

23 FEB 2022



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY  
**CLOVER MOORE**

Geoff Turnbull  
REDWatch Co-Spokesperson  
By email [geoff@turnbulls-au.com](mailto:geoff@turnbulls-au.com)

Dear Geoff

### **Community facilities**

Thank you for contacting Maria O'Donnell from my office about the misinformation you had received about the City of Sydney's community facilities, including claims that the City intends to privatise its community centres.

I can assure you that these claims are entirely baseless. The City has no plans to privatise its community centres, including Redfern Community Centre and Pyrmont Community Centre.

This change could not happen without a Council resolution, which has not been proposed, and which I would not support. I have opposed the privatisation of community assets my entire public life, and I would not support any proposal to sell the City's community centres to the private sector.

### **Redfern Community Centre**

In your email, you asked for assurances that Council will continue to run and operate programs from the Redfern Community Centre, particularly for our Aboriginal community, and that there will be provisions in place to ensure those on low incomes can continue to access these services.

Under the City's Stretch Reconciliation Plan, we are aiming for a minimum of 50 per cent of all community programming at Redfern Community Centre to be for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by November 2022. This goal has not changed, and you can read the plan online at [bit.ly/3lgjHhy](https://bit.ly/3lgjHhy).

Our centres offer a wide range of classes, activities and events at low and no cost. The only program that currently attracts a modest participation fee at Redfern Community Centre Sheng Zhen meditation, which is \$4.60 for concession card holders.

Redfern Community Centre also offers free music and audio programs through its specialised onsite music studio. Many of these programs are designed to engage local young people, and provide them with training and opportunities to increase their employment skills.

You can keep up to date with events and programs held at Redfern Community Centre at [bit.ly/3GbfbGQ](https://bit.ly/3GbfbGQ). More programs and events will be added as the year progresses.

## **Pymont Community Centre**

Similarly, the City does not have any plans to lease out Pymont Community Centre after the upcoming upgrade. This upgrade was requested by residents, and is designed to increase flexibility and floorspace for community use.

City staff are now considering options to maintain some programs for the local community during the works. Following the upgrade, we will develop and run a program of activities suitable to the new space in consultation with residents.

We will keep the community updated on these plans as information becomes available, and you can read more about the Pymont Community Centre upgrade at [bit.ly/3BnxAYb](https://bit.ly/3BnxAYb).

You are also welcome to contact Sage Saegenschnitter, Manager City Spaces, on 9265 9333 or at [ssaegenschnitter@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ssaegenschnitter@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) with any questions you may have about our community centres.

## **Waterloo Library**

The City does not have any plans to close Waterloo Library. It reopened after the lockdown period in October 2021, and is open 10am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

If you would like to speak with a Council officer about our libraries, you can contact Heather Davis, Manager Libraries and Learning, on 9265 9333 or at [HDavis@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HDavis@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au).

## **Staff numbers**

In your email to Maria, you mentioned reduced staffing at the City's facilities. However, our community facilities have had a slight increase in total staff, and not the opposite.

At the end of February 2020, our community centres and libraries had 132.4 full-time equivalent positions. As at 31 January 2022, our community centres and libraries had 133.2 full-time equivalent positions.

Although our facilities temporarily closed due to public health orders, no permanent staff were ever stood down during the pandemic as they continued to work and be paid at their standard rates from March 2020.

## **107 Green Square**

You also said in your email that you believe the 107 Green Square model is not suitable for the future of community facilities across the City. However, this model applies to a specialised creative centre, the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre, not a community centre.

The City developed a wide range of infrastructure for Green Square, including the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre. We conducted significant research to identify the most effective way to operate this building, which includes office spaces for artists, creative workers and micro-creative businesses, small artist studios, and both indoor and outdoor space for hire.

In June 2018, the City leased out the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre to 107 Projects through its Accommodation Grants Program. This program enables community groups and organisations to access facilities they could otherwise not afford, to provide services and opportunities that meet community needs.

You can read about 107 Projects at [bit.ly/3oSNHl4](http://bit.ly/3oSNHl4) and about the City's Accommodation Grants Program at [bit.ly/3l0uH22](http://bit.ly/3l0uH22).

Lauren Simpson, Project Manager – Cultural Venues, can provide you with more information about 107 Green Square and the Joynton Avenue Creative Centre. You can contact Lauren on 9265 9333 or at [lsimpson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lsimpson@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au).

Thank you again for seeking clarification on these important issues, and for the opportunity to correct these false and misleading claims about the City's community facilities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Clover" and the last name "Moore" clearly distinguishable.

Clover Moore  
Lord Mayor of Sydney