

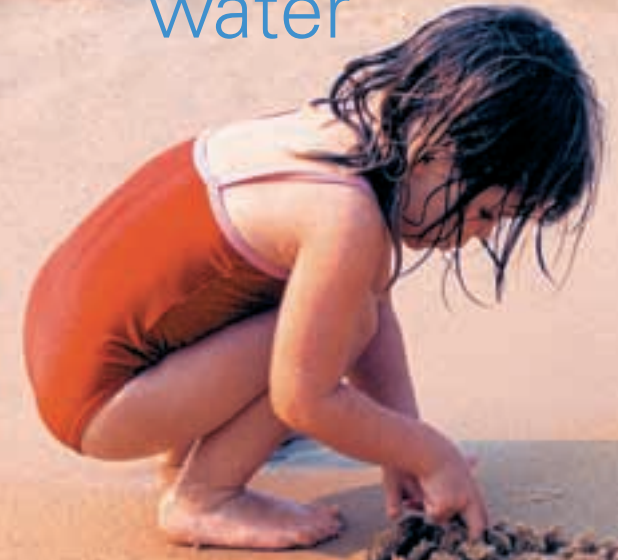


Some images courtesy of Katie Rivers Photography



Woollahra  
Municipal  
Council

clean  
water



fresh  
air

healthy  
harbour

# Environmental Levy

## Future improvements

Over the next two years, further environmental improvements will help build on the achievements that have been funded by the Environmental Levy. These projects include:

- Community education programs to raise public awareness about environmental issues
- Further monitoring of water quality in three major creeks, which will provide ongoing input into catchment management
- Additional gross pollutant traps will be installed in key locations to further protect rehabilitated watercourses and reduce stormwater pollution
- More bush regeneration projects in Cooper Park, Gap Park, Trumper Park and Parsley Bay and additional creek rehabilitation work
- Upgrading of stormwater infrastructure in flood prone areas to reduce local flooding and improve the quality of stormwater entering the Harbour.
- Investigate, with the NSW Maritime Authority, improved litter removal from our harbour beaches

Constant review of the Environmental Works Program provides useful input on the results of our scheduled works and helps us to identify future improvements.

We understand the importance of maintaining and improving our natural environment. We also recognise the long term commitment we need to make as a Council and a community to being responsible for our local environment and its future. Your contribution to the Environmental Levy is appreciated.

## Environmental Levy Community Reference Group

An Environmental Levy Community Reference Group, consisting of Councillors and members of the local community, provides input and helps to monitor the scheduled list of works included in the Environmental Works Program.

For more information about the Group, contact Council's Environmental Works Project Manager on (02) 9391 7047 or visit Council's web site.



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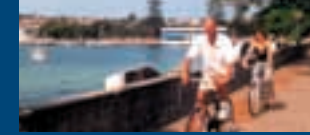
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# Our environment, our responsibility



## What is the Environmental Levy?

**Our Environmental Levy aims to protect and enhance our natural environment and the quality of water entering Sydney Harbour from our local area. The Levy funds a range of specific improvement projects called the Environmental Works Program (EWP), which cannot be adequately funded from Woollahra Council's existing budget.**

The EWP includes a diverse range of environmental initiatives that aim to:

- raise community awareness of the environment
- improve stormwater quality
- reduce sediment, rubbish and pollutants entering Sydney Harbour
- protect and enhance our natural bushland, parks and reserves
- reduce local flooding impacts, and
- provide a better environment for everyone to enjoy.

The Environmental Levy was introduced in June 2002 to fund the first three years of a five-year program of works valued at \$2.5 million. In June 2005, the NSW Minister for Local Government granted approval for a two year continuation of the Levy, valued at \$2 million.

The Woollahra Municipality is well defined by our surrounding natural environment. Our local area is characterised by its proximity to Sydney Harbour and its large open spaces, various recreational areas, natural bushland and creeks.

We have a responsibility as a Council and as a community to protect and enhance our environment. We value the Levy contribution, which helps us to



achieve both short term and long term environmental benefits

for the community and future generations.

## Levy delivers results

The projects we have been able to fund through the Environmental Levy have delivered excellent results. As a community, we have reduced pollution and sediment from entering Sydney Harbour and improved the habitat in our natural watercourses. Examples of EWP projects:

### Water Quality Monitoring – Cooper Park Creek



Water quality testing in Cooper Park provides useful information on the health of our natural creeks. The health of natural watercourses has a direct link to catchment management and identifying what actions

need to be taken further up the catchment to reduce water pollution.

### Watercourse Rehabilitation – Rakes Gully, Vacluse



This typical natural watercourse which was heavily weed invested with steep slopes was prone to erosion which transported sediment to the Harbour. Through the Environmental Levy, this stormwater channel

was stabilised with sandstone boulders and native vegetation. By restoring the natural habitat of this site, erosion has been reduced and greater sediment control has been achieved.



### Gross Pollutant Trap – Norwich Road, Rose Bay



This underground stormwater pollution control device was constructed in December 2003 with funding from the Environmental Levy. In just 12 months, the gross pollutant trap

prevented 15 tonnes of floatable litter from polluting Sydney Harbour. Litter collected in the trap includes cigarette butts, plastic bags, bottles, cans, paper and organic matter. An additional gross pollutant trap has also been installed in St Mervyns Ave in Double Bay. The Levy has also funded the installation of 220 stormwater pit baskets throughout the commercial shopping areas of Double Bay and Paddington. The pit baskets trap around six tonnes of litter each year.

### Reducing local flooding



The upgrade of stormwater pipes in Bellevue Hill and Paddington has reduced local flooding and improved water quality being discharged into Sydney Harbour. Further investigations are being

made into additional stormwater upgrade sites throughout the Municipality.