

## Item 14

### Questions on Notice with Answers

#### 1. Information on all Contract Variations requested of Council since 2021/22

By Councillor Arkins

#### Question

Could you please provide a list of all items of business put to Council by staff requesting contract variations between June 2021 and June 2025 with the following information:

1. An itemised list of all items of business.
2. The original total contract cost when that contract was first approved by Council or under delegation.
3. The amount of contingency funds requested and/or the amount of additional funds requested.

X113776

#### Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

The information requested is provided in the relevant report to Council, detailed below

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Customer Relationship Management Services for the National CitySwitch Green Office Program	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.6	28 June 2021	<a href="#">28 June 2021</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations – Catering Services – Compass Group (Restaurant Associates)	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.7	28 June 2021	<a href="#">28 June 2021</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Contract Variations - Event Infrastructure, Structures and Equipment for Major Events and Festivals	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.8	28 June 2021	<a href="#">28 June 2021</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations - Contracts Impacted by the Postponement of the 2021 Local Government Election	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.7	18 October 2021	<a href="#">18 October 2021</a>
Sydney New Year's Eve 2021 Event Arrangements	Direct to Council	10	18 October 2021	<a href="#">18 October 2021</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations - Sydney New Year's Eve	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.11	21 February 2022	<a href="#">21 February 2022</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations - Alternate Resource Recovery Processing and Cleansing Waste (Putrescible) Receipt, Processing and Disposal Services Agreement	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.10	16 May 2022	<a href="#">16 May 2022</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Contract Variation - Management of Aquatic and Leisure Facilities - Belgravia Leisure	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.12	27 June 2022	<a href="#">27 June 2022</a>
Contract Variation - RFT 1806 - ePlanning at City of Sydney	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.13	27 June 2022	<a href="#">27 June 2022</a>
Contract Variation - 540 George Street Building Façade Remediation	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.17	22 August 2022	<a href="#">22 August 2022</a>
Exemption from Tender - IT Licence, Subscription, Maintenance and Support Contracts	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.8	19 September 2022	<a href="#">19 September 2022</a>
Contract Variation - Wi-Fi in Community Centres and Venues for Hire	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.9	19 September 2022	<a href="#">19 September 2022</a>
Contract Variation – Head Contractor Stonework for the Sydney Town Hall Facade Conservation Project	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.10	19 September 2022	<a href="#">19 September 2022</a>
Contract Variation and Exemption from Tender - Colliers Property Management Agreement	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.11	19 September 2022	<a href="#">19 September 2022</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Ashmore Precinct Trunk Stormwater Project - Amendment to Project Agreement with Sydney Water	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.10	31 October 2022	<a href="#">31 October 2022</a>
Contract Variations – Construction Contract and Design Consultancy Contract for the Green Square to Ashmore Connector Road	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.12	31 October 2022	<a href="#">31 October 2022</a>
Contract Variation - Design Consultants for the Bike Network Program	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.13	31 October 2022	<a href="#">31 October 2022</a>
Project Scope and Contract Variation - Hyde Park Lighting	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.7	12 December 2022	<a href="#">12 December 2022</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Meals on Wheels Pre-Packed/Cooked Individual Chilled and Frozen Meals	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.9	12 December 2022	<a href="#">12 December 2022</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Tender - T-2021-616 - Reject and Negotiate - Revitalisation of Perry Park: Park Upgrade, Synthetic Sportsfield, Amenities and Associated Works and Contract Variation - Head Design Consultant	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.10	12 December 2022	<a href="#">12 December 2022</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation – Catering Services – Compass Group (Restaurant Associates)	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.6	20 February 2023	<a href="#">20 February 2023</a>
Cancellation of Tender - T-2022-755 - Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations for Sydney New Year's Eve	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.7	20 February 2023	<a href="#">20 February 2023</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Mattress Collection and Processing Services	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.5	3 April 2023	<a href="#">3 April 2023</a>
Contract Variations - Pyrmont Community Centre Upgrade	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.5	26 June 2023	<a href="#">26 June 2023</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Contract Variation - Major Services Agreement (IT) for Public Access IT and Facilities and Services	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.6	26 June 2023	<a href="#">26 June 2023</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation – Redfern Community Centre Music Studio	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.7	26 June 2023	<a href="#">26 June 2023</a>
Exemption from Tender, Contract Variations and Revised Project Scope - Woolloomooloo Playground	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.9	26 June 2023	<a href="#">26 June 2023</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - T-2020-443 - Head Design Consultant - City Recital Hall Upgrade Works	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.10	26 June 2023	<a href="#">26 June 2023</a>
Exemption from Tender - IT Licence, Subscription, Maintenance and Support Contracts	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.11	26 June 2023	<a href="#">26 June 2023</a>
Contract Variation - Future Management and Operation of Aquatic Leisure Centres and Belgravia Leisure	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.4	18 September 2023	<a href="#">18 September 2023</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations - IT Licence, Subscription, Maintenance and Support Contracts	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.12	23 October 2023	<a href="#">23 October 2023</a>
Contract Variation - Pyrmont Community Centre Upgrade Contracts	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.6	11 December 2023	<a href="#">11 December 2023</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Corporate Risk Management System	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.7	11 December 2023	<a href="#">11 December 2023</a>
Tender - T-2023-1033 and Contract Variation - 343 George Street Facade Remediation Stage 2	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.6	11 March 2024	<a href="#">11 March 2024</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Green Square Water Reuse Scheme	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.7	11 March 2024	<a href="#">11 March 2024</a>
Exemption from Tender - IT Licence, Subscription, Maintenance and Support Contracts	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.8	11 March 2024	<a href="#">11 March 2024</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Meals on Wheels Pre-Packed/Cooked Individual Chilled and Frozen Meals	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.9	11 March 2024	<a href="#">11 March 2024</a>
Tender - T2023-1062 - Head Contractor - Hyde Park Lighting, Electrical, CCTV Upgrade and Associated Works and Contract Variation - Head Design Consultant	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.9	29 July 2024	<a href="#">29 July 2024</a>
Tender - T-2021-609 – Huntley Street Recreation Centre Construction and Contract Variation - Head Design Consultant	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.10	29 July 2024	<a href="#">29 July 2024</a>
Tender - T-2023-1041 - Reject and Negotiate - Sydney Park Brick Kilns Precinct Upgrade and Contract Variation - Head Design Consultant	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.11	29 July 2024	<a href="#">29 July 2024</a>
Contract Variation - Frontier Software Pty Ltd	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.13	29 July 2024	<a href="#">29 July 2024</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Contract Variation - Head Design Consultant - Ultimo Road to Campbell Street Cycleway Project	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.11	16 December 2024	<a href="#">16 December 2024</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - AON Risk Services	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.12	16 December 2024	<a href="#">16 December 2024</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Board Meeting Management - Diligent Board Books	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.13	16 December 2024	<a href="#">16 December 2024</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Bulky Organics and Cleansing Waste Processing	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.14	16 December 2024	<a href="#">16 December 2024</a>
Exemption from Tender and Contract Variation - Chinatown Gates - Supply of Ornamental Timber Panels	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.14	17 February 2025	<a href="#">17 February 2025</a>
Exemption from Tender - IT Licence, Subscription, Maintenance and Support Contracts	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.16	17 February 2025	<a href="#">17 February 2025</a>

Item	Council Committee	#	Council Meeting Date	Link to report providing details
Exemption From Tender - Management and Operations of the City of Sydney Creative Studios - Brand X Productions	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.8	17 March 2025	<a href="#">17 March 2025</a>
Tender – Reject and Negotiate - T-2024-1253 – Management of the City of Sydney Leisure (Active Wellbeing) Services / Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations - Management of Aquatic and Leisure Facilities - Belgravia Leisure	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.6	7 April 2025	<a href="#">7 April 2025</a>
Contract Variation - Oxford Street West and Liverpool Street Cycleway	Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee	6.11	To be considered on 23 June 2025	<a href="#">23 June 2025</a>

## 2. Fossil Fuel Exposure in Council Investments

By Councillor Thompson

### Question

1. Please provide a breakdown of the City's current investments by financial institution, including:
  - (a) The name of each institution; and
  - (b) The amount held with each institution.

2. Based on the above information, how much of the City's current investments are placed with financial institutions that are involved in financing fossil fuel projects (including coal, oil, and gas extraction, infrastructure, or power generation)?

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**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. These details are provided in the monthly investment reports. The May 2025 Investment Report was included at Item 4 in the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 16 June 2025.
2. The City's Investment Policy, endorsed by Council in November 2024, guides investment decisions by staff. The policy directs that subject to compliance with legislation and investment policy objectives and parameters, the City will preference investment securities and financial institutions that meet our socially responsible investments (SRI) criteria. SRI status may be in respect of the individual investment, the issuer of the investment, or both and should be endorsed by an accredited environmentally and socially responsible industry body or institution.

It should be noted that, for a portfolio that is the size of the City's current investments, there are a limited number of investment opportunities that meet SRI criteria, legislative constraints and investment return parameters. City staff review offerings in the investment market daily.

Following the City's Investment Policy, there is a restricted number of institutions and products that the City can invest in. At the end of May 2025, 23% of the City's investment portfolio was held by institutions that do not have any lending to fossil fuel projects at all, as rated by Market Forces. The city held \$55.0M in Green Deposits and Social Term Deposits as at the end of May 2025 with Westpac. These products are independently assessed as meeting SRI criteria.

Amounts invested at the end of May 2025 in individual financial institutions are shown in the May 2025 Investment Report.

**3. The Effects of Thermal Exacerbation on Synthetic Turf Fields**

By Councillor Thompson

**Question**

1. When determining playable days/hours on fields, both synthetic and natural, are heat waves and hot weather events measured and considered?
2. Does the City consider both flooding and heatwaves/hot weather frequency when determining which type of surface is optimal in a new field?

3. Is the City aware of the research conducted in 2022 by experts at Western Sydney University which found that on a day that recorded a 28°C air temperature, the surface temperature of a synthetic field in Sydney reached 89.2°C? Is this information utilised in determining field type?
  - (a) Based on this information, how many days would our current synthetic fields be considered 'unplayable' due to hot weather over the last twelve months?
  - (b) Based on this information, how many days would our current synthetic fields be considered 'unplayable' due to projected hot weather in ten years?
4. Has the City conducted any investigations into the thermal exacerbation of surface temperatures attributed to the use of synthetic fields? If so, what outcomes were found in relation to the following concerns:
  - (a) Health and safety of users and surrounding communities;
  - (b) Increased maintenance and repair costs;
  - (c) Contamination of microplastics caused by intensified heat damage, and;
  - (d) Decreased play-able hours due to unsafe temperatures.
5. Has the City conducted any soil or ecological tests at the proposed Mandible Street Sports Precinct, including research into ecological screening levels (ESLs), health investigation levels (HILs), and ecological investigation levels (EILs)? If so, what outcomes were found?
6. Does the City monitor waterways, including stormwater and sewerage, for the presence of dangerous chemicals, including polyfluoroalkyl (aka; PFAS) which originates from the microplastics, and rubber crumbs found in synthetic turf fields. Have any been found in waterways near synthetic fields?
7. Is the City aware of any pollution invertedly caused by the discharge of washing machines? If so:
8. What preventative measures are in place to mitigate the latent pollution of infill particles once they are transferred from synthetic fields to washing machines through direct contact with users clothing?

X113778

#### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

In May 2025 the NSW Government released two new guidelines following the independent review by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer into the design, use and impacts of synthetic turf in public open space:

- Synthetic Turf Sports Fields in Open Space Guidelines have been published as a practical tool for stakeholders, including local Councils to manage the potential environmental and human health risks in the design and management of synthetic turf sports sites; and
- Guidelines for Division 5.1 Assessments - Addendum for Synthetic Sports Fields which requires consideration of environmental factors including heat, surface type, flooding when preparing A Review of Environmental Factors (planning approval).

In accordance with these new guidelines a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) will be prepared for the proposed Mandible Street Sports Precinct project, any future new fields and / or refurbishment of existing fields. The REFs will consider all matters outlined in the new guidelines including the effects of heat and migration of plastics from synthetic turf fields.

1. The City's calculations of playable days/hours are based on average annual utilisation of existing natural and synthetic fields.
2. The recently published NSW Government guidelines will be used in determining which type of surface is optimal in any new fields that the City is planning.
3. The City is aware of various research papers and studies undertaken including the Western Sydney University Study.

No. The recently published NSW Government guidelines are informed by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineers independent review and will be used by the City in reviewing and determining which type of surface is optimal in any new fields that the City is planning and in the renewal and / or upgrade of any existing fields.

- (a) Not applicable. Refer response above.
- (b) Not applicable. Refer response above.
4. No.
5. The existing properties in Mandible Street are contaminated. Preliminary environmental soil and hazmat investigations are being undertaken to prepare the Remediation Action Plan. The Mandible Street Sports Precinct redevelopment project will remediate the site for use as a public park in accordance with legislative requirements.
6. The City does not monitor waterways. The City's existing synthetic sportsfields include barrier walls, mats, drainage around the field and pits to contain and collect microplastics, and rubber crumbs. These are cleaned as required. The City is not aware of any being found.
7. No.
8. Not applicable. Refer above.

#### **4. City of Sydney Council Current Financial Year (2024/25) Budget**

By Councillor Ellsmore

##### **Question**

1. For the financial year 2024/25, the City of Sydney had budgeted \$845.7M in income, and \$730.3M in expenditure, for an Operational Surplus of \$119.1M.

Based on actual income, savings, expenditure and other costs this year, what is the updated estimated total of the Operational Surplus for 2024/25? (The Q3 Quarterly report referred to \$119.6M).

2. After allowing for interest, depreciation and capital contributions, for the financial year 2024/25 the City of Sydney had budgeted for a Net Surplus (or Net Operating Result) of \$115.4M.

Based on actual income, savings, expenditure and other costs this year, what is the updated estimated total of the Net Surplus for 2024/25?

3. Council budgets to spend much of the Net Surplus each year, including on maintaining footpaths and other projects. In 2024/25:
  - (a) How much of the Net Surplus did Council budget project to spend?
  - (b) By 30 June 2024, how much of the Net Surplus is Council actually estimated to spend, and how much will be unspent?
4. Overall, will the 2024/25 Council budget be in surplus or deficit? How much by?

X113783

#### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. At the time of writing no change.
2. No change to the amount noted in the Quarter 3 Report - \$134.3M.
3.
  - (a) Over the life of the City's Long Term Financial Plan, all surplus funds are allocated to the City's capital works program.
  - (b) All annual surpluses are allocated into the upcoming capital program. Any unspent capital funds within a financial year is rolled over into the following year capital allocation.
4. Refer response to Part 2 above.

#### **5. Estimating the Performance of Council's Cash Investments**

By Councillor Ellsmore

##### **Question**

1. In the City of Sydney's current Long Term Financial Plan, the City of Sydney estimates and budgets for Council's investment and cash position to increase or reduce. In the current Long Term Financial Plan, the Council's cash position was projected to reduce, when it has increased.
  - (a) What was the Council's investment and cash position at the start of the financial year 2024/25 (i.e. as of 30 June 2024 or 1 July 2025)? (This was reported to the July 2024 Council meeting as \$764.1M)
  - (b) In the current Long Term Financial Plan, what was estimated to be the Council's investment and cash position after 12 months? That is as of 30 June 2025? (The Long Term Financial Plan at page 36/Figure 5 suggests this figure to be \$650M)

- (c) It has been reported to Council that Council's investment and cash position at 30 May 2025 is \$717M. What is the updated estimate of Council's investment and cash position at the end of the financial year? That is, as of 30 June 2025?
  - (d) What are the reasons for the discrepancy between the estimated and actual figures/ trend in Council's cash position?
2. In the updated Long Term Financial Plan to be debated at the June 2025 Council meeting, what is estimated to be Council's investment and cash position at the start of the 2025/26 financial year? (The draft Long Term Financial Plan at page 36/Figure 5 suggests this figure to be around \$720M – see LTFP 36)

X113783

#### **Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1.
  - (a) The Council's cash balance at the end of June 2024, as shown in the June 2024 Investment Report, was \$764.1M.
  - (b) As per the cashflow shown in the 2024/25 LTFP, the closing cash balance at the end of 2024/25 was estimated to be \$698.2M
  - (c) As noted in the 2025 Quarter 3 Report the estimated closing cash has been revised to \$687.7M
  - (d) The projected variance is 1.5%. The net difference reflects cumulative variations across the breadth of the City's extensive and varied operations. These are set out in the Quarter 3 2025 Report.
2. As per the cashflow shown in the 2025/26 LTFP, the opening cash balance at the start of 2025/26 is estimated to be \$687.7M. Note that the chart shown on page LTFP 36 represents projected closing balances each year over the life of the plan. The projection for the 2025/26 closing balance is \$717.1M.

#### **6. Interest on Council's Cash Investments 2024/25**

By Councillor Ellsmore

##### **Question**

1. In the City of Sydney's current Long Term Financial Plan, how much interest on its cash investments did Council estimate it would receive in the financial year 2024/25?
2. How much interest on its cash investments has Council actually received in the first 11 months of 2024/25?
3. What is the updated, total estimated amount of interest that Council will receive on its cash investments in 2024/25?

X113783

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. As set out in the City's Long Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2034/35 and reported in the monthly investment report to Council, interest for 2024/25 was budgeted at \$34.3M.
2. Interest recognised to the end of May 2025 is \$36.7M
3. As noted in the May 2025 Investment Report, interest for 2024/25 is forecast to be \$39.0M

**7. Council Fees for Use of Footpaths, Community Centres and Sports Fields**

By Councillor Ellsmore

**Question**

1. How much income is Council estimated to forego, by waiving footpath dining fees for businesses:
  - (a) In 2025/26?
  - (b) Over the 10-year Long Term Financial Plan?

Please include estimates if exact figure is not known

2. How much income is Council estimated to forego, by waiving hire fees for local community groups, to hire Council's community venues?
  - (a) In 2025/26?
  - (b) Over the 10-year Long Term Financial Plan?

Please include estimates if exact figure is not known

3. How much income is Council estimated to receive through leasing venues, such as sporting fields, to community sport clubs and associations:
  - (a) In 2025/2026?
  - (b) Over the 10-year Long Term Financial Plan?

Please include estimates if exact figure is not known

4. Council offers a series of waivers and discounts for community groups and hirers, including for financial hardship. What mechanisms exist for Council staff to provide discounted rates in the event of financial hardship, for non-profit community groups like sport clubs and associations, when it comes to leasing venues, such as sporting fields? (i.e. how can the community and residents access the reduced fees or waivers?)
5. Where is this outlined in:
  - (a) Current Council budget documents?

- (b) The draft 2025/26 budget documents?
6. What criteria does Council use to decide if it will reduce or waive fees to hire sporting fields? Which documents or policies is this outlined in?

X113783

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. Council is estimated to forego approximately \$2.0M per year (\$23.0M escalated over 10 years) in income by waiving footpath dining fees. This figure was included in the 2024–2025 Long Term Financial Plan, which assumed that the fees and level of utilisation would return to former levels. However, the draft 2025-2026 Long Term Financial Plan assumes no footway dining fees income.
2. Council is estimated to forego approximately \$0.4M per year (\$4.6M escalated over 10 years) in income by waiving hire fees for local community groups using Council-owned community venues. While annual figures have grown year-on-year, significant further increases are not expected given the high number of recurring bookings already receiving fee waivers. However, as new venues come on line, the total value of foregone income may rise over time
3. Council is estimated to receive approximately \$0.5M per year, (\$5.6M escalated over 10 years), from leasing venues such as sporting fields to community sports clubs and associations. This projected income is included in the 2025–2026 Long Term Financial Plan.  
  
All other users pay standard hire fees as outlined in Council's Fees and Charges Schedule.
4. The mechanisms for accessing these reduced fees are outlined in the Fees and Charges section of the Council's Operational Plan (see page 110). Community members and organisations can refer to this document to understand eligibility criteria and the process for applying for financial relief.
5. Outlined in the Fees and Charges section of the Council's 2025/26 Operational Plan (see page 110). It was also outlined in the Fees and Charges section of the Council's 2024/25 Operational Plan (see page 106).
6. Council provides a range of waivers and discounts for community groups and hirers, including provisions for financial hardship. Non-profit organisations such as sporting clubs and associations may be eligible for discounted rates when leasing Council venues, including sporting fields.

As noted above, the criteria for accessing these reduced fees are outlined in the Fees and Charges section of the Council's Operational Plan.

## 8. Proposed Changes to Small Community Grants, Community Services Grants and Homelessness Funding

By Councillor Ellsmore

### Question

1. What is the overall size of the grants under council's grant programs:
  - (a) In the 2023/24 Council budget?
  - (b) In the 2024/25 Council budget?
  - (c) In the draft 2025/26 Council budget?
2. In the Council's budget papers, what was the total amount in grants specifically earmarked for homelessness services?
  - (a) In the 2023/24 Council budget?
  - (b) In the 2024/25 Council budget?
  - (c) In the draft 2025/26 Council budget?
3. In the list of grants programs in the current 2024/25 budget there is a "Major homelessness support" grant, with an allocated budget of \$1.4M per annum cash. Are there any references to earmarked homelessness grant funding in the draft 2025/26 budget papers or proposed 2025/26 grant guidelines?
4. What grant programs are available for small, not for profit community activities:
  - (a) In the 2023/24 Council budget?
  - (b) In the 2024/25 Council budget?
  - (c) In the draft 2025/26 Council budget?
5. The budget for the "Quick Response Grant" program in 2024/25 was \$380,000. This grant is earmarked for "small scale, community-led projects" supporting "Priority Communities and "those in greatest need".
  - (a) What is the budget for the "Quick Response Grant" program in the draft 2025/26 budget?
  - (b) Has funding been allocated to other grant programs for the same kinds of activities? If yes, please provide details
6. In the Council's budget papers, what was the total amount in grants specifically earmarked for community services:
  - (a) For 2023/24?
  - (b) For 2024/25?
  - (c) For 2025/6?

7. What funding which was available through different programs in the 2024/5 budget has been moved into the proposed new “Major Grant” in the draft 2025/26 budget?
8. Do the proposed grant guidelines or related documents for the “Major Grant” include any commitment to ensure that a certain amount of funding be earmarked for homelessness services in the future?
9. Do the proposed grant guidelines or related documents for the “Major Grant” include any commitment to ensure that a certain amount of funding be earmarked for community services in the future?
10. In information tabled to the 9 May 2025 Council meeting, Council was advised that the intention of the new “Major Grant” is to “support organisations who have had a history of ongoing funding” including the following not for profit community services, who are currently funded through the Major Homelessness Services and Community Services Grants:
  - Access Sydney Community Transport (\$207,500)
  - Fact Tree Youth Service (\$120,000)
  - Glebe Youth Services (\$369,500)
  - Sydney Peace Prize (\$50,000)
  - Aboriginal Corporation for Homelessness and Rehabilitation Community Services (\$125,000)
  - Innari Incorporation (\$125,000)
  - Launchpad Youth Community Inc Community (\$350,000)
  - Neami National (\$800,000)
  - (a) What consultation has Council undertaken specifically with these community organisations regarding the change to the grant programs through which they currently receive funding?
  - (b) Has Council received any feedback from these organisations in relation to the proposed grant changes? If yes, what feedback was received?

X113783

**Answer by the Chief Executive Officer**

1. When preparing a budget for adoption we include the amount for cash grants, the amount we expect for value in kind and any Affordable housing fund grants that we know Council has endorsed. However, throughout the year Council may make an ad hoc cash grant out of contingency, value in kind can change if we provide more free use of centres or banners for example, and new affordable housing applications may come forward. This is why what we adopt can sometimes be different to what the financial statements show that we have spent at the end of the year.
  - (a) As per adopted budget in June 2023, the total including cash and value in kind is \$25,649,833.

- (b) As per adopted budget in June 2024, the total including cash and value in kind is \$30,249,200. In this year we provided the Accommodation grant for 180 George Street to Greenhouse. This was a new and substantial Accommodation grant.
  - (c) As per proposed budget in June 2025, the total including cash and value in kind is \$29,038,365. In this year the main reason this has reduced is because 107 Redfern Street, Joynton Avenue Creative Centre and Eternity Playhouse Accommodation grant venues were handed back to the City which the City is currently managing.
2.
  - (a) \$1,400,000
  - (b) \$1,400,000
  - (c) \$1,400,000
3. A subcategory has now been included in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Program to be endorsed by Council in June 2025 to outline the homelessness total funding of \$1.4M within the Major grants category.
4.
  - (a) These are outlined in the adopted Grants guidelines from August 2022 Council meeting. Please see the guidelines found [here](#).
  - (b) These are outlined in the adopted Grants guidelines from June 2024 Council meeting. Please see the guidelines found [here](#).
  - (c) These are outlined in the recommended Grants guidelines from June 2025 Council meeting.
5.
  - (a) \$100,000
  - (b) For the pre-Covid years, Quick response grant budget allocation was \$25,000. From FY2023 the endorsed Grants Guidelines combined Quick response grant and Matching grant into one program titled Quick response grant. This increased the allocation to \$260K initially and included funding cultural programs and events at last minute requests. These cultural programs and events can apply through the cultural and event program rounds already available. In FY2025 of the 66 applications we funded only 21 applications (to the value of \$117,915) were considered essential and urgent community projects. The total budget for Quick response grants has been adjusted to reflect its core purpose, to support essential and urgent needs in the community.
6.
  - (a) As per adopted budget in June 2023, the total cash is \$5,095,000. Any value in kind through the Accommodation grant program is over and above this figure.
  - (b) As per adopted budget in June 2024, the total cash is \$5,395,000. Any value in kind through the Accommodation grant program is over and above this figure.

- (c) As per recommended budget in June 2025, the total cash is \$5,395,000. Any value in kind through the Accommodation grant program is over and above this figure.

The above figures include all our programs that support community including Food support, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collaboration fund, Homelessness services and Community services.

- 7. This information was provided in the Information Relevant To Item 6.7 – Public Exhibition - Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines for the May 2025 Council meeting.
- 8. A subcategory has been included in the Integrated Planning and Reporting Program to be endorsed by Council in June 2025 to outline the homelessness total funding of \$1.4M within the Major grants category.
- 9. The City supports several essential and unique organisations who have a history of ongoing funding which are listed in the Major grants category. These organisations in the Major grants category can apply all year and will be assessed on their ability to deliver targeted outcomes for which they have been funded, and in contrast to applications in the open rounds, are not competitively assessed against each other.
- 10.
  - (a) The proposed guidelines were put on exhibition to the public from 13 May to 10 June 2025. Notification of the public exhibition period was sent to all subscribers on the grants email distribution list. No submissions were received.
  - (b) No submissions were received as outlined in the Council report to June 2025 Council meeting.