



Part 1 Introduction/Overview of Council Annual Report 2012/13

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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 2012/2013*.

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 2012/13 is structured into 9, 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 - Capital Works
- Part 6 - Environmental & Infrastructure Works Report
- Part 7 - Environmental Report Card
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Message from the General Manager, Gary James

I am pleased to report on the robust state of our finances, reinforced by favourable auditor reports and statements. During the 2012-13 financial period Woollahra Council invested a significant proportion of its funding and resources to asset management with a view to improving the quality of infrastructure and buildings in our municipality.

There have been marked improvements in the condition of all major infrastructure assets (footpaths, roads, kerb and gutters, stormwater and drainage systems, retaining walls and seawalls) demonstrated in the 2012/13 condition survey, compared with a similar survey conducted in 2007/08. These annual improvements are a direct result of the \$6M spent on infrastructure maintenance and replacement. An additional \$13.7M is required to bring all our infrastructure up to a satisfactory standard and this will be the focus of our long term financial planning.

Beyond our infrastructure and extending into our cultural and community asset building initiatives, Woollahra Council allocated \$60,275,44 through the community grants program. These grants help local community-based organisations and schools deliver their programs and projects. Council also provided \$833,800 to help fund services provided by Holdsworth Community. Holdsworth offer a range of programs that respond to the needs of all residents especially people disadvantaged by age, income, disability or social isolation, and to families with young children. An additional \$806,000 was allocated to fund building and construction works at the Gaden Centre, which will provide merged services previously provided by Woollahra Meals on Wheels and the Woollahra Seniors and Community Centre. This facility will provide an enhanced outreach program for senior members living in our community and the exciting addition of a cafe for greater social engagement.

Environmental sustainability and education has also been a priority for Council during this financial period. Funds generated by the Environmental Levy have allowed for important progress in achieving biodiversity targets and effective pollution control and management.

Substantial progress has been made on the Kiaora Lands project with the first stage of the project due for completion in mid 2014. Stage one will see the opening of a new Woolworths supermarket, Thomas Dux, Dan Murphys, retail shops, a childcare centre and a public car park for 442 cars offering one hour free parking. Stage two of the project will deliver a new public library, retail arcade, commercial office space and a landscaped public plaza. Through our partnership with Woolworths Ltd we are working to deliver a project that will help revitalise the Double Bay commercial centre. At the completion of the project the site ownership is transferred to Council, representing a significant future asset for our local community.

The Council is working in close consultation with retailers, traders, property owners and local business representatives on the strategic development of other commercial precincts in the municipality including Queen Street, West Woollahra, Oxford Street Paddington and the Edgecliff village, with a view to supporting economic growth and creating places for locals and visitors to enjoy.

In addition to strategic planning in our commercial areas, we have made good progress delivering sustainable and well-designed neighbourhood planning through the preparation and public consultation on our Draft Woollahra LEP 2013. We are now working on a Draft Development Control Plan (DCP) for Woollahra to complement the LEP. Both planning documents aim to address State Government planning reforms and provide us with an

opportunity to consult widely with residents before reviewing and updating our planning controls.

This Annual Report provides a good summary of the diverse range of services we provide to the community. More information is available on our website. There is also an opportunity to subscribe to regular online news, information and event alerts.

I commend the Report to you and thank everyone who has been involved in working for and with Woollahra Council to deliver projects that meet the needs of our community and help provide a strong social, environmental and economic future for local residents and visitors to enjoy.



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 2011 has the population of our Municipality at 52,159.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population (ERP) of the Municipality in 2013 as 56,986.

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.

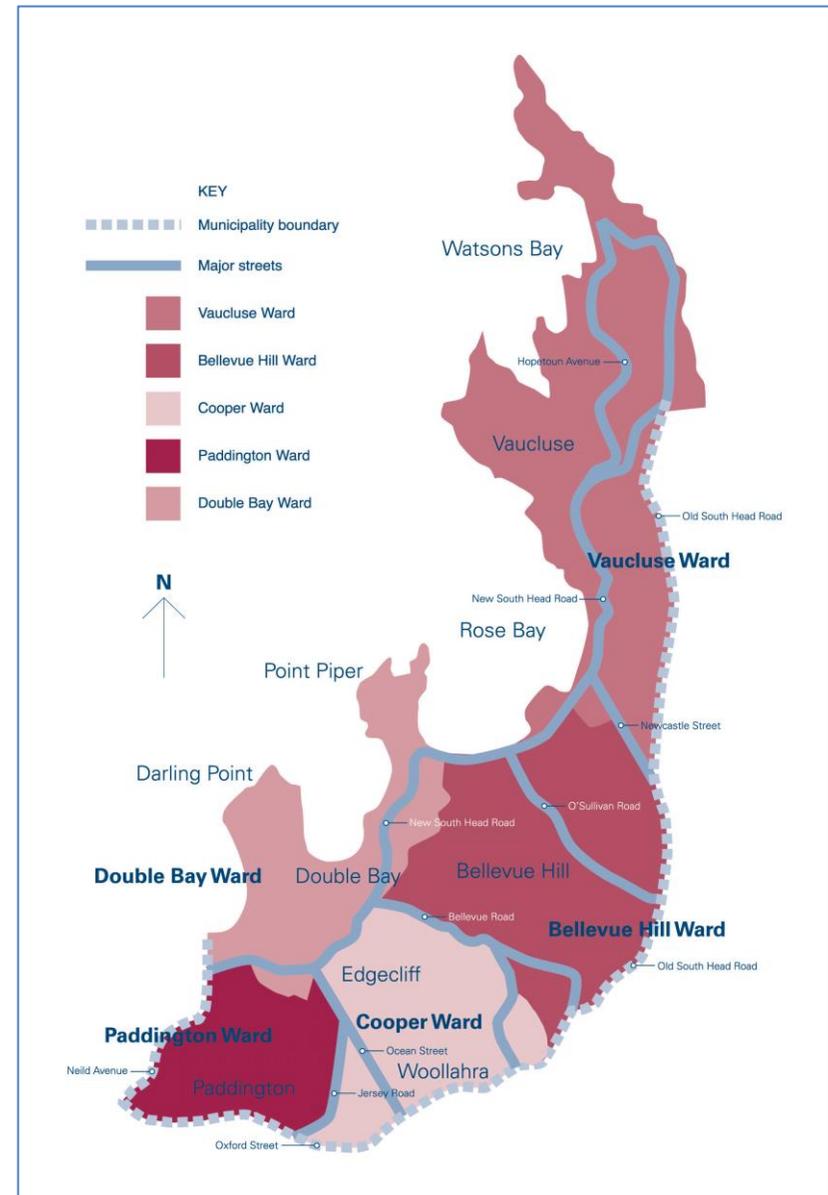
Our Council

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

The formal Committee Structure of Council is supported by a range of Advisory Committees and 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 was represented by fifteen Councillors, elected to Council in September 2012 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>Cr Greg Levenston</p> 	<p>Cr Luise Elsing</p> 	<p>Cr Elena Kirillova</p> 	<p>Cr Peter Cavanagh</p> 	<p>Cr Ted Bennett</p> 
<p>Cr Andrew Petrie</p> 	<p>Cr Anthony Marano</p> 	<p>Cr Deborah Thomas</p> 	<p>Cr Matthew Robertson</p> 	<p>Cr Anthony Boskovitz</p> 
<p>Cr Jeff Zulman</p> 	<p>Cr Katherine O'Regan (Deputy Mayor)</p> 	<p>Cr Toni Zeltzer (Mayor)</p> 	<p>Cr Elena Wise</p> 	<p>Cr Susan Wynne</p> 

Our Organisation

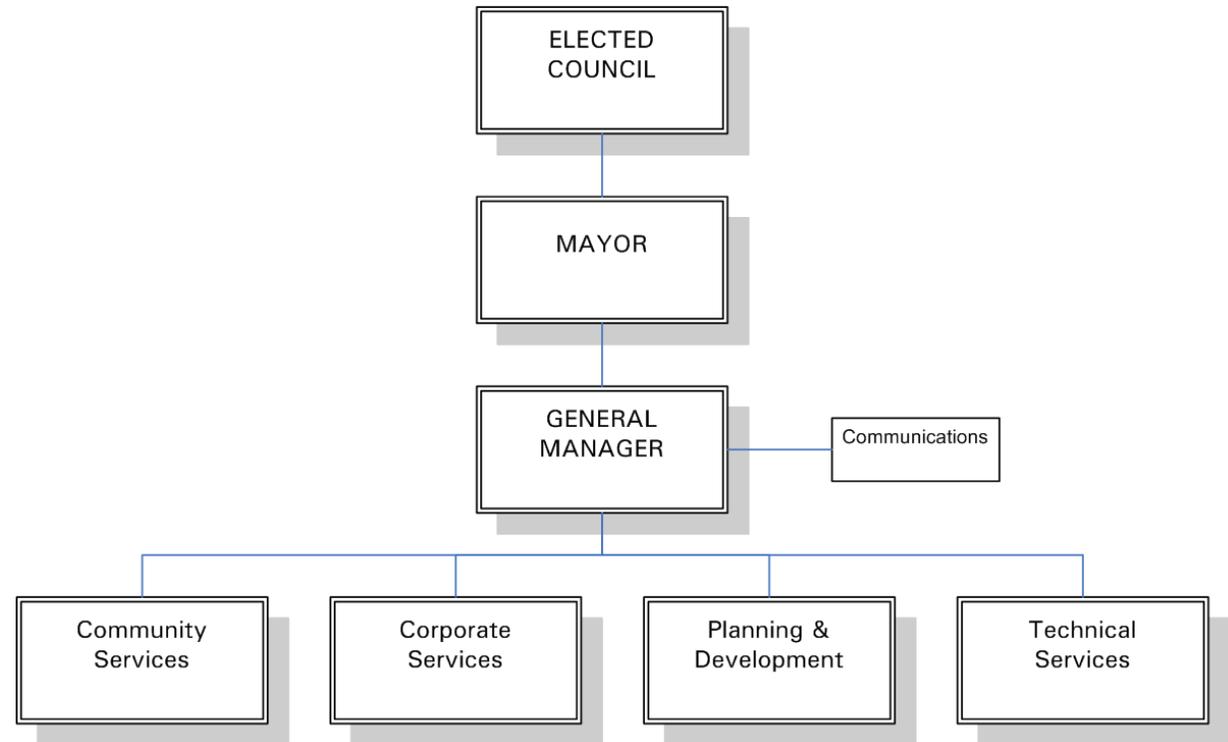
Our organisation is structured into four Divisions:

- 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, Business Assurance and Risk Management, Information Systems, Document Management and Governance.

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

Customer Information Centre on 9391 7000
 Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm
 or visit Council’s website 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.

