline this information?

X086666

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Yes. The City ran an online survey from 30 May to 21 June 2024. We heard from 42 out of 47 households and the result was clear with 81% of households voting to keep the shared bins. We sent a letter and email to the residents on 5 July 2024, outlining the results and next steps.
2. Not applicable.
3. The City will keep the community bins scheme and make the following improvements based on resident feedback:
 - Replace the existing bins with new lighter bins that are easier to open
 - Review the positioning of bins in the lane and paint new line marking
 - Add new shared green bins at each end of the lane
 - Organise regular cleaning of all shared bins
 - Check and change the three rat bait stations every two weeks.

After replacing the bins and painting new line markings, the area will be monitored for six weeks to assess how the improvements are working and consider whether further changes are needed.

4. A CEO Update will be provided following the finalisation of new line marking, cleaning routine and delivery of new bins.

Supplementary Answer

Further information was circulated via the 6 December 2024 CEO Update as follows:

Background

Residential properties that back onto Bartlett Lane in Paddington have used shared waste and recycling bins since 2012, in an effort to reduce the number of individual bins (100+) that were commonly left on the street and were causing concerns for the local residents. The left-out bins encouraged illegal dumping and impeded resident access to properties.

At that time, 86% of residents were in favour of making the shared bin arrangement permanent.

2024 engagement

In 2023 and 2024, staff received multiple requests from residents who were requesting the removal of this shared bin arrangement and a return to individual bins.

In response, the City's Service Optimisation team conducted a 6-week monitoring period of Bartlett Lane to assess how the shared bin arrangement was performing. The review identified misplaced bins, minimal illegal dumping and bulk material incorrectly placed within bins resulting in overflow.

The team then undertook an engagement process to provide a forum for residents to share their feedback and experiences of the shared service. This comprised of 2 face-to-face popup sessions in April 2024 and letters inviting feedback via email or phone calls. Over 20 households responded with mixed responses on their preferred bin arrangement for Bartlett Lane.

In June 2024, the City conducted formal consultation with residents through a 'have your say' survey that was sent to all households requesting their feedback on retaining the existing shared service arrangement or changing to individual bins. Door knocks and follow up phone calls were conducted to raise resident awareness of the survey. Responses were received from 42 of the 47 households resulting in an 89% response rate.

The results showed an 81% preference in favour of retaining shared bins. On this basis, the shared bin arrangement was retained for Bartlett Lane and plans made to improve the existing arrangement in line with the feedback received.

Improvements included implementing new bins with lighter lids, inclusion of garden organics bins, rat bat station monitoring on regular intervals and line markings for bins. These changes were finalised by 17 September 2024.

From September to October 2024, the team monitored the area for 6 weeks to assess the improvements that had been implemented. It was identified that bins were being correctly stored within the line markings, the capacity of the rubbish bins was sufficient and increasing the collection frequency for the recycling bins to twice weekly from 28 October 2024 to meet demand has been successful. The ongoing cleaning of the communal bin infrastructure is undertaken on an as needs basis and is managed by City staff.

Staff will continue to monitor the shared bin arrangement in Barlett Lane, Paddington.

Question on Notice – Council 25 November 2024

Narrowing of Erskineville Footpaths

By Councillor Thompson

Question

In relation to the recent narrowing of footpaths in Erskineville to install garden beds and the discrimination complaint lodged against Council to the Australian Human Rights Commission:

1. What footpaths have been affected by the recent work? Could you please supply a map outlining which footpaths have been changed by the recent works?
2. Were the works compliant with Transport NSW's Walking Space Standard?
3. Where the works compliant with the City of Sydney's Disability and Inclusion Strategy?
4. What are the minimum disability access standards for footpath upgrades included in Council strategies or plans?
5. Does the City of Sydney's Disability and Inclusion Strategy include a requirement that footpath upgrades improve or maintain disability access? Is this commitment included in any other Council strategies or plans?
6. Does the City of Sydney's Disability and Inclusion Strategy include a requirement that footpath upgrades meet Transport NSW's Walking Space Standard? Is this commitment included in any other Council strategies or plans?
7. What plans are there to restore the footpaths?
8. What plans are there to otherwise respond to the recent community concerns?
9. If there are no plans to amend the footpaths, why not?
10. What steps are being taken to ensure that future footpath upgrades are not too narrow?

X113778

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The matter is the subject of a confidential conciliation process, and a confidential CEO Update will be prepared.

Supplementary Answer

A confidential CEO Update on this matter was provided to Councillors on 6 December 2024.