



Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Monday 12 November 2007*

Time: *6.00pm*

Outline of Meeting Protocol & Procedure:

- The Chairperson will call the Meeting to order and ask the Committee/Staff to present apologies or late correspondence.
- The Chairperson will commence the Order of Business as shown in the Index to the Agenda.
- At the beginning of each item the Chairperson will ask whether a member(s) of the public wish to address the Committee.
- If person(s) wish to address the Committee, they are allowed four (4) minutes in which to do so. Please direct comments to the issues at hand.
- If there are persons representing both sides of a matter (eg applicant/objector), the person(s) against the recommendation speak first.
- At the conclusion of the allotted four (4) minutes, the speaker resumes his/her seat and takes no further part in the debate unless specifically called to do so by the Chairperson.
- If there is more than one (1) person wishing to address the Committee from the same side of the debate, the Chairperson will request that where possible a spokesperson be nominated to represent the parties.
- The Chairperson has the discretion whether to continue to accept speakers from the floor.
- After considering any submissions the Committee will debate the matter (if necessary), and arrive at a recommendation (R items which proceed to Full Council) or a resolution (D items for which the Committee has delegated authority).

Delegated Authority (“D” Items):

- Community Services and Programmes.
- Health.
- Liquor Licences.
- Fire Protection Orders.
- Residential Parking Schemes (surveillance and administration).
- Traffic Management (Traffic Committee Recommendations).
- Waverley/Woollahra Process Plant.
- To require such investigations, reports or actions as considered necessary in respect of matters contained within the Business Agendas (and as may be limited by specific Council resolution).
- Confirmation of the Minutes of its Meeting.
- Any other matter falling within the responsibility of the Community and Environment Committee and not restricted by the Local Government Act or required to be a Recommendation to Full Council as listed below.
- Library Services
- Licensing.
- Regulatory.
- Waste Minimisation

Recommendation only to the Full Council (“R” Items):

- Such matters as are specified in Section 377 of the Local Government Act and within the ambit of the Committee considerations.
- Matters which involve broad strategic or policy initiatives within responsibilities of the Committee.
- Matters requiring the expenditure of moneys and in respect of which no Council vote has been made.
- Matters delegated to the Council by the Traffic Authority of NSW.
- Matters not within the specified functions of the Committee, or which are not the subject of a Business Agenda (current or past).
- Matters reserved by individual Councillors, in accordance with any Council policy on "safeguards".
- Parks and Reserve Plans of Management (Strategies, Policies and Objectives)
- Residential Parking Schemes - Provision and Policies

Committee Membership:

7 Councillors

Quorum:

The quorum for a Committee meeting is 4 Councillors.

WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting

8 November 2007

To: His Worship The Mayor, Councillor Geoff Rundle, ex-officio
Councillors Tanya Excell (Chair)
Anthony Boskovitz
Marcus Ehrlich
Andrew Petrie
Isabelle Shapiro (Deputy Chair)
Fiona Sinclair King
John Walker

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 12 November 2007

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, I request your attendance at a Meeting of the Council's **Community and Environment Committee** to be held in the **Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay, on Monday 12 November 2007 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James
General Manager

Additional Information Relating to Committee Matters

Site Inspection

Other Matters

Meeting Agenda

| Item | Subject | Pages |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Leave of Absence and Apologies | |
| 2 | Late Correspondence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | |

Items to be Decided by this Committee using its Delegated Authority

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| D1 | Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 29 October 2007 | 1 |
| D2 | Woollahra Traffic Committee Minutes 6 November 2007 – 595.G 2007 | 2 |
| D3 | Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007 – 883.G | 14 |
| D4 | Women in Woollahra – Stage 2 – 476.G | 58 |
| D5 | Library Quarterly Report 1 July 2007 to 30 September 2007 – 48.G | 72 |
| D6 | Gap Park Masterplan – 190.G | 84 |

Items to be Submitted to the Council for Decision with Recommendations from this Committee

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| R1 | Unmade Road Portion – Victoria Street, Watsons Bay – 1158.G | 125 |
|----|---|-----|

Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 29 October 2007**
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 29 October 2007 were previously circulated. In accordance with the guidelines for Committees' operations it is now necessary that those Minutes be formally taken as read and confirmed.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Community and Environment Committee Meeting of 29 October 2007 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager - Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Woollahra Traffic Committee Minutes 6 November 2007**
Author: Warwick Hatton, Director – Technical Services
File No: 595.G 2007
Reason for Report: For the Committee to consider the recommendations of the Woollahra Local Traffic Committee.

Recommendation:

THAT the Recommendations Y1-Y9 and the recommendations listed in Item 8 Late Items, (Recommendation 8.1 and 8.3) contained in the minutes of the Woollahra Traffic Committee, and as signed by the members of the Committee, held on Tuesday 6 November 2007 be adopted.

Warwick Hatton
Director – Technical Services

Woollahra Local Traffic Committee Minutes

The meeting of the Woollahra Local Traffic Committee was held in the Council Committee Room, Double Bay, on Tuesday 6 November 2007 at 10.00am.

1. Attendances

Committee Members:

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Present: | Mr Alan Opera (Chairman) | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| | Mr Navin Prasad | (Roads and Traffic Authority) |
| | Snr Const David Peters | (Rose Bay Police - Traffic) |
| | Ms Robyn Attuell | (Clover Moore MP Representative) |
| | Mr Don Dunn | (Peter Debnam MP Representative) |
| Staff: | Mr Frank Rotta | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| | Mr Daniel Pearse | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| | Ms Armodee Reece | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| | Ms Darcel Baker | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| Observer: | Mr Terry Sabih | (State Transit Authority) |
| Apologies: | Mr Warwick Hatton | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| | Mr Eric Graham | (State Transit Authority) |

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of Meeting No.9/07 held in Council Chambers, Double Bay, on Tuesday 2 October 2007 were confirmed by Mr Navin Prasad and Snr Const David Peters.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings

Nil

4. Local Traffic Committee recommendations not adopted or amended by Woollahra Council Community & Environment Committee

Item 4 of November Agenda: Y1-10: No.1 Underwood Street, Paddington – Assessment of Construction Management Plan

5. Extraordinary Meetings

An Extraordinary Meeting 9a/07 was held by email on Friday 12 October and Monday 15 October, 2007.

6. Late Correspondence

New South Head Road / Eastpoint Shopping Centre, Edgecliff – No Parking area
New South Head Road, Rose Bay – Vehicle & trailer advertising

7. Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Item No: Y1 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

SUBJECT: **Parking Restrictions Changes**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: (Refer to Table 1)

Reason for Report: Various parking restriction changes throughout the Woollahra Council area.

Item Y1-1: Reddy Street, Edgecliff – Parking Restrictions

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

1. That 'No Stopping' be installed:
 - i. On the southern side of Reddy Street 6.5 metres west of the Glenmore Road boundary of 502 Glenmore Road in an easterly direction to the Glenmore Road / Reddy Street intersection
 - ii. On the northern side of Reddy Street 12 metres west of the Glenmore Road boundary of 502 Glenmore Road in an easterly direction to the Glenmore Road / Reddy Street intersection
 - iii. On the northern side of the bend in Reddy Street from 5.2 metres west of the bend in an easterly direction to 6 metres east of the bend in Reddy Street.
2. That two (2) individual 3 metre long 'No Parking' zones be installed on the northern side of Reddy Street across the pedestrian access points to Nos.99-101 and 109-113 New South Head Road, Edgecliff.

Item Y1-2: Beverley Lane, Darling Point – Alteration of Parking Restrictions

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

1. That No Stopping restrictions be introduced to cover the remaining parking spaces on the western side of Beverley Lane adjacent to No. 99 Yarranabbe Road Darling Point

Item Y1-3: Halls Lane, Woollahra –Parking Restrictions

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

1. That 10 metres of No Stopping restrictions be introduced on the eastern side of Halls Lane just south of its intersection with Rush Street, Woollahra.

Item Y1-4: Boundary Street, Paddington – Alteration to existing Disabled Parking zone

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

1. That the existing 4.8 metre long Disabled zone located on the southern side of Boundary Street, Paddington outside No.58 Boundary Street be extended by 1.2 metres to the west to achieve a 6 metre long Disabled zone at this location.
2. That the applicant be advised that, in accordance with Council's current policy on Disabled Parking zones, the approval is now for one (1) year only. Should the applicant wish to extend this period, it will be necessary to advise Council one (1) month prior to the expiry date of this Disabled Persons Parking zone.

Item No: Y2 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **BOXING DAY, NEW YEARS EVE AND AUSTRALIA DAY –
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: 680.G 2005 Pt6

Reason for Report: Boxing Day, New Years Eve and Australia Day events

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

- A. That the following measures be implemented for Boxing Day, 26 December 2007, New Years Eve, 31 December 2007 and Australia Day, 26 January 2008:
 - i. Converting Vaucluse Road to one-way northbound. This will require traffic to exit the area around Nielsen Park either via Wentworth Road or Fitzwilliam Road onto Hopetoun Avenue and then New South Head Road.
 - ii. Converting Greycliffe Avenue and Coolong Road to a one-way system around Nielsen Park. This will involve vehicles travelling from Vaucluse Road into Greycliffe Avenue and exiting Coolong Road back into Wentworth Road.
 - iii. Install a “No Stopping” zone along the eastern side of New South Head Road, opposite Hopetoun Avenue, for a length of 50 metres. A letter is to be written to the Traffic Management Centre (TMC) to install the signs.

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- B. That the NSW Police Service and Council's Regulatory Services liaise regarding the placement of officers for monitoring illegal parking, including the patrol of illegal parking in Darling Point, Point Piper and the Watsons Bay bus turning circle.
 - C. That the Police Department be requested to restrict vehicular access to the Watsons Bay peninsula from 10.00am on each of the days specified in A. above
 - D. That Council's regulatory staff arrange for the installation of signs.
 - E. That the Traffic Management Centre be informed of the above measures.
 - F. That the Police continue to manage the road closures during special events, as in previous years.
 - G. That Council liaise with the SES on Boxing Day in relation to parking issues.

Item No: Y3 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.

Subject: **GLENMORE ROAD, PADDINGTON – TEMPORARY CLOSURE FOR 2008 MARDI GRAS**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: T191

Reason for Report: Request from the Parade Working Group - New Mardi Gras for temporary part closure of Glenmore Road Paddington.

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

- A. That Council advise the Parade Working Group - New Mardi Gras that it raises no objection to Glenmore Road, Paddington being made one-way northbound from Oxford Street to Campbell Avenue between 12.00pm (midday) on Saturday 1st March 2007 and 3.00am on Sunday 2nd March 2008, subject to the organisers:
 - i. Obtaining approval from the RTA's Traffic Management Centre (TMC) and,
 - ii. Providing satisfactory traffic arrangements and signposting at no cost to Council or RTA and
 - iii. Notifying the changes by letter drop to all residents/owners of premises in Glenmore Road, between Oxford Street and Campbell Avenue, and,
 - iv. Placing a notice in the Wentworth Courier at least 7 days prior to the event.

Item No: Y4 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **Temporary Road Closure Of John Street, Between Dwyer Lane & Victoria Avenue, Woollahra – Local Christmas Party**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: T256

Reason for Report: Request from Mr Andrew Rowland on behalf of all residents in this section of John Street for a temporary road closure of John Street between Dwyer Lane and Victoria Avenue from 4.00pm to 8.00pm on Sunday 9 December, 2007 for a neighbourhood Christmas Party.

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

- A. That approval be granted for the temporary road closure of John Street, Woollahra from Dwyer Lane to Victoria Avenue for a neighbourhood Christmas Party from 4.00pm-8.00pm on Sunday 9 December, 2007 in accordance with the Traffic Management Plan dated 7 September 2007.
- B. That the above special event be categorised as a category 3 event.
- C. That the approval of the above event and the associated road closure be subject to the following conditions :
 - i) The applicant must submit an Activity Application to Council's Community Services Department and this application needs to be approved and the applicant must comply with any conditions of consent.
 - ii) That the Council approved Traffic Management Plan be submitted to the RTA's Sydney Transport Management Centre (TMC) for notification.
 - iii) The applicant must comply with all directives of the NSW Police Department, either provided on the day or beforehand.
 - iv) The applicant must comply with the directives of Council's Law Enforcement Officers.
 - v) The applicant must inform all business proprietors, residents and other occupants in the vicinity of the proposed activities, at least fourteen (14) days before the event via a letterbox drop and an advertisement placed in the local paper at least seven (7) days before the event. The notification and advertisement must be in a format approved by Council's Traffic Engineer.
 - vi) The applicant must provide written evidence to Council at least four (4) weeks prior to the event that the majority of residents in John Street between Victoria Avenue and Moncur Street have no objection to this closure.
 - vii) Any Traffic Management measures must be in accordance with AS1742.3.

- viii) The applicant must supply and erect any barriers and traffic signs necessary for the road closure and remove them at the completion of the event.
- ix) Council must be indemnified against all claims for damage or injury that may result from either the activities or from the occupation of part of the public way during the activities. A copy of Public Liability Insurance Cover to the value of \$10,000,000 shall be provided to Council prior to the event.
- x) Council must be reimbursed for the cost of repair of any damage caused to Council property as a result of the activities and for any alteration to signposting required as a result of this event and the road closures.
- xi) The occupation of the carriageway or footway of the road must not occur until the road has been closed.
- xii) The applicant must inform all Emergency Services of the proposed road closure.
- xiii) A four-metre emergency vehicle lane must be maintained at all times, and all services (eg. fire hydrants) must remain free of any obstruction.
- xiv) The use of any equipment or activities to be conducted in conjunction with the road closure must not result in any “offensive noise” as defined by the Noise Control Act, 1975.
- xv) The area to be used for the activities must be maintained in a clean and tidy condition to the satisfaction of Council’s Health and Regulation Manager, and the applicant must make arrangements to remove all waste from the site at the end of the event.
- xvi) Woollahra Council reserves the right to cancel this approval at any time.

Item No: Y5 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.
Subject: No. 20 Benelong Crescent, Bellevue Hill– Works Zone
Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer
File No: 407.G Pt7
Reason for Report: Request for a Works Zone

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed in front of No.20 Benelong Crescent, Bellevue Hill. The length of the proposed Works Zone is 10 metres, and it is to be located on the southern side of Benelong Crescent, from 6.5 metres west of the existing Works Zone servicing No. 18 Birriga Road in a westerly direction for 10 metres and is subject to the following conditions:

- i. Any directive provided by the NSW Police Department is to be complied with.
 - ii. The Works Zone is to operate between the hours of 7.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri and 7.00am-1.00pm Sat for a period of 13 weeks from 19 November, 2007 to 19 February, 2008.
 - iii. Suitable traffic control measures are to be put in place to manage truck movements to and from the construction site.
 - iv. Existing parking restrictions are to be maintained outside of the Works Zone hours of operation.
 - v. The applicant must ensure that the traffic lanes, footpaths and driveways, adjacent to the Works Zone, remain free of obstruction at all times during the construction.
 - vi. The applicant must inform Council's Traffic Engineer when the project is completed and the Works Zone can be removed.
 - vii. This Works Zone is in an area zoned as Residential 2(b). The fee payable shall be in accordance with Council's adopted fees and charges applying to the period for which the approval is given, and must be paid prior to the Works Zone being installed. Should the Works Zone be required for a shorter period, application may be made for a pro-rata refund.
 - viii. Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the cancellation of the Works Zone at Council's discretion.
 - ix. Should the Works Zone be required for a period longer than the approved period, permission from the Director of Technical Services is required to extend the Works Zone.
 - x. Should the Works Zone be required for additional hours of operation on any particular day, any amendment will require the approval of the Woollahra Traffic Committee.
- B. That the applicant notifies all adjacent residents by a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.

Item No: Y6 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.
Subject: No. 18 Balfour Road, Rose Bay – Works Zone
Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer
File No: 407.G Pt9
Reason for Report: Request for a Works Zone

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed for No.18 Balfour Road. The length of the proposed Works Zone is to be 10.4 metres and is to be located on the western side of Balfour Road, from just south of the driveway to No.18 Balfour Road in a northerly direction for 10.4 metres and is subject to the following conditions:

- i. Any directive provided by the NSW Police Department is to be complied with.
 - ii. The Works Zone is to operate between the hours of 7.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri and 7.00am-1.00pm Sat for a period of 4 weeks from 12 November, 2007 to 8 December, 2007.
 - iii. Suitable traffic control measures are to be put in place to manage truck movements to and from the construction site, and if necessary to and from the adjacent street system, in accordance with the RTA's Traffic Control at Works Sites manual.
 - iv. Unrestricted parking is to be maintained outside of the Works Zone hours of operation.
 - v. The applicant must ensure that the traffic lanes, footpaths and driveways, adjacent to the Works Zone, remain free of obstruction at all times during the construction.
 - vi. The applicant must inform Council's Traffic Engineer when the project is completed and the Works Zone can be removed.
 - vii. This Works Zone is in an area zoned as Residential 2(b). The fee payable shall be in accordance with Council's adopted fees and charges applying to the period for which the approval is given, and must be paid prior to the Works Zone being installed. Should the Works Zone be required for a shorter period, application may be made for a pro-rata refund.
 - viii. Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the cancellation of the Works Zone at Council's discretion.
 - ix. Should the Works Zone be required for a period longer than the approved period, permission from the Director of Technical Services is required to extend the Works Zone.
 - x. Should the Works Zone be required for additional hours of operation on any particular day, any amendment will require the approval of the Woollahra Traffic Committee.
- B. That the applicant notifies all residents and businesses whose property frontage is within 50 metres of the Works Zone.

Item No: Y7 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.

Subject: **No.530 New South Head Road, Double Bay - Works Zone**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: 407.G Pt7

Reason for Report: Request for a Works Zone

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed for No.530 New South Head Road, Double Bay. The length of the proposed Works Zone is 12 metres, and it is to be located on the western side of New South Head Road from just north of the northern driveway to 530 New South Head Road for a distance of 12 metres in a southerly direction, and is subject to the following conditions:
- i. Any directive provided by the NSW Police Department is to be complied with.
 - ii. A road occupancy licence be received from the RTA's Traffic Management Centre (TMC) for this Works Zone as it occurs on a State Road.
 - iii. The Works Zone is to operate between the hours of 7.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri and 7.00am-1.00pm Sat for a period of 8 weeks from 26 November, 2007 to 23 December, 2007 and from 7 January, 2008 to 3 February, 2008 .
 - iv. Existing No Parking restrictions from 4.30pm-6pm Monday-Friday are to be altered to operate from 4 pm to 6pm outside of the operational hours of the Works Zone.
 - v. Suitable traffic control measures are to be put in place to manage truck movements to and from the construction site, and if necessary to and from the adjacent street system, in accordance with the RTA's Traffic Control at Works Sites manual.
 - vi. The applicant must ensure that the traffic lanes, footpaths and driveways, adjacent to the Works Zone, remain free of obstruction at all times during the construction.
 - vii. The applicant must inform Council's Traffic Engineer when the project is completed and the Works Zone can be removed.
 - viii. This Works Zone is in an area zoned as Residential 2(b). The fee payable shall be in accordance with Council's adopted fees and charges applying to the period for which the approval is given, and must be paid prior to the Works Zone being installed. Should the Works Zone be required for a shorter period, application may be made for a pro-rata refund.
 - ix. Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the cancellation of the Works Zone at Council's discretion.

- x. Should the Works Zone be required for a period longer than the approved period, permission from the Director of Technical Services is required to extend the Works Zone. Request are required in writing one week prior to the expiry of the Works Zone.
 - xi. Should the Works Zone be required for additional hours of operation on any particular day, any amendment will require the approval of the Woollahra Traffic Committee.
- B. That the applicant notifies all adjacent residents a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.
- C. That the applicant provide a Traffic Control Plan which conforms with the RTA's Traffic Control At Work Sites Manual and is certified by an RTA accredited Traffic Consultant. This Traffic Control Plan must indicate all steps to be taken to cater for access to the site and detailed pedestrian management in conjunction with this site.

Item No: Y8 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.

Subject: **No.151 Hopetoun Avenue, Vaocluse – Works Zone**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: 407.G Pt8

Reason for Report: Request for a Works Zone

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

- A. That the application for a Works Zone to serve the development at No.151 Hopetoun Avenue, Vaocluse not be approved.

Item No: Y9 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.

Subject: **Stage 1 Paddington Pamp Projects**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: T256

Reason for Report: Consideration of Stage 1 of Paddington PAMP Implementation Schedule by the Woollahra Traffic Committee and Council.

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

- A. That this item be deferred to the Woollahra Local Traffic Committee meeting on 4 December 2007 to allow for amendments to be made to the proposed plans.

8. Late Items

1. Menorah Parade – 6 December 2007

An email has been received on 2 November 2007 applying to operate the Menorah Parade within the Woollahra Municipality for the first time. In previous years this event was held in the Waverley Municipality and Sydney City. The last event was held in 2006 and ran from Flood Street in Waverley along Syd Einfield Drive and Oxford Street into the city. The current application requests the use of Lyne Park, Rose Bay, as a congregation area and then approval to proceed along New South Head Road to William Street and into the city. The proposed date of this procession is 6 December 2007 from 6.00pm.

Council's Traffic Engineer pointed out that this request was only received on 2 November 2007 and that only scant information (as detailed above) was provided in the submission.

Both the RTA and Police representatives advised that the event organisers were seeking an alternative route to last year's Waverley route as significant objection has been raised in 2007 to the Flood Street/Syd Einfield Drive/Oxford Street route following serious operational and safety flaws in 2006. During last years procession Police advised that vehicles were stopping on Syd Enfield Drive to take photos of the procession, people were seen hanging out of cars, on top of car roofs and disobeying road rules.

The RTA representative advised that as the event seeks police control, the event is likely to be categorised as a Category 4 special event and therefore does not require either Council or the RTA's approval for use of the proposed route. A Category 4 Event is an event conducted under police supervision. Neither the RTA nor the Police representatives at the Traffic Committee meeting were aware if this 2007 event had been approved by the police.

The RTA representative advised that the organisers have requested that the event be given Hallmark status by the Premier's Department, but that the status of their request is unknown at this time. The Police and RTA have advised the event organiser that the start of the event if approved should be delayed till 7pm rather than 6pm which would allow the procession to occur outside of the peak traffic times.

The RTA representative also advised that the organisers have been told that the event would not be given a "green light corridor" from start to end and therefore that the procession will be strung-out along the route. This means that any vehicles in the procession that are stopped by a red light will have to wait for a green signal and then catch up to the procession.

It was advised that a request has been made of the Police to hold the traffic signal control upon leaving Lyne Park so that all of the 100+ cars in the procession leave at one body. The RTA and Police have advised that this may be permitted however further details from the event organiser regarding the exact number of vehicles will be required to assess the traffic impact that this will have on New South Head Road

Council's representative advised that no detail has been supplied in relation to the assembly of vehicles at Lyne Park. It is necessary for the organisers to provide a management plan which will show how this event is to be staged so as not to interfere with public access and use of the car park.

The Police representative advised that the organisers had been requested to provide a fall-back option in the event that more than 100 vehicles participate in the event. The organisers advised that they did not have a contingency plan.

The Committee considered that given the lateness of the application, the lack of detailed information and the serious traffic implications involved with an event of this type that the application should not be approved at this time.

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

A. That the late application be refused at this time on the basis of insufficient time and information to allow the implications of an event of this type to be fully assessed.

2. New South Head Road, Rose Bay – Vehicle & trailer advertising

The issue of vehicle and trailer advertising along New South Head Road was discussed. The option of parking restrictions to encourage vehicle turnover will be further explored and be brought back to the Traffic Committee at a future meeting.

3. New South Head Road / Eastpoint Shopping Centre, Edgecliff – No Parking area

The RTA advised they are proposing to install a roll-over kerb outside the Eastpoint Shopping Centre to provide an area where vehicles and Community Buses can drop-off and pick-up passengers under No Parking rules (as per the Australian Road Rules).

Decision: Unanimous Support

Recommendation:

A. That Council receive and note the RTA's proposal to install a roll-over kerb outside the Eastpoint Shopping Centre in New South Head Road, Edgecliff.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.45pm

Alan Opera
Chair

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007**
Author: Rebecca Peacock - Environmental Protection Coordinator
File No: 883.G
Reason for Report: To present the draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007

Recommendation:

- A. THAT the Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007 be received and adopted.
- B. THAT the Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007 be distributed to the following organisations and individuals: Council's libraries, schools within the Woollahra area, resident action groups within the Woollahra area, Chambers of Commerce within the area, adjoining councils and the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils.
- C. THAT Council formally thanks the organisations and individuals that contributed to the preparation of the Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present Council's Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007 (Draft SoE 2006/2007 report). The preparation and adoption of a state of environment (SoE) report forms part of the Council's annual report that is to be submitted to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2007. The Draft SoE 2006/2007 report is a supplementary report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act 1993) and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (Regulation). A supplementary SoE report provides a summary of environmental projects and actions carried out by Council, other authorities and groups located within the local government area during a financial year.

Background

Section 428 of the LG Act 1993 specifies that within five months after the end of each financial year, a council must prepare an annual report detailing its achievements with respect to the objectives and performance targets set out in its management plan for that year.

Section 428 (2) details the information that a council is to include in the annual report, with sub-section (2) (c) specifically relating to the preparation of the SoE report.

- (c) *a report as to the state of the environment in the area, and in particular in relation to the following environmental sectors:*
 - (i) *land,*
 - (ii) *air,*
 - (iii) *water*
 - (iv) *biodiversity,*
 - (v) *waste,*
 - (vi) *noise,*

- (vii) Aboriginal heritage,*
 - (viii) Non-Aboriginal heritage,*
- with particular reference, with regard to each such environmental sector, to:*
- (ix) management plans relating to the environment,*
 - (x) special council projects relating to the environment,*
 - (xi) the environmental impact of council activities.*

Sections 219 – 226 of the Regulation provide further clarification on the preparation of SoE reports. The Regulation states that a council must prepare a comprehensive SoE report for the year ending after each council election. A council may choose to prepare either a comprehensive or supplementary report for the years between council elections. As most environmental conditions do not change significantly each year, the preparation of a supplementary report is considered satisfactory.

Section 223 of the Regulation specifies that a supplementary SoE report must:

- identify any new environmental impacts since a council's last SoE report, and
- update the trends in environmental indicators that are important to each environmental sector.

Council has produced SoE reports each reporting year since 1993.

Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007

The Draft SoE 2006/2007 report provides an update of environmental projects and initiatives undertaken by Council and other groups during the 2006/2007 reporting period, 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 inclusive. Many of the projects have now progressed further than the stage reported in this SoE report. The progress of these projects will be outlined within the next SoE report, covering the 2007/2008 reporting period. Most of the projects will also be addressed in the Management Plan quarterly report.

The information provided in this report is presented under the following environmental sectors, all of which are consistent with chapters presented in previous SoE reports:

- land
- biodiversity
- waste
- heritage.
- water
- air quality
- noise

Environmental indicators have been included for each environmental sector. The use of environmental indicators allows Council and the community to monitor environmental trends over time. Intent and outcome statements, based on the environmental indicators, have also been included to summarise the progress in improving a specific aspect of the environment for each environmental sector.

In order to improve the presentation of information in the SoE report, a summary of the environmental outcomes has been included at the beginning of the document. The outcomes statement summary highlights the measurable outcomes achieved during the reporting period.

The text for the Draft SoE 2006/2007 report is attached as **Annexure 1**. The report will be published in a simple, concise and reader-friendly format, similar to that used for the 2005/2006 SoE report. Photographs and graphics will be used as much as possible.

The Draft SoE 2006/2007 report has been collated and written by the Council's Environmental Protection Coordinator, with officers of Strategic Planning, Public Infrastructure, Depot and Waste Services, Civil Works, Compliance, Property and Projects, Parks and Street Trees, Public Open Space and Community Services providing valuable information and assistance.

The document is widely distributed and provided to interested parties upon request. It is recommended that the report be distributed to the following:

- Council's libraries,
- schools within the Woollahra area,
- resident action groups within the Woollahra area,
- chambers of commerce within the Woollahra area,
- adjoining councils and the Southern Sydney Region of Councils, and
- State Library.

As the Draft SoE 2006/2007 report is a supplementary report, it is recommended that it be considered in conjunction with the last comprehensive report produced in 2003/2004. Hard copies of the 2006/2007 SoE report will be available for distribution from the Council Chambers and libraries and will be included on Council's website.

Consultation

Community input was sought in preparing the Draft SoE 2006/2007 report, through correspondence targeted to active community groups and schools and through general advertisements placed in the Wentworth Courier inviting community participation. This year Council received three community responses. Information was also provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment and Climate Change and Sydney Water.

Conclusion

The SoE report forms a part of Council's annual report that is to be submitted to the Department of Local Government by 30 November each year. The requirements of the annual report are prescribed under the LG Act 1993.

Woollahra's Draft SoE 2006/2007 report is a supplementary report, prepared in accordance with the LG Act 1993 and Regulations annual reporting requirements. The Draft SoE 2006/2007 report provides Council and the community with a report to monitor the implementation of environmental projects and initiatives undertaken during the 2006/2007 reporting period. The use of environmental indicators for each environmental sector provides a mechanism to monitor trends in the environment over time. It is recommended that copies of the adopted SoE report be widely distributed to organisations and groups within the region. Hard copies will also be available at the Council Chambers and libraries and available to download from Council's website.

Rebecca Peacock
Environmental Protection Coordinator

Chris Bluett
Manager Strategic Planning

ANNEXURE

1. Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2006/2007

Item No: D4 Delegated to Committee

Subject: **Women in Woollahra – Stage 2**

Author: Kerry-Ann Prideaux – Information Services Librarian

File No: 474.G

To report on Stage 2 of the Women in Woollahra project with recommendations for the two women subjects.

Recommendation:

- A. That Council support the recommendation of Alice Doyle and Rosemary Foot as the two women subjects selected for Stage 2 of the Women in Woollahra project (women who have contributed through business or professional life).

Background:

The Women in Woollahra project was launched at Council's International Women's Day function on 8 March 2007. It aims to acknowledge the contribution of women in the Woollahra local government area across a range of fields. The project consists of three stages:

Stage 1: Focused on two women Councillors of Woollahra Council, namely Belle Miller (the first woman Alderman of Council) and Dutchie Backhouse (the first women Mayor of Council). It involved the commissioning of two oral history interviews from professional oral historian Frank Heimans as well as written biographies for Council's website. It was completed in 2006/07.

Stage 2: Will focus on two local women who have contributed through business or professional life. A progress report on this stage of the project was submitted to the Community and Environment Committee of 9 July, 2007. It was resolved that Council note the commencement of stage 2 of the Women in Woollahra project and the management of the Public Art component by staff in consultation with the Public Art Advisory Committee. **Annexure 1.**

Stage 3: To be undertaken 2008/09 will examine two women who have contributed through community life and organisations.

This project has been listed in the 2007 / 2010 Management plan, within the key sub-activity areas of Library and Information Services and Cultural Development.

Proposal:

In commencing research for Stage 2, Local History staff identified an initial list of seventeen business and professional women with connections to the local area and have made a recommendation of the following two women for the project. See **Annexure 2.**

1. Alice Doyle

Alice Doyle and the restaurant which she developed into an internationally recognized tourist destination are both an intrinsic part of the history of Watsons Bay, extending Alice's longstanding family connections with the fishing industry and the social life of the Bay area. Alice was the acknowledged driving force behind the Doyle family's successful resurrection of the earlier Ozone Café as *Doyles on the Beach*, and she exerted a continuing influence on the direction of the operation long after her responsibility for its day-to-day running had ceased. Much of the success of the Doyles venture must be credited to her.

Alice Doyle's undeniable contribution to Woollahra is grounded in the success of her business, which brought many benefits to the local area. The presence of an attraction such as *Doyles* generated increased custom for other local operations and raised the profile of the area, enhancing its image as a tourist destination. *Doyles* also became an institution for local residents, enriching the social life and the leisure and entertainment options of the immediate community. Innovations such as outdoor dining, which required an energetic campaign to overcome the initial resistance of the local authority, paved the way for other restaurateurs to follow.

Alice Doyle was awarded the Order of Australia for services to the restaurant industry and to the community in 1987. She died on 3 December 2004.

2. Rosemary Foot

As the first and only woman to hold the state seat of Vaucluse (1978-1986) Rosemary Foot has been uniquely placed to contribute at state level, through her political voice, to the welfare and interests of the people of Woollahra (most of this local government area falling within the electoral boundaries of the district of Vaucluse). During her time as a representative of the people in this district, Foot campaigned on a series of local issues ranging from large-scale problems, such as widespread dissatisfaction with public transport in the wake of the newly introduced ESR/bus-rail system, to small but pressing matters such as the threatened closure of the Waverley-Woollahra Arts Centre due to the loss of its premises and poor facilities at local schools. She also lent her voice to heritage issues within Woollahra, such as the demolition of the *Wintergarden Theatre* in Rose Bay.

Beyond her parliamentary representation, Rosemary Foot has also worked at 'grassroots' level for the people of the local area, both in Waverley and Woollahra. This community involvement included patronage of a number of local sports clubs in Waverley and Woollahra, including the Woollahra Sailing Club. She served as President of the Vaucluse Branch of the Liberal Party from 1995-1999. A more recent eastern suburbs-based appointment has been to the board of the annual Sculpture by the Sea exhibition in 2005. She belongs to both the Royal Sydney Golf Club and the Rose Bay Surf Club.

Funding:

Similar to Stage 1, it is proposed to undertake oral histories of two professional/business women and to create website entries. In the 2007/08 Council budget, \$4,000 has been allocated to Stage 2 of the project. This will cover the cost for a professional historian, Frank Heimans to conduct oral histories and additional research/preparation of materials required for Council's website and Public art concept design brief.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that Council support the recommendation of Alice Doyle and Rosemary Foot as the two women subjects for stage 2 of the Women in Woollahra project.

Kerry-Ann Prideaux
Information Services Librarian

Kylie Walshe
Director Community Services

Annexures:

Annexure 1 - Women in Woollahra Stage 2, Community and Environment Committee, 9th July, 2007.

Annexure 2 - Women in Woollahra Project Stage 2 – recommendations regarding the selection of the two women subjects for the project.

Item No: D5 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Library Quarterly Report 1 July 2007 to 30 September 2007**
Author: Vicki Munro, Manager, Library and Information Services
File No: 48.G
Reason for Report: To review the library operation for the quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2007 and to provide an update on the State Government's funding review of Public Libraries.

Recommendation:

1. That the report of the library service for the quarter 1 July to 30 September 2007 be received and noted.
2. That letters be sent to the NSW State Government Minister of Arts and the local State Government Members of Parliament expressing concern over the funding situation.

This report reviews activities and projects for the quarter July to September 2007 compared with the same quarter for the previous year, 2006 as well as providing an overview of the State Government's funding review of Public Libraries.

1.0 Lending Services

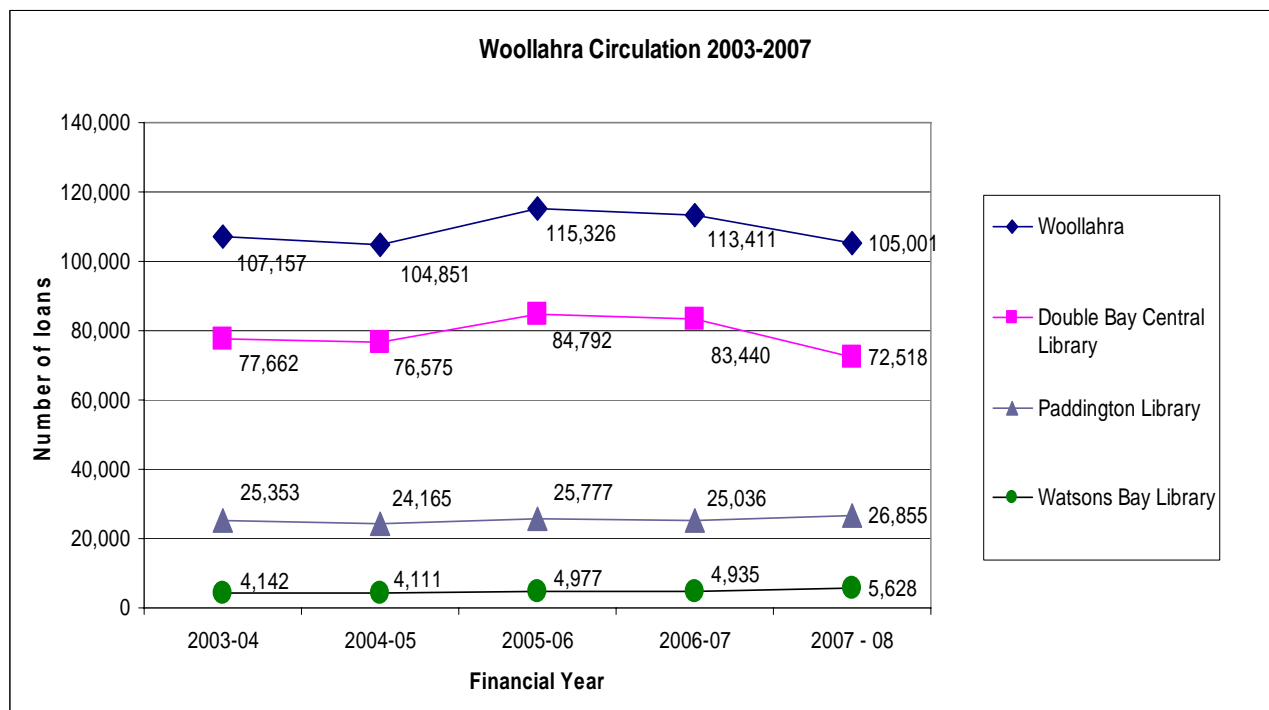
1.1 Circulation Statistics

The following statistics show the circulation of the total library service for Quarter 1, 07/08 as well as providing a comparison for the same period in 2006/07.

| Total Service | Quarter 1 July-Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July-Sept 07/08 | % Change |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Adult Books | 53,230 | 45,699 | -14% |
| Children's Books | 31,632 | 31,039 | -2% |
| Periodicals | 4,837 | 5,084 | 5% |
| Toys | 855 | 669 | -22% |
| Audio Visual | 22,857 | 22,510 | -2% |
| TOTAL | 113,411 | 105,001 | -7% |
| | | | |
| Double Bay Central | Quarter 1 July-Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July-Sept 07/08 | % Change |
| Adult Books | 37,949 | 30,691 | -19% |
| Children's Books | 23,516 | 22,219 | -6% |
| Periodicals | 3,175 | 3,104 | -2% |
| Toys | 840 | 660 | -21% |
| Audio Visual | 17,960 | 15,844 | -12% |
| TOTAL | 83,440 | 72,518 | -13% |

| Paddington | Quarter 1 July- Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July- Sept 07/08 | % Change |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Adult Books | 13,120 | 12,478 | -5% |
| Children's Books | 6,292 | 6,977 | 11% |
| Periodicals | 1,525 | 1,731 | 14% |
| Toys | 11 | 9 | -18% |
| Audio Visual | 4,088 | 5,660 | 38% |
| TOTAL | 25,036 | 26,855 | 7% |
| | | | |
| Watsons Bay | Quarter 1 July- Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July- Sept 07/08 | % Change |
| Adult Books | 2,161 | 2,530 | 17% |
| Children's Books | 1,824 | 1,843 | 1% |
| Periodicals | 137 | 249 | 82% |
| Toys | 4 | 0 | -100% |
| Audio Visual | 809 | 1,006 | 24% |
| TOTAL | 4,935 | 5,628 | 14% |

A five year trend line shows the circulation for the total Library Service and for each library service for this quarter:



Significant points to note from both the statistics and graph are:

- The statistics show a decrease of 7% in total circulation for the Library Service for the quarter. This is due to a fall in circulation at Double Bay Central Library across all material types, which may be attributed to the overcrowding of the Library which is becoming critical, the difficulty locating material and difficulties accessing the Library, especially with parking / transport.
- Of note is the fall in usage of Adult books. These statistics continue to show the decline in usage of adult non-fiction material in favour of access to such information via the Internet and online databases.
- Watsons Bay and Paddington Libraries, however, continue to show increasing circulation statistics, 14% and 7% respectively. It is pleasing to note the large increase in usage of periodicals/magazines and audio visual material at both Watson's Bay and Paddington Libraries.
- The overall increase in usage of the periodical / magazine collection is due to a review of the collection over the past twelve months, including streamlining outdated material and adding new titles at all service points. This is an ongoing process with another review of the periodicals / magazines completed in September 2007.
- During the quarter, there was an average of 45 loans per hour and 31 visitors per hour across the Library Service with 73,100 visits made by customers to all service points. This is the first quarter that door counts of visits have been kept for all Library service points so no comparisons can be made at this time.

1.2 Membership

As at 30 September 2007, the borrower profile for the Library and Information Service was as follows:

| | Jul-Sept 07 |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Double Bay Adult | 8,443 |
| Double Bay Junior | 3,005 |
| Paddington Adult | 3,736 |
| Paddington Junior | 700 |
| Watsons Bay Adult | 270 |
| Watsons Bay Junior | 117 |
| TOTAL | 16,271 |

- As noted in the Library's annual report, as of 1 July 2007, Woollahra Library and Information Service will measure its active membership over a two year period. Previously, membership was reported for members who have borrowed over the past three years. This change in reporting is in keeping with the annual statistics provided to the State Library of NSW and provides a more realistic picture of borrowing activity.
- As a percentage of active borrowers to population of 50,161 residents in the Woollahra local government area (2006 ABS census), the figure is 32.44%. The general Library benchmark is for 49% of borrowers to be active members. Initiatives to boost membership will be developed in conjunction with the Woollahra Library and Information Service Strategic Plan.

- 889 new customers registered with the Library and Information Service during this quarter, 548 at Double Bay, 316 at Paddington and 6 at Watsons Bay.

1.3 Home Library Service

| | Quarter 1 July- Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July-Sept 07/08 | % Change |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Items lent to HLS Members | 3,803 | 4,022 | 6% |
| Items lent to HLS Institutions | 408 | 366 | -10% |
| TOTAL | 4,211 | 4,388 | 4% |

- As at 30th September 2007, there were 161 individual members and 9 institutional members of the Home Library Service. In comparison to the same period last year, there were 156 individual members and 7 institutions.
- During the quarter, the Home Library Service made a total of 611 visits to these members. Six volunteers made 147 visits to the members while the Library courier undertook the other 464 visits.
- The increase in loans as compared to the same period last year is promising and is most likely attributable to the introduction of 20 Audio-read Navigators in December 2006. These players are very popular due to their portability, size and weight. 574 loans were via the portable Audio read Navigators.
- The Library Service will receive a further ten Audio-read Navigators in October 2007 through the Macular Degeneration (MD) Foundation. The MD Foundation is donating the Navigators to public libraries who have members with macular degeneration. Woollahra Library & Information Service will cover the ongoing licence costs (\$100 per navigator). The 30 Navigators will cover the current demand.

1.4 Collection Development

Significant points to note are:

- During the quarter, a new purchasing programme for large print materials was implemented. The aim of this programme is to improve the breadth and appeal of the collection and consequently, significantly improve circulation. Concurrently, the collection was weeded of any unused items.
- A major weeding programme has begun throughout the Library Service. The weeding project has been undertaken to ensure that the collection available is relevant to the needs of the community, to ensure best use is made of the shelves available and that OH& S issues are managed most effectively.

Comprehensive weeding guidelines have been developed to ensure a consistent and professional approach to the deselection of materials. Efforts have concentrated on deselecting items from the offsite collection housed at Sherbrook Hall. This collection has limited circulation but has been built up over many years so does contain items of value. Items deselected will be available for purchase at the November 24th Book Fair. Items from the library's lending service points have also been weeded and will be available to purchase at the November Book Fair or sent to the offsite collection.

2.0 Reference and Information Services

The Reference enquiries statistics cover three distinct areas, namely:

- General reference enquiries represent requests for Library based information, face to face enquiries and telephone and email at both Double Bay Central and Paddington Libraries;
- Local History enquiries which have been received either in person, telephone and email at the Local History Centre and at the Double Bay Central and Paddington Libraries;
- Community Information enquiries consisting of requests for information on community facilities, services and activities received either in person, by telephone or email at Double Bay Central and Paddington Libraries and the Local History Centre.

| | Quarter 1 July- Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July- Sept 07/08 | % Change |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Reference Enquiries | 6,514 | 7,871 | 21% |
| Local History | 709 | 861 | 21% |
| Community Information | 121 | 196 | 62% |
| TOTAL | 7,344 | 8,928 | 22% |

- The above figure shows that the total number of Reference enquiries have increased by 22% this quarter in comparison to the same time last year due to increased customer enquiries and the provision of a high level of reference service.
- The reference enquiries statistics are in keeping with the Public Libraries Evaluation Group measures (PLEG), established by the State Library of NSW. The information request completion rate of 66%, as determined by PLEG is lower than the same time last year, which was 76%. This means that 66% of all reference enquiries were completed on the day that they were received. The remainder of enquiries were satisfied by delivery of items from the Stack collection, other Library service points or by Inter-Library loan request.

2.1 Inter-Library Loans

| | Quarter 1 July- Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July- Sept 07/08 | % Change |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Items lent to other Libraries | 872 | 945 | 8% |
| Items borrowed from other Libraries | 265 | 246 | -7% |

- As outlined in previous quarterly reports, there has been a significant increase in the number of items lent to other libraries. This is due to the Library Services move to the Libraries Australia Document Delivery system (LADD) in July 2006.
- The Inter-Library loan requests for Woollahra members (items borrowed from other libraries) has remained steady throughout the year with a small decrease of 7% over the same quarter in 2006 which shows that the Library collection is meeting the needs of our customers.

2.2 Electronic Information Service

| | Quarter 1 July- Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July- Sept 07/08 | % Change |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Library Access | | | |
| Logins | 620 | 443 | -29% |
| Searches | 1,469 | 2,358 | 61% |
| Remote / Home Access | | | |
| Logins | 229 | 178 | -22% |
| Searches | 516 | 283 | -45% |

- Despite the number of logins for online databases falling, it is pleasing to note that the number of actual searches has increased significantly within the Library. This could represent customers undertaking more in depth research, with the assistance of Library staff. This links with the increase seen in the reference enquiries, noted in 2.0
- An analysis and review of the online databases will be actioned this quarter, in preparation for the 2008/09 budget and with the aim of increasing usage of these resources. Further, a program to promote the use of the online databases to the public and to local schools will be developed in keeping with the outcomes of the Library Strategic Plan.

2.3 Local History Centre

The following table summarizes enquiries at the Centre by broad category:

| | Quarter 1 July- Sept 06/07 | Quarter 1 July- Sept 07/08 | % Change |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Council | 43 | 30 | -30% |
| Property | 251 | 342 | 36% |
| Local History | 201 | 214 | 6% |
| Family History | 52 | 48 | -8% |
| Assistance with equipment | 54 | 113 | 109% |
| Directional | 32 | 44 | 38% |
| Other | 45 | 39 | -13% |
| Commissioned property histories | 7 | 8 | 14% |
| TOTAL | 685 | 838 | 22% |

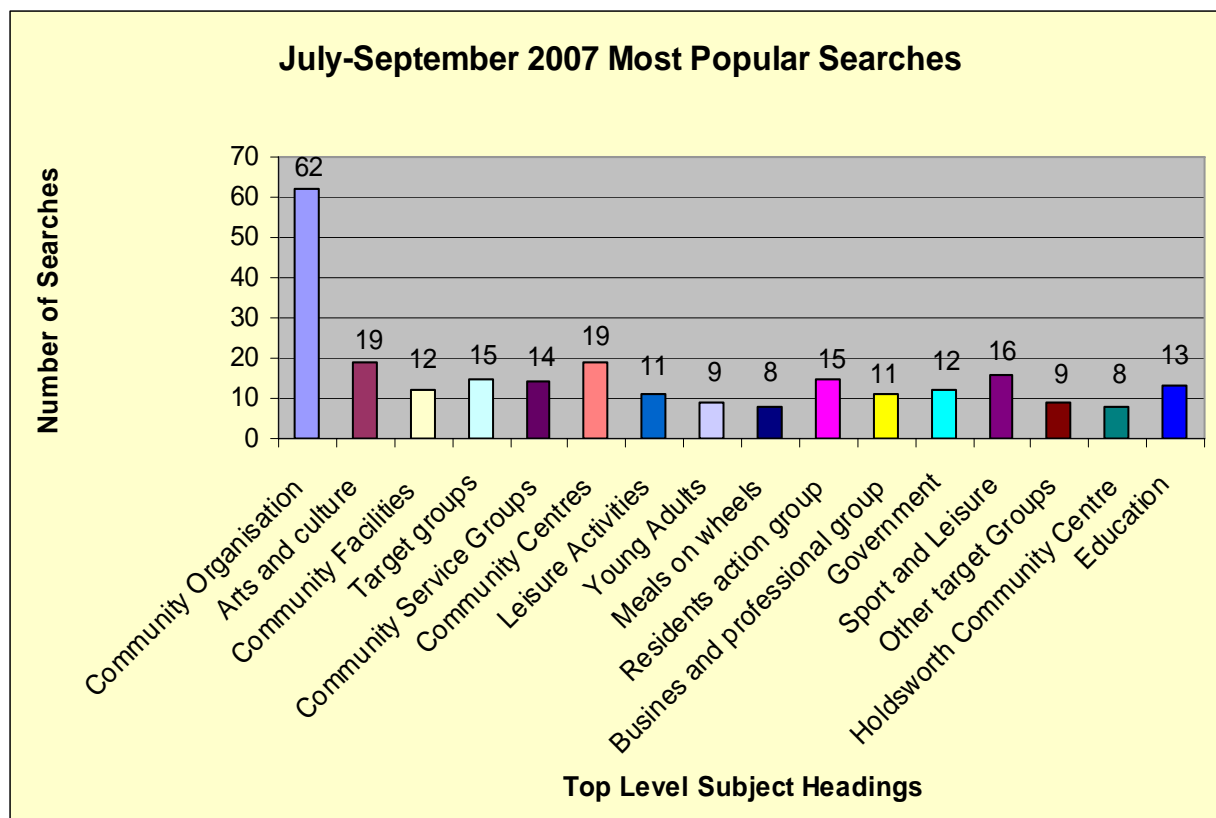
- Planning began for Stage 2 of the “Women in Woollahra” project (professional and/or business women) and a list of possible subjects was compiled and presented for consideration.
- Grant funding for the Council Minutes Indexing project ended on 30 August 2007 and at this point Local History staff have indexed the Woollahra Council Minutes from 1860-1875 and the Vaucluse Council Minutes from 1900-1901. The index went live on the Local History web page during History Week in September 2007.
- Two displays were mounted during the quarter:
 1. 150th Anniversary of the Dunbar shipwreck – a display of the *Dunbar* shipwreck was prepared and mounted at Customer Services as an adjunct to a talk arranged by the Planning Department to mark the 150th anniversary of the sinking of the Dunbar at South Head. The display was well received by attendees at the talk.
 2. History Week – A display to mark History Week 2007 with the theme ‘Legacies’ was hosted at Customer Services and Paddington Library. The display looked at the legacy of William Notting and the Harbour Foreshores Vigilance Committee as it affected the harbour foreshores of the eastern suburbs. The display was popular with the community, community groups and professionals.
- Significant donations to the Centre this quarter include:
 - Original shop purchase/order book of William Johnston dating to 1898-9, donated by Robyn Hamilton. William Johnston operated a grocery shop from 25 Military Road, Watson’s Bay which he built in c1893 and the book relates to this business. 25 Military Road is a listed heritage item on the Woollahra LEP.
 - Photographs of tram destination boards from Bruce Crosson.

- Research materials, clippings etc on William Notting and the Harbour Foreshores Vigilance Committee received from June and Peter Poland.
- Material on the history of the Hargrave Street theatre from William Gray.

2.4 Community Information - Lincs Database

| Quarter 1 - July to Sept | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | % Change |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| July | 132 | 189 | 43% |
| August | 363 | 318 | -12% |
| September | 299 | 100 | -67% |
| TOTAL | 794 | 607 | -24% |

- **Community Information will be reviewed in the upcoming year, this will include usage of the Lincs database , its location / access on Council’s website and promotional strategies.**
- **The most popular searches were Community Organisations, Arts and Culture and Community Centres.**



3.0 Cultural Events

- Writers and Readers Series

- Thursday 12 July 2007- Peter Cosgrove – *My Story*
General Peter Cosgrove spoke to a full house about his book *My Story*. Attendance: 105.
- Thursday 16 August – Ross Steele – *Rucking France*
Ross Steele gave an informative and entertaining introduction to his latest book *Rucking France*, an essential travel guide to the French cities hosting the Rugby World Cup this year. Attendance: 52

- Tea Topics

- Friday 20 July 2007 – *The Gardens of Paris by Public transport* with author and horticulturalist Peter Valder, in the Woollahra Council building. Attendance: 100
- Friday 17 August 2007 – *How to encourage your child to love books and reading* with popular children's author Moya Simons, in the Blackburn Gardens. Attendance: 20
- Friday 21 September 2007 – Art Appreciation with art consultant Alison Renwick, in the Woollahra Council building. Attendance: 32

- Woollahra Council Youth Photographic Award and Short Film Prize

The 14th annual Woollahra Council Youth Photographic Award attracted a record number of entries with 158 photographs and 17 short films submitted by students from ten high schools in the area.

A presentation night was held on Wednesday 5 September in the Committee Rooms at Council which was attended by around 60 students, parents and teachers. The night featured an exhibition of all photographic entries and a screening of the winning short films.

The exhibition was on display in the Council's Customer Services area for a week and then at Paddington Library for a further two weeks.

4.0 Children's and Young Adult Services

4.1 Extended Hours in the Children's Area of Double Bay Central Library

The following table represents the number of members in the Children's area of the Central Library between the hours of 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

| Quarter 1 - July to September 2007/08 | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Month | Total clients | Average no. clients per night |
| July | 348 | 16 |
| August | 311 | 14 |
| September | 300 | 16 |
| TOTAL | 959 | N\A |

- Council received funding of \$18,000 to undertake the trial opening of the Children's area of the Central Library from 6pm to 8pm Monday to Friday for the period September 2006 to September 2007, with the aim of attracting young people to the service.
- As reported in the Library's annual report, the low attendance figures have not supported the continuation of the extended opening hours. As a result, the Children's area of the Central Library has returned to its previous 6pm closing time, effective Monday 1 October 2007. There has been no negative feedback from customers over the change in hours.

4.2 Story time sessions

The story time programme is a core part of the Library and Information Service's activities.

| | Quarter 1 July-Sept 06/07 | | Quarter 1 July-Sept 07/08 | | % Change |
|---|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Session | Children | Session | Children | |
| Double Bay Central | | | | | |
| Wednesday Story Time and Craft | 11 | 149 | 13 | 115 | -23% |
| Friday Play Group | 5 | 98 | 5 | 55 | -44% |
| Childcare / School visits | | | 2 | 40 | |
| TOTAL | 16 | 247 | 18 | 170 | -31% |
| Paddington Branch | | | | | |
| Story time (Thursday) | 12 | 125 | 12 | 123 | -2% |
| Toddler Story time (Friday) | 13 | 252 | 11 | 163 | -35% |
| Childcare / School visits | 12 | 177 | 8 | 111 | -37% |
| TOTAL | 37 | 554 | 31 | 397 | -28% |
| Holdsworth Street Community Centre | | | | | |
| Pre School Children (Tuesday) | 9 | 80 | 10 | 152 | 90% |
| Grand Total | 62 | 881 | 59 | 719 | -18% |

- The numbers of children attending Holdsworth Playgroup Story time have significantly increased in comparison to the same period in 2006. This is due to a number of factors including a closer partnership with staff at Holdsworth Community Centre, improved communication and advertising to parents visiting the Centre, an increase in props e.g. use of puppets and more age appropriate stories.
- The numbers of children attending story times at both Double Bay and Paddington Libraries have decreased over the same period in 2006, with the possible cause being the wide age range of children attending the sessions. This makes it difficult to cater books and activities to the audience.

A story time review is to be undertaken by the Children's and Young Adult Librarian to be completed by Christmas 2007. It is anticipated that once the recommendations of the review are implemented, attendance is likely to increase.

- It should be noted that attendance at the Friday Playgroup, which is principally set in Blackburn Gardens has been affected by adverse weather this quarter.

4.3 Special Children's Events

- A number of special events have been organised in Quarter 1 by the Children & Young Adult team. These include July School holiday activities at all Library service points. These were well received by community members with a total of 88 children attending.
- Book Week was celebrated at all three libraries with school class visits and competitions running throughout the week. 888 children visited the library and over 900 entries to the competitions were submitted. An awards ceremony was held Friday 24 August 2007 and prizes distributed by former Mayor Councillor Keri Huxley.
- Also this quarter the Children & Young Adult Librarian attended both People & Pets Day and the Starting Schools Celebration to conduct craft and storytelling sessions at the council events with 92 children taking part.

| Q1 July – September 2007 | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Event | Session | Children |
| Double Bay | | | |
| | Holidays | 2 | 32 |
| | Book Week | 13 | 239 |
| | People & Pets Day | 1 | 62 |
| | Starting School Celebration | 1 | 30 |
| | | | |
| | Total | 17 | 363 |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Paddington | | | |
| | Holidays | 2 | 29 |
| | Book Week | 28 | 634 |
| Total | | 30 | 663 |
| Watson's Bay | | | |
| | Holidays | 2 | 27 |
| | Book Week | 1 | 15 |
| Total | | 3 | 42 |
| Grand Total | | 50 | 1068 |

5.0 Update on State Government funding of Public Libraries:

At a time when public libraries throughout the state are experiencing increasing demand for services and facilities, the State Government has recently commenced a review of the Public Library funding strategy. The review is being conducted by Dr Tom Parry and due in December 2007. The parameters for the review are:

- Revenue raising potential of local government authorities by local government area.
- Option for the most strategic application of State Government funding for Public Libraries which would ensure this funding is directed towards areas of greatest need.
- Regulatory implications with these options
- Transitional arrangements to guide the migration to a new more strategic system of funding
- Any other means by which Library services could be enhanced in NSW
- Identification of special issues and anomalies.

In response to the review and the decreasing levels of financial support for Public Libraries across NSW by the State Government, peak bodies are actively engaged in a lobbying programme based on raising community awareness of the current inadequate level of funding.

The Local Government and Shires Association have developed a campaign platform "Public Libraries – too Valuable to lose". Recently at the Local Government and Shires Associations (LGSA) conference in October 2007, they called on the State Government to ensure that:

- No further Public Library funding cuts are undertaken;
- No individual Councils are disadvantaged by any redistribution of Public Library funding; and
- The NSW State Government increases the State's share of total funding to local public library services to ensure it matches international and national benchmarks and meets community demand for services.

Public Libraries of NSW – Country have recently endorsed a Day of Action, to be held on Thursday 29 November 2007 with protest responses ranging from Library closures for the day and a protest rally in Sydney. The Public Libraries of NSW – Metropolitan has endorsed that individual Councils retain the right to make decisions on their involvement appropriate to their own circumstances and viewpoints.

For the information of Councillors, Woollahra will receive \$97,582 subsidy this financial year, based on a per capita calculation, and has received up to \$40,000 per annum for special projects within the library. This funding covers approximately 5% of library expenditure. Even though this percentage contribution has been eroded to this level over time it is still valuable and should not be decreased. It is recommended that Council express its concern over possible funding cuts by the State Government.

Conclusion:

The Woollahra Library and Information Service continues with its diverse range of programmes which have been well utilised by the Woollahra community. The outcomes of the Library Strategic Plan are due to be reported to Community and Environment Committee on 26 November 2007. Staff look forward to meeting the challenges outlined in the report and participating in moving the Library forward to become a more dynamic and essential community hub.

Vicki Munro
Manager – Library and Information Services

Kylie Walshe
Director Community Services

Item No: D6 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Gap Park Masterplan**
Author: David Sheils – Manager Public Open Space
Rod Ward - Public Open Space Project Manager
File No: 190.G
Reason for Report: To recommend that the draft Gap Park Masterplan be placed on public exhibition

Recommendation:

- A. That the draft Gap Park Masterplan be placed on public exhibition commencing 21 November and submissions closing 19 December 2007.
- B. That following the submission period a report to be presented Council for consideration.

Background:

Gap Park, situated on the coastal escarpment at Watsons Bay, is Woollahra's most highly visited park. Renown for its spectacular views, Gap Park is recognised as a popular destination for tourists and local residents. The park offers views from the coastal walkway along with interesting significant heritage items such as ship wreck relics, early fortifications and tram line remnants, all contained in a superb natural environment. Unfortunately the location is also well known as a self-harm, or suicide, site.

The impact of the high visitation numbers has seen the existing infrastructure decline over the years since the last substantial landscape works were completed in 1982. Since that time works have focussed on bush regeneration, with small improvements made such as the viewing area near the Grieve Memorial at the southern end of the park and the renewal of the coastal fence.

The need for a masterplan to guide the future improvements to the park and address social, environmental and recreational issues has seen the engagement, following a selection process, of landscape architects Thompson Berrill Landscape Design (TBLD), to develop the Masterplan. The Director of TBLD, Glenn Berrill will provide to the Committee a presentation of the main features recommended by the Masterplan.

The landscape architects were required to examine the existing park furniture, signage, fencing and pathways as well as the natural, indigenous and European heritage of the park. Also under investigation were the issues highlighted by the Woollahra Community Safety Committee and Council's Woollahra Crime Prevention Plan 2007, such as consideration of lighting in the park in the interests of reducing incidents of self-harm and increased night time safety, incorporation of the Woollahra Bike Plan to utilise the disused tramline route as a cycleway route and consideration of the Watsons Bay Heritage Conservation Area DCP in the development of the masterplan.

TBLD were engaged to develop the masterplan with a process to consult widely with community and stakeholder groups in the preparation of the draft plan and incorporate the guidelines and principles of the Woollahra Crime Prevention Plan 2007. An outline of this process is provided in Annexure 1. This process has been completed and a draft Masterplan has been prepared for public display and feedback.

The development of the masterplan has been assisted by the grant of \$31,000 under the NSW Department of Planning Metropolitan Greenspace Program. These funds supplement the \$25,000 provided in this year's budget for the completion of the Masterplan component of the project.

Consultation:

In the preparation of this draft Masterplan we have undertaken extensive investigation and consultation which is outlined.

- A detailed literature review was undertaken including relevant Council planning instruments and policies.
- A landscape appraisal was undertaken considering aspects such as existing habitat and species, potential for improvements, significant trees / vegetation and the like.
- A preliminary Aboriginal archaeological investigation was undertaken by an archaeologist. As part of this process the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council was consulted and supported the results of the investigation.
- An Ecological Assessment was undertaken of the site to ensure ecological values are understood and protected.
- A presentation and feedback session was undertaken with Council's Community Safety Committee (the minutes of this workshop are contained in Annexure 2).
- A Self-Harm Minimisation Workshop was undertaken with representatives including: Rose Bay Police, the Woollahra Community Safety Committee, Lifeline, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Southern Sydney Mental Health Unit, a resident who had lost a family member through self-harm at Gap Park, Councillor Shapiro (as chair of Council's Safety Committee), Director Warwick Hatton and Woollahra Council staff to discuss the issue of self-harm and what measures could be investigated to reduce the incidence at Gap Park (the minutes of this workshop are contained in Annexure 3).
- A questionnaire was distributed to 500 surrounding residents seeking feedback including issues residents would like addressed in the Masterplan. The questionnaire was also made available through Woollahra Libraries and online through Council's website. Eighty-six were returned (summary of responses Annexure 4).
- Ninety-seven on site interviews were conducted with a range of park visitors.
- A Community Workshop was held at the Vaucluse Yacht Club, Watsons Bay (meeting notes provided in Annexure 5).
- A presentation of the preliminary self-harm minimisation strategies was presented to the Woollahra Community Safety Committee.
- A presentation was made to Councillors 29 October 2007.

Masterplan Recommendations

The key recommendations of the draft Gap Park Masterplan illustrated in Annexure 6 are:

1. Cultural

Gap Park has diverse cultural values which are not well known or interpreted to the general public. Cultural values are to be protected and interpreted. As an outcome of this Masterplan proposal we propose to protect and interpret these cultural elements. This is proposed by:

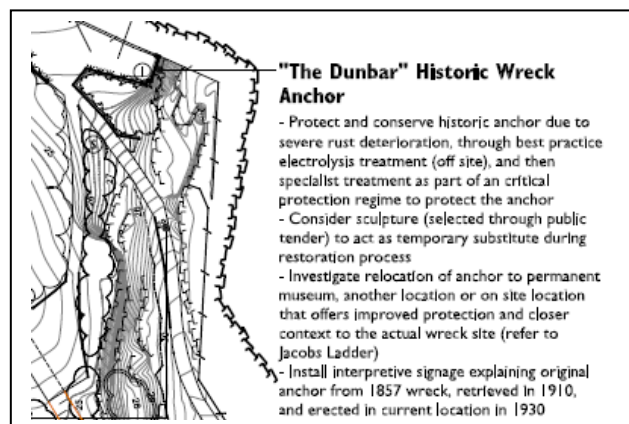
- The adaptive re-use and interpretation of the former tramway route as a 2.5m wide sealed, graded, shared access link between north and south of Gap Park.
- Retaining views to adjacent church buildings and grounds by maintaining low, open style boundary fencing and vegetation.

- Providing a cultural landscape treatment to The Gunyah's front carpark, using period planting and creating a firebreak zone close to the building.
- Retaining and protecting the Norfolk Island Pines that are of high cultural value to the site.

2. History

Gap Park has a rich heritage fabric to be protected and interpreted. Information regarding the history of the site shall be provided through a series of interpretive signage panels through the park. Works proposed by this Plan include:

- Illustrating the story of The Dunbar wreck, and some of the people involved (as well as origins of the SES formed in the area).
- Protecting and conserving the historic Dunbar anchor, which is currently deteriorating from rust. The anchor is a LEP listed heritage item. A detailed condition assessment and recommendations for its long-term protection are currently being undertaken by marine archeology restoration specialists. Should long-term protection of the anchor include relocation to an alternative location, opportunities exist to incorporate public artwork to replace the anchor and interpret the Dunbar incident.
- Jacob's Ladder geology to be interpreted.
- Grieve Memorial to be restored or protected and include information about the life of Lieutenant Gideon Grieve.
- Gun emplacements to be restored and protected as required. Information shall be provided regarding the history, function and role of these military installations.



- Providing interpretive information on the *Gadigal* people, being the original aboriginal inhabitants of the area.
- Interpreting the tramline as an early form of transport to the site by establishing a surfaced pathway along the tramline and incorporating interpretive signage.
- Providing a sculptural interpretation of the camera obscura with information of its workings.

3. Visual

The visual amenity of Gap Park is of vital importance to its identity and meaning to the community. The site's views define its character, and make it a unique and highly visited location. The Masterplan proposes to:

- Maintain the visual access to the cliffs, ocean, city CBD, harbour and the heads
- Improve visual access along pathways by selective removal or trimming of encroaching vegetation, thereby increasing safety by improving public surveillance in this area
- Improve views to sandstone cliffs and rock platforms through the installation of a small new lookout point, and improving existing points.
- Maintain open views to adjacent historic buildings.
- Retain low growing indigenous planting adjacent to the main viewing areas to protect views and passive surveillance opportunities.

4. Environment

Gap Park has significant environmental, ecological, and habitat values. The ecology of the site is rich and diverse in some areas, and of lower quality and diversity in other areas. An ecological assessment of the Park indicates that the area east of former tram alignment retains the most diverse and remnant bushland. Areas of high diversity and ecological importance are not to be developed, disturbed or accessed by the public. The Masterplan proposes to:

- Retain undisturbed, the high diversity remnant heathland areas (east of the former tram alignment, between Jacob's Ladder and The Gap lookout areas). Bush regeneration works to focus on maintaining the ecological quality of this zone.
- Where possible, consolidate, retain and improve through planting with diverse endemic species, the lower diversity revegetation areas (west of Jacob's Ladder valley) which were planted after the removal of the tramline, and over land-fill introduced in the 1970's. Where the former tram line alignment is proposed to be reinstated as a shared pathway in the landfill area, some introduced planting will be removed. However, any vegetation removal will be offset with areas identified for additional planting.
- Retain and improve the character of Littoral rainforest (in lower portion of Jacob's Ladder valley), with long term weed control strategies. The littoral rainforest has valuable cultural plantings dominated by introduced Queensland species, but is weed infested.
- Introduce a greater variety of low growing indigenous species at main entry areas, to create an educational and botanical feature for tourists and residents, with interpretive signage. Low vegetation also maintains views.
- Use only indigenous coastal heath plant species in regeneration works thereby maintaining the original visual and ecological character of the site. Tall trees (such as Norfolk Island Pines), are to not be planted as these trees did not previously occur within this windswept coastal environment.
- Incorporate sections of elevated timber 'habitat boardwalks' to allow for fauna movement across shared path environment and to protect tree roots.

5. Access

The most commonly used access points to the Park are from the 'The Gap' opposite Robertson Park and adjacent to at the southern entrance located adjacent to the Grieve Memorial (see Annexure 7. The concrete flight of stairs at the most popular entrance at The Gap is a relatively narrow 1.5 metres wide. This access is undersized when considering the volume and size of groups entering the main viewing area. The staircase is not illuminated at night.

No wheelchair graded access currently exists to the main 'Gap' viewing area. A ramped pathway does exist, however, its grades exceed the guidelines of relevant standards.

The Masterplan proposes to improve the access to Gap Park by:

Pedestrian & wheelchair

- Providing new, wider, sandstone entry steps at the northern viewing area, thereby physically improving access and “visually celebrating” the arrival at “Gap Park” viewing area.
- Moving the new staircase several metres to the north of the existing stairs (refer to figure 1). This will allow the stairs to enter the viewing area at its lowest point and align with the main access path constructed in Robertson Park. The staircase is designed to realign with the relocated pedestrian crossing to provide a more direct and improved linkage between Gap Park and Robertson Park. The pedestrian crossing, traffic, bus circulation and relocated bus stop will be the subject of a separate Council report.
- The use of sandstone materials visually integrates the new works into the sandstone landscape.
- Providing a disabled accessible path along the tramline to the former tram stop. This pathway maintains wheelchair accessible grades and retains a graded link to the southern end of The Gap viewing area. This pathway will also permit opportunities interpret the former tram access to the site.
- Retaining the existing ramp at The Gap and incorporating it into the proposed new staircase, providing an alternative to the tramline path.

Cyclist (see also Recreation)

- Providing a new shared path that creates an off-road pedestrian / bicycle pathway along the tram alignment in accordance with the 'Woollahra Bicycle Plan (2000) and the Woollahra Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy (2006).
- Providing bicycle parking facilities near both main viewing areas.

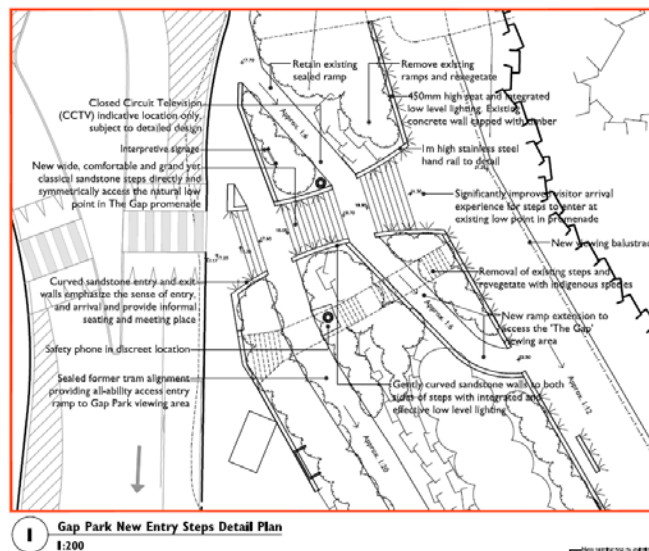


Fig. 1. Entry to north Gap Park detail

Fig. 2. Elevation of north Gap Park entry indicating lighting of proposed stair way to assist CCTV recognition

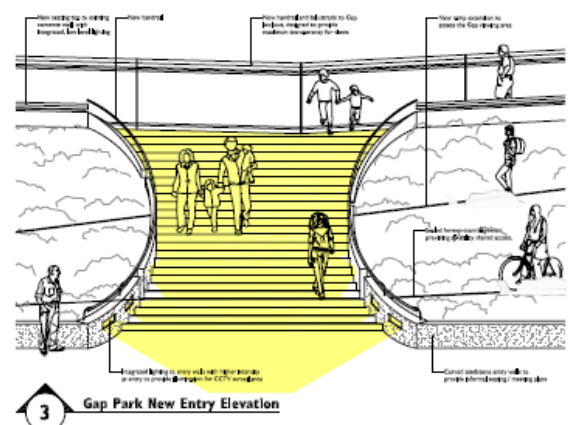




Fig. 3. Elevation photo montage of north Gap Park entry

6. Safety and Self-Harm Minimisation Proposals

During the process of developing the Masterplan we have consulted extensively with local police experienced with self-harm events at The Gap, counsellors from Lifeline and medical psychologists from the Southern Sydney Mental Health Unit based at the Prince of Wales Hospital. It was generally acknowledged it was not possible to prevent people determined to self-harm. However, opportunities exist to dissuade people who are considering carrying out self-harm. This can be through a range of measures such as increased lighting of the two key entries, real time CCTV and recorded images linked to Rose Bay Police, hand free safety and emergency telephones connected to Police and counseling services, and improved directional signage to telephones (see self-harm minimisation details following and illustrated in Annexure 8).

New balustrades

Balustrades are to be installed at the key lookout areas to the north and south of the Park, at the main viewing locations (see detail below). The design of the balustrade makes climbing over difficult as it leans towards the viewer and footholds are absent. Notwithstanding this, if the fence is scaled, it is possible to climb back over from the sea-cliff side.

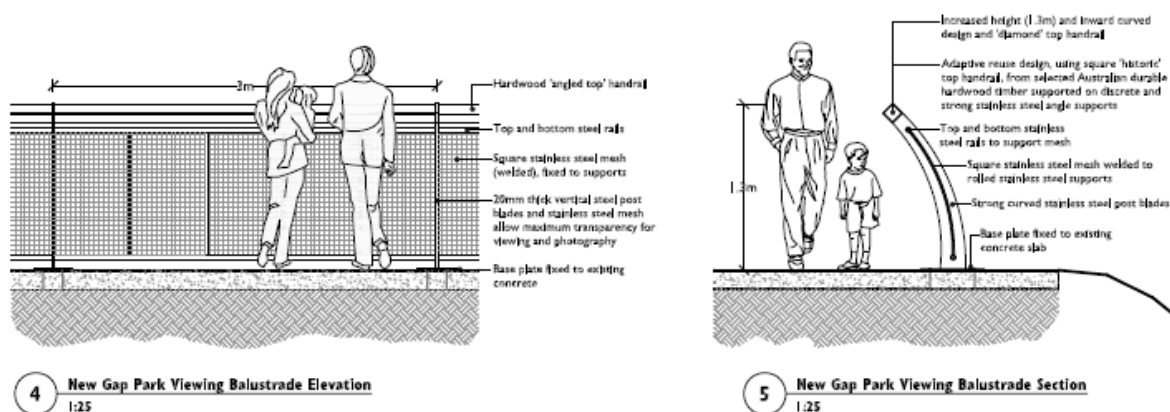


Fig. 4. Proposed fence detail

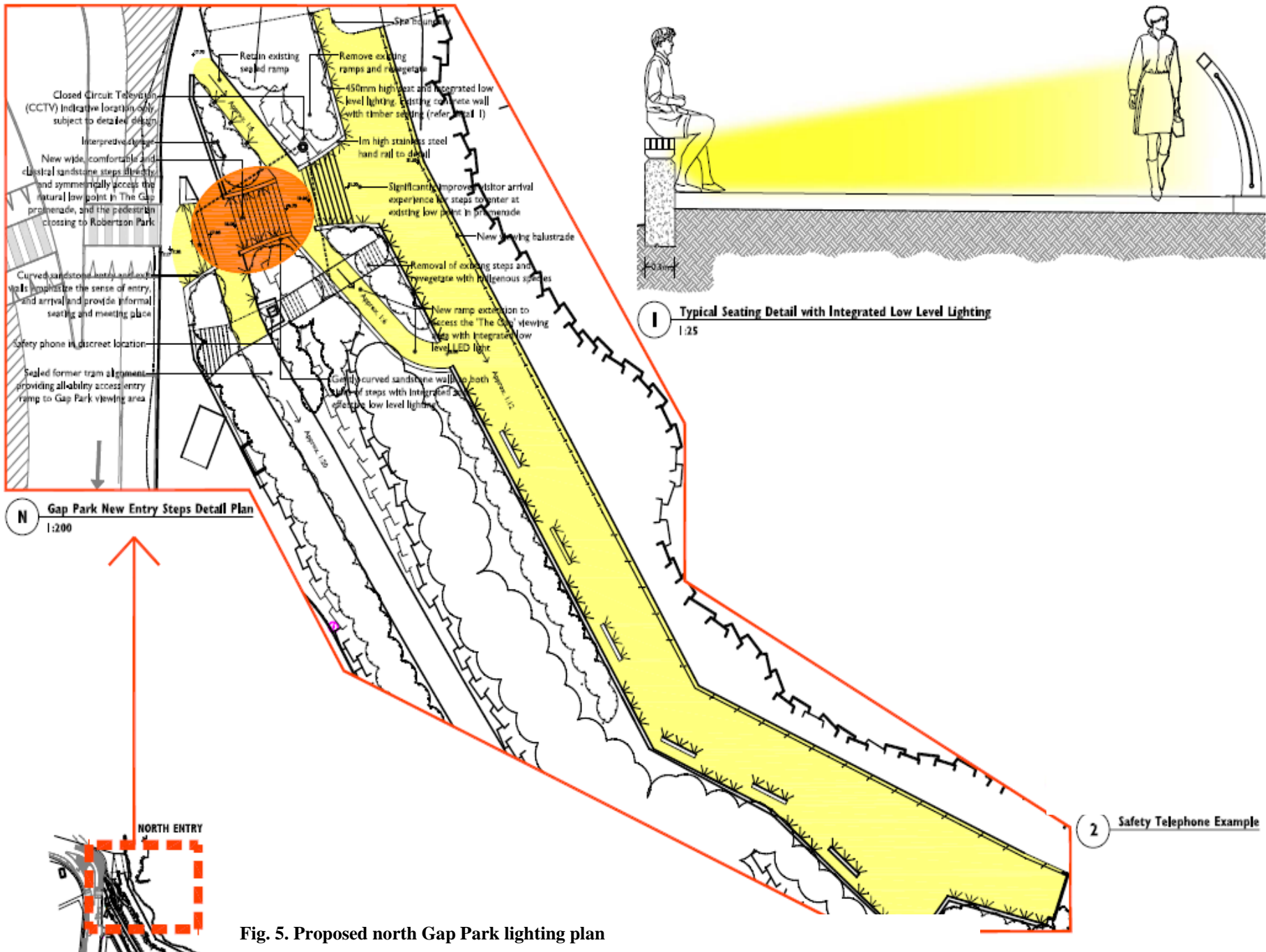


Fig. 5. Proposed north Gap Park lighting plan

Lighting

Recommendations to light sections of the Park to reduce self-harm events were received from a number sources including members of Council's Safety Committee, Rose Bay Police and mental health experts. Previous attempts by Council to light the main Gap viewing area have proven unsuccessful as a result of vandalism.

The Plan proposes to light the two main viewing areas using visually discreet Light Emitting Diodes (LED) in a vandal proof frame mounted under the proposed seating. LED lights have a working life of over 25 years and are one of the most energy efficient light sources available. In the preparation of the Masterplan we successfully tested the proposed LED lighting at the Gap. The light provided was pleasing to the eye and provided a 'warm' light effect. The lighting effect illuminates the main viewing areas without the need for the use of pole top light fixtures. This avoids glare and light spill to nearby residents and roadways. The Watsons Bay Conservation Area Development Control Plan also prevents pole top lights from being used along the ridgeline. The lighting levels achieved will also permit facial recognition for Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) [see below].

At the Gap, lighting is also proposed on the stairs.

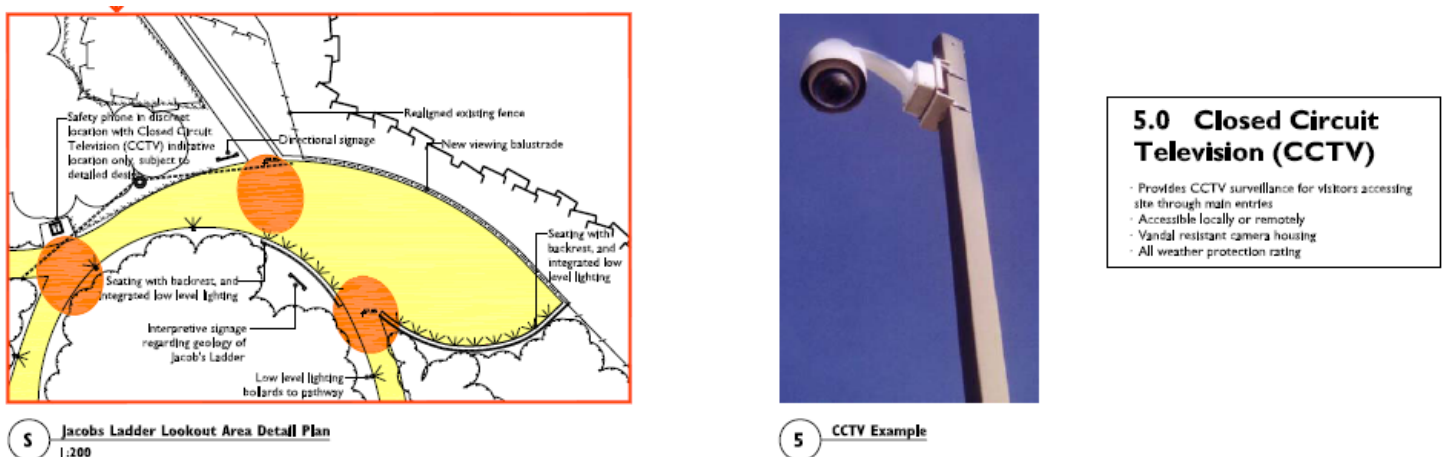


Fig. 6. Proposed south Gap Park lighting plan and CCTV camera detail

Recommendations have been provided by Rose Bay Police and the Safety Committee to install CCTV to:

- assist emergency services to respond to potential self-harm events and deter such events from occurring; and
- aid search and identification of reported missing persons using archived image searches.

The Plan proposes to install CCTV at the two main entry locations to the Park. This allows a record to be made of people entering and leaving the site. Police have indicated that this may in itself be a deterrent to people seeking to self-harm. Rose Bay Police have also indicated they will be able to install a monitor at Rose Bay Police Station linked to the CCTV to assist with surveillance. They would also be able to retrieve recorded footage to assist with missing person investigations. The monitoring and handling of CCTV footage requires extensive resources and training skills. Council does not have these resources, therefore, only with Police participation will this aspect of the Plan be able to proceed.

CCTV technology and optics has improved greatly in recent years and cameras may be discreet in size and location. They can also be activated with motion and infrared sensors, therefore reducing non-active image data capture.

Vandal resistant emergency phone

Recommendations have been made by Police, mental health counsellors and the Safety Committee for an emergency, phone to be installed. Once installed, a phone would allow people considering self-harm to contact a counselling service provider such as Lifeline. Similar vandal resistant, push button, cashless phones occur in breakdown bays on motorways.

These phones can also be equipped with more than one phone line option and would be linked to emergency services such as Police.

We propose to install a phone near each main entry point, in a location setback from the main pathway. This would ensure the phones would be visible, yet allow for private conversation for those seeking counselling. A sign could also be installed adjacent to the main accessways directing people to the location of the phone. The phones are also able to be illuminated at night to improve visibility.

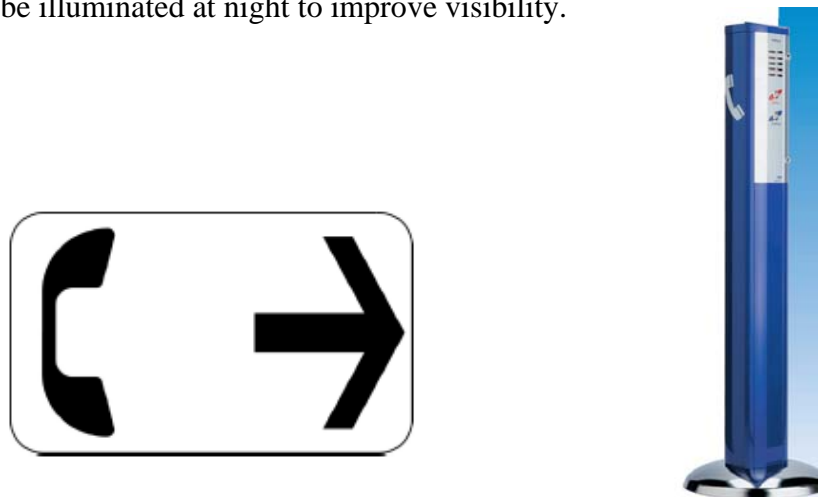


Fig. 7. Example of phone direction signage and button operated safety phone

Place of Remembrance

It is the current practice for some grieving friends and family to leave a wreath or other items of remembrance for victims adjacent to the pathway and / or fence. In some circumstances these items are retained for many months. The retention of these items positively assists those involved in dealing with the loss of a loved one. However, these items visually detract from the area and reinforce the perception that Gap Park is a location for self-harm. This can generate 'copycat' self-harm attempts and reinforces the negative 'perception' of the area being a place where self-harm occurs. Therefore, counsellors have suggested Council consider installing a memorial for families and friends of victims of self-harm in an area in Gap Park set back from the main fence-line.

This proposed area would assist with the grief process. This could be achieved a number of ways which is sensitive to character of the Park and meaningful to those affected. Such a proposal would require further investigation and consultation with a potential opportunity to locate the area near 'The Gunyah'.

7. Recreation

Opportunities for recreation should be improved within Gap Park wherever possible to improve public use of the site for public health, assist in fostering community spirit, and improve public surveillance. The Masterplan proposes this by:

- Providing new directional signage across the site, with distances and destinations clearly displayed.
- Re-instating picnic areas and tables that were previously provided to the south of Gap Park are to improve community use and sense of ownership of the park.
- Providing a sealed, graded, shared path through the western part of the site, along the former tram alignment.
- Providing a shared path that provides off road pedestrian / bicycle pathway in accordance with the Woollahra Bicycle Plan (2000) and the Woollahra Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy (2006). The proposal for a shared path received majority support at the community workshop. Shared pathways operate successfully throughout Sydney and Australia. To minimise potential conflict between pedestrians and cyclists, it is proposed to define walking and cycle lanes with pavement treatment and, or, signage and install chicanes to manage cycle speeds. It is also acknowledged that the coastal path will continue to be the most popular and preferred pedestrian pathway.
- Improving opportunities for bird watching through improving native vegetation areas, as defined in the masterplan, and providing signage with bird species information.
- Promoting whale watching through the installation of new interpretation signage and improving the existing lookouts.
- Improving photography opportunities through the installation of a new lookout point, improving existing lookouts, and through selective removal or trimming of encroaching vegetation.
- Providing new garbage bins at the two main entry points.
- Providing seating at the main viewing areas.

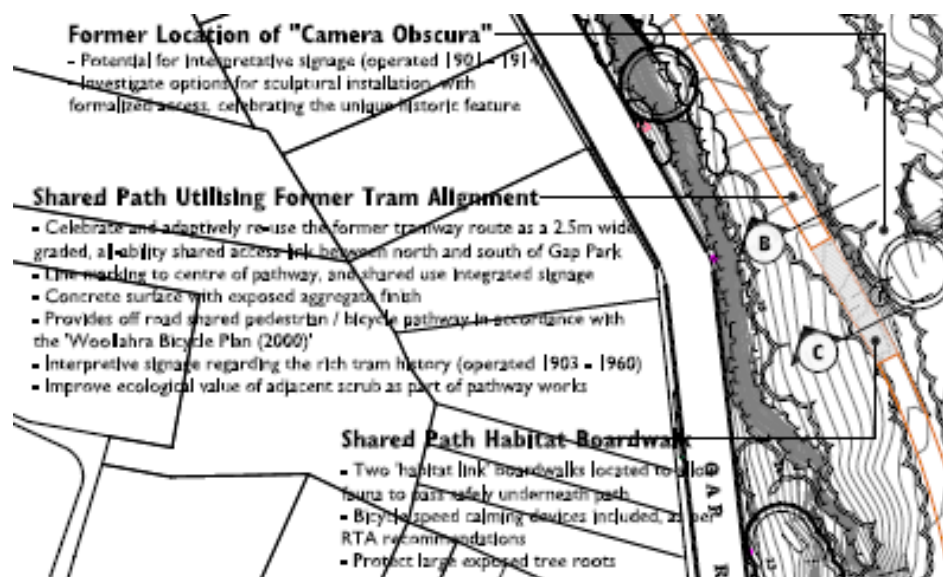


Fig. 8. Proposed shared pathway

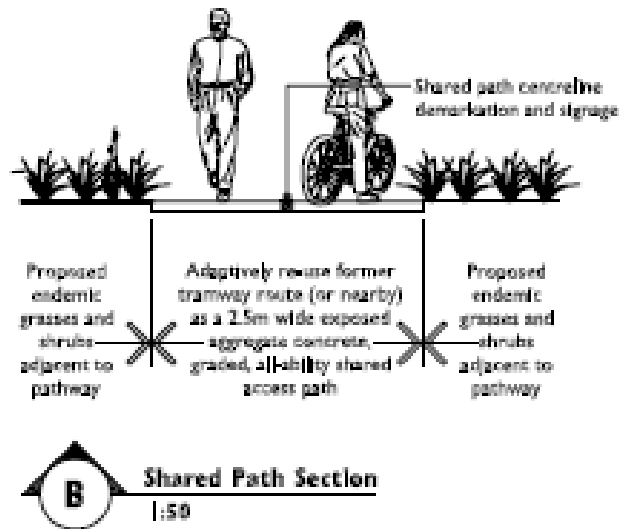


Fig. 9. Proposed shared pathway detail

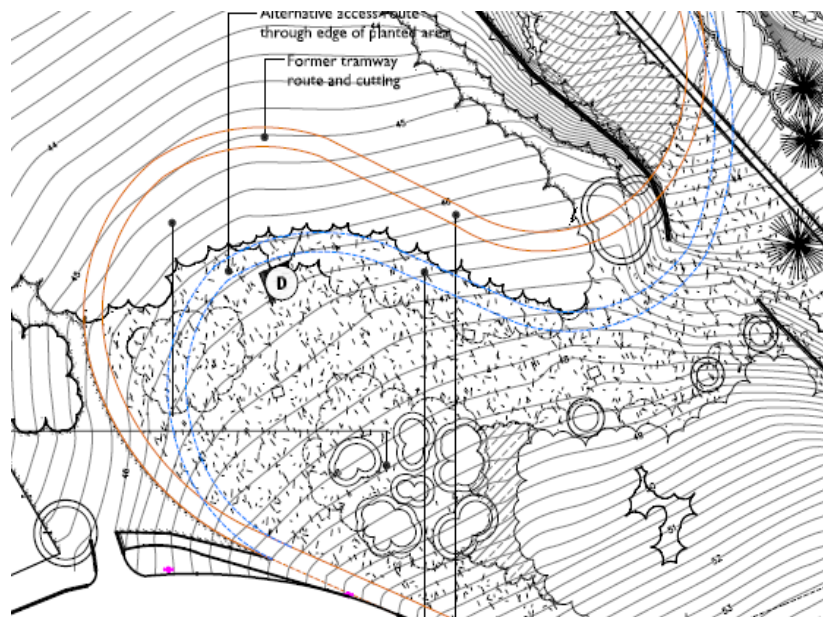


Fig. 10. Proposed tram line shared pathway route mimicking original

The former tram alignment followed a wide radius ‘S’ bend to maintain a consistent gentle grade. The land where this ‘S’ bend existed was subject to landfilling in the 1970’s and has within recent years been subject to shrub planting. The landfill constrains the ability to reuse the original tram alignment as it would require extensive excavation and generate additional problems associated with steep level changes. Therefore, in the area of landfill we propose to mimic the original alignment (see figure 9), with a shorter radius pathway which would require relatively small level changes.

Identification of Income & Expenditure:

The development of the Gap Park Masterplan is funded in the 2007/08 budget by an allocation of \$25,000, with an additional \$31,000 grant from the NSW Department of Planning. We also have \$20,000 allocated to undertake restoration works to the Dunbar anchor. Following Council's adoption of a Masterplan for the site, funding will be considered in drafting of future capital works budgets.

We are currently preparing detailed cost estimates for the various components of the project and propose to report these to Council with recommended priorities in conjunction with the responses to the public submissions received.

It is acknowledged it is unlikely to be feasible to immediately secure sufficient funding undertake all works recommended in the Plan estimated to exceed 1 Million dollars. Where funds are limited, the opportunity exists to undertake works in stages as funds becomes available and subject to Council approval. Funding assisting may also be obtained from other government agencies.

Funding assistance

The NSW government provides funding programs for regionally significant projects such as proposed at Gap Park being the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program (currently under review and may conclude 2008), and the Sydney Metropolitan Greenspace Program which contributed to the cost of preparing this Masterplan. Both these programs are on a dollar for dollar basis. However, the level of funding from these programs, if successful, are generally limited to less than \$100,000, which is insignificant when considering the scale of costs required to complete these works.

We also propose to make submissions to NSW Police and the Federal and State Health Departments for financial contributions towards implementing the self-harm minimising strategies identified in the plan. The cost of implementing these strategies is estimated to be \$400,000. The Australian Government Attorney General's Department manages a National Community Crime Prevention Program which contributes funding to projects identified in a Council's Crime Prevention Plan. The provision of lighting and the need to prevent self-harm at The Gap are projects identified in the Woollahra Crime Prevention Plan 2007.

The NSW Heritage Office provides small grants (up to \$30,000) for projects associated with the protection and interpretation of heritage items. Eligible components of this Masterplan include restoration and protection of the Dunbar anchor, interpretation of the Dunbar wreck, tramline and gun emplacements.

No funding programs are available from either state or federal tourism bodies for 'on-ground' works at tourist destination sites. What funding is provided by these bodies, is almost exclusively directed to promotion and marketing.

Conclusion:

We believe the Plan's proposals have been well considered and recommend Council publicly exhibit the Plan commencing 21 November, with submissions closing 19 December 2007. This will allow the results of the submission period to be reviewed by staff over the Christmas / New Year period and the results to be presented to Council at its first Community and Environment Committee meeting of 29 January 2008.

The Masterplan will be displayed:

- on Council's Website;
- at the Customer Service area; and
- at the Watsons Bay Library.

The Gap Park Masterplan will guide the future development of the park and provide an enhanced recreational experience for visitors and local residents whilst addressing the issue of self-harm that is often associated with this location. The Plan will provide the basis for carrying out improvements to this area and in seeking funding assistance from State and Federal bodies.

David Sheils
Manager Public Open Space

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Rod Ward
Public Open Space Project Manager

ANNEXURES:

1. Project outline
2. Minutes of Community Safety Committee Meeting 30 August 2007
3. Minutes of Suicide and Other Behavioural Issues Workshop 24 August 2007
4. Summary of questionnaire results September 2007
5. Community meeting notes 30 August 2007
6. Gap Park Masterplan (reduced)
7. Gap Park North and South Entries Plan (reduced)
8. Gap Park Self-Harm Minimisation Strategies Plan (reduced)

R1 Recommendation to Council

Item No:

Subject:

Unmade Road Portion - Victoria Street, Watsons Bay

Author:

Paul Fraser, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

File No:

1158.G

Reason for Report:

Proposed closure of unmade road portion of Victoria Street, Watsons Bay

Recommendation:

- A. That Council apply to the Minister to close the unmade portion of Victoria Street, Watsons Bay, for future dedication as public open space.
- B. That for the purposes of proceeding with the road closure, Council authorise the General Manager to execute all necessary documentation including affixing of Council's seal to the documentation.

Background:

Council, at its meeting of 10 September 2007, considered a report (Annexure 1) and resolved:

- "A. That Council advertise the road closure proposal for a period of 28 days to ascertain community views.*
- B. That, should any objections be received as a result of (A), a report be presented for Council's consideration outlining the nature of the objections.*
- C. That, should no objections be received as a result of (A), Council apply to the Minister to close the unmade portion of Victoria Street, Watsons Bay, for future dedication as public open space.*
- D. That for the purposes of proceeding with the road closure, Council authorise the General Manager to execute all necessary documentation including affixing of Council's seal to the documentation."*

The proposal was publicly advertised in the Wentworth Courier on 19 and 26 September 2007, Council's Website for 28 days and correspondence sent to adjoining property owners inviting submissions. We received a number of written submissions (Annexure 3), three of which were in favour and supportive of formalising the road closure and classifying the reserve as 'Community Land'. There were four submissions opposing the formal closure, all from 26 Pacific Street, adjoining the subject land. All opposing submissions requested that they have continued access to the rear of 26 Pacific Street through the adjoining unmade portion of Victoria Street. Summarised responses to each submission is contained in Annexure 4.

History of site

In response to the then concerns of rubbish being dumped and the untidy nature of the site, Council resolved 12 July 1982:

- 1. "That the Council, in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Traffic Authority of NSW authorise the closure to traffic of Victoria Street, Watsons Bay, west of Pacific Street, subject to;
a. provision for access being made for emergency use."*

2. *“That the Council approve Plan No. 13628/2 for the landscaping of the unmade portion of Victoria Street, Watsons Bay, west of Pacific Street.”*

As part of these landscape works, tree planting and park furniture were installed. In recognition of an earlier wharf that was connected to the site and the absence of a name, Council, on 28 March 1988, resolved to name the site “Victoria Wharf Reserve”.

Since the reserve’s closure to unregulated vehicular access, the area has been maintained by Council for passive recreation. The area is used by visitors and residents as a viewing point of the harbour and Watsons Bay foreshore. It adjoins a nine-unit residential complex (26 Pacific Street) on one side and a single residential property (28 Pacific Street) on the other. Both properties have vehicular access via Pacific Street.

Timeline of the site

- 1958 – Development Application for 26 Pacific Street was approved with vehicular access only from Pacific Street.
- 1982 – Council publicly advertised a proposal to physically close the road and landscape the site. Following consideration of submissions received, Council approved the physical closure of the unmade portion of Victoria Street, Watsons Bay. Landscaping of the site was also approved.
- 1988 – Council named the site “Victoria Wharf Reserve”.
- 1988 – Council zoned the site Open Space 6 in the Woollahra LEP No.27
- 2003 – Council adopted the Watsons Bay Heritage Conservation Area Development Control Plan, which states that Victoria Street Reserve is a contributory item to the plan as a site of access to an early western jetty.
- 2007 – Council resolved that a report be prepared with a view to re-classify the unmade road.
(March)
- 2007 – Council resolved to seek public submissions on the proposed road closure.
(September)

Proposal:

Response to issues raised in submissions objecting to the closure.

1. Claims that previous vehicular access existed.

Response – No development approval has been granted to permit vehicular access to No.26 Pacific Street from Victoria Street. Council resolved, 12 July 1982, to physically close the unmade road to traffic and landscape the site. Since the closure, Council has only received one request for vehicular access through the reserve to the rear of 26 Pacific Street. Requests for access for specific purposes from time to time will continue to be considered. A continuous masonry wall exists along the common boundary with No.26 Pacific Street, preventing any pedestrian or vehicular access between the two sites.

2. Seek to improve parking with access through the reserve.

Response – The area has a maintenance access gate and landscaping, which prevents vehicular access. Public access for parking has not been permitted since 1982. In 1958, development approval was granted for residential development at 26 Pacific Street with vehicular access from Pacific Street only.

3. Lack of consultation regarding current road closure and landscape works.

Response – Council records state that in 1982, Council advertised the then proposal to close the road and landscape the site. This included advertising the proposal and correspondence sent to adjoining residents. Following consideration of submissions received at that time, Council agreed to close the site and undertake landscape works. Residents who made representations received a Council response.

Process of closing a road and classify as community land.

To proceed with the formalised closure, we will need to commission a survey of road closure, which includes a subdivision plan of the land to create a separate lot from Victoria Street and notation that Council proposes to dedicate the lot as Public Open Space.

An application for road closure must then be made to the Department of Lands seeking the Minister's consent to closure of the unmade road portion. The Department will give public notice of the proposal and will call for submissions within 28 days of the advertisement. Upon the Department's satisfaction of any objection raised, the Minister's consent will be granted to Council.

Once Council has received written advice of the Minister's consent, the Plan of Road Closure can then be registered at the Land and Property Information Office showing Council as the owner of the subdivided lot. The Department is then notified of the registration and the road closure is gazetted. The land will be dedicated as Public Open Space when the subdivision plans are prepared and submitted to the Department.

The land will also be then classified as 'community land' under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

Conclusion:

Both properties that adjoin the Reserve have development approval for vehicular access from Pacific Street only. The unit complex at 26 Pacific Street has a newly constructed masonry fence along the full length of the boundary with the reserve preventing pedestrian and vehicular access between the sites. Vehicular access to Victoria Wharf Reserve has been restricted for over 25 years. Since its physical closure, Council has zoned the land open space, formally named the Reserve and maintained the area as public parkland.

There is public benefit in formalising the closure of the unmade portion of Victoria Street, Watsons Bay, and securing its future use as public open space. The site is a contributory item in the Watsons Bay Heritage Conservation Area Development Control Plan and formal closure will protect this area as Harbour-side parkland.

Paul Fraser
Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Annexures:

1. Closure of unmade road, Victoria Street, Watsons Bay Report of 27 August 2007.
2. Aerial Photo of Victoria Wharf Reserve.
3. Submissions from exhibition period regarding the proposed closure.
4. Summary of submissions and response to issues raised.