

OSBC Answer to Question on Notice- Sydney SBC and South East Light Rail Hearing

QUESTION ON NOTICE

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Have you advised him that compensation is required for small businesses?

Ms HOBBS: The relief and financial assistance that has been provided has been rental relief; it has not been compensation; it has been rental relief for overstay in the construction zone.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Did you say to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure that there needed to be rental relief?

Ms HOBBS: Yes, absolutely.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: When did you say that?

Ms HOBBS: Approximately a year ago.

Ms PRENDERGAST: Just prior to us developing this scheme.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: A year ago you said to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure that there needed to be rental relief?

Ms HOBBS: Yes.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: How many days delayed was the project at that point?

Ms HOBBS: I would have to take that on notice. It depends on the zone. Again, all the zones came on at different times. The thing I would add to the answer to that question is that I do not believe that rental relief or assistance should be provided only by the Government. There is a range of stakeholders who can also contribute to provide relief when these projects come along. I believe landlords can offer rental relief. I believe councils can offer rate relief. The State Government has also offered rental relief around Circular Quay and at Central. I think if everybody comes together and there is a package—I believe in the work that we do with tenants and with landlords a landlord would much rather have a tenant in the premises and getting a rent be it discounted with somebody there rather than a vacant shop. It is simply not, as I see it, for the State having to come in to provide rental relief. I think there is a real case to be put for all the stakeholders to contribute to providing assistance.

OSBC Answer:

Please refer to the original construction schedule provided as well as list of start dates for each zone.