

Item 11

Questions on Notice with Answers

1. Best Practice Guidelines for Sporting Fields

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. Have City of Sydney staff undergone any training on the Best Practice Guidelines for Sporting Fields published in January 2025 by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water?
2. Does the City of Sydney have plans to upgrade our natural turf sporting fields in line with these new Best Practice Guidelines for Sporting Fields?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Yes. City of Sydney staff attend industry training and conferences, including the Parks and Leisure Australia – Sports and Leisure Turf Panel and Workshop, where the Best Practice Guidelines were discussed. This training informs our decision making, particularly in relation to water efficiency and management of our sports turf facilities.
2. Yes. The City manages its sporting fields through a long-term asset management approach, which includes regular renewal and upgrades to ensure they remain safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Upgrades are already being delivered in line with the new Best Practice Guidelines.

The City is currently undertaking significant works at Jubilee Oval that include the installation of a sand slit drainage system and the use of the new couch grass cultivar Tahoma 31. This variety is more wear tolerant than standard couch cultivars and demonstrates a much faster recovery rate under high traffic conditions, making it well suited for our fields.

These upgrades are part of the City's ongoing commitment to improving playing surfaces, managing water efficiently, and providing high quality community sporting facilities.

Funds have been allocated in the Long-Term Financial Plan for the upgrade of Waterloo Park and Oval. Improvement of the turf grass fields will be included in the Concept Plan.

2. Closure of Natural Turf Fields for Wet Weather

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. How many City of Sydney natural turf fields have slit drainage systems?
2. How many City of Sydney natural turf fields use new turf cultivars that can increase usage at ovals?
3. How many City of Sydney natural turf ovals have had proper soil improvement in order to increase drainage and usage hours?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. At present, 2 fields have slit drainage systems. These are Redfern Oval and Alan Davidson Oval. Jubilee Oval is currently under construction for renewal with works scheduled for completion by mid-January 2026. The City manages its sporting fields through a long-term asset management approach, which includes regular renewal and upgrades of assets in poor condition to ensure they remain safe and sustainable. This includes a rolling program of drainage and field upgrades.

Upgrades are already being delivered in line with the new Best Practice Guidelines. For example, at Jubilee Oval the City is currently undertaking significant works that include the installation of a specialised slit drainage system and the use of a new turf cultivar (*Couch Tahoma 31*.)

2. Jubilee Oval is being renewed and resurfaced this year with a new turf cultivar (*Couch - Tahoma 31*). Redfern Oval is scheduled for renewal in late 2026. As part of the renewal new turf cultivars are being considered.

As part of this year's annual sports field renovations, we will be trialing a new couch cultivar at Wentworth Park fields.

3. Alan Davidson Oval underwent major renewal works in 2023 including the installation of the slit drainage system and significant soil profile reconstruction. Jubilee Oval is currently under construction and will incorporate similar works to enhance both drainage and carrying capacity. The City also carries out routine aeration across its natural turf fields to relieve compaction, improve rootzone structure, and enhance surface water movement. As part of the annual sports field renovation program, which is informed by recommendations from external specialist consultants and contractors, fields are top dressed in specialised sand–soil blends and USGA-specification sand. These treatments increase soil porosity, improve surface infiltration, support overall turf health and help to maintain safe and high performing playing surfaces.

As part of the City's 2024 Annual Sports Field Renovation Program, 12 fields underwent soil improvement works, including aeration and sand topdressing. These treatments increase soil porosity, improve aeration and water movement, and ultimately enhance drainage and extend the number of playable hours on these fields.

3. End of Life

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. What is the end-of-life plan for current City of Sydney synthetic fields?
2. Is the shock pad, plastic grass and underlay fully recyclable?
3. If they are repurposed or recycled, at what facility is this undertaken?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Synthetic sports field surfaces last about 8-10 years depending on use and maintenance. The field surface condition is monitored as part of the grooming and maintenance process. Funding for the replacement of the synthetic sport fields will be allocated in the LTFP.
2. At this stage, not all components of synthetic surfaces are fully recyclable. The City will identify best practice and will consider suitable facilities and options as they become available.
3. Options to repurpose the synthetic surface materials will be considered when being replaced. In accordance with legislative requirements, materials will to be sent to authorised waste and recycling facilities.

4. Urban Heat Island Effect

By Councillor Arkins

Question

Have any synthetic fields had to be closed for sport or recreational use due to heat concerns in the City of Sydney?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

No.

5. Usage Considerations

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. What impact do synthetic fields have on general recreational usage?

2. Can cricket be played on synthetic fields? If so, what fields are used for soccer in winter and cricket in summer?
3. Can dog walking occur on synthetic fields?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Synthetic sports fields can be used for general recreational use when not booked.
2. Currently, all City of Sydney synthetic sports fields are rectangular which is suitable for winter and summer multi-purpose use i.e. football (soccer), hockey, rugby league/union, Oz tag, touch football, social sports and training.

Cricket can be played on a synthetic field however generally needs to be on an oval shaped field or a field where an oval can be marked out. The City has no oval shaped synthetic fields. Cricket is played on the City's natural turf ovals and fields at Alan Davidson Oval (Sydney Park), Erskineville Oval, Waterloo Oval, Jubilee Oval and Reg Bartley Oval (Rushcutters Bay Park). Junior cricket is also played on synthetic pitches at Wentworth Park.

Synthetic practice nets are provided at Turruwul Park, Wentworth Park, Reg Bartley Oval and Sydney Park

3. Currently, dogs are not permitted on the City's synthetic sports fields and the majority of our turf fields to help ensure the quality, safety, and longevity of the surfaces. Allowing dogs could damage turf fibres or soil profiles, introduce waste and bacteria, create uneven or unsafe playing conditions, and increase maintenance requirements. By prohibiting dogs, the City aims to ensure that fields remain durable, safe, and available for community sport. The City provides 47 off-leash dog parks within the LGA, 2 of which make use of turf fields when they do not have booked use (Wentworth and Federal Park fields).

6. Replacement Costs of Synthetic Turf

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. How often do synthetic turf fields need to be replaced?
2. What is the average cost of replacing synthetic fields?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Every 8-10 years.
2. About \$500-700,000.

7. Battery Fires

By Councillor Arkins

Question

Has the City's waste collection contractor or our in house teams reported any incidents of battery fires in the trucks used to collect waste in the City?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

We have no record of fires caused by batteries within the City's Cleansing Operations fleet.

It is often difficult to confirm the exact ignition source of fires (batteries and unextinguished cigarette butts are the most common causes). This is because the source is typically located at the centre of the fire and, by the time the fire is extinguished, it has already been consumed. Where crews observe batteries during the extinguishing process, this is recorded and reflected in the data provided.

The below data is from the City's waste collection contractor.

Year	Number of fires	Number of loads with sighted batteries
2020	7	1
2021	5	1
2022	1	0
2023	4	0
2024	6	1
2025	5	5

8. Water Aerobics at Cook and Phillip Park Pool

By Councillor Arkins

Question

Has there been any changes to the water aerobics schedule at Cook and Phillip Park Pool in the last 6 months? If so, what were they?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

In the last 6 months there have been no changes to the water aerobics schedule at Cook and Phillip Park Pool. On a few occasions heating issues in the program pool have meant classes were held in the 50-metre pool instead. These adjustments are temporary and don't change the overall program. Members are always notified of these temporary changes through usual communication channels.

9. Federal Assistance Grants to the City of Sydney

By Councillor Arkins

Question

1. How much did the City of Sydney receive in the Federal Assistance Grant in 2024-25?
2. What projects or services was the grant used for by the City?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City of Sydney was entitled to \$7,625,705 in Financial Assistance Grants for 2024/25, comprising \$1,715,109 for local roads and \$5,910,596 for general purpose.

As grant payments are often made in advance and vary in timing and percentage each year, they are recognised in the year they are received, in accordance with accounting standards, not necessarily the year they relate to. This is why the income reflected in 2024/25 differs from the entitlement.

2. The Financial Assistance Grant is untied funding, which means it isn't allocated to specific projects or services.

It supports councils in meeting their general operational needs (general purpose component) and (local roads component) is allocated so that local government can preserve their road assets. As a result, the local roads revenue component is allocated to City Services and the general component is held centrally. Further information can be found on the Office of Local Government website.

10. Sydney Civil

By Councillor Arkins

Question

What was the total amount awarded in contracts to Sydney Civil by the City in 2024-25?

X113776

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

In the 2024/25 financial year, Sydney Civil performed works under Contracts 4239, 4240 and 4241 (being Lots 1, 2 and 3 of the City Civil Works Contract), as well as Contract 1840 (Civil and Sydney Street Infrastructure Works Contract).

The combined value of purchase orders issued to Sydney Civil under those contracts in the 2024/25 financial year was \$88,975,613.85 (including GST). Note that the year a purchase order is awarded may differ from the year that the associated works are ultimately delivered.

11. Management of Affordable Housing Levies Held by the City of Sydney

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. How does the City of Sydney hold and manage the funds obtained through its affordable housing contribution scheme?
2. What policies or procedures guide how the City manages and dispenses cash affordable housing contributions?
3. When the City of Sydney receives cash contributions, what is the average length of time it holds those contributions before passing them on to housing providers?
4. Approximately how much interest has been accumulated by Council in relation to cash affordable housing contributions:
 - (a) Last year?
 - (b) In total over the last five years?

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. The City collects monetary contributions from developers under its Affordable Housing Program. These funds are deposited in the City's bank account. The funds are restricted specifically for affordable housing. These amounts are held as a liability in the balance sheet until distribution to Community Housing Providers (CHPs). They do not impact the City's income statement and operating result.

2. The funds are managed under a Distribution Plan, adopted by Council on 11 March 2024. It outlines how the funds are allocated to recommended Community Housing Providers (CHPs): City West Housing, St George Community Housing, and Bridge Housing. The distribution plan is available on the City of Sydney website.
3. The City disburses contributions to housing providers every quarter.
4. An estimate of interest attributable to cash for affordable housing contributions has been calculated using the average rolling interest rate at year end, applied to the balance of contributions held each quarter. This approach provides a reasonable approximation but does not reflect actual interest earned, as it does not account for the specific timing of deposits, withdrawals, or the actual investment strategy used by Council.

This estimate excludes any management or administrative fees that may apply to the handling of these funds.

- 2019/20 - \$253
- 2020/21 - \$0
- 2021/22 - \$3,442
- 2022/23 - \$129,105
- 2023/24 - \$83,599
- 2024/25 - \$906,250

12. Enforcement of the Busking and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Practice Policy

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. Are City Rangers enforcing the one-hour time limit for High Impact Acts, particularly those involving amplification?
2. What kind of briefing, training, or updated guidance will Rangers receive to ensure consistent enforcement of the revised policy?
3. Have all City Rangers completed the City's new Aboriginal cultural awareness training?

X113777

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. When complaints are received Rangers will attend on site and assess the nature of the complaint and impacts of the act in line with the Policy. If a busker is found not to be complying with the requirements their details are obtained, and they are either made to comply or directed to leave the area. A record of the incident is recorded and made available to the City's Busking Coordinator.
2. Once the Policy is approved a briefing with staff will be undertaken.
3. The majority of staff have completed this training.

13. Update on Oxford Street Cultural and Creative Precinct

By Councillor Weldon

Question

1. The Oxford Street Cultural and Creative Precinct was established in 2021. Since its introduction, how many eligible landowners have submitted development applications seeking to access the planning incentives available under the precinct controls, and how many have been approved? Please provide a list of applications and determinations.
2. The Oxford & Foley development was originally scheduled for completion in early 2023. Has the City been advised of the current expected completion date?

X113777

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. Ten (10) development applications (DA) have been submitted and approved. Another 2 DAs for tenancy fitouts are under assessment. The details of the DAs are as follows:
 - D/2020/1071 - 58-78, 82-106 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Approved 18 May 2022

Note: when the DA was determined, the LEP amendments (cultural and creative planning incentives) were endorsed but not technically in force. They were given substantive weight as the amendments were certain and imminent
 - D/2020/1072 - 110-122 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Approved 18 May 2022

Note: when the DA was determined, the LEP amendments (cultural and creative planning incentives) were endorsed but not technically in force. They were given substantive weight as the amendments were certain and imminent
 - D/2022/327 - 191-195 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Approved 14 February 2025

- D/2022/1169 - 17 Oxford Street, Paddington

Approved 21 December 2023

- D/2023/53 - 21-35 Oxford Street, Surry Hills

Approved 6 November 2023

- D/2023/119 - 1-5 Flinders Street, Surry Hills

Approved 6 November 2024

- D/2023/265 - 265 Crown Street, Surry Hills

Approved 12 June 2024

- D/2022/969 - 56-78 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Approved 9 August 2023

Note: this is a tenancy fitout DA, within the base building DA D/2020/1071 - 58-78, 82-106 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

- D/2023/723 - 56-78 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Approved 26 March 2024

Note: this is a tenancy fitout DA, within the base building DA D/2020/1071 - 58-78, 82-106 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

- D/2024/95 - 56-78 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Approved 22 April 2024

Note: this is a tenancy fitout DA, within the base building DA D/2020/1071 - 58-78, 82-106 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

- D/2025/672 - 56-62 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Lodged 18 July 2025

- Note: this is a tenancy fitout DA, within the base building DA D/2020/1071 - 58-78, 82-106 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, and is seeking to supersede the consent granted for D/2022/969 - 56-78 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

- D/2025/634 - 110-122 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

Lodged 8 July 2025

Note: this is a tenancy fitout DA, within the base building DA D/2020/1072 - 110-112 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst

2. The developer has advised that the current targeted opening dates for the Oxford & Foley redevelopment is as follows, subject the developer and tenant fit-out progress:

Building	Target Opening Date
56-76 Oxford Street	End September 2025
82-106 Oxford Street	October 2025
110-122 Oxford Street	February 2026

14. Climate Pollution from the City's Waste Services

By Councillor Weldon

Question

- As part of their general waste collection contract with the City, Cleanaway are required to report monthly on emissions produced by waste collection and any associated offsets.
 - What were the emissions over each of the last 5 years? Please provide a table and the breakdown of the emissions produced.
 - What associated offsets were there for each of the last 5 years? Please include details such as method and location of offsets.
- Cleanaway are also required to provide an annual inventory of emissions for all services provided to the City. What was the total emissions for each of the last 5 years? Please provide a table and a breakdown of the emissions produced.
- What is the current annual volume of general waste (red-lid bins) collected across the City? How has this volume changed over the last 5 years?
- How many households are currently registered for the City's food scraps recycling service?
- What is the current annual volume of food scraps waste collected? How has this volume changed over the last 5 years?
- Does the City have specific data on the emissions produced by the collection of food scraps waste? If so, please provide this for the last 5 years.

7. The City has contracts with Veolia and Goterra for the processing of food scraps waste processing. Does the City have information on the emissions produced by the processing of food scraps waste?
8. What is the forecast annual volume of food scraps waste to be collected and processed with the extension of food scraps recycling service to all residents in the City?

X113777

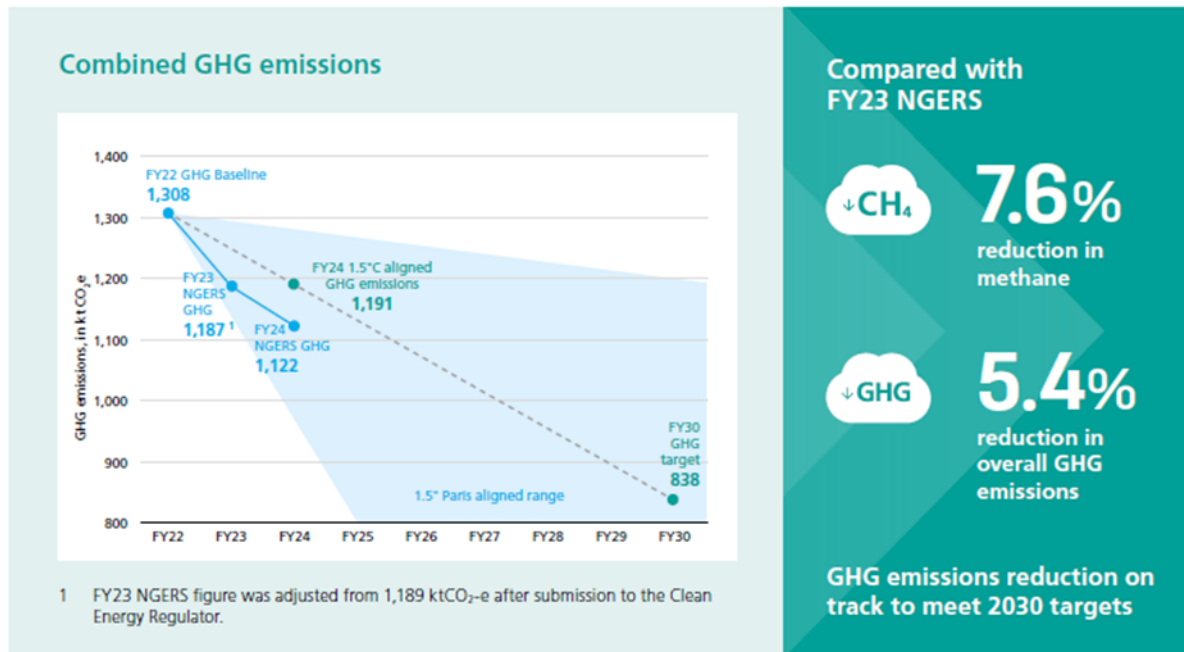
Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1.

- (a) The contract does not require the Supplier to provide monthly fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. As such they provide reporting that aligns with the City's reporting frequency (which is annual as per the table below). Below is a table of the emissions for the last 5 years per year:

	Diesel used	Energy Content factor	Scope 1 Emission Factor	Scope 3 Emission Factor	Total emissions
	(Litres)	(GJ per unit of fuel)	(kg CO2-e/GJ)	(kg CO2-e /GJ)	(tonnes CO2-e)
		38.6	70.37	17.3	
FY20	340,916	13,159,363	926,024,347	227,656,973	1,154
FY21	392,949	15,167,843	1,067,361,138	262,403,690	1,330
FY22	398,561	15,384,448	1,082,603,636	266,150,958	1,349
FY23	379,000	14,629,386	1,029,469,900	253,088,380	1,283
FY24	394,467	15,226,409	1,071,482,389	263,416,873	1,335
FY25	373,673	14,423,782	1,015,001,543	249,531,429	1,265

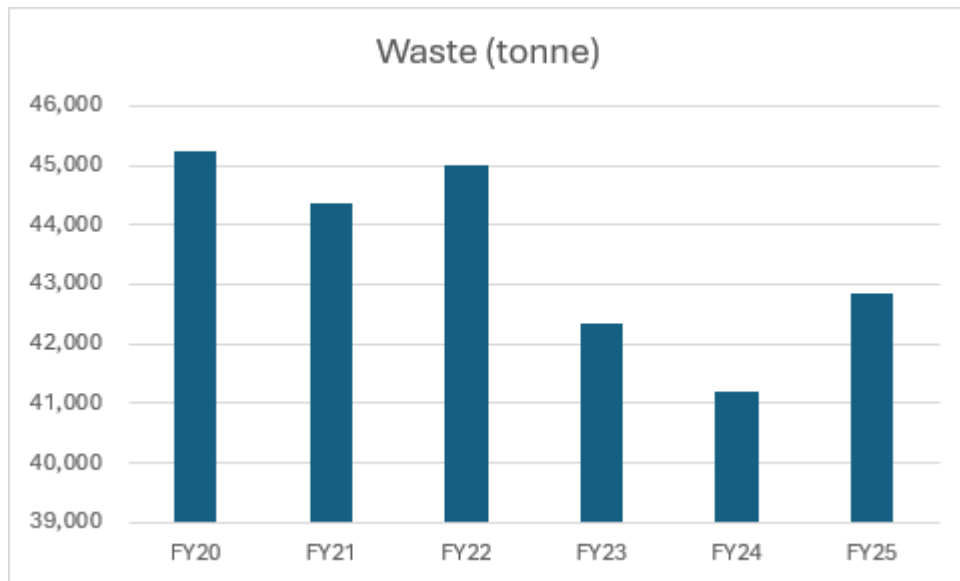
- (b) As a publicly listed company, Cleanaway publishes mandatory annual reports outlining its environmental performance. The company has committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 43% for carbon dioxide and 34% for methane by 2030, using FY20 as the baseline year. Through a combination of carbon credits and methane reduction initiatives, Cleanaway's annual report for FY24 indicates a reduction of 7.6% in methane and 5.4% in GHG emission. This decrease aligns with projected reductions required to meet its FY30 targets:



- The contract does not require an emissions inventory at the service level. For further details, please refer to the response to 1(a) above.
- Below is data on annual waste generation from the red lid bin in tonne per financial year.

Red lid bin waste

Financial Year	Waste (tonne)
FY20	45,250
FY21	44,364
FY22	44,997
FY23	42,343
FY24	41,204
FY25	42,839



4. The food scraps recycling service is currently available to over 23,000 households in 324 apartment buildings and 1,300 houses.
5. There is a total of 1,995 active residential food scraps bins in the City as per the breakdown in the table below.

Suburb	Bin size		
	25L	60L	120L
ALEXANDRIA	101	21	45
BEACONSFIELD	0	13	2
CAMPERDOWN	0	5	36
CENTENNIAL PARK	0	7	4
CHIPPENDALE	4	11	8
DARLINGHURST	0	55	38
DARLINGTON	28	12	2
DAWES POINT	0	2	11
ELIZABETH BAY	0	0	24
ERSKINEVILLE	13	248	81
EVELEIGH	0	0	5
FOREST LODGE	0	86	38
GLEBE	0	198	33
HAYMARKET	0	0	14

Suburb	Bin size		
	25L	60L	120L
MILLERS POINT	0	5	11
NEWTOWN	109	31	5
PADDINGTON	0	40	7
POTTS POINT	0	5	34
PYRMONT	0	6	67
REDFERN	0	137	36
ROSEBERY	0	26	11
RUSHCUTTERS BAY	0	0	6
SURRY HILLS	0	99	45
SYDNEY	0	0	18
ULTIMO	0	13	13
WATERLOO	0	23	54
WOOLLOOMOOLOO	0	7	7
ZETLAND	0	29	6
TOTAL:	255	1,079	661

6. Approximately 500 tonnes per annum.
7. The City does not have this specific data.
8. 4,000 to 10,000 tonnes per annum depending on participation rates.

Note – Councillor Ellsmore submitted additional questions on notice in relation to affordable housing contributions in Pyrmont. These questions and responses have been deferred to the September 2025 Council meeting.