



Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Monday 9 May 2005*

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

5 May 2005

To: The Mayor, Councillor Rundle, ex-officio
Councillors Marcus Ehrlich (Chair)
 Anthony Boskovitz
 Claudia Cullen
 Tanya Excell
 Wilhelmina Gardner
 Andrew Petrie
 John Walker

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 9 May 2005

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 9 May 2005 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James
General Manager

Meeting Agenda

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

Items to be Decided by this Committee using its Delegated Authority

D1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 26 April 2005	1
D2	Woollahra Plastic Bags Working Party – Minutes of Meeting 4 held 19 April 2005 – 588.G	2
D3	Purchase of green power by Council and additional use of solar hot water by Council – 990.G	7
D4	Community Services – Management Plan Quarterly Report – 827.G 04-07	15

Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 26 April 2005
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 26 April 2005 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 26 April 2005 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager - Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee
Subject: Woollahra Plastic Bags Working Party – Minutes of Meeting 4 held on 19 April 2005
Author: Lisa Miall – Waste Technical Officer
File No: 588.G
Reason for Report: For the Committee to note the items discussed and recommended actions from the Plastic Bag Working Party.

Recommendation:

A. THAT the Minutes be noted and the recommended actions be endorsed.

Background:

The minutes of the Woollahra Plastic Bags Working Party meeting held on 19 April 2005 are attached for the information of Councillors.

The Working Party at its April meeting discussed the following items;

1. Conditions of Consent for events in public places to minimise plastic bag use and to increase recycling.
2. A letter to retailers regarding use of boxes instead of plastic bags
3. A shopfront window sticker for retailers who choose not to use plastic bags.
4. Future meetings with various Chambers of Commerce in Woollahra.

The next meeting of the the Plastic Bag Working party is scheduled for Tuesday 21 June 2005.

Lisa Miall
Waste Technical Officer

Mark Wood
Acting Director – Technical Services

Annexures:

1. Minutes of Woollahra Plastic Bags Working Party – 19 April 2005

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee
Subject: Purchase of Green Power by Council and additional use of solar hot water by Council
Author: Jacqui Hansen, Engineer - Policy and Projects
File No: 990.G
Reason for Report: Council Resolution, dated 28 February 2005, requesting a further report.

Recommendation:

- A. That a further report be presented to the Committee on the retail purchase of electricity with a percentage of Green Power using the State Procurement Contract.
- B. That Council's Property Department continue with its current practice of installing instantaneous gas hot water systems when a new hot water system is required.

Background:

Adopted Notice of Motion, dated 12 November 2001, requested that a report be brought to the Community and Environment Committee to investigate areas where Council could possibly introduce solar energy use for lighting, traffic signals, etc throughout the Municipality.

A report was presented the Community and Environment Committee on 28 February 2005 in response to the above Notice of Motion. The report concluded that solar energy is not economical for lighting on a pure cost basis where power is available in close proximity from the electricity grid. The cost of installing a solar installation is not recouped over the life of the installation. As an alternative to installing a solar energy system, the report recommended that Council investigate the purchase of additional Green Power. Green Power is electricity derived from a combination of solar power, wind power, biomass and hydro-power and, in the current deregulated power market, is available from a number of suppliers.

Following consideration of the report, the Community and Environment Committee resolved as follows:

- "A. That a further report be presented to the Committee on the possible increase in the purchase of Green Power (energy generated using a combination of solar, wind, hydro and landfill gas).*
- B. That a further report be provided on the costs and benefits of conversion of hot water heaters to solar when they are due for replacement."*

1. Green Power

1.1 Background on Green Power

The National Green Power Accreditation Program was established in 1997 by Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) – a NSW Government Agency. It was one of the first accreditation schemes in the world. Following the staged deregulation of the electricity market, commencing in 1998, consumers have been able to choose to purchase energy generated from renewable sources.

Due to demand, Green Power has become a national program, with six 'states' involved; NSW, Vic, SA, Qld, WA and ACT. There is a National Green Power Steering Group funded by the Commonwealth Government. SEDA has been transformed by State Government into Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS). DEUS is currently contracted as the NSW Program Manager for Green Power. It is responsible for the accreditation of generators and retailers.

1.2 Frequently Asked Questions about Green Power

- Where does our electricity presently come from?
 - Over 90% of electricity in NSW comes from the burning of coal
- Will new wiring be required if we purchase Green Power?
 - No. All electricity, regardless of the method of generation, is fed into the electricity grid. There are no reliability issues.
- Don't cars have the most impact on greenhouse?
 - No. Electricity is the greatest source of emissions in Australia. The average house consumes 8,000 kWh of electricity each year. With traditional coal-generated electricity, this results in about 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere. This is equivalent to the emissions created by two cars on the road for a year.
- How much Green Power can you buy?
 - You can purchase how much or how little Green Power you want.
- Isn't Green Power expensive?
 - For a household consuming 8,000 kWh per year, Green Power costs approximately \$1.50 per day more than the current regulated tariff.
- How can we be sure that we are actually receiving Green Power?
 - The supply of Green Power is regulated by the State Government. The DEUS program guarantees all the Green Power products in the marketplace meet strict accreditation rules.

1.3 Green Power Generators

Electricity generators and retailers can seek approval from the National Green Power Steering Group. This requires submission of the generation details to the steering group for assessment. Approved methods of generation include: solar, wind, hydroelectricity, biomass (including landfill gas), geothermal (including hot dry rocks) and wave and tidal power. There are twelve companies approved to supply Green Power in NSW, with eighteen different products in the marketplace. Over 96% of the population of NSW now have the opportunity to purchase Green Power.

1.4 Why should Council buy Green Power?

By purchasing Green Power, Council is demonstrating its environmental commitment with action. Council can show community leadership. It is also an easily quantifiable and inexpensive way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet milestones for Council's CCP objectives.

Other councils are purchasing Green Power. Parramatta, Manly, North Sydney, Ku-ring-gai and Waverley are among the councils in Sydney that already purchase Green Power.

1.5 How do we buy Green Power?

The electricity market in NSW is now fully deregulated. Regardless of the amount of power you use, you can choose the electricity retailer that best suits you. For example, domestic customers can select an electricity retailer from a number of companies offering attractive deals. Similarly, Council can choose to buy electricity from a number of companies. We have many options.

The primary electricity products on offer from the electricity retailers are:

1. **Large Sites** - These consume more than 160,000kWh of electricity per annum. An example of a large site is a steel processing plant. Woollahra Council does not have any sites consuming enough electricity to be considered as large sites.
2. **Small Sites** - These consume less than 160,000kWh of electricity per annum. Woollahra Council has approximately fifty small sites.
3. **Street Lighting and Traffic Signals** – Woollahra Council is responsible for the cost of electricity for street lighting but not traffic lights. In the Sydney metropolitan area the RTA is responsible for traffic lights. Council is contracted to EnergyAustralia for street lighting until 30 June 2006.

Woollahra Council currently obtains electricity for its small sites from EnergyAustralia. We are not contracted to EnergyAustralia. It is simply an arrangement that has been rolled over since before deregulation, when we once dealt with Sydney Electricity. The opportunity now exists for Council to enter into a contract for its small sites and include in that contract a percentage of Green Power.

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) advises councils on issues such as the purchase of electricity. It is through the SSROC joint tender for street lighting that Council was able to secure a favourable deal from EnergyAustralia for street lighting. In 2003, SSROC investigated the possibility of staging a ROC tender for the retail supply of electricity. They determined that it was not viable. The deregulated electricity supply industry is complex and SSROC decided it was easier to join the State Procurement Contract - referred to as Contract 777. SSROC now advises member councils to use Contract 777.

State Procurement is a state government agency. It provides procurement services for other government agencies. Councils and some other non-profit organisations are permitted to participate in State Procurement contracts. Under these contracts, suppliers provide a range of products and services at prices established on the basis of aggregated whole of government buying power, achieving significant savings.

As this is a legislative requirement, all NSW State Government departments, authorities and agencies must purchase at least 6% Green Power. Consequently, Contract 777 contains excellent access to Green Power. Under Contract 777, eligible organisations, such as Woollahra Municipal Council, can purchase as much Green Power as they desire.

It is likely that cost savings we derive from moving all of our small sites to Contract 777 could be used to finance the purchase of a percentage of Green Power. This is the advice that has been provided to Council from SSROC.

1.6 How do we join Contract 777?

The timing of our investigation into the feasibility of joining Contract 777 could not be better. State Procurement has decided to split Contract 777 into separate contracts for each of the retail electricity products; large sites, small sites, street lighting and traffic signals and Woollahra Municipal Council will be able to sign up when the contract for small sites commences in July 2005. It is referred to as Contract 7057/776.

In preparing Contract 7057/776, State Procurement obtained prices from a number of electricity retailers including Energy Australia. The best deal for small sites was obtained from AGL. AGL has been selected as the contractor for small sites. From discussions with State Procurement, Council has been assured that AGL has ample Green Power available for sale. (There have been rumours that other retailers in the marketplace have sold all their Green Power and had none to sell if approached.) Also, AGL has a variety of good Green Power products to offer small sites customers.

At present, State Procurement is preparing the contract documentation for Contract 7057/776. It will be mailed to interested organisations during May. Council has registered its interest in joining this contract in July. Once we receive the documentation from State Procurement, we will contact AGL and they will give us a price for the supply of electricity for all our small sites. We can obtain prices for a number of different percentages of Green Power, such as 1%, 6% and 10% etc. We can compare this price with our current uncontracted supply rates from Energy Australia and make an informed decision.

At this point in time, we do not have any information on how much we will be paying for electricity under Contract 7057/776. It is proposed that the financial details be explored in another report once we have information from AGL.

1.7 Recommendation on the purchase of Green Power

It is recommended that a further report be presented to the Committee on the purchase of electricity with a percentage of Green Power using the State Procurement Contract.

2. Solar Hot Water

Many Council buildings have hot water available for hand washing, general kitchen use and showering. The Community and Environment Committee requested, at its meeting on 28 February 2005, that Council investigate the costs and benefits of conversion of hot water heaters to solar when they are due for replacement. The report on solar energy use had not explored the potential use of solar hot water because solar hot water and solar power use two very different types of systems. Heat from the sun heats the water in a solar hot water system. Light from the sun is converted into electricity by a solar power system.

2.1 Types of Hot Water Systems

There are two types of hot water systems available today; storage systems and instantaneous systems.

A storage system stores hot water in a tank and hot water is available throughout the day because it continually reheats the water as it starts to cool. Most units use off-peak electricity, which is cheap, but results in the emission of greenhouse gases. When powered by solar energy or natural gas, less greenhouse gas is produced.

An instantaneous system only heats as much water as is needed, when it is needed. These systems use natural gas (low greenhouse intensity) or electricity. They use less energy to produce the same amount of hot water because they are not heating and reheating water all day. Also, there is no need for a storage tank. A standard unit can deliver hot water to one or two points at a time. Because the hot water is heated as it is being used, you never run out of hot water.

The following table explains the various sources of hot water available.

	Solar	Gas	Electric	Heat Pumps
What is it?	The sun's rays heat the water as it passes through collector panels on the roof. The hot water is stored in storage system until required.	Gas is burnt and the energy produced heats the water in a storage tank or instantaneous system.	Coal is burnt at a power station to provide electricity to heat hot water in a storage tank or instantaneous system.	Heat is extracted from the surrounding atmosphere using refrigerant gas and a compressor. Water is heated and stored in a tank and can be boosted with solar or electricity but not gas.
Efficiency	Can provide 65-80% of hot water needs with the remainder supplied by a boosting energy source. Least greenhouse intensive when boosted by gas.	The efficiency depends on the star rating, the more stars on the unit, the more efficient it is.	Most hot water systems are electric storage type and are inefficient because the water is continually heated even though it may not be required.	A new form of high efficiency water heating that uses around 66% less electricity than other electric water heaters.
Greenhouse gas emissions (For 200 litres daily usage.)	Can reduce emissions by 70% of standard off-peak electric system emissions. 0.7tonnes/year if gas boosted. 2tonnes /year if electric boosted.	About 2 tonnes per year	About 4.8 tonnes per year – about the same as a family car.	About 2 tonnes per year.

From the above table, it can be seen that there are number of alternative methods of heating hot water. Conventional off-peak electric hot water systems are considered to be the least efficient as the production of hot water, using these systems, releases the maximum amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These systems often have the lowest initial cost (purchase and installation).

In October 2003 *Choice* Magazine investigated hot water systems and recommended the installation of instantaneous gas water heaters. The *Choice* article considered all four of the available hot water systems; solar, gas, electric and heat pumps.

Solar and heat pump systems can certainly reduce the amount of greenhouse gases produced in the production of hot water – by several tonnes per year – when compared to conventional off-peak electric systems. They also offer a saving in energy costs. These systems are, however, significantly more expensive than a gas or electric system. The Commonwealth Government offers generous rebates to homes and businesses (including councils) that install solar or heat pump systems. The rebates are only available if an electric system is being replaced. Because gas is considered to be *environmentally friendly*, there are no rebates if a gas system (instantaneous or storage) is replaced with a solar or heat pump system.

2.2 Council's existing commitment to reducing greenhouse emissions when purchasing Hot Water Systems

This is not the first occasion that Council has considered the environment when purchasing hot water systems. Council has had solar hot water at the O'Dea Ave Depot in Waterloo since 1991. The flat roof of the depot building, with no overshadowing trees, provides the ideal location for solar collector panels.

In addition, when Redleaf was redeveloped in 2000, two solar-boosted heat pump systems were installed on the roof of Redleaf. This type of system has the lowest greenhouse gas emission of all the systems available today. It is, however, the most expensive system. Both the solar system at O'Dea Ave and the solar-boosted heat pump system at Redleaf are considered to be reliable by Council's Property Services Co-ordinator and have required minimum maintenance to date.

It is the current practice of Council's Property Department to install instantaneous gas hot water systems when replacing old systems. Instantaneous gas systems have recently been installed at Sir David Martin Reserve. Council's Property Manager advises that instantaneous gas hot water systems offer the best environmental benefits for the lowest cost.

2.3 Case Study – E J Ward Community Centre, Paddington

The E J Ward Community Centre has two existing gas storage hot water systems. One system supplies hot water to the kitchen and the other to the laundry. The system supplying hot water to the kitchen is eighteen years old and offers a low level of service, supplying muddy, coloured water. This system needs to be replaced. The system supplying hot water to the laundry is eleven years old. It is a more modern type of system, is functioning satisfactorily and not planned for replacement. Neither system has a temperature control gauge. (Recommended where facilities are used by elderly and disabled persons to prevent scalding).

Council has listed the replacement of the hot water system in the kitchen at the EJ Ward Centre in the 2005/2006 capital works budget. It is pertinent that we now investigate the options available and their associated costs.

As the E J Ward Centre has existing gas hot water, Council will not receive a Renewable Energy Certificate (RECS) rebate from the Commonwealth Government for installing a solar or heat pump system. The full cost will apply.

Quotes were sought from a number of suppliers. The most comprehensive quotes and the best prices for all types of hot water systems were obtained from Rheem.

Costs over ten years have been calculated, as ten years is the generally accepted lifespan of a hot water system today.

	Solar Electric Boosted	Solar Instantaneous Gas Boosted	Instantaneous Gas	Electric Storage	Heat Pump
Capital Cost	\$2,400 plus GST	\$3,800 plus GST	\$1,100 plus GST	\$1,100 plus GST	\$3,200 plus GST
Operating Costs	\$118 per year	\$62 per year	\$175 per year Natural Gas	\$125 per year Off-peak	\$118 per year
Comparison of costs over 10 year life of system	\$3,580	\$4,420	\$2,850	\$2,350	\$4,380
Greenhouse gas emissions per year (for 200L daily usage)	2 Tonnes	0.7 Tonnes	2 Tonnes	4.8 Tonnes	2 Tonnes
Details	Rheem model 525300 Solar hi-line electric boosted with roof mounted tank	Rheem model 511270/2SBT-G low line ground mounted tank	Rheem Integrity Model 871026 instantaneous gas external water heater	Rheem model 462250 Electric Water Heater with two heating elements	Rheem model 5511275 Air Sourced Heat pump.

The cheapest option is the off-peak electricity storage system, with a ten-year cost of \$2,350. This system, however, has the worst performance with respect to emission of greenhouse gases. A typical off-peak electricity storage system will result in 4.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, per year being released into the atmosphere during the generation of electricity required to power the system.

The next best option in terms of price is the instantaneous gas system. This system is anticipated to cost \$2,850 over a ten-year period. It is calculated that such a system will be responsible for the emission of two tonnes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, per year, into the atmosphere during the production of hot water. Only a gas boosted solar hot water system (0.7 tonnes of emissions per year - at a ten year cost of \$4,420) has less greenhouse gas emissions.

The E J Ward Centre provides a meal service only three days a week. As a consequence, the demand for hot water in the kitchen will be minimal on the other days. A storage system will use energy keeping water hot on days when it is not required. An instantaneous system will only heat water when required. The emission data used in this report was provided by *Choice Magazine* and is based on a typical hot water system with a constant daily demand for hot water. As the demand for hot water in the kitchen at the E J Ward Centre is not constant, the system would only be used when hot water was actually required. It is likely that, were an instantaneous system installed at the E J Ward Centre, the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the system would be approximately 0.9 tonnes - less than half the two tonnes quoted above for a typical system.

A gas boosted solar hot water system has the best environmental performance, with 0.7 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year. This is only marginally less than the 0.9 tonnes produced by the instantaneous system (used 3 days per week). It is calculated that the gas boosted solar hot water system will cost \$4,420 (over ten years), compared to \$2,850 for the instantaneous gas system over the same period. The installation costs for a solar hot water system are also significantly higher.

The best option for the E J Ward Centre is, therefore, the instantaneous gas hot water system. As gas is already connected to the building to serve the existing hot water systems, connection costs for a new instantaneous system will be minimal.

Analysis of the data obtained for the case study, the E J Ward Centre, proves that the practice adopted by Council's Property Department, in installing instantaneous gas hot water systems when replacing old systems, is correct. They offer the best environmental benefit for the lowest cost, particularly when the daily demand for hot water fluctuates.

2.4 Recommendation for the purchase of new Hot Water Systems for Council

It is recommended that Council's Property Department continue with its current practice of installing instantaneous gas hot water systems when required.

Conclusion:

The time is right for Council to further explore obtaining a contract for the retail supply of electricity with State Procurement, with a view to purchasing a percentage of Green Power with the cost savings.

The current practice of Council's Property Department in installing instantaneous gas hot water systems, when required, is appropriate as these systems are cost effective and result in less greenhouse emissions.

Jacqui Hansen
Engineer – Policy and Projects

Mark Wood
Acting Director Technical Services

Item No: D4 Delegated to Committee
Subject: Community Services - Management Plan Quarterly Report
Author: Kylie Walshe - Director Community Services
Tim Tuxford – Manager Compliance
File No: 827.G 04-07
Reason for Report: To review the status of works, services, and Notices of Motion for the Management Plan principal activity of Community Services for the three months ending 31 March 2005.

Recommendation:

- A. That the status of projects for the Community Services Principal Activity be noted.
- B. That variations to projects be agreed subject to adoption of the relevant budget variations included in the separately reported quarterly financial review.

Background:

Section 407(1) of the Local Government Act requires that Council review the progress of the adopted management plan on a quarterly basis. Included with this report is the third quarterly review of Principal Activity No 5 of the Management Plan, which is "Community Services". This principal activity has the following sub- activities:

- 5.1 Community Services Management
- 5.2 Library Services
- 5.3 Family & Community Development
- 5.4 Aged & Disability Services
- 5.5 Leisure & Cultural Development
- 5.6 Environment & Public Health
- 5.7 Ranger Services

Included as Annexure 1. to this report is the Community Services Principal activity of the Management Plan, with detailed comments on the status of items in each sub activity.

The annexure includes all the details whereas set out in the following part of this report is a commentary on variations, changes, exception, completed work, achievements, etc. The purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot on the key influences or issues arising from this quarterly review.

Comments on budget variations where they are material or have an impact on the program of works or projects may be included in this report. However the budget review and confirmation of any changed forecast will be considered in a separate budget report which reviews the overall financial position of the Council at the end of the quarter.

Following is the commentary on each sub activity.

5.1 Community Services Management

This sub-activity covers the area of strategic planning and activities that impact on all operations of community services. All projects in the management plan have been commenced and scoped.

A key achievement has been the completion of a 28-day public exhibition period for the Social Needs Study and associated Strategies, commencing in February. Consideration of these has resulted in some minor changes to the draft Strategies, but no change to their overall intent. The volunteer project has been delayed due to the resignation of the Community Development Officer, with the project continuing as soon as a successful appointment has been made.

The only change to the budget for this cost centre is the transfer of the budget for temporary staff expenditure (\$5,000) to Family & Community Development cost centre to cover salaries in that area.

5.2 Library Services

This sub-activity covers all library activities, including projects for library facilities and the library service as a whole. All management plan projects for this quarter have commenced and are progressing on track.

Some highlights of the library activities and projects for this quarter as reflected in the Management Plan were:

Cultural events:

- Poets' Picnic on 22nd February with the theme title *All creatures great and small*. The fine evening in Blackburn gardens attracted an audience of around 400 people. Along with major literary personalities, young people from five local high schools read and as usual proved to be very popular with many in the audience.

Services to youth:

- An on-line Web site aimed at high school students was developed and is now available from the Council main site.
- Special anime, manga and graphic novels collection developed and organised.

Library Web Page developments:

- Interactive links set up between the three on-line library pages (general /adults, children's and teens) and the library catalogue. For example, a person locating some Local History information on the *LH Fast Facts* section of the general/adult pages can then directly link into the library catalogue on-line for information on local history books, research files, photos, showing location and availability. The library member services section and the Redleaf Book Club's reading selections have had direct links set up to the on-line catalogue also.

Children's services:

- A lively summer reading programme and writers workshops for children were held in January
- Four playgroups and 18 main story time sessions were held in the quarter.

A fuller library report with statistics and trend lines on lending and other usage will be presented to the Committee in May.

5.3 Family & Community Development

This sub-activity covers the programs for children, youth, community safety and community development. A major project is the review of the funding levels to Holdsworth Street Community Centre, due for completion in March 2005 and on track.

Community Safety

A new Community Development Officer (Safety and Volunteering) commenced duties and was inducted in January. However, she resigned in March so progress in these areas is halted until a new Officer is recruited. The endorsement of Woollahra's Community Safety Plan was delayed by the Attorney General's Department, as a new Crime Prevention Officer covering the Woollahra area is requiring significant changes to the plan, contrary to advice previously received from the former Officer. Discussions are proceeding to clarify the nature and extent of changes required.

The Community Safety Committee agreed to align their meetings with the quarterly PACT (Police Accountability Community Team) meetings from June 2005, to strengthen the public participation component of the PACT meetings.

Staff attended an initial Liquor Accord meeting for Licensees of pubs and clubs in the Woollahra Area, convened by Rose Bay police.

The Beat Graffiti Mural project is also stalled, as finding a suitable location has been difficult. Sydney Water rejected our proposal to locate the mural on the Pumping Station on the waterfront in Rose Bay, because of heritage concerns. Negotiations are currently underway with State Rail to use the Edgecliff Bus Interchange as a location by creating murals on boards to be mounted on the bus interchange platform dividers.

Youth

The Youth Services Development Officer's activities focussed on planning for National Youth Week to be held April.

The Youth Advisory Committee, convened in conjunction with Waverley Council, continued to meet monthly, participating in planning activities for National Youth Week. This included a new initiative, a Trivia Night held at Woollahra Council that attracted close to 40 participants from Years 9 and 10 from four local high schools who very much enjoyed the evening.

A Youth Issues Forum was held in February with a guest speaker from YAPA, the peak organisation for youth ngo's in NSW.

Skate clinics were held in January and March. Another clinic catering to a younger age group (9-13 year olds) was planned as part of Youth Week activities. However, insurance issues arose in regard to our use of the skate ramps and equipment owned by Waverley Action for Youth Services (WAYS), and plans for further clinics have been suspended. Staff are exploring options for hiring skate clinic equipment, and further investigating risk management issues. Young people who enrolled for the Youth Week skate clinic have been notified of the availability of commercial skate clinics being run at Fox Studios during the April school holidays.

Children's Services

An application to re-license Woollahra Kindergarten was submitted in February. A review of all Kindergarten policies, in consultation with the Parent Advisory Committee and staff was completed. Considerable effort by staff has gone in to preparing paperwork and ensuring that equipment, records and procedures comply with requirements. Re-licensing is due to take place in June 2005. Two new staff commenced work at the Kindergarten, and a new relief assistant was recruited.

Rose Bay Cottage usage by Playgroups has expanded with a new Japanese speaking group using the facility on Fridays. Hire income from children's birthday parties has declined in this quarter. Plans to upgrade the facility with improvements to the playground and furnishings have been developed, so that usage can be extended to include new mothers groups and playgroups for babies.

5.4 Aged & Disability Services

Activities in this sub-activity are on track, although a number of activities have new target dates linked to the adoption of Council's *Draft Ageing and Disability Strategy*.

The main highlight for the quarter was Seniors Week held between the 13th to 20th March. To celebrate Seniors Week Council hosted a morning tea starring the Maddi Hill Duo on Monday March 14 at Rose Bay RSL. Winners of Council's very successful intergenerational writing and drawing contest, *My favourite older person!* were announced at the morning tea and entries were displayed in the Double Bay Children's Library and Paddington Library until Monday April 4.

Activities at Canonbury Cottage, McKell Park have slowly been gaining momentum. A monthly book club was established in March with 15 older residents signing up for membership. Council's ongoing partnership with South East Illawarra Area Health Service is actively promoting healthy ageing with 30 older Darling Point residents participating in weekly tai chi and gentle exercise classes. A weekly private booking is providing a venue for older residents to meet together to play bridge.

5.5 Leisure & Cultural Development

This sub-activity includes cultural events and cultural development activities. All management plan activities are on target. A major highlight of the area was the successful presentation of a community event, held at Woollahra Council Chambers, to celebrate 2005 Australia Day. This free community event attracted approximately 500 attendees and followed on from an Australia Day citizenship ceremony. Local community organisations including the Rotary Club of Rose Bay, Woollahra - Vaucluse, Lions Club, Miroma, Girl Guides, Holdsworth Street Community Centre and the Randwick and District Historical Society participated by providing activity. The event also had a fundraising component which saw the Council provide Red Cross with \$2, 879.15 towards the Asian Tsunami Appeal.

In February 2005, Critical Path launched their nine-month dance development program for the Council managed Drill Hall. Approximately 200 members of the arts and dance community attended this event.

Planning for the 2005 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize commenced. John Stringer, Curator of the Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth) and William Wright AM were confirmed as judges and some sponsorship for the Prize was secured.

Planning and development work commenced on 2005 Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week and the Biannual Garden Awards. The Eastern Region Local Government and Torres Strait Islander Forum, of which Woollahra Council is a member, called for entries for the 2005 Pauline McCleod Reconciliation Awards and the 2005 Reconciliation Week Primary Schools Art Competition.

5.5 Environment & Public Health

The activities and projects listed under this sub-activity aim to protect the health and well being of residents and visitors to our area.

560 health premises are currently recorded for the area, with 387 of these handling, preparing and or selling food. Council's Environmental Health Officers endeavour to inspect all food premises twice a year. The remaining 173 premises include hairdressers, beauty saloons and skin penetrators and are inspected at least once a year.

Specifically during the quarter;

- 258 food and health premises were inspected as part of our Food Safety and Public Health Program;
- 10 food related notices were issued;
- 50 babies were immunised under our Childhood Immunisation Program, representing a reduction of approximately 26.5% and 13.8% on our first and second quarter results, respectively;
- 58 pollution related matters were investigated, as part of our Pollution Control Program, representing an increase of approximately 61% on the previous quarter; and
- 20 notices/orders were issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*

5.6 Ranger Services

Council's Rangers provide a variety of enforcement services to ensure the public safety and convenience of our community in relation to the use of public places. During the quarter;

- 118 abandoned vehicle matters were investigated, an increase of 18% on the previous quarter;
- 19 road and footpath obstruction matters were investigated;

- 8 private skip bin matters were investigated;
- 7 littering fines were issued;
- 108 companion animals were registered on the New South Wales Companion Animals Register for our area;
- 27 barking dog matters were investigated;
- 6 nuisance dog orders were issued; and
- 15 dog related fines were issued.

While the audit of all existing signage at Camp Cove, Watsons Bay Baths, Parsley Bay and Redleaf Pool was completed in the second quarter, the 'Beach Safety Signage' project has been delayed. However, as the swimming season is generally over and Council's life saving services at Camp Cove Beach finished on the last weekend in March 2005, a revised completion date for this project has been proposed.

To complete the project it is necessary to assess the existing beach signs against the following reference documents and determine what changes need to be made;

- *Water Safety Signage – Local Government (General) Amendment (Bathing Control Notices) Regulation 2002*;
- Australian Standard (AS) 2616 – "Design and Application of Water Safety Signs";
- Department of Local Government Practice Note No. 15 – Water Safety (revised September 2004); and
- Signs as Remote Supervision – Best Practice Manual Statewide (version 2 August 1999).

At the beginning of the quarter, the new community members of Council's Animal Advisory Committee were appointed. These members will service on the Animal Advisory Committee until September 2008. The first meeting of the new Committee was held on 16 February 2005.

Also at the beginning of the quarter the Council received a submission from the Historical Houses Trust indicating that the Trust did not agree with the Council's position on dog access to Vaocluse Beach and the adjoining beach paddock, which is part of the Vaocluse House estate. The Trust proposed to impose conflicting 'Conditions of Entry', which they would enforce. Council considered this matter before reaffirming its previous decision and deferring the erection of any regulatory signs to allow for further negotiations with the Trust.

Conclusion:

In summary, the projects detailed within the Community Services Principal Activity are well advanced and predominantly on track, except as otherwise noted.

Tim Tuxford
Manager Compliance

Kylie Walshe
Director Community Services

ANNEXURES:

1. March 2005 Quarterly Review Report - Community Services Principal Activity of the Management Plan