

## Questions

**10 DECEMBER 2012**

### **ITEM 13 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **EVELEIGH RAIL YARDS HERITAGE (S103146)**

2. By Councillor Doutney

#### **Question**

In August this year, Council unanimously passed a motion requesting that the Chief Executive Officer report on what Council can do to help protect the heritage of the Eveleigh rail yards and that the Lord Mayor contact the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority (SMDA) about forming a follow up mechanism to the Redfern Waterloo Heritage Taskforce.

Noting that the SMDA has recently put in a DA for the construction of affordable housing, roads and parks, what progress has been made on this matter? Has the SMDA responded to the Lord Mayor's letter and, if so, what was their response?

#### **Answer by the Lord Mayor**

The Redfern Waterloo Heritage Taskforce was established to oversee management, protection and promotion of this precinct's important heritage and was a response to the lack of a clear heritage protection framework, in particular, concern that the Redfern Waterloo Authority Act effectively nullified the protections afforded to heritage by the Heritage Act. The Redfern Waterloo Act has now been repealed and the Redfern Waterloo Heritage Taskforce has successfully completed its objectives, which include the establishment of the Interpretation Plan for the former Eveleigh Rail Workshops. This plan and other supporting projects have successfully aligned the future development and urban renewal with the preservation and promotion of the heritage and cultural values of this important precinct. The Redfern Waterloo Heritage Taskforce has overseen the development of a number of community based projects which have either been completed or are ongoing. This has further strengthened community engagement.

Discussions are underway with Council and Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority staff about the ongoing protection of the Eveleigh precinct's very important heritage assets. These discussions, along with the Redfern Waterloo Authority's Heritage Taskforce Final Report, are informing the preparation of the Council report and my letter to the Minister for Planning, the Hon Brad Hazzard MP.

Staff are working through the issues of heritage assets and the role of the Sydney Metropolitan Development Authority, as it will soon become part of the NSW Government's new development authority *Urban Growth NSW*, the Australian Technology Park and State Rail. Staff tell more information is required before I finalise the letter.

A report on the role Council could and should play in protecting and promoting heritage in the precinct of the former Eveleigh Railway Workshops will come to Council in 2013.