

Item 10

Questions on Notice with Answers

1. Public Housing Redevelopment in the City of Sydney Council

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. What State public housing (that is, housing owned by Homes NSW or another NSW agency) within the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) is currently:
 - (a) Under development?
 - (b) Proposed for development?
2. Since July 2025, has Homes NSW, or another NSW agency or their representative, made any applications to council for the development of additional public housing in the LGA? If yes, please provide details.
3. Since July 2025 has Homes NSW, or another NSW agency or their representative, made any inquiries about potential redevelopment of additional public housing sites in the LGA, including pre-DA inquiries? If yes, please provide details.
4. Is the City of Sydney aware of any other proposed redevelopments of public housing in the LGA, other than those noted above? If yes, please provide details.

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1.
 - (a) D/2023/21: 82 Wentworth Park Road, Glebe. Landowner is Homes NSW. Approved development comprises 43 social housing units.
 - (b) SSD-93222706: Rezoning and concept State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for Waterloo Estate (South). Landowner is Homes NSW. The draft proposal to include at least 30% social housing. The applicant is currently preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal and has undertaken consultation with the City.

SSD-51274973: 600-660 Elizabeth Street, Redfern. Landowner is Homes NSW. Development comprises 4 new buildings for market housing, social (147 units), affordable (197 units) and specialist disability accommodation (11 including 1 carers unit), a community facility and commercial uses. The SSDA was approved by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) in October 2025.

D/2024-935: 10-18 Raper Street, Newtown. Landowner is Homes NSW. Consent for construction of an 8-room boarding house (social housing) was approved on 9 April 2025.

2. No.
3. No.
4. No.

2. Free Wi-Fi in Council Buildings and Public Places

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. Please provide details of the public buildings where Council currently provides Wi-Fi for free to the public
2. For which other public places - including parks - does Council currently provide free Wi-Fi?
3. What contracts does Council currently have to provide free Wi-Fi to the public? Who is/are the contract/s with?
4. Approximately what is the cost of free Wi-Fi provided by Council to the public this financial year?
5. Is Council planning to provide free Wi-Fi in any additional buildings or public places in the next 12 months? If yes, please provide details.
6. Has Council undertaken any recent investigations to consider the cost of expanding free Wi-Fi to more Council buildings or public places? If yes, please provide details.

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. All City of Sydney libraries, community centres and community venues for hire have free Wi-Fi available to the community. The table below shows the current locations where free community Wi-Fi is available. It should be noted that there is significant access “bleed” that makes access to the free Wi-Fi possible outside the facilities noted below. This area of “bleed” differs for each location.

Location	Supplier
180 George Street, Sydney	OneWiFi
Abraham Mott Hall, Millers Point	OneWiFi
Alexandria Town Hall	OneWiFi
Benledi House, Glebe	OneWiFi

Location	Supplier
Booler Centre, Glebe	OneWiFi
Brown Street Community Hall, Newtown	OneWiFi
Cliff Noble Community Centre, Alexandria	OneWiFi
Customs House Library	Hi-Tech Solutions
Darling Square Library	Hi-Tech Solutions
Darlinghurst Community Space	OneWiFi
Darlington Activity Centre	OneWiFi
East Sydney Community and Arts Centre	OneWiFi
Erskineville Town Hall	OneWiFi
Foley Park, Glebe	Easyweb
Glebe Town Hall	OneWiFi
Glebe Library	Hi-Tech Solutions
Green Square Library	Hi-Tech Solutions
Green Square Public School and Community Spaces	OneWiFi
Harold Park Community Space	OneWiFi
Joseph Sargeant Centre, Erskineville	OneWiFi
Juanita Nielsen Community Centre, Woolloomooloo	OneWiFi
Kings Cross Library	Hi-Tech Solutions
King George V Recreation Centre, The Rocks	OneWiFi
Maybanke Centre, Pyrmont	OneWiFi
Newtown Library	Hi-Tech Solutions
Paddington Reservoir Gardens	Easyweb
Perry Park Recreation Centre	OneWiFi
Peter Forsyth Auditorium, Glebe	OneWiFi
Pyrmont Community Centre	OneWiFi
Redfern Community Centre	OneWiFi
Redfern Oval Community Room	OneWiFi
119 Redfern Street	OneWiFi
Redfern Town Hall	OneWiFi

Location	Supplier
Reginald Murphy Community Centre, Potts Point	OneWiFi
Rex Centre, Potts Point	OneWiFi
Robyn Kemmis Community Space, Glebe	OneWiFi
Ron Williams Community Centre, Redfern	OneWiFi
St Helens Community Centre	OneWiFi
Surry Hills Library	Hi-Tech Solutions
Sydney Park Cycling Centre	OneWiFi
Sydney Park Pavilion	OneWiFi
Tote Building, Zetland	OneWiFi
Ultimo Community Centre	OneWiFi
Waterloo Library	Hi-Tech Solutions

2. The City of Sydney has free Wi-Fi available across additional public places including Paddington Reservoir Gardens and Foley Park, Glebe.
3. The City of Sydney currently has 3 contracts to provide free community Wi-Fi. These contracts are with OneWiFi for our community centres and venues for hire, with Hi-Tech solutions for the City of Sydney's libraries, and Easyweb for Paddington Reservoir Gardens and Foyle Park. The service in our libraries is subsidised by the NSW State Library.
4. The approximate cost for the operational provision of free community Wi-Fi this financial year is approximately \$340,000.
5. The City of Sydney is planning to provide free Wi-Fi at the Huntley Street Recreation Centre.
6. Costings for free Wi-Fi in the public domain is impacted by many factors including provision of fibre, poles, power supply and so on. A review in around 2022 that looked at potential coverage along George Street from Haymarket to Circular Quay, in Martin Place and some areas near Chinatown had an estimated cost of \$5 to 6M. At this time free community Wi-Fi was available in only 23 community facilities. Following the review, we expanded our public Wi-Fi provision in community facilities and it is now available in over 40 facilities and parks, with faster download speeds and increased "bleed" into the public domain.

3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

1. Does the City of Sydney currently have an Aboriginal cultural heritage strategy? If yes, please provide details.
2. Is the City of Sydney planning to develop an Aboriginal cultural heritage strategy? If yes, please provide details.
3. Since 2021, has the City of Sydney undertaken any major Aboriginal cultural heritage studies or similar? If yes, please provide details.

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. No.
2. We are currently considering an approach to developing an Aboriginal cultural heritage strategy for the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA), noting that this is a complex area. The Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Manager First Nations Leadership have had a number of meetings with the NSW Office of Aboriginal Affairs to understand the progress being made on the statewide Aboriginal cultural heritage legislation. Staff consider that it is premature to develop a local strategy until we have clarity about the broader framework that such a strategy would respond to. We are also in discussions with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council about appropriate timing and engagement.
3. Where relevant we have undertaken a number of studies and First Nations engagement for specific projects. We are also aware of studies that have been conducted by other government agencies and the private sector for their projects in the area.

4. Friends of Chippendale Community Action Plan

By Councillor Thompson

Question

Council considered a proposed Chippendale Community Sustainability Precinct and the Friends of Chippendale Community Action Plan at its June 2025 Council meeting. Council unanimously agreed to consider the measures proposed and report back to Council with relevant advice.

Can an update be provided on the investigation into the Friends of Chippendale Community Action Plan and what measures proposed could be incorporated into the overall precinct development?

X113778

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

City staff have considered the measures proposed and the advice will be available shortly. A CEO Update will be provided as per the resolution of Council.

5. Fee Waivers for Use of Sporting Fields

By Councillor Ellsmore

Question

The City's sporting fields are in high demand. The City of Sydney's annual report of the implementation of Council's Delivery Program indicates 96.5% usage versus capacity of sports fields (booked use) in 2024/25 financial year.

In the 2024/25 financial year:

1. Which sporting clubs, schools or other organisations hired Council's sporting fields? If Council has a breakdown of who hired which sporting fields, and for how many hours, please provide this.
2. What fees or costs does Council charge for hire of its sporting fields?
3. Who can access fee waivers or discounts for hire of Council's sporting fields?
4. Which schools and secondary colleges (if any) accessed fee reductions or waivers for the use of Council's sporting fields?
5. Which sporting clubs (if any) accessed fee reductions or waivers for the use of Council's sporting fields?
6. What was the monetary value (if any) of fee reductions and waivers provided to:
 - (a) Schools?
 - (b) Sporting clubs? If a breakdown by type of club is known, please provide

X113783

Answer by the Chief Executive Officer

1. 152 unique hirers booked one of our 17 sports fields in FY2024/25. Zero or Partial rate hirers used 15,201 hours – 92% of overall utilisation. Market rate hirers used 1,379 hours or 8% of overall utilisation.

The category of the applicant making the booking determines the fee that will apply.

- Zero rate hirers: Public schools in the City's Local Government Area (LGA)
- Partial rate hirers (percentage of market rate): Registered not-for-profit organisations, charities, and other school applicants (including schools not in the LGA)
- Market rate hirers: Commercial and private users.

2. Council charges the hire fees set out in the City's adopted Fees and Charges. Field fees range from \$0 to \$176 per hour, the rates are based on the field, applicant category and day of the week.
3. Fee waivers or discounted hire rates for Council's sporting fields are available to groups that meet an approved category including not for profit, charity, hardship or any other eligibility category that Council has formally adopted in its Revenue Policy.
4. FY 2024/25: Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary School.
5. FY 2024/25: Sydney All Blacks Rugby League Football Club, The Redfern All Blacks Rugby League Football Club, Deadly Connections Community Justice Services, Gadigal Warriors Sporting Youth Services Club Inc. and Waterloo Storm Rugby League Club
6.
 - (a) Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Primary School - \$1,489.
 - (b) Sydney All Blacks Rugby League Football Club - \$1,895
Redfern All Blacks Rugby League Football Club - \$235
Deadly Connections Community Justice Services - \$559
Gadigal Warriors Sporting Youth Services Club Inc. - \$6,659
Waterloo Storm Rugby League Club - \$909