



Annual Report 2010/2011

Part 1 – Introduction/Overview of Council

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## What is the Annual Report?

Council's Annual Report is one of the key accountability mechanisms between Council and its community partners.

Based on extensive community consultation Council has developed our Community Strategic Plan "*Woollahra 2025 ... Our Community ... Our Place ... Our Plan*", presenting a 15 year vision for the future of the Woollahra Community.

*Woollahra 2025* is structured under five (5) broad themes and eleven (11) Goals, which represent the shared vision for Council and the community and sets clear strategies to meet this vision.

Council's *4 Year Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan (DPOP)* identifies the Priorities and Actions that respond to the Themes, Goals and Strategies in *Woollahra 2025*.

This Annual Report details Council's performance against the Actions outlined in the *Delivery Program 2009/2013 and Operational Plan 2010/2011*.

The Annual Report also includes a range of Statutory Information Council is required to report on under the Local Government Act 1993 and which is important for our community partners to know in order to assist their understanding of how Council is performing both as a business entity and community leader.

## How to interpret the information contained within this report?

The Annual Report 2010/11 is structured into seven (7) parts being:

- Part 1 – Introduction/Overview of Council
- Part 2 – Delivery Program & Operational Plan Report
- Part 3 – Statutory Information
- Part 4 – Financial Statements
- Part 5 – State of the Environment Report
- Part 6 – Capital Works
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## Message from Mayor & General Manager

In 2010 Woollahra Council celebrated its 150th anniversary and to commemorate this major milestone we held a range of special events including a commemorative Council meeting; Mayoral reception; historical photographic display; heritage walk around the municipality; and a Youth Photographic Prize titled Our History.

Council continues to pursue the community's long term vision for the Municipality developed through the Community Strategic Plan – Woollahra 2025...Our community...Our place...Our plan and supported by the Delivery Program (2009 - 2013) and Operational Plan (2010 – 2011).

In 2010/2011, we are very pleased to have been able to complete stage two of the Gap Park upgrade. This \$2.2 million project was funded jointly by the Federal Government which provided a \$1.5 million grant with Council contributing \$700,000. The works enhanced Gap Park's reputation as a premier tourist destination and incorporated a range of suicide prevention strategies. Council worked closely with the community, NSW Police, Lifeline and the Black Dog Institute to reduce the incidence of suicide at this location and it is a great example of what can be done when the community, Council and other levels of Government work together to achieve a common goal.

Council's achievements at Gap Park were recognised by being awarded a Suicide Prevention Australia LIFE Award September 2011.

Another milestone event in 2010 was the 10th anniversary of the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize which received a record number of 552 entries from across the globe. This was also the first time that an Indigenous artist, won the prize. Archie Moore took this honour in 2010 for his carefully crafted paper sculpture Humpy Goona.

The historic Watsons Bay Baths was upgraded to include a new Olympic-style pool, boardwalk, improved seating, larger swimming area and wheelchair access. To complete the project, Council commissioned local artists Clary Akon and Juan Pablo-Pinto to create a 25 metre maritime sculpture capturing the unique character of the baths.

In January 2011, Woollahra Council donated \$10,000 to the Queensland Premier's Flood Relief Appeal and provided support to the Rose Bay Flood Relief Appeal which raised nearly \$1 million for flood victims in Qld and NSW. This was a great example of how Council and the community can work closely together to help those in need.

The year was also significant in forward planning with Council adopting a Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan, and Asset Management Plan to ensure that Council is able to meet the challenges of the future. These important documents support our other strategic planning documents in planning for the future of our Municipality.

We would like to pay tribute to the Council staff who have worked tirelessly over the past year to deliver the excellent services, programs and initiatives to our community.

Finally, we would also like to thank our local community groups and volunteers who generously donate their time and resources to support our wonderful Municipality.



Cr Susan Wynne  
Mayor



Gary James  
General Manager

## Our Municipality

The Woollahra Municipality is located in Sydney's eastern suburbs, about 5 kilometres from the Sydney GPO.

The Municipality is bounded by Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) in the north, the Waverley Council area in the east, Randwick City in the south and the City of Sydney in the west. The Woollahra Municipality includes the suburbs of Bellevue Hill, Darling Point, Double Bay, Edgecliff, Paddington (part), Point Piper, Rose Bay (part), Vaucluse (part), Watsons Bay and Woollahra.

Woollahra is thought to be named from an Aboriginal word meaning "meeting ground".

The Woollahra Municipality is a predominantly residential area, with some commercial land use, parklands and a military reserve. The Municipality encompasses a total land area of 12 square kilometres, including harbour foreshore and beaches.

The original inhabitants of the Woollahra area were the Cadigal and Birrabirragal Aboriginal people.

European settlement dates from 1790, although development was minimal until the 1860s. Land was used mainly for dairy farming and market gardening, with some fishing. Expansion took place

in the 1880s and 1890s, continuing into the early 1900s and the inter-war period. Significant development occurred during the immediate post-war years, from the 1950s to the mid 1960s. The population has gradually declined since the late 1960s, falling from 63,000 in 1966 to 53,000 in 1976 and then to 51,000 in 1986. The population has remained relatively stable since the early 1990s, at around 50,000. Most new development in the area is redevelopment (mixed used developments) and infill (medium/high density housing). The most recent census data calculated in 2010 estimates the population of our Municipality to be 56,005.

Natural features of the Municipality include 16 kms of harbour foreshore consisting of rocky headlands, coastal cliffs and beaches, approx. 30 hectares of bushland located in 5 reserves with 3 vegetation communities containing over 300 plant species including 2 threatened and 1 vulnerable species.

Woollahra is also the location of some of Sydney's premier shopping precincts such as Double Bay, Paddington, Rose Bay and Queen Street Woollahra.

Other prominent features include Sydney Harbour National Park, the Macquarie Lighthouse and the award winning Rose Bay Promenade.



*Municipality Memorabilia from 150th Years Celebration*

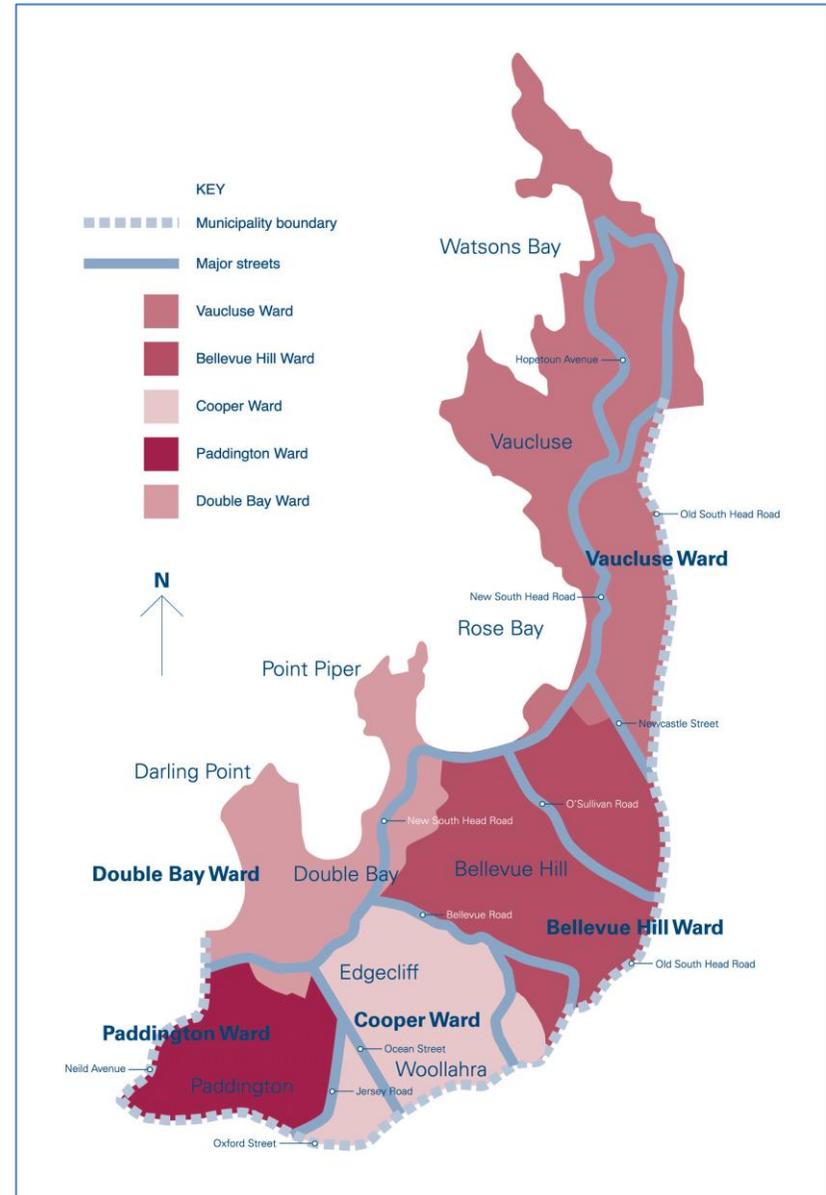
## Our Council

The Woollahra Local Government Area is divided into five electoral wards: Bellevue Hill, Cooper, Double Bay, Paddington and Vaucluse, each of which is represented by three Councillors.

The Councillors meet each week at different Committees and twice a month in a full Council meeting, to consider reports presented to them by the Council staff. These meetings are open to the public. Information on upcoming meetings is available on Council's website [www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

The formal Committee Structure of Council is supported by a range of Advisory Committees in Working Parties that provides a wider opportunity for community involvement in the Council decision making process.

Woollahra Council is committed to the principles of access and equity. We are continually working towards improving equal access to our services and facilities to all who live, work and visit the area. Council undertakes community planning to enable a strategic and logistic approach to access.



Wards - Woollahra Local Government Area

## Our Charter

The Council's Charter as prescribed in the Local Government Act 1993 is:

- to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- to exercise community leadership
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism
- to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
- to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions
- to bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively plan for, account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- to engage in long-term strategic planning on behalf of the local community
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and promotes social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights

- to facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government
- to raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants
- to keep the local community and the State government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities
- to ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the council is affected
- to be a responsible employer.

In response to this Charter, Council has developed the following vision statement:

### *Our vision statement:*

- Woollahra will be a great place to live, work and visit where places and spaces are safe, clean and well maintained.
- Our community will offer a unique mix of urban villages with a good range of shops, services and facilities.
- We will make the most of the natural beauty, leafy streetscapes, open spaces, views and proximity to the water and the city.

## Our Councillors

Our community is represented by fifteen Councillors, elected to Council in September 2008 for a four year term. There are five electoral wards, with three Councillors for each Ward.

Bellevue Hill Ward	Cooper Ward	Double Bay Ward	Paddington Ward	Vaucluse Ward
<p><b>Cr Sean Carmichael</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Andrew Petrie</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Chris Howe</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Peter Cavanagh</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Anthony Boskovitz</b></p> 
<p><b>Cr Nicola Grieve</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr David Shoebridge</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Ian Plater</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Susan Jarnason</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Lucienne Edelman</b></p> 
<p><b>Cr Isabelle Shapiro</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Malcolm Young</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Toni Zeltzer (Deputy Mayor)</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Greg Medcraft</b></p> 	<p><b>Cr Susan Wynne (Mayor)</b></p> 

## Our Organisation

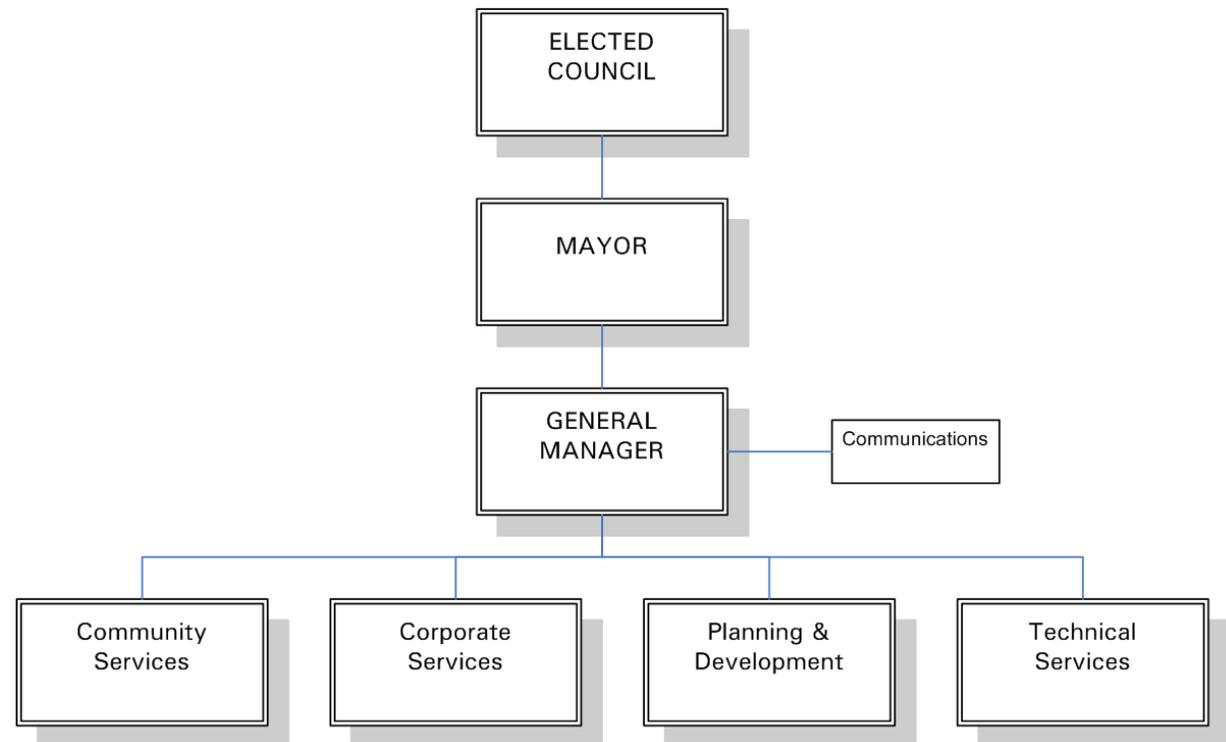
Our organisation is structured into four Divisions:

- Community Services
- Corporate Services
- Planning and Development
- Technical Services

There is also a Communications Department that reports directly to the General Manager.

Services we provide include:

- Asset management
- Capital works
- Community and cultural development
- Development assessment
- Environmental health and building control
- Recreation and open space management
- Urban planning



Internal services under the Corporate Services Division include Customer Services, Finance and Accounts, Organisational Development and Human Resources, Risk Management, Information Systems, Document Management and Governance.

For more information on our facilities, projects, or services, please contact our:

Customer Service Centre on 9391 7000  
 Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm  
 or visit Council's website [www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

## Our Values & Our Commitment

Woollahra Municipal Council is committed to the following values:



## Our Future Direction

On 1 October 2009, the NSW Government adopted new integrated planning and reporting legislation for local councils, requiring each council to develop a Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan and a Resourcing Strategy.

Council's *Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework* in response to this legislation is demonstrated in the diagram below.

