



# Community & Environment Committee

**Agenda:** *Community & Environment Committee*

**Date:** *Monday 13 October 2008*

**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

9 October 2008

To: His Worship The Mayor, Councillor Andrew Petrie ex-officio  
Councillors Peter Cavanagh (Chair)  
Anthony Boskovitz  
Susan Jarnason  
Greg Medcraft  
Ian Plater  
Isabelle Shapiro  
Susan Wynne

Dear Councillors

### **Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 13 October 2008**

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 13 October 2008 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James  
General Manager

# **Additional Information Relating to Committee Matters**

**Site Inspection**

**Other Matters**

## Meeting Agenda

<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Pages</b>
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	Election of Deputy Chairperson	1
D2	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 8 September 2008	2
D3	Woollahra Traffic Committee Extraordinary Meeting Minutes – 24 September 2008	3
D4	Woollahra Traffic Committee Minutes – 7 October 2008	8
D5	Regulation on the use of leaf-blowers – 288.G	15
D6	Animal Advisory Committee Membership 2008-2012	20
D7	Review of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Area – 422.G	32
D8	Women in Woollahra – Stage 3 – 474.G	51
D9	Library Annual Report for the Period July 2007 to June 2008	75

### **Items to be Submitted to the Council for Decision with Recommendations from this Committee – Nil R Items**

**Item No:** D1 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Election of Deputy Chairperson**  
**Author:** Les Windle - Manager Governance  
**File No:**  
**Reason for Report:** For the Committee to elect a Deputy Chairperson

**Recommendation:**

That Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ be elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Community and Environment Committee for the ensuing twelve months.

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**Background:**

It has been the practice for the Committee to elect a Deputy Chairperson who can chair the meeting in the absence of the chairperson.

Les Windle  
Manager Governance

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**ANNEXURES:**

Nil

**Item No:** D2 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 8 September 2008**  
**Author:** Les Windle, Manager - Governance  
**File No:** See Council Minutes  
**Reason for Report:** The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 8 September 2008 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 8 September 2008 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle  
Manager - Governance

**Item No:** D3 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Woollahra Traffic Committee Extraordinary Meeting Minutes -  
24 September 2008**  
**Author:** Warwick Hatton, Director – Technical Services  
**File No:** 595.G 2008  
**Reason for Report:** For the Committee to consider the recommendations of the Woollahra  
Local Traffic Committee.

**Recommendation:**

- A. THAT the Recommendation Y1-3 contained in the minutes of the Woollahra Traffic  
Committee held by phone and email on Wednesday 24 September 2008 be adopted.
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**Warwick Hatton**  
**Director – Technical Services**

**ANNEXURES:**

1. Minutes of the Extraordinary Traffic Committee held on 24 September, 2008
2. Copy of the Traffic Committee report –  
Y1-3: Edgecliff Road, Woollahra – Provision of Loading Zone

# Woollahra Local Traffic Committee Minutes

An extraordinary meeting of the Woollahra Local Traffic Committee (Meeting No.8a/08) was held by email and phone, on Wednesday 24 September 2008.

## 1. Attendances

### Committee Members:

Present:	Mr Frank Rotta (Chairman)	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Mr Navin Prasad	(Roads and Traffic Authority)
	Snr Const J Brisby	(Rose Bay Police)
	Ms Robyn Attuell	(Clover Moore MP Representative)

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## 2. 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 Y1-3: Edgecliff Road Woollahra – Provision of Loading Zone**

**Decision:** Unanimous Support

The Minutes of this meeting could not be referred to Council's Community & Environment Committee meeting before consideration of the Development Application due to the Council elections, so the recommendation of the Traffic Committee was referred to Council via the DA recommendations considered by Council's Development Control Committee. They will also be referred to Council's Community & Environment on 13 October, 2008.

Recommendation:

- A. That subject to the proposed retail/commercial development at No.156 Edgecliff Road being approved by Council:
- i. A "Loading Zone, 8.30am-6.00pm, Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.30pm, Sat" be installed on the southern side of Edgecliff Road extending from 20 metres west of the western kerblin in Grosvenor Street in a westerly direction for 7 metres.

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**Frank Rotta**  
**Chair**

**Item No:** D4 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Woollahra Traffic Committee Minutes - 7 October 2008**  
**Author:** Warwick Hatton, Director – Technical Services  
**File No:** 595.G 2008  
**Reason for Report:** For the Committee to consider the recommendations of the Woollahra Local Traffic Committee.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Recommendations Y1-Y7 contained in the minutes of the Woollahra Traffic Committee, and as signed by the members of the Committee, held on Tuesday 7 October 2008 be adopted.

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**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 7 October 2008 at 10.00am.

### 3. Attendances

#### Committee Members:

Present:	Mr Warwick Hatton (Chairman)	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Mr Navin Prasad	(Roads and Traffic Authority)
	Snr Const Janna Brisby	(Rose Bay Police - Traffic)
	Ms Robyn Attuell	(Clover Moore MP Representative)
	Mr John Giblin	(Peter Debnam MP Representative)
Staff:	Mr Frank Rotta	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Ms Armodee Reece	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Ms Kellie Richardson	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
Apologies:		
Observer:	Mr E Graham	(State Transit Authority)
	Ms M Ibrahim	(Darling Point Society – Item Y2)
	Mr & Mrs P Bonomini	(Resident – Item Y1-4)
	Cr N Grieve	(Councillor)

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### 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of Meeting No.8/08 held in Council Chambers, Double Bay, on Tuesday 2 September 2008 were confirmed by Mr Navin Prasad.

The minutes of Extraordinary Meetings No.8a/08 held by email on 24 September, 2008 were confirmed by Mr Navin Prasad.

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### 5. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings

Nil

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

Nil

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### 7. Extraordinary Meetings

Meeting 8a/08 held by email on 24 September, 2008

## **8. Late Correspondence**

Nil

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## **9. 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: Eastbourne Road, Darling Point – Removal of Period Parking restrictions**

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

#### **Recommendation:**

That the “No Parking, 7.00am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 7.00am-1.00pm Sat” zone on the eastern side of Eastbourne Road, outside No. 23 Eastbourne Road, Darling Point be removed and revert to unrestricted parking.

### **Item Y1-2: McGarvie Street, Paddington – Provision of Parking restrictions**

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

#### **Recommendation:**

That 11 metres of “15 Min Parking, 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri” be installed on the eastern side of McGarvie Street, Paddington just north of Underwood Street.

### **Item Y1-3: Windsor Lane, Paddington – Request for No Parking restrictions**

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

#### **Recommendation:**

That “No Parking” restrictions be installed in Windsor Lane, Paddington from 10 metres west of the western kerb line in Elizabeth Street, in a westerly direction for a distance of 9 metres.

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**Item Y1-4: Windsor Street, Paddington – Alterations to Resident Permit Parking scheme**

**Note:** Mr Bonomini addressed the Committee in relation to this item

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

**Recommendation:**

- A. That all of the “2P 5pm-11pm Thurs & Fri, 8am-11pm Sat & Sun. PHE Pgn 6” spaces on both sides of Windsor Street, Paddington between Cascade Street and Elizabeth Street be altered to “2P 8am-11pm. PHE Pgn 6”.
- B. That no action be taken to increase the number of Permit Parking Spaces in this section of Windsor Street as the number of allocated spaces matches the number of permits issued.
- C. That residents of properties with frontage to the section of Windsor Street between Cascade Street and Elizabeth street be advised of these changes to parking restrictions.

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

**Subject:** **Mona Road, Darling Point – 50kph Signposting and Darling Point Road, Darling Point – 50kph Signposting and Unbroken Centreline**

**Author:** Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

**File No:** 255.G Darling Point Traffic Study, 315, T123

**Reason for Report:** Implementation of parts of Darling Point Traffic Study Action Plan.

**Note:** Ms Ibrahim from the Darling Point Society addressed the Committee in relation to this item.

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

**Recommendation:**

- A. That 50K signs and “50” road pavement markings be installed at strategic locations in Mona Road and Darling Point Road as shown on WMC Plans Nos. 15005/1-15005/7.
- B. That an unbroken centreline be installed along Darling Point Road, between New South Head Road and Thornton Street as shown on WMC Plans Nos. 15005/1-15005/7.

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

**Subject:** **Edgecliff Road/Wallis Street Intersection, Woollahra – Roundabout**

**Author:** Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

**File No:** T148. / 482.

**Reason for Report:** Response to a request for a roundabout at the Wallis Street/Edgecliff Road intersection.

**Note:** Clr Grieve addressed the Committee in relation to this item. Late correspondence from Clr Shoebridge was tabled at the meeting.

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

**Recommendation:**

That the proposal to install a roundabout at the Wallis Street/ Edgecliff Road intersection be deferred for the development and reporting back to the Traffic Committee of additional options including the provision of a pedestrian refuge in Wallis Street, kerb realignments and medians in Edgecliff Road.

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

**Subject:** **No. 794 New South Head Road (Bayview Hill Road), Rose Bay – Works Zone**

**Author:** Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

**File No:** 407.G Pt11

**Reason for Report:** Request for a Works Zone

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

**Recommendation:**

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed to service No.794 New South Head Road, Rose Bay (Kambala School). The proposed Works Zone is to be located on the southern side of Bayview Hill Road, extending from 27.6 metres east of the eastern kerblines of Tivoli Avenue for a distance of 20 metres in an easterly direction 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-8.15am, 9.15am-2.30pm, Mon-Fri, and Saturdays from 7.00am-1.00pm for a period of 20 weeks from 27 October, 2008.
  - 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. Existing restrictions (No Parking, 8.15am-9.15am, 2.30pm-4.00pm, School Days Only) and otherwise 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(a). 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.

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**Item No:** Y5 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

**Subject:** **No.794 New South Head Road (Tivoli Avenue), Rose Bay – Works Zone**

**Author:** Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

**File No:** 407.G Pt11

**Reason for Report:** Request for a Works Zone

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

**Recommendation:**

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed to service No.794 New South Head Road, Rose Bay (Kambala). The proposed Works Zone is to be located on the eastern side of Tivoli avenue, extending from 2 metres north of the northern end of the driveway crossing to No.3 Tivoli Avenue for a distance of 20 metres in a northerly direction 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 Saturdays from 7.00am-1.00pm for a period of 12 weeks from 27 October, 2008.
  - 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(a). 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.

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**Item No:** Y6 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

**Subject:** **No. 30 Suttie Road, Double Bay – Works Zone**

**Author:** Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

**File No:** 407.G Pt11

**Reason for Report:** Request for a Works Zone

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

**Recommendation:**

- A. That the application for a Works Zone to serve the development at No.30 Suttie Road, Double Bay not be approved.
- B. That the applicant liaise with Sydney Buses to determine any requirement for the temporary relocation of the bus stop and zone in front of Nos.28 & 30 Suttie Road, Double Bay.
- C. That any costs associated with the relocation of the bus stop and zone be charged to the developer and the bus stop and zone must be reinstated to its original position at the completion of works.

**Item No:** Y7 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration  
**Subject:** **No. 857 New South Head Road, Rose Bay – Works Zone**  
**Author:** Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer  
**File No:** 407.G Pt11  
**Reason for Report:** Request for a Works Zone

**Committee Vote:** Unanimous Support

**Recommendation:**

- A. That the application for a Works Zone to serve the development at No.857 New South Head Road, Rose Bay not be approved.
- B. That the applicant be advised that the application for a “Permit to Stand Plant” for this site will require (in addition to the standard requirements listed on the application form), a Road Occupancy Permit from the RTA’s Traffic Management Centre, before being considered by Council.

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**10. Late Items**

Nil

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There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11.00am.

**Warwick Hatton**  
**Chair**

**Item No:** D5 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Regulation on the use of Leaf-Blowers**  
**Author:** Tim Tuxford Manager - Compliance  
**File No:** 288.G  
**Reason for Report:** This report has been prepared in response to a Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Sinclair King on 23 June 2008 and a petition tabled at the Council meeting of 23 June 2008.

**Recommendation:**

- A. That the petition tabled at the Council meeting of 23 June 2008 on the use of leaf blowers is noted.
- B. That Council continue to investigate individual complaints about the use of leaf blowers pursuant to the provisions of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and Regulations and take action, as warranted, in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy.

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**Background:**

At the Council meeting of 23 June 2008, the following Notice of Motion was adopted;

*“That Council prepare a report detailing a potential Regulation on the use of leaf-blowers in the municipality. That the report include consideration of this regulation being incorporated in the Woollahra Development Control Plan.”*

The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Sinclair King.

At the same Council meeting a petition was tabled with 83 signatories. The petition was in the following terms;

*“We the residents under Woollahra Council are conducting a survey on noise and pollution disturbance caused by leaf blowers. If you agree stricter controls need to be introduced by our Council please sign below. We need your support to make a difference.”*

Since the adoption of the Notice of Motion Council has received several submissions on this issue from residents of Darling Point via Peter Debnam MP, Member for Vaucluse, including two from Mrs Karen Damelian of Darling Point Road, Darling Point. Mrs Damelian makes the following points in her submissions;

- Leaf blowers have, at present, limited restrictions only in relation to the time of day that they can be used (Not enough).
- Leaf blowers pollute the environment in two (2) ways;
  1. Noise pollution; and
  2. Air pollution – suspends matter in the air and 2-stroke engines expel high concentration of pollutants.
- In the USA in some areas noisy smelly blowers are only to be used 500 feet or more away from residential buildings

The changes being sought by Mrs Damelian include the following;

1. Ban leaf blowers being used to push debris from footpaths and sidewalks as it goes either in the gutter or to somebody else's property.
2. Not to be used within 500 feet (152.4 metres) proximity to residential properties.
3. Only newer 4-stroke models to be used with reduced dB noise output levels to older 2-stroke models.

### **Legislative Framework**

Leaf blowers are not a prohibited article and their use is regulated by the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* ('POEO Act') and the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008* ('Noise Control Regulation').

Specifically, under Part 4 of the Noise Control Regulation, leaf blowers are not required to have a noise label affixed to them at the time of sale, while articles such as lawn mowers, edge cutters and domestic air conditioners are.

However, pursuant Clause 50 of the Noise Control Regulation, the hours in which a leaf blower maybe used is limited. Clause 50 of the Noise Control Regulation states the following;

#### **“50 Power tools and equipment**

- (1) *A person must not cause or permit a power tool or swimming pool pump to be used on residential premises in such a manner that it emits noise that can be heard within a habitable room in any other residential premises (regardless of whether any door or window to that room is open):*
  - (a) *before 8 am or after 8 pm on any Sunday or public holiday, or*
  - (b) *before 7 am or after 8 pm on any other day.*

*Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units in the case of a corporation, 50 penalty units in the case of an individual.*
- (2) *A person is not guilty of an offence under this clause unless:*
  - (a) *the person has, within 7 days after causing or permitting a power tool or swimming pool pump to be used in such a manner, been warned by an authorised officer or enforcement officer not to cause or permit the tool or pump to be used in that manner, and*
  - (b) *the person causes or permits the tool or pump to be used in that manner within 28 days after the warning has been given.*
- (3) *In this clause:*

**power tool** *means any of the following:*

  - (a) *a powered garden tool (that is, a tool powered by a petrol engine or an electric motor), including a lawn mower, a lawn trimmer, a blower or sweeper, a garden mulcher, an edge-cutter or a chipper or shredder,*
  - (b) *an electric power tool (including battery-operated power tools),*
  - (c) *a pneumatic power tool,*
  - (d) *a chainsaw,*
  - (e) *a circular saw,*
  - (f) *a gas or air compressor.” (Emphasis added)*

Council also has the authority under the POEO Act and its Regulations to take action against activities that generate offensive noise<sup>1</sup> or cause pollution. Such action must consider the circumstances of each case and determine whether there is sufficient evidence to prove that there has been a breach of the Act that would warrant action by Council.

Decisions on whether formal action is taken on a particular matter are made by Council in accordance with Council's Enforcement Policy having regard to the following;

1. The nature and seriousness of the breach;
2. Balancing of public interest and cost to Council;
3. The available methods of enforcement; and
4. The circumstances of each case.

The POEO Act acknowledges that local councils will not always be able to take action and it provides a mechanism for individual community members to initiate their own action. With regard to noise from leaf blowers individuals can seek a 'Noise Abatement Order', independent of the local council, from a chamber magistrate at the Local Court pursuant to Sections 268-274 of the POEO Act. If the Local Court is satisfied that the noise is offensive, the Court may issue a Noise Abatement Order on **a person** requiring the offensive noise to cease.

A person who contravenes the terms of a Noise Abatement Order is guilty of an offence and the person who applied for the order can seek to have the person prosecuted.

#### **Consideration:**

As illustrated by the petition submitted to Council on this matter, leaf blowers are a disliked article that cause significant disturbance in an urban environment. The impact of leaf blowers was clearly explained by Ms Clover Moore MP, Member for Sydney and Sydney City Lord Mayor, in her submission to the Department of Environment and Climate Change dated 18 July 2007 in response to the review of the Noise Control Regulation 2000. With regard to leaf blowers Ms Moore stated the following;

#### ***"Leaf Blowers***

*I regularly receive complaints from residents about the impacts of leaf blowers. I share their concerns that these machines are noisy, wasteful of energy, and simply distribute waste materials to another area unless there is also some form of collection.*

*One constituent tells me that a leaf blower used on and around an adjacent property disturbs his sleep every morning. He reports that the noise is distressing and I note that the Regulatory Impact Statement acknowledges a "shrill tonal" noise from leaf blowers that can cause disturbance beyond noise levels alone.*

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the POEO Act "**offensive noise** means noise:

- (a) that, by reason of its level, nature, character or quality, or the time at which it is made, or any other circumstances:
  - (i) is harmful to (or is likely to be harmful to) a person who is outside the premises from which it is emitted, or
  - (ii) interferes unreasonably with (or is likely to interfere unreasonably with) the comfort or repose of a person who is outside the premises from which it is emitted, or
- (b) that is of a level, nature, character or quality prescribed by the regulations or that is made at a time, or in other circumstances, prescribed by the regulations."

*Given the potential for “shrill tonal” noise from leaf blowers, I am concerned that the proposed Noise Control Regulation does not alter the times when a leaf blower should not be audible in neighbours’ residences. Current restrictions allow the use of leaf blowers from 7.00am weekdays and Saturdays however my constituent believes that given their noise impact, 8.00am would be more appropriate. **The City of Sydney limits its own use of leaf blowers from 9.00am to 5.00pm and we have commenced replacing existing blowers with quieter models.***

*The Regulatory Impact Statement indicates that the current time limits are proposed to be retained because there are new leaf blowers on the market that do not emit “shrill tonal” noise, however there are no noise-labelling requirements proposed for leaf blowers.*

*While the Regulatory Impact Statement proposes that a national approach to labelling is appropriate, in the absence of a labelling system consumers will not necessarily be aware whether a leaf blower has noise reduction features and there is no requirement for people to purchase low noise leaf blowers. The Department of Climate Change and the Environment needs to take a leadership role in achieving a national scheme and pursue State action in the absence of a national approach.*

*I recommend that the Noise Control Regulation:*

- ***Tighten the time restrictions prohibiting the use of leaf blowers in the morning by restricting their use before 8.00am on weekdays and Saturdays.***
- ***Introduce a system of labelling requirements for the sale of leaf blowers and introduce restrictions on models that exceed specified noise levels.”***

Unfortunately, as is evident in the ‘Legislative Framework’ section of this report, no legislative change was made to the use of leaf blowers in the revised Noise Control Regulation that came into force on 1 March 2008.

While acknowledging the concerns expressed in Ms Moore’s submission and those made to Council by Mrs Damelian, it is considered that Council does not have the authority to adopt a Regulation that universally restricts the use of leaf blowers within the Municipality beyond the current legislative requirements of the POEO Act and Regulations.

Furthermore, it is not possible to regulate the use of leaf blowers through Council’s Development Control Plans and this view is supported by Christopher Bluett, Council’s Manager – Strategic Planning who provided the following comment on this issue;

*“It’s not development in my view. [ie. the use of leaf blowers] Therefore it can’t be included in a DCP.*

*If there is a noise issue it should be handled under the relevant legislation.”*

Accordingly, any regulatory change to the use of leaf blowers needs to occur at the State Government level, including restrictions on the type of models that can be used and where and how leaf blowers can be used. Until this occurs, local councils will need to continue to investigate complaints against the use of leaf blowers on a case by case basis.

Council may wish to consider making a submission to the Department of Environment and Climate Change on the use of leaf blowers, however considering how recently the current Noise Control Regulation came into force, it is considered that this would have little benefit.

Tim Tuxford  
Manager - Compliance

Allan Coker  
Director – Planning & Development

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**Item No:** D6 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Animal Advisory Committee Membership 2008-2012**  
**Author:** Tim Tuxford Manager - Compliance  
**File No:** 271.G AACM  
**Reason for Report:** To determine the membership of the Council's Animal Advisory Committee for the term ending September 2012, in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

**Recommendation:**

- A. That, in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference of the Animal Advisory Committee, the applications received from the following community representatives be accepted for membership to the Animal Advisory Committee for the term ending September 2012;
- **Local Animal Professionals Category**  
Ann Ahern – representing the Eastern Suburbs Branch of the Animal Welfare League NSW  
Vicki Etherington – representing Dogs NSW  
Dr Pamela Tinslay – Veterinary surgeon and animal behaviourist  
Vacancy – filled by additional resident
  - **Woollahra Council Residents Category**  
Barrie Towers – Rose Bay  
Ericka Van Aalst – Watsons Bay  
Graeme Lowry-Jones – Vaucluse  
Jose Brown – Bellevue Hill  
Julianne Mills – Bellevue Hill  
Lyn Sanchez – Vaucluse  
Margaret Titterton – Vaucluse  
Petra O'Neill – Paddington
- B. That Council thank Barnabas Bako and Nicholas Bury for their applications and extends its appreciation to both gentlemen for their involvement and commitment to the Animal Advisory Committee over the preceding term.

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**Background:**

The Animal Advisory Committee (AAC) was set-up in 1997 to coincide with the introduction of the *Companion Animals Act* 1998, which commenced operations on 1 September 1998.

In mid-1997, Council placed notices in the local newspaper, seeking people to nominate themselves for membership to the Council's new AAC. The notice stated that "*Committee members will help the Council develop provisions to promote the practice of responsible dog owning habits*". The notice further stated that "*the new committee will be comprised of a resident, and one representative each of the dog owning community, a community group, a veterinary hospital and National Parks & Wildlife.*"

The first meeting of the AAC was held on Wednesday 23 July 1997. It would seem those who nominated themselves were invited to join the committee. From discussions with several long-standing members and a review of the minutes of the first meeting, the initial membership included, but may not have been limited to, the following persons;

- Councillor Drew Robertson (Chair)
- Councillor Rose Watson
- Peter Sharpe (Staff)
- Colin De Costa (Staff)
- Dr Barry Towers (Dog owner/resident)
- Brenda King (Animal Welfare League)
- Graham Freudenberg (Resident/possibly Woollahra Society)
- Helen Furber (Royal NSW Canine Council)
- Dr Pamela Tinslay (Vet/Animal behaviourist)
- Pat Nicholas (Resident/Vet)
- Penny Carle (Resident/possibly Paddington Society)
- Peter Morrison (Resident)
- Tony Mosman (Vet)
- Vicki Etherington (Royal NSW Canine Council/Professional Dog Trainer)

When the AAC was initially convened there were no formal terms of reference and there was no set term of office. As stated above, members nominated themselves and retained their membership by being committed to attend the meetings.

On 27 September 2004, Council adopted the current terms of reference for the AAC and resolved to invite nominations for membership to the AAC for the 2005-2008 term. A copy of the adopted terms of reference of the AAC is attached as Annexure 1.

On 31 January 2005, the following membership was confirmed;

- **Local Animal Professionals Category**

Brenda King  
Dr Tony Mosman  
Vicki Etherington  
Dr Pamela Tinslay

- **Woollahra Council Residents Category**

Barnabas Bako  
Dr Barrie Towers  
Ericka Van Aalst  
Graeme Lowry-Jones  
Jose Brown  
Lyn Sanchez  
Margaret Titterton  
Nicholas Bury

In accordance with the terms of reference of the AAC, public notices were placed in the Wentworth Courier calling for applications for membership to the AAC for the term ending September 2012. At the close of applications on 12 September 2008, Council had received;

- ten (10) nominations from local residents to fill the seven (7) available positions;
- three (3) applications from local area animal professionals to fill the four (4) available positions

A summary of the applications is attached to this report as Annexure 2.

**Consideration:**

The adopted terms of reference of the AAC state the following;

*“If there are more prospective representatives than places available, the Community and Environment Committee will determine the membership for that category based on suitability, experience and distribution of representation across the Council area.*

*If considered appropriate, the Community and Environment Committee may increase or decrease the number of community representatives in any community representative category.”*

As the number of applications received from ‘local animal professionals’ is less than the number of positions available, it is recommended that all of these applications be accepted.

With regard to the applications for the ‘residents’ category it is difficult to choose between the applicants. Eight (8) of the ten (10) applicants are existing members of the AAC, with seven (7) of those members being from the Vaocluse Ward. The attendance record of the sitting members of the AAC for the previous term is as follows;

- Barnabas Bako (Vaocluse Ward) – 6 of 14 meetings
- Barrie Towers (Vaocluse Ward) – 12 of 14 meetings
- Ericka Van Aalst (Vaocluse Ward) – 14 of 14 meetings
- Graeme Lowry-Jones (Vaocluse Ward) – 9 of 14 meetings
- Jose Brown (Bellevue Hill Ward) – 7 of 14 meetings
- Lyn Sanchez (Vaocluse Ward) – 11 of 14 meetings
- Margaret Titterton (Vaocluse Ward) – 10 of 14 meetings
- Nicholas Bury (Vaocluse Ward) – 10 of 14 meetings

Pleasingly, the new nominees seeking appointment to the AAC are from the Paddington and Bellevue Hill Wards.

As distribution of representation is a head of consideration for determining membership it is considered the nominations from the three (3) non-Vaocluse Ward residents, Jose Brown, Julieanne Mills and Petra O’Neill should be accepted.

Also, it is considered that an additional resident should be appointed to the Committee to fill the professional vacancy that exists due to the lack of nominations in that category. If this is accepted, five (5) positions need to be filled from the seven (7) resident nominees from the Vaocluse Ward.

Considering the written submission of the nominees, their affiliation with various groups, their involvement with the AAC and their attendance during the last term of the AAC, it is recommended that the following resident nominations be accepted from the Vaocluse Ward area;

- Barrie Towers
- Ericka van Aalst
- Graeme Lowry-Jones
- Lyn Sanchez
- Margaret Titterton

If the above recommendation is accepted, the nominees that would not be appointed are Mr Bako and Mr Bury. Both gentlemen were members of the AAC for the 2005-2008 term and Council should extend its appreciation to both gentlemen for their efforts over the preceding term.

The Compliance staff positions on the AAC will be filled by Council's Regulatory Coordinator, Greg Radford and Council's Companion Animals Officer, Carolyn Bulmer. The required Councillor appointments will be made by the Mayor.

Tim Tuxford  
Manager - Compliance

Allan Coker  
Director – Planning & Development

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**Annexure:**

1. Terms of reference of the Animal Advisory Committee
2. Summary of Applications received for Membership to the Council's Animal Advisory Committee.

**Item No:** D7 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Review of The Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Area**  
**Author:** Greg Stewart - Project Manager Strategic Projects & Policy  
**File No:** 422.G  
**Reason for Report:** To report on the findings of a review carried out of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Area

**Recommendation:**

- A. That the proposed alterations to the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme as detailed in Part C below, be advertised and placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days
- B. That at the end of the exhibition period, a further report incorporating an assessment of any submissions received, be submitted to the Woollahra Traffic Committee for approval.
- C. Recommended alterations to the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme:
  1. That the boundary of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area be extended to include the northern section of Holdsworth Street between Morrell Street and Jersey Road, presently located in the Paddington 6 Area.
  2. That all the parking on the northern side of Queen Street between Moncur Street and Ocean Street be signposted as ½ Hour Parking.
  3. That all the parking on the southern side of Queen Street between Moncur Street and Ocean Street be signposted as 1 Hour Parking, Permit Holders Excepted (PHE).
  4. That the hours of operation of the non-resident time limited parking (shopper parking) in Queen Street between Moncur Street and Alton Street be extended to be in force until 6pm on Saturdays.
  5. That the parking on the northern side of Queen Street between Moncur Street and Halls Lane be signposted as 1 Hour Parking.
  6. That the parking on the southern side of Queen Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue, excluding the existing 15 minute parking and existing Mail Zone outside the Woollahra Post Office, be signposted as 2 Hour Parking, PHE.
  7. That the existing time limited parking on the northern side of Queen Street between Halls Lane and Oxford Street, both resident permit and shopper parking, be signposted as 2 Hour Parking, PHE.
  8. That the existing Resident Permit Parking on the southern side of Queen Street between Victoria Avenue and Oxford Street, as well as the 5 unrestricted parking spaces immediately west of Victoria Avenue, be signposted as 4 Hour Parking, PHE.
  9. That the unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Moncur Street between Queen Street and John Street be signposted as 1 Hour Parking, PHE.
  10. That the unrestricted parking spaces:

- i. in Halls Lane between Queen Street and Rush Street
  - ii. in Moncur Lane between Queen Street and Smith Street, and
  - iii. in Peaker Lane between Moncur Street and Spicer Street  
be signposted as 2 Hour Parking, PHE.
11. That nine of the existing unrestricted parking spaces on the western side of Holdsworth Street immediately north of Morrell Street be signposted as 4 Hour Parking, 8am -2pm Mon – Fri, PHE.
  12. That the 5 existing unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Alton Street, just south of Weldon Lane be signposted as 4 Hour Parking, PHE.
  13. That two 15 minute parking spaces be provided on the western side of Moncur Street just south of Queen Street, adjacent to the Post Office.
  14. That two 15 minute parking spaces be provided on the southern side of Queen Street just east of Victoria Avenue, adjacent to the Woollahra Laundry.
  15. That the five existing 1 Hour parking spaces in Holdsworth Street between Queen Street and Peaker Lane be converted to 15 minute parking.
  16. That the six unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Holdsworth Street between the existing signposted Resident Permit Parking Spaces and Jersey Road be signposted as 2 Hour Parking 8am -8pm Mon - Sat, PHE.
  17. That the whole of the southern side of John Street between Dwyer Lane and Victoria Avenue be signposted as 2 Hour Parking, PHE.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Roads and Traffic Authority Guidelines for the introduction of a Resident Permit Parking Scheme require, as a condition of their approval, that the Scheme be reviewed on a regular basis. This review of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme has been carried out in accordance with this requirement.

From the results of the review carried out, it appears that the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme does achieve its desired objective of regulating and successfully balancing the competing demands for the limited available on street parking in the area. The fact that very few complaints are received by Council in relation to the implementation and operation of this Scheme, confirms that this is the case.

As a result of the parking study carried out and the outcomes of a meeting held with representatives of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association, comprising a mixture of traders and residents of the area, a number of alterations to the Resident Permit Parking Scheme are recommended in this report, to further refine the operations of the Scheme and to better serve and balance the parking needs of the residents and those of the commercial shopping centre. These recommendations are contained in Part C of the recommendations of this report.

Although the above recommendations have been developed in consultation with representatives of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association comprising residents and traders of the area, and have been endorsed by the majority of those present at the meeting, it is considered that prior to the proposed alterations to the Scheme being submitted to the Woollahra Traffic Committee for approval, the proposed alterations to the Scheme should be advertised and placed on public

exhibition to give residents and shopkeepers of the area the opportunity to comment on the recommendations of this report. At the end of this exhibition period, a further report incorporating an assessment of any submissions received, should then be submitted to the Woollahra Traffic Committee for approval.

## **REPORT**

### **Background:**

This Council's first Resident Permit Parking Scheme was introduced some 25 years ago in the streets of Paddington, immediately to the north of Oxford Street. Since then, due to resident demand, further Resident Permit Parking Schemes have been progressively introduced, not only in Paddington but also in other parts of the Municipality where demand and competition for available on-street parking is high. Currently, there are sixteen separate Resident Permit Parking Zones operating throughout the Municipality, as shown on the plan attached as Annexure 1.

Resident Permit Parking Schemes have been introduced in areas where there is competition between residents and other users for the limited on-street parking spaces available. Some of the competing interests for the available on street parking are shopper and shopkeeper parking, adjacent to commercial shopping centres, employee and visitor parking around the larger institutions such as hospitals etc, parking around hotels, commuter parking around transport nodes, parking associated with sporting events and parking at major recreational / tourist areas such as Watsons Bay.

Most of the Resident Permit Parking Zones throughout the Municipality have been expanded at one time or another since they were originally introduced. This has principally occurred due to an increase in the number of vehicles per household and changes to the nature and intensity of the competing parking interests within an area.

The Roads and Traffic Authority Guidelines for the introduction of Resident Permit Parking Schemes require, as a condition of their approval, that the Resident Permit Parking Scheme be reviewed on a regular basis. In accordance with this requirement, Council has completed a review of the Woollahra 1 and Woollahra 2 Resident Permit Parking Schemes and this report contains the findings and recommendations of a review conducted of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area. The remaining fourteen Resident Permit Parking Schemes throughout the Municipality are to be reviewed individually over a period of time.

### **Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area.**

The Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area is the area generally bounded by Oxford Street, Jersey Road, Holdsworth Street, Queen Street and Ocean Street (see plan attached as Annexure 2) which is the area surrounding the Queen Street / Moncur Street Commercial Centre. The section of Holdsworth Street, between Morrell Street and Jersey Road however, is located within the Paddington 6 Resident Permit Parking Area and both sides of Jersey Road are located within the Paddington 2 Resident Permit Parking Area.

### **Reason for the introduction of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme**

The Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme was introduced to regulate the competing demand for the available on street parking in the area between residents and shopper, shopkeeper, employee and hotel parking generated by the Queen Street / Moncur Street Commercial Centre.

The Resident Permit Parking restrictions in the northern end of Holdsworth Street between Morrell Street and Jersey Road, currently located in the Paddington 6 Resident Permit Parking Area, were introduced due to competing customer parking associated with the nearby Lord Dudley Hotel.

## **Success of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme**

It would seem that the introduction of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme has been successful.

Very few complaints have been received by Council regarding the overall implementation and operation of the Paddington 4 Resident Parking Scheme although requests are received by Council from time to time for minor alterations to the scheme. The most recent requests received by Council are for the provision of additional resident permit parking spaces in the Alton Street / Holdsworth Street area and at the western end of John Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue. Council has also received comments from the retailers of the Queen Street / Moncur Street shopping centre regarding the lack of available on street parking in and around the commercial shopping area.

### **Hours of Operation:**

The Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme generally operates between the hours of 8am and 11pm Mon – Sat, however, in the southern end of Holdsworth Street it operates between the hours of 8am and 8pm Mon – Sat and in Rush Street as well as the northern end of Moncur Street between Queen Street and Jersey Road, it operates between the hours of 8am and 11pm Mon – Sun.

The Resident Permit Parking restrictions in the northern end of Holdsworth Street between Morrell Street and Jersey Road in the Paddington 6 Resident Permit Parking Area operate between the hours of 5pm and 11pm, Thurs – Sun.

The time limited shopper parking in the Queen Street / Moncur Street shopping centre generally operate between the hours of 9am and 6pm Mon – Fri and 9am and 12.30pm Sat.

### **Provision of resident permit parking spaces:**

In order to determine the relationship between the number of resident permit parking permits issued to residents in the Paddington 4 Residential Parking Scheme Area compared to the number of signposted resident permit parking spaces available, and to determine whether these parking spaces are located in reasonably close proximity to the properties issued with a parking permit, the area was subdivided into four smaller areas as shown on the plan attached as Annexure 2. The results of this analysis are shown in the Table attached as Annexure 3.

It can be seen from Annexure 3 that the average number of resident permit parking spaces allocated per parking permit across the Paddington 4 Residential Parking area is 0.65 spaces per permit. The number of resident permit parking spaces per parking permit in each of the four sub-areas analysed ranged from 0.62 in Area 2 and 0.72 in Area 4, indicating that there is a reasonably even distribution of resident parking spaces throughout the Area.

The number of resident permit parking spaces required per parking permit in a Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area, depends upon the degree of competition that exists for the available on street parking and the number of resident vehicles with a parking permit wanting to park in the area during the hours of operation of the scheme. Although, as a general rule, it is desirable to allocate one resident permit parking space per parking permit, in a lot of instances where there is a high demand for the limited on street parking available, this cannot be achieved.

As stated above, apart from some identified localised areas, few requests have been received by Council for the provision of additional signposted resident permit parking spaces in this area. It would therefore seem that apart from the areas previously identified, these being the Alton Street / Holdsworth Street area and the western end of John Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue, the current allocation of resident permit parking spaces is satisfactory to meet the needs of the residents.

### **Parking Survey:**

A survey of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area was carried out to determine the characteristics of the on-street parking in the area. The survey consisted of the recording of the number plate of each vehicle parked in each of the streets every two hours throughout the day, generally between the hours of 8am and 4pm, as well as whether the vehicle had a current resident parking permit attached.

The results of the parking survey are as follows:

#### *On Street Parking Occupancy Rates*

Attached as Annexure 4 is a Table which shows the number of on-street parking spaces in each street within the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Area, together with the average percentage of spaces that were occupied on the day of the survey. It can be seen from this Table that on a normal weekday, most of the parking spaces in the area were occupied by parked vehicles with very limited parking being available in most streets. All the streets in the area, except one, had an average occupancy rate of greater than 80% and a lot of the streets in the area had an average occupancy rate of greater than 90%. (**Note:** Because cars are not always parked closely together and because a vehicle may have just left a parking spot immediately prior to the survey being carried out, an occupancy rate of greater than 95% is generally considered to be fully occupied)

The high occupancy rates obtained from the parking survey support the comments received, mainly from the businesses in the area, that it is difficult to find an available on-street parking space in the area, especially close to the Queen Street / Moncur Street Shopping Centre.

#### *Resident Permit Parking Space – Parking Occupancy Rates*

A summary of the parking that is occurring in the signposted 1 and 2 Hour Resident Permit Parking spaces between the hours of 8am and 4pm weekdays has been compiled from the information obtained from the parking surveys and is attached as Annexure 5.

It can be seen from the results obtained from the parking survey:

1. that on a normal weekday, most of the signposted resident permit parking spaces are fully occupied, with very few vacant resident permit parking spaces available. Occupancy rates for the Resident Permit Parking spaces are mostly greater than 80% (average 84%) and are slightly less than the occupancy rate for all on-street parking in the area.
2. that on average, 53% of the signposted resident permit parking spaces are occupied by vehicles without a resident parking permit attached
3. that only 32% of the resident permit parking spaces were occupied by vehicles with a resident parking permit attached, and
4. that 51% of the vehicles parked in the signposted resident permit parking spaces without a permit were parked in excess of the signposted time limit. i.e. were illegally parked.

The fact that only 32% of the signposted resident permit parking spaces were occupied by vehicles with a parking permit combined with the low number of complaints received from residents regarding the lack of available parking, would indicate that during normal business hours, a large number of residents' vehicles are "taken to work" and not parked within the Paddington 4 Resident Parking Scheme Area. This would also confirm the need for a lower number of allocated resident permit parking spaces per resident parking permit than that allocated in the Woollahra No 1 and No 2 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Areas which are located much closer to a public transport interchange where residents are more likely to leave their vehicle at home and catch public transport to work.

### **Parking Demand:**

From the results of the parking survey carried out, it can be seen that there is a high demand for the available on street parking in and around Queen Street / Moncur Street, mainly generated by the Queen Street / Moncur Street Commercial Centre. Parking demand is greatest in the shopping centre itself and parking demand seems to decrease with increasing distance from the shopping centre.

The results of the parking surveys carried out in conjunction with the review of the resident permit parking scheme, has highlighted that there is a number of unrestricted parking spaces in Moncur Street, Halls Lane, Moncur Lane and Peaker Lane, in close proximity to the shopping centre, that are unrestricted and constantly occupied by long term parking. If these parking spaces were to be converted to time limited resident parking, then this would not only result in additional resident permit parking spaces being available for resident parking but would, at the same time, also provide additional short term time limited parking for visitors to the Commercial Centre.

### **Consultation with the Queen Street West Woollahra Association:**

The performance of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme, the results of the parking survey and the option of converting some of the existing unrestricted parking spaces close to the retail shopping precinct to time limited resident permit parking, has been discussed with representatives of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association. Present at the meeting held to discuss these matters were a number of traders and residents of the area. At this meeting, the following alterations to the existing parking restrictions in the Paddington 4 Residential Permit Parking Area were discussed and endorsed by the majority of those present at the meeting.

1. That the boundary of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme be extended to include the northern section of Holdsworth Street between Morrell Street and Jersey Road, which is currently located within the adjoining Paddington 6 Resident Permit Parking Area.
2. That the parking in Queen Street between Moncur Street and Ocean Street be altered to become a mixture of ½ Hour and 1 Hour parking restrictions with some of these spaces being signposted as being resident permit parking spaces.
3. That the hours of operation of the non resident time limited parking (i.e. shopper parking) in Queen Street between Moncur Street and Alton Street be extended to include Saturday afternoons.
4. That the parking restrictions in Queen Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue / Halls Lane be altered to become a mixture of 1 Hour and 2 Hour parking restrictions with some of these spaces being signposted as being resident permit parking spaces.
5. That the parking restrictions in Queen Street between Victoria Avenue / Halls Lane and Oxford Street be altered to become a mixture of 2 Hour and 4 Hour Parking restrictions with some spaces being resident permit parking spaces with some unlimited parking being retained.

6. That the existing unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Moncur Street between Queen Street and John Street be signposted as 1 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted
7. That the existing unrestricted parking spaces in Halls Lane between Queen Street and Rush Street and in Moncur Lane between Queen Street and Smith Street and in Peaker Lane between Moncur Street and Spicer Street be signposted as 2 Hour Resident Permit Parking
8. That the eight existing unrestricted parking spaces on the western side of Holdsworth Street north of Morrell Street be signposted as 4 Hour parking, 8am – 2pm Mon – Fri, permit holders excepted, for the use of residents and visitors to the Holdsworth Street Community Centre.
9. That the 5 existing unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Alton Street just south of Weldon Lane be signposted as 4 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.
10. That 15 minute parking zones be provided:
  - a. In Moncur Street adjacent to the Post Office,
  - b. In Holdsworth Street adjacent to the Newsagency, and
  - c. In Queen Street immediately east of Victoria Avenue, outside the Woollahra Laundry.
11. That the existing Loading Zones in the area be reviewed
12. That the six unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Holdsworth Street between the existing signposted Resident Permit Parking Spaces and Jersey Road be signposted as 2 Hour Parking 8am – 8pm Mon - Sat, permit holders excepted.
13. That the length of the existing No Stopping Zones at intersections along Holdsworth Street be reviewed.
14. That some additional resident permit parking spaces be provided in John Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue.

**Comments in relation to each of the above proposed alterations to the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme are as follows:**

Item 1

*That the boundary of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Area be extended to include the northern section of Holdsworth Street between Morrell Street and Jersey Road, which is currently located within the Paddington 6 Resident Permit Parking Area.*

*Comment:*

Presently the northern end of Holdsworth Street is located within the Paddington 6 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area and the southern end is located within the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area.

The proposed alteration to the boundary of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area to include the northern end of Holdsworth Street would more clearly define the boundaries of the Paddington 4 Parking Scheme Area and would result in the whole of the length of Holdsworth Street being located within the one resident permit parking area. Presently, residents in the southern end of the street are unable to park in the resident permit parking spaces at the northern end of the street and vice versa. For these reasons, **it is recommended that boundary of the Paddington 4 Resident Permit parking Scheme Area be extended to include the northern section of Holdsworth Street between Morrell Street and Jersey Road.** This would require the hours of operation of the resident permit parking spaces to be altered to align with those currently in force in the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Area.

Item 2

*That the parking in Queen Street between Moncur Street and Ocean Street be altered to become a mixture of ½ Hour and 1 Hour parking restrictions with some of these spaces being signposted as resident permit parking spaces.*

*Comment:*

This section of Queen Street currently comprises a mixture of ½ Hour and 1 Hour Parking and 2 Hour Resident Permit Parking

Due to the nature of the retail outlets in this section of Queen Street, the main demand for parking is for short term, high turnover parking. A mixture of ½ Hour and 1 Hour Parking would best satisfy this parking demand.

As most of the retail outlets in this section of Queen Street are located on the northern side of Queen Street, **it is recommended that all the parking on the northern side of Queen Street between Moncur Street and Ocean Street be signposted as ½ Hour Parking and that all the parking on the southern side of the street be signposted as 1 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.** This action would increase the number of resident permit parking spaces in this section of Queen Street from 4 to 14. Although this would result in a significant increase in the number of resident permit parking spaces available, this would not restrict shoppers from parking in these spaces if available, for up to 1 Hour at a time.

Item 3

*That the hours of operation of the non resident time limited parking (i.e. shopper parking) in Queen Street between Moncur Street and Alton Street be altered to include Saturday afternoons.*

*Comment:*

Most of the shops in this section of Queen Street are now open for business on Saturday afternoons however the time limited parking restrictions only cover the period 9am to 6pm Mon – Fri and 9am – 12.30pm Sat. It would be logical therefore for extend these parking restrictions to 6pm on Saturdays. It is therefore **recommended that the hours of operation of the non resident time limited parking (shopper parking) in Queen Street between Moncur Street and Alton Street be extended to be in force until 6pm on Saturdays.**

Item 4

- 1. That the parking restrictions in Queen Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue / Halls Lane be altered to become a mixture of 1 Hour and 2 Hour parking restrictions with some of these spaces being signposted as being permit holder excepted.*

*Comment:*

This section of Queen Street currently comprises a mixture of 1 hour parking, 2 hour resident permit parking, some unrestricted parking, as well as two 15 minute parking spaces and a Mail Zone outside the Woollahra Post Office.

The parking turnover generated by the nature and mix of shops in this section of Queen Street is generally less than that generated by the shops in the section of Queen Street between Moncur Street and Ocean Street.

It was considered by the traders present at the meeting that was held to discuss the Resident Parking Scheme that there should be a mix of 1 and 2 Hour parking in this section of Queen Street excluding the existing Mail Zone and 15 minute parking zone outside the Post Office and some recommended new 15 minute parking outside the Woollahra Laundry at the intersection of Victoria Avenue. (See Item 10 later in this report)

As most of the shops in this section of Queen Street are located on the northern side of the street, **it is recommended that the parking on the northern side of Queen Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue / Halls Lane be signposted as 1 Hour Parking and that the parking on the southern side of this section of Queen Street, excluding the existing 15 minute parking and existing Mail Zone outside the Woollahra Post Office, be signposted as 2 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.** It is further recommended that two parking spaces in Queen Street just east of Victoria Avenue outside the existing Woollahra Laundry shop be signposted as 15 minute parking.

Item 5

*That the parking restrictions in Queen Street between Victoria Avenue / Halls Lane and Oxford Street be altered to become a mixture of 2 Hour and 4 Hour Parking restrictions with some spaces being resident permit parking and some unlimited parking being retained.*

Comment:

The parking turnover generated by the mix of shops in this section of Queen Street is not as high as the other sections of Queen Street. It is also further remote from the centre of the Queen Street Shopping Centre and therefore less likely to be used by short term shoppers to the centre. It would however be attractive to the longer term shoppers. It is therefore considered that a mixture of 2 and 4 hour parking in this section of Queen Street would be appropriate.

As most of the retail outlets in this section of Queen Street are located on the northern side of the street, **it is recommended that the existing time limited parking on the northern side of Queen Street between Victoria Avenue / Halls Lane and Oxford Street, both resident permit and shopper parking, be signposted as 2 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted, and that the existing Resident Permit Parking on the southern side of Queen Street, as well as the 5 unrestricted parking spaces immediately west of Victoria Avenue, be signposted as 4 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.** This would result in some unlimited parking being retained on this side of Queen Street.

Item 6

*That the existing unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Moncur Street between Queen Street and John Street be signposted 1 Hour Resident Permit Parking.*

Comment:

The results of the parking survey carried out has highlighted that these unrestricted parking spaces, which are located close to the centre of the shopping centre, are constantly being utilized for long term parking, probably by shopkeepers or their employees. This has resulted in little, if any, parking turnover occurring in these parking spaces. It also reduces the possibility of visitors to the shopping centre in being able to find an available parking space in close proximity to the shopping centre.

In order to improve parking turnover in these spaces, **it is recommended that the unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Moncur Street between Queen Street and John Street be signposted as 1 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.** This would permit these spaces to be used by residents with a parking permit or for short term parking.

Item 7

*That the existing unrestricted parking spaces in Halls Lane between Queen Street and Rush Street, in Moncur Lane between Queen Street and Smith Street and in Peaker Lane between Moncur Street and Spicer Street be signposted as 2 Hour Resident Permit Parking*

*Comment:*

For the same reasons as detailed in Item 6 above, **it is recommended that the unrestricted parking spaces in Halls Lane between Queen Street and Rush Street, in Moncur Lane between Queen Street and Smith Street and in Peaker Lane between Moncur Street and Spicer Street be signposted as 2 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.** It is recommended that they be converted to 2 Hour parking rather than 1 Hour parking as these laneways are relatively narrow and not suitable for high traffic turnover.

Item 8

*That eight existing unrestricted parking spaces on the western side of Holdsworth Street north of Morrell Street be signposted as 4 Hour parking, permit holders excepted, for use by residents and visitors to the Holdsworth Street Community Centre.*

*Comment:*

At the meeting held to discuss the Resident Permit Parking Scheme, the Director of the Holdsworth Street Community Centre identified a need to provide time limited parking in Holdsworth Street adjacent the Community Centre for use by visitors to the centre and for parents with children visiting the childrens playgroup. It was explained that due to the current limited number of time restricted parking spaces in Holdsworth Street, most of the parking in Holdsworth Street was continually occupied by long term parking. This did not generate parking turnover and therefore did not create the possibility of visitors and parents in being able to find a parking space in close proximity to the Community Centre. This parking is required between the hours of 8am and 1pm Monday to Friday.

In order to improve parking for visitors and parents visiting the Holdsworth Street Community Centre, **it is recommended that nine of the existing unrestricted parking spaces on the western side of Holdsworth Street immediately north of Morrell Street be signposted as 4 Hour Parking, 8am -2pm Mon – Fri, permit holders excepted.**

Item 9

*That the 5 existing unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Alton Street just south of Weldon Lane be signposted as 4 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.*

*Comment:*

Several requests have been received from residents of Alton Street and the adjoining Weldon Lane for the provision of additional resident permit parking spaces. Presently there are 3 resident permit parking spaces in Alton Street for use by the four residents of the street who have been issued with resident permit parking permits.

The parking survey carried out has indicated that a number of the parking spaces in this street, which is on the boundary of the commercial centre, are constantly being utilized for long term parking, either by residents, shopkeepers or their employees. In order to improve parking turnover in the street and increase the likelihood of a resident with a permit finding an available on-street parking space, **it is recommended that the 5 existing unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Alton Street, just south of Weldon Lane be signposted as 4 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.** These spaces would then be available for resident parking as well as medium term shopper parking.

Item 10

*That 15 minute parking zones be provided:*

- a. *In Moncur Street adjacent to the Post Office*
- b. *In Holdsworth Street adjacent to the Newsagency, and*
- c. *In Queen Street immediately east of Victoria Ave outside the Woollahra Laundry.*

*Comment:*

The Post Office, Newsagency and Laundry, are the three main businesses in the Queen Street shopping centre that generate a need for short term (less than 15 minute) on-street parking. It would be logical therefore, to provide some short term on-street parking in reasonably close proximity to these businesses. This short term parking could not only serve the needs of these businesses which have a need for short term parking, but could also cater for the shorter term parking needs of other businesses within the shopping centre. It is therefore **recommended:**

- a. **That two 15 minute parking spaces be provided on the western side of Moncur Street just south of Queen Street, adjacent to the Post Office,**
- b. **That two 15 minute parking spaces be provided on the southern side of Queen Street just east of Victoria Avenue, adjacent to the Woollahra Laundry, and**
- c. **That the five existing I Hour parking spaces in Holdsworth Street between Queen Street and Peaker Lane be converted to 15 minute parking.**

Item 11

*That the existing Loading Zones be reviewed*

*Comment:*

Since the meeting that was held with the representatives of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association, the Loading Zones in Queen Street near the intersection of Halls Lane, have been reviewed by Council. These Loading Zones were reviewed in conjunction with the recent installation of a new pedestrian crossing in Queen Street at the intersection of Victoria Avenue. As a result of this review, two separate Loading Zones have now been replaced by a single Loading Zone.

Item 12

*That the six unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Holdsworth Street between the existing signposted Resident Permit Parking Spaces and Jersey Road be signposted as 2 Hour Parking 8am -8pm Mon - Sat, permit holders excepted.*

*Comment:*

Some residents of the northern end of Holdsworth Street have requested the installation of some additional time limited resident exempt parking at the northern end of Holdsworth Street. They have explained that this end of Holdsworth Street is usually fully occupied by long term parking, with the result that residents of this section of Holdsworth Street and patrons of the nearby hotel and commercial operations often have difficulty in finding available on-street parking. This results in vehicles often being parked in the No Stopping Zones at the intersection of Holdsworth Street and Jersey Road.

It is considered that the conversion of the six unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Holdsworth Street between the existing signposted Resident Permit Parking Spaces and Jersey Road to time limited resident exempt parking, would increase the likelihood of residents of this section Holdsworth Street and patrons of the nearby hotel and commercial operations in the area in being able to find an available parking space in the area. It is therefore **recommended that the six unrestricted parking spaces on the eastern side of Holdsworth Street between the existing signposted Resident Permit Parking Spaces and Jersey Road be signposted as 2 Hour Parking 8am -8pm Mon - Sat, permit holders excepted.**

Item 13

*That the length of the existing No Stopping Zones at intersections along Holdsworth Street be reviewed.*

*Comment:*

All the existing signposted No Stopping Zones at intersections along Holdsworth Street are signposted at either the statutory 10 meters or closer to the intersection.

Having regard to the narrowness of the intersecting streets and the low traffic speeds of the area, it is considered that a reduction in the length of some of these No Stopping Zones, especially those to the north of Peaker Lane, could be justified.

A report on the possible reduction in the length of the existing No Stopping Zones in Holdsworth Street will be prepared and will be submitted to the Woollahra Traffic Committee for approval in the near future.

Item 14

*That some additional resident permit parking spaces be provided in John Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue.*

*Comment:*

In addition to this request received from the representatives of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association, Council has also recently received requests for the provision of additional resident permit parking spaces in John Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue.

There are currently 17 parking spaces in John Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue which are signposted for resident permit parking to service the needs of the 33 permit holders in this section of the street. The percentage of spaces available to permits issued at 0.52 spaces per permit is less than the average of 0.65 for the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme Area. An additional 6 Resident Permit Parking Spaces would be required to obtain an allocation of spaces equal to that of the Paddington 4 Area.

In order to increase the number of resident permit parking spaces in John Street between Moncur Street and Victoria Avenue to equal the average number of resident permit parking spaces per permit throughout the rest of the Paddington 4 Area, **it is recommended that the whole of the southern side of John Street between Dwyer Lane and Victoria Avenue be signposted as 2 Hour Parking, permit holders excepted.** This would result in an additional 7 Resident permit parking spaces being available in this section of John Street to service the needs of the residents.

### **Conclusion:**

From the results of the review carried out, it appears that the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Scheme does achieve its desired objective of regulating and successfully balancing the competing demands for the limited available on street parking in the area. The fact that very few complaints are received by Council in relation to the implementation and operation of this Scheme, confirms that this is the case.

As a result of the parking study carried out and the outcomes of a meeting held with representatives of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association, comprising a mixture of traders and residents of the area, a number of alterations to the Resident Permit Parking Scheme are recommended in this report, to further refine the operations of the Scheme and to better serve and balance the parking needs of the residents and those of the commercial shopping centre. These recommendations are highlighted in the body of this report and are summarised in the Executive Summary at the commencement of this report.

The recommendations of this report will result in:

- a. an increase in the number of time limited resident permit parking spaces throughout the area
- b. an increase in the number of time limited parking spaces available for shopper parking, and
- c. a refinement of the parking time limits throughout the shopping centre to better reflect the parking needs of the shopping centre while at the same time creating parking turnover

Although the recommendations of this report have been developed in consultation with representatives of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association, comprising residents and traders of the area, and have been endorsed by the majority of those present at the meeting, it is considered that prior to the proposed alterations to the Scheme being submitted to the Woollahra Traffic Committee for approval, the proposed alterations to the Scheme should be advertised and placed on public exhibition. At the completion of this exhibition period, a further report incorporating an assessment of any submissions received, should then be submitted to the Woollahra Traffic Committee for approval.

Greg Stewart  
Project Manager Strategic Projects & Policy

Warwick Hatton  
Director Technical Services

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### **ANNEXURES:**

1. Plan showing the location of the sixteen separate Resident Permit Parking Zones operating throughout the Municipality.
2. Plan showing the Paddington 4 Resident Permit Parking Area and the sub-areas used in the resident permit parking space allocation analysis.
3. Resident Permit parking space allocation analysis
4. On-street Parking Occupancy Rate analysis
5. Resident Permit Parking Space Parking Occupancy Rate analysis

**Item No:** D8 Delegated to Committee

**Subject:** **Women in Woollahra – Stage 3**

**Author:** Jane Britten and Libby Watters – Local History Librarians

**File No:** 474.G

**Reason for Report:** To report on the progress of the Women in Woollahra project with recommendations for the two women biographical subjects for Stage 3.

**Recommendation:**

- A That Council support the recommendation of Patricia Thompson and Thistle Harris Stead as the subjects for Stage 3 of the Women in Woollahra project (women who have contributed through community life and organisations).
- B. That a function be held to mark the successful conclusion of the Women in Woollahra project and to express Council's gratitude to all participants

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**Background:**

Following a Notice of Motion on 13 March 2006, a report was submitted to Council on 28 August 2006 recommending that the life and work of two early women Aldermen on Woollahra Council become the focus of a research project, they were:

- Belle Miller, the first woman Alderman of this Council (Alderman from December 1959 to September 1971); and
- Brenda (Dutchie) Backhouse, the first woman Mayor of Woollahra Council (alderman from September 1971 to September 1980 and Mayor in 1979). See **Annexure 1**.

On 11 September 2006, Council resolved:

1. *That Council endorse the Women in Woollahra project and that it provide biographical information on Council's website as set out in option 1.*
2. *That Council commission oral histories for Dutchie Backhouse and Belle Miller to the extent as set out in option 2.*
3. *That subsequent to the completion of the research in option 1, a working party be established to consider the commissioning of a one off sculpture or memorial to recognize and commemorate Belle Miller as the first female Alderman and the contribution of women to the local community.*

**Update - Women in Woollahra Stages 1 and 2:**

The purpose of the Women in Woollahra project is to acknowledge the contribution of women in the local government area of Woollahra across a range of endeavours.

Stage 1 of the project as defined in Items 1 and 2 of the above resolution was completed in March 2007, with the commissioning of two oral history interviews from professional oral historian Frank Heimans of *Cinetel* regarding Belle Miller and Dutchie Backhouse and the preparation of web biographies of both women. The project was officially launched at an International Women's Day function hosted by Council on 8 March 2007.

Stage 2 of the project acknowledged two women who have contributed through business or professional life. Oral Histories were again commissioned from Frank Heimans to record the life and careers of the Council-endorsed subjects Alice Doyle, restaurateur of Watsons Bay and Rosemary Foot, politician and businesswoman. Web biographies were prepared for each subject woman and added to Council's website.

In regards to the public art component, Council initially resolved on 11 September 2006,

*That subsequent to the completion of the research in option 1, a working party be established to consider the commissioning of a one off sculpture or memorial to recognize and commemorate Belle Miller as the first female Alderman and the contribution of women to the local community.*

At the Council meeting of 23 July 2007, following a report to the Community and Environment Committee meeting of 9 July 2007 (**Annexure 2**), it was resolved:

*That the public art component of the Women in Woollahra project be managed by Council staff in consultation with the Public Art Advisory Committee.*

Unfortunately attempts to secure a grant for \$9,000 from Arts NSW to fund this art work was unsuccessful, and the Advisory Committee are currently considering other opportunities for funding this work. Council may wish to consider funding this project in the 2009/10 budget.

### **Proposal - Women in Woollahra - Stage 3:**

The final stage of the Women in Woollahra project as identified in the previous reports is as follows:

<u>Stage 3 (2008/09)</u>	Biographies on two women who have contributed through community life and organisations.
	Commission public art work. (dependent on grant funding)

This project has been listed in the 2008 / 2011 Management plan, within the key sub-activity areas of Library and Information Services and Cultural Development.

As with Stages 1 and 2, it is proposed to commission oral histories to examine and record reminiscences relating to the work of the two subject women selected, and to create website entries. In the 2008/09 Council budget, \$3,000 has been allocated to Stage 3 of the project. This will cover the cost for a professional oral historian to conduct oral histories and additional research/preparation of materials required for Council's website.

In commencing research for Stage 3, Council's Local History staff identified an initial list of ten women whose community work or involvement with community organisations were worthy of consideration and have made a recommendation of the following two women for the project. See **Annexure 3**.

#### 1. Patricia Thompson

Patricia Thompson played a vital role in the formation of the Paddington Society, Australia's first resident action group and an organisation which has made a major contribution to life in Woollahra's most densely settled suburb. Her energy and conviction regarding the importance of preserving Paddington ensured she was a tireless and effective campaigner against government plans that threatened not only Paddington's architectural heritage but also its amenity and way of life. She was an inspirational leader and a persuasive speaker, but also worked hard behind the

scenes, where her organisational skills were an invaluable asset in the early years of the Society's administration.

Through the efforts of Patricia Thompson and the other early members of the Paddington Society, the suburb of Paddington and ultimately West Woollahra was conserved as an area of unique heritage significance for future generations. Her research provided the first authenticated glimpse into Paddington's history, and her publications, which were among the first of their kind ever written on the suburb, were instrumental in raising broad public awareness of the history and importance of the area. Her work through the Society also fulfilled a social function in the community, drawing residents together through an appreciation of the neighbourhood they shared.

Pat Thompson's contribution to the community and local area through the Paddington Society, and her achievements as an activist and author are consistent with the criteria set for Stage 3 of the Women in Woollahra project.

## 2. Thistle Harris Stead

Thistle Harris Stead stood at the Australian forefront of a movement, the full significance of which is only now gaining recognition as the worldwide message on the state of the environment gains both currency and urgency. She was, in particular, a pioneer voice for the preservation of Australia's native flora, and has left for the local community as well as its visitors a lasting benefit of her knowledge at Gap Park, South Head. Here she was instrumental as a member of the local community and the Vaucluse Progress Association in the preservation of the park in its entirety and the regeneration of its natural vegetation for future generations to enjoy. The regenerated bushland at Gap Park is but one example of Thistle Harris Stead's legacy.

Thistle Harris Stead brought energy and commitment to the environmentalist cause, and was a major contributor both directly and indirectly in the education of generations of Australians as to its importance. She gave her time and energy to a diverse range of organisations supporting varied social and environmental causes and ranging in scope from local to international.

Thistle Harris's career and achievements conform to the terms required for her adoption as a subject of study within Stage 3 of the Women in Woollahra project.

### **Conclusion:**

It is recommended that Council support the recommendation of Patricia Thompson and Thistle Harris Stead as the two women subjects for Stage 3 of the Women in Woollahra project.

As a means of marking the completion of the project and of expressing Council's gratitude to the oral history interviewees who have willingly given their time to the project, it is proposed that a function be held to recognise their contribution and to celebrate the lives of the six successful Woollahra women. It would be appropriate to host a morning tea close to International Women's Day, (8<sup>th</sup> March) in 2009.

Jane Britten & Libby Watters  
**Local History Librarians**

Kylie Walshe  
**Director Community Services**

### **Annexures:**

Annexure 1 - Celebration of Women in Woollahra, Community and Environment Committee, 28 August 2006.

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

Annexure 3 - Recommendation of biographical subjects for Stage 3 of the Women in Woollahra project.

**Item No:** D9 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Library Annual Report for the Period July 2007 to June 2008**  
**Author:** Vicki Munro, Manager, Library and Information Services  
**File No:** 48.G / 48.G (Strategic)  
**Reason for Report:** This report aims to review the Library operations for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

**Recommendation:**

- A. That the Annual Report of the Woollahra Library and Information Service for 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 is received and noted.

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This report reviews the Library activities and projects for the twelve months 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 with an analysis of statistics showing comparisons with the previous year. (All statistical tables are listed in **Annexure 1**).

The report covers the Library programme areas of lending services, reference and information services including local history, electronic information, community information and inter-library loan requests, children and young adult services and the Library's extensive cultural programme.

Many of the statistical outcomes for the year reflect the issues raised during both the community consultations and service reviews undertaken during the development of the Library Strategic Plan "*The Way Forward*".

**Background:**

The Library Strategic Plan, "*The Way Forward*" was developed during 2007 and adopted by Council on 17 December 2007. (See **Annexure 2** for a copy of the report to Community and Environment Committee, 26 November 2007)

The aim of the Strategic Plan is to maximise the potential of the Library Service and to more closely align the services and facilities provided by the Library Service to the needs of the community of Woollahra. The study has been a key tool:

- For ensuring that the Library and Information Service meets the challenges of changing technology and service delivery and increasing community expectations; and
- In reviewing the future accommodation requirements for the Library and key recommendations of the April 2002 Accommodation Review Final Report.

In conjunction with the development of Council's Social & Cultural Plan 2008, a Community Planning Advisory Panel was established with Councillors Dawson and Excell, representatives of Holdsworth Community Centre & Services, Woollahra Library Friends and key staff, to oversee the development of the Library Strategic Plan (the Plan). The Panel appointed AEC Group lead by Dr. Veronica Lunn in February 2007 to undertake the study.

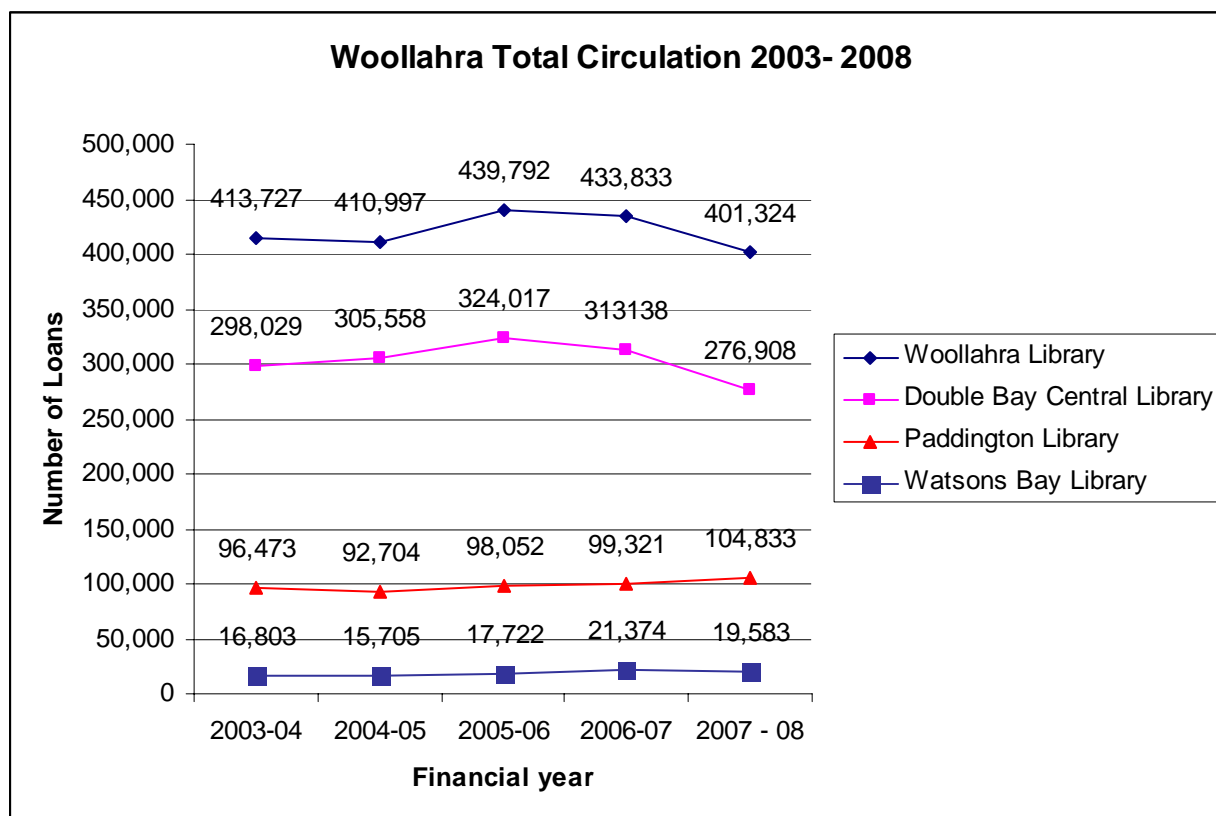
During the development of the Plan the importance of the Library and Information Service was clearly articulated by many sections of the Woollahra community, especially young families and seniors. It states that there was general consensus over what the community considered the role of the library to be and in summary concludes *“The Library is a highly valued asset in the Woollahra community. ... the Library fulfils a variety of functions such as a place to access information and learning, a place to access recreation, a multi-functional meeting place and most importantly, a ‘cultural centre’ or ‘community space’ that links the community through a variety of cultural events and activities.”* (pg 49)

This annual report highlights the opportunities and challenges facing the library service in meeting the needs and expectations of the Woollahra community and will draw from the Plan as it provides methods of addressing these challenges.

## 1.0 Lending Services

### 1.1 Circulation Statistics

The graph below shows the circulation for the total Library Service and for each library service point for the five year period 2003/04 to 2007/08.



Significant points to note from both the statistics in Annexure 1 and the graph above are:

- Overall, there was an 8 % decrease in the total lending of items for the financial year, 2007/08 over the 2006/07 period.
- When examining each service point for the year and comparing to the previous period, the following is noted:
  - Double Bay Central Library : 13 % decrease
  - Paddington Branch : 5 % increase
  - Watsons Bay Branch : 9 % decrease

- Increases in usage of the audio visual and periodical collections have occurred throughout each quarter. The audio visual collection increased in particular over the last six months (15%) and can be attributed to increased budgets for audio visual materials from the previous financial year.

As commented in previous quarterly reviews, the implementation of the periodical review has resulted in a streamlined collection, better reflecting and anticipating community needs. Both collections are now better able to meet customer expectations.

- As noted in previous quarterly reports, there has been an ongoing decrease in the usage of the adult book collections at all service points. The growing use of online resources and the internet are impacting upon the use of the non fiction book collection.
- There were 264,112 visits made by customers to all Library service points during the 2007/08 year, a clear indication of the popularity of the Library service in the community. Overall, there was an average of 45 loans and 30 visits per hour.

**Comment:**

As reported in the Plan, community expectations of the role of a modern library service are changing with the need for up-to-date technology, a contemporary collection and adequate space to allow for a learning environment. These expectations are reflected in the decrease in the Library's annual circulation statistics.

The decline in usage has mostly been at Double Bay Central Library. The Plan indicates that the existing building and location has limited the provision of a modern Library and Information Service due to its small space ( 468.27sqm), no disabled access, inadequate access to off and on street car parking and no potential for future expansion.

*“Throughout the consultation, participants were invited to nominate areas that they thought the WLIS could improve upon. Predictably “space” was identified as the key issue of concern, particularly at Double Bay Central Library. Providing increased space such as meeting rooms, training rooms, study areas, social areas and designated spaces for events were commonly highlighted throughout the consultation.... Many participants noted that adequate space and room for expansion is fundamental to effective service delivery. Physical access, particularly parking and access to public transport, was acknowledged as a barrier in the effective delivery of library services.” (pg 49-50)*

This issue was confirmed as recently as last week, with HSC students unable to find sufficient space or facilities for study, with a number of them resorting to studying in Blackburn Gardens.

The decline in circulation at Watsons Bay Library has been small in comparison to 2006/07, however it is noted that the circulation statistics have risen overall since 2003/04 by 16.5%. In the Plan, it is recommended that *“The Watsons Bay Library be relocated to the nearby Watson Bay Tea Gardens and converted into a Community Lounge Room with collections tailored to the needs of local residents with an emphasis on younger children and recreational material for older residents”.* (pg 71)

Council adopted this recommendation and resolved at its meeting of 10 June 2008:

- A. *That Council proceed with the relocation of the Watsons Bay Library from Dunbar House to the Watsons Bay Tea Rooms.*
- B. *That all renovation works necessary to relocate the library be completed outside the summer season.*

The Development Application for the transfer of the library from Dunbar House to the Tea Rooms closed on 20 August 2008. It is anticipated that the matter be reported to Council by the end of October 2008.

## 1.2 Membership

As at 30 June 2008, the borrower profile for the Library and Information Service was as follows:

Members who have borrowed over the past two years	
Double Bay Adult	7,854
Double Bay Junior	2,810
Paddington Adult	3,459
Paddington Junior	691
Watsons Bay Adult	264
Watsons Bay Junior	111
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,189</b>

- As noted in the Library's annual report, as of 1 July 2007 Woollahra Library and Information Service now measures its active membership over a two year period. Previously, membership was reported for members who have borrowed over the past three years. This change is in keeping with the annual statistics provided to the State Library of NSW and provides a more realistic picture of borrowing activity.
- In the current financial year, a total of 3,793 new members have joined the Library and Information Service, up from 3,427 the previous year. This represents an 11% increase in new memberships.
- As a percentage of active borrowers to population of 50,161 residents in the Woollahra local government area (2006 ABS census) this figure is 30.22%. The general Library benchmark is for 49% of borrowers to be active members.

### Comment:

There has been a change in the way that the community uses the Library and Information Service. The Library has become a community hub / anchor where "*people feel they belong to and are in touch with their local community. It is a meeting place and focal point for community participation, relaxation, fun and engagement.*" (pg 54) Many users now visit the Library for computer access, an opportunity to read the papers or attend events without borrowing an item. Hence it is important to examine visitation statistics as well as circulation and membership figures.

It is noted that there has been an increase in the number of new Library members during the year but an overall decrease in total membership. This shows that the Library is attracting new members through our programmes and activities but is not able to sustain their membership. It reflects some dissatisfaction with the Library service, in particular with the constraints of the Library buildings.

The consultation showed that:

- For Library users "*Access to parking, physical access and access to facilities were the least satisfied elements relative to the Woollahra Library used most frequently.*" (pg 52)
- Further "*More than a third of the total sample (35.0%) indicated they used a public library outside the Woollahra LGA. The most common libraries used are Waverley (51.4%), University Library (24.3%) and State Library of NSW (12.1%).*" (pg 52)
- The main reasons for using other libraries included "*quality of collection (40.0%), location (25.7%) and transport and parking (22.1%)*". (pg 52)

The Plan recommends a targeted membership drive be undertaken with specific target groups. (pg 80)

### 1.3 Home Library Service

- As 30 June 2008, there were 194 active Home Library Service members and 8 active member institutions.
- In comparison to 30 June 2007, there has been an increase of 26% in Home Library Service membership from 154 to 194. Since July 2007 active membership is now calculated in line with other memberships. That is, an active member is anyone who has borrowed over the last 2 years and has not cancelled their membership.
- Total loans for 2007/08 were 17, 232, representing a small increase of 1% from the previous year. This increase may be due to the concentrated effort during the year to develop the large print and talking book collections and thus increase the selection of materials available for loan.
- During 2007/08, a total of 2,563 deliveries were made to Home Library Service members and institutions. No comparison can be made with previous years as these statistics were previously not collected. The number of deliveries does indicate the popularity of the Service and the enormous benefit the Service provides to those in the community who are unable to visit personally due to accessibility difficulties.

#### Comment:

The Plan addressed the provision of services to persons with special needs. It states “*With increased ageing and decreasing mobility, it will be important to provide services that are accessible. This will include not only physical access but also the provision of services accessible on public transport routes and in co-location with other services, particularly retail. St Brigid’s was repeatedly identified as problematic in terms of physical access in the consultations. Consideration will need to be given to access criteria such as building standards, parking and public transport at the new Double Bay Central Library.*”

*Additionally, there is likely to be an increase in the number of Home Library borrowers and strategies will need to be put in place to ensure that latent and increased needs can be met”. (pg 77)*

The Plan recommends a number of strategies for the improvement of the Home Library Service, many of which are process improvements which are currently being addressed through the Home Library Review, due for completion in November 2008.

### 1.4 Collection Development

Significant points to note are:

- Weeding of the collection has continued as a priority during 2007/08. The total number of items discarded since the major weeding programme was implemented in August 2007 was 28,741. The weeding programme is in keeping with the strategies identified in the Plan, in particular developing a whole of life asset management approach. Items deselected from the collection were offered for sale at the Library’s Annual Book Fair held on the 10-11 May 2008 which raised over \$10,000.
- Collection development over the 2007/08 year has concentrated on developing the audio visual collection as indicated in the 2006/07 Annual Report. The talking book collection has grown significantly in size and this effort is noted in the increasing loans for these items.

- An improved adult fiction standing order list has been distributed to the current supplier “The Bookhouse”. This standing order highlights over 1,400 authors that will be sent shelf ready to the Library Service. The standing order dramatically improves the library’s ability to anticipate customer needs and will mean that our customers receive such titles at the same time as they could buy them in the stores.

**Comment:**

A key recommendation of the Library Strategic Plan has been the development of a whole of life asset management approach for collection management. The Plan showed that the Library has an ageing collection with many items stored offsite at Stack, thereby making them less accessible. Current research shows “*That the demand for collection items diminishes as items age and obsolescence progressively increases as items age*”. (p72)

As a result, Collection Profiles for all parts of the Library collection have been developed and suppliers will soon be providing the Library with shelf ready material for quick distribution to our Library service points. The Library has also undertaken a review of the Collection mix. This has resulted in a greater emphasis on the purchase of recreational reading, both fiction and non fiction, and audio visual resources. This is in response to the impact of the world wide web on library borrowing.

## **2.0 Reference and Information Services**

### **2.1 Reference Statistics**

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.
- Overall, there has been an increase of 24% in reference enquiries during 2007/08 compared with 2006/07. This may be attributed to a high standard of customer service by the Library staff.
  - The Information Services Librarian notes that enquiries cover a wide range of topics including complex art and literature enquiries, law enquiries using the special Legal and Information Access Centre materials, senior high school and undergraduate level student needs, along with a range of general enquiries on every conceivable subject.
  - It has been noted that most general enquiries can be satisfied more quickly, given the mix of resources between on-line and print which the Library now holds.

**Comment:**

In supporting the above analysis, the Plan states that “*The increased use of on-line databases has changed the way that reference services are provided in public libraries. Through subscriptions and access through the State Library of NSW, all branches can take advantage of a wide range of resources. All staff need high level information navigation skills with both text and online content.*” (pg 78).

The Plan recommends ongoing staff training in the use of online databases and the transition from Woollahra's strong text based reference section to greater online content with the development of a virtual presence. (pg 79)

## 2.2 Inter-Library Loans

The Library's inter-library loans service continued to be well utilised throughout 2007/08, with one request for an item coming from Philadelphia. There has been a small decrease in inter-library loan usage in comparison to the 2006/07 year.

Items borrowed from other libraries for Woollahra Library customers have remained steady over the year, with an average of 262 items per quarter for 2007/08.

### Comment:

The Plan states “ *Inter- Library loans have trebled since Woollahra's collection holdings have been made available through Libraries Australia. This has had a significant impact on workloads.*” (pg 78). To improve workflows the recommended strategies include some rationalisation of the collection and the decentralisation of the inter-library loans functions to all branches.

## 2.3 Electronic Information Service

- There are eighteen databases available with ten available for remote use. The subject coverage is quite wide and includes public affairs, science, literature, health and general knowledge.
- Online database searches within the library in 2007/08 showed an increase of 80% over the same period in 2006/07. This is largely due to improved staff training, with all staff using the databases as a regular part of customer service. There has also been a streamlining of the book collection so that there is less overlap between the two areas of information.
- Online database searches from home (remote access) for 2007/08 were 19% up on the same period in 2006/07. This could be due to the building of confidence again in database searching and the promotion of databases during 2007/08 with visits to local schools.
- The online databases most used within the Library Service were Factiva, ANZRC, Global books in Print, Books and Authors, and Libraries Australia. Databases most used remotely included Encyclopaedia Britannica, Libraries Australia and APAFT.

### Comment:

The Plan notes that the Woollahra area has a high level of Internet and computer usage from home and that opportunities for increasing the online presence need to be pursued. This will require an increased focus on online delivery and facilitating transactions online. To increase the online presence within the library, it is recommend that:

- A review of the existing online sources be undertaken, new on-line resources investigated, developed and promoted. (pg 74)
- Information literacy programs for the community be developed and promoted. (pg 74)
- A transition strategy to on-line content for selected reference material be developed in conjunction with the development of a virtual presence and the provision of an adequate number of PC's. (pg 79)

## 2.4 Local History Centre

Total Local History enquiries for 2007/08 increased by 14% in comparison to 2006/07. This is due partly to the increase in Woollahra Council enquires.

## **Significant achievements during 2007/08**

### Women in Woollahra Project

Stage 2 of the project, consisting of biographies on two women who have contributed through business or professional life was completed in March 2008. The two women chosen were Alice Doyle, restaurateur and Rosemary Foot, politician and businesswoman. Stage 3 of the project consisting of biographies of two women who have contributed through community work is due to be completed by March 2009.

### Council Minutes Indexing Project

Funded through a grant from the State Library of New South Wales this project has created an electronic index to the minutes of Woollahra Council meetings from 1860 onwards. At the end of June 2008, Woollahra Council Minutes were indexed to April 1876.

### South Head area - Time Line of Significant Events on Website

Information on the history of the South Head area was compiled from the collection at the Local History Centre. The South Head area, including Watsons Bay and Camp Cove, once the traditional land of the Birrabirragal, has close ties to the earliest days of European settlement.

### **Comment:**

*Under the outcome area 'Showcasing the history and heritage of Woollahra', the Plan highlights "Woollahra Library and Information Service plays a key role in collecting and preserving the social and documentary heritage for current and future generations, and sharing the memory of the community. Community consultation clearly highlighted the importance of this role." (pg 75)*

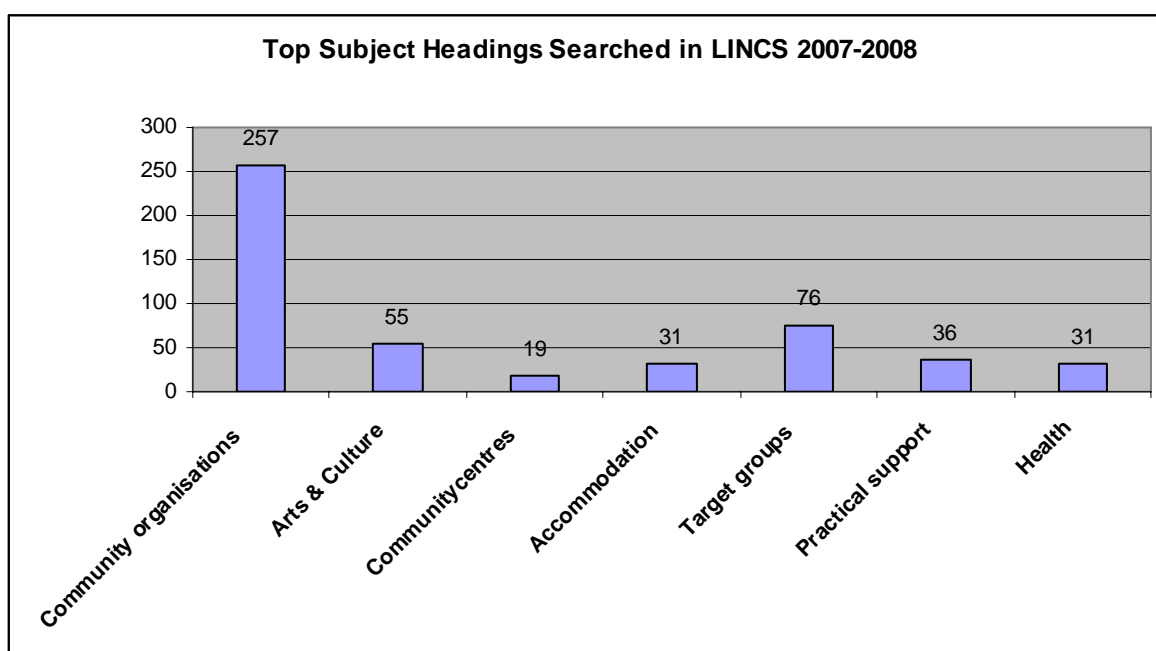
Among the recommended strategies for this outcome area are the following:

- Opportunities to showcase local history and heritage in libraries and in the community be maximized, particularly through the use of digital technology. (pg76)
- The Local Studies unit provide corporate library services to Council and the valuable research role that the Library can undertake for council in Local studies and other areas be further promoted. (pg76)

## **2.5 Community Information**

Searches on the LINCS Community information database during 2007/08 decreased by 48% when compared to 2006/07.

The following graph shows the most frequent searches during the year:



**Comment:**

The decrease in usage of the LINCS database does not reflect the actual need for community information which occurs mostly through telephone and email or personal visits to the Library. The location of the database on the Council web site may be contributing to its low usage.

The community information section was transferred to the new Community Liaison Team in August 2008, which is now responsible for all community information including the LINCS service, community information directories and the What's On. This will provide a concentrated effort on improving all avenues of community information.

### **3.0 Children and Young Adult Services**

#### **3.1 Story time sessions**

The Story time programme is a core part of the Library and Information Service's activities. The story time programme will be reviewed by December 2008, with key points to note:

- Double Bay Central Library's story time attendance has fallen but it is pleasing to note a small increase of 2% for the Paddington Library story time.
- Improved attendance of 10% at the Double Bay playgroup sessions, over a 12 month period is mostly due to the energy of the new children's and young adult staff, in particular Andrew Taylor.
- Holdsworth story time sessions have also experienced improved attendance by 34% over the past year. This increase may be attributed to a change in session times, four extra sessions being held and a close co-operation between library and Holdsworth Centre staff.

**Comment:**

During the consultation for the Library Strategic Plan it is pleasing to note the following positive comment "*story time sessions were certainly appreciated by families with children, particularly in relation to the access to a network of parents and carers. Importantly many participants believed that these sessions exposed children to literature at an early age and encouraged children to read and appreciate books.*" (pg 50)

The plan recommends *“that the library should continue to support a range of literacies across age groups, but it is clear that the work with children, young families, and youth has a very positive impact on the community and is highly regarded”*. (pg 82)

Specific strategies include the establishment of a children’s community engagement programme, the review of the existing children’s story time with the development of age specific programmes such as Lapsit (0-2 years) and the introduction of regular weekly story time at Watsons Bay Library to cater to the needs of the younger population in the area.

It should be noted that the story time review is due for completion in November 2008 with the new programme format due to commence in February 2009. Further with the transfer of Watsons Bay Library from Dunbar House to the Tea Rooms, there will be a review of library opening hours and introduction of a weekly story time programme.

#### **4.0 Cultural Events**

##### **4.1 Cultural events held during 2007/08**

The key Library events included:

- Writers & Readers Series: 6 events were held with 458 people attending.
- Tea Topics: 8 events were held with 415 people attending.
- Youth Photographic prize: held on 5 September, 2007 with 158 photographic entries and 17 film entries.
- Local Writer’s Day: held on 24 November, 2007 featuring 13 local writers and with 23 an audience of 23.
- Library Lovers’ Day -: held on 14 February 2008 – Library staff dressed in Library Lovers’ Day T-Shirts and loaned out 75 “blind dates with books”.
- Poets Picnic: held on 19 February 2008, with 450 people attending
- Annual Library Book Fair 10-11 May 2008: over \$10,000 was raised through the sale of discarded library items.
- Library and Information Week 25 May 2008 – Biggest morning tea @ your library – raised \$178 for the Cancer Council.

#### **Comment:**

One of the key outcome areas in this Plan is for the development of programmes focused on community learning and engagement. Libraries provide an opportunity for individuals and groups to participate in life long learning which includes acquiring and updating all kinds of abilities, interests, knowledge and qualifications from the preschool years to post retirement. (pg 81)

The Plan states *“One of the key roles, which Woollahra Library and Information Service has undertaken is facilitating information literacy in the community. Community consultations highlighted the popularity of programs such as the Writers and Reader program and certainly identified the opportunity to extend activities in this area.”* (pg 82)

It recommends that the Library continue its focus on lifelong learning and community engagement through outreach services and programming and investigate the option of using volunteers to support these programmes. (pg 83)

## **5. Conclusion**

The Woollahra Library and Information Service has had a successful year, both in terms of the completion of many projects identified in Council's Management Plan and the examination of the Library usage. In particular, the increase in use at Paddington Library, the increasing Reference enquiries and attendance at cultural programmes.

The adoption of the Library Strategic Plan on 17 December 2007 was a significant development for the future of the service. The implementation stage will now present an exciting and challenging time for both staff and customers' alike.

Vicki Munro  
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Kylie Walshe  
Director Community Services

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### **Annexures:**

1. Library and Information Services Annual Statistics 2007/08.
2. Final Library Strategic Plan Report to Community and Environment Committee, 27 Nov 07.