Item 13.10

Notices of Motion

Affordable Housing for Those who Keep our City Moving

By Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Arkins

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) the City of Sydney is experiencing an ongoing housing affordability crisis, with increasing rents and housing costs making it difficult for many workers in our city to live close to where they work

(ii) the availability of affordable housing is critical to ensuring Sydney remains a diverse, inclusive and easy place to live

(iii) the City of Sydney is a major employer, with staff working across a broad range of essential public services, including waste collection, parks and open space maintenance, libraries, community services, childcare, sport and recreation and Council operations

(iv) many City employees, particularly those in lower-paid roles, face significant challenges finding affordable housing within the local government area, contributing to longer commutes, cost-of-living pressures and difficulty attracting and retaining staff

(v) the City of Sydney's Affordable Housing Program provides support for lower-income households, including essential workers, to live and work in the area

(vi) eligibility is guided by NSW Government eligibility criteria with income eligibility set at a percentage of median income. Affordable Housing delivered through these arrangements is generally targeted towards eligible very low, low and moderate income households, with Community Housing Providers responsible for tenancies in accordance with applicable eligibility requirements. However, some essential workers, including at the City of Sydney, exceed the income eligibility limit for affordable housing

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

(i) consult with not-for-profit Community Housing Providers to understand the eligibility, opportunities and rent provision of existing and planned ‘essential workers’ housing

(ii) develop a working definition of essential worker housing informed by research that has occurred by Government and peak bodies; and the not-for profit community housing providers in (i) above, with a view to broadening the eligibility of essential workers for supported housing

(iii) report findings to Council for consideration and endorsement by March 2027

(C) Council support in principle providing affordable housing contributions for essential worker housing

(D) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully MP indicating Council's in principle support for providing affordable housing contributions for essential worker affordable housing and our intention to submit a planning proposal if we have in principle support from the NSW Government.

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