

Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Monday 14 November 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

10 November 2005

To: The Mayor, Councillor Andrew Petrie, ex-officio
Councillors Anthony Boskovitz (Chair)
 Claudia Cullen
 Marcus Ehrlich
 Tanya Excell
 Julian Martin
 Fiona Sinclair King
 John Walker

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 14 November 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 14 November 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 31 October 2005 | 1 |
| D2 | Woollahra Traffic Committee Minutes – 1 November 2005 | 2 |
| D3 | Library Report for the Quarter, July to September 2005 – 48.G | 12 |
| D4 | Woollahra Golf Course Wetland Proposal – 221.G | 20 |
| D5 | Sydney Coastal Councils Group – Technical Committee Minutes – 814.G | 32 |

Items to be Submitted to the Council for Decision with Recommendations from this Committee

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| R1 | Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005 – 883.G | 68 |
| R2 | Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabee Park & Plantation Reserve Plan of Management (2005) – 211.G | 103 |

Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 31 October 2005**
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 31 October 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 31 October 2005 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager - Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Woollahra Traffic Committee Minutes - 1 November 2005**
Author: Warwick Hatton, Director – Technical Services
File No: See Traffic Committee Minutes
Reason for Report: For the Committee to consider the recommendations of the Woollahra Traffic Committee.

Recommendation:

THAT the Recommendations contained in the minutes of the Woollahra Traffic Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 November 2005, Items Y1-Y10 be adopted.

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 1 November 2005 at 10.00am.

1. Attendances

Committee Members:

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Present: | Mr Warwick Hatton (Chairman) | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| | Mr Navin Prasad | (Roads and Traffic Authority) |
| | Ms Robyn Attuell | (Clover Moore MP Representative) |
| | Snr Const Stuart Saving | (Rose Bay Police) |
| | Snr Const Andrew Clark | (Rose Bay Police) |
| | Mr Eric Yeung | (Sydney Buses) |
| Staff: | Mr Alan Opera | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| | Mr Frank Rotta | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| | Ms Armodee Reece | (Woollahra Municipal Council) |
| Absent: | Ms Carol Freeman | (Peter Debnam MP Representative) |

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of Meeting No.09/05 held in Council Chambers, Double Bay, on Tuesday 4 October 2005 were confirmed by Mr Navin Prasad.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings

Nil

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

Nil

5. Extraordinary Meetings

LTC Item Y4: 7-13 Dover Road (Wilberforce Avenue), Rose Bay – Works Zone

6. Late Item/Correspondence

Late Correspondence: Petition received in support of Item Y1-6: Flinton Street, Paddington

Late Item – Item Y9: New Year's Eve, 31 December 2005 – Alteration in Watsons Bay Bus Service

Late Item – Item Y10: 24 New South Head Road, Vaucluse – Works Zone

7. 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: Greg Stewart – Manager Public Infrastructure

File No: (Refer to Table 1)

Reason for Report: Various parking restriction changes throughout the Woollahra Council area.

Recommendation:

Item Y1-1: Mahoney Lane (Reddy Street), Edgecliff – Relocation of ‘No Parking’ sign

1. That the ‘No Parking’ (Arrow Right) sign and stem on the southern side of Mahoney Lane (Reddy Street) across the road from the rear access to No.85 New South Head Road, Edgecliff be moved 2 metres in an easterly direction, just west of the driveway to the private open car park at this location.

Item Y1-2: Rush Street, Woollahra – Provision of additional Permit Parking spaces

1. That 3 (16.5m) ‘1HR Parking 8.00am-11.00pm Mon-Sun Permit Holders Excepted Area Padd4’ spaces be installed on the northern side of Rush Street, Woollahra, from 45.4 metres west of the western kerb line of Moncur Street to 61.9 metres west of the western kerb line of Moncur Street, Woollahra.

Item Y1-3: Hargrave Street, Paddington – Reconfiguration of Bus Zone

1. That the Bus Zone on the northern side of Hargrave Street east of Elizabeth Street be shortened by 6 metres by relocating the existing ‘Bus Zone’ (Arrow Left) sign and stem on the eastern side of this zone 6 metres in a westerly direction.

Item Y1-4: Tivoli Avenue, Rose Bay – Request for Disabled Parking zone

1. That a ‘Disabled Persons Parking’ zone be installed from the southern end of the vehicular access to No.4 Tivoli Avenue for a distance of 6 metres in a southerly direction.
2. That the zone be relocated to the northern side of the vehicular access to No.4 Tivoli Avenue when the Traffic Control Lights are installed at this intersection.
3. That the applicant be advised of Part 2. above.
4. That the applicant be advised that the approval is for one (1) year only. Should the applicant wish to extend this period it will be necessary to advise Council 1 month prior to the expiry date of this Disabled Persons parking zone.

Item Y1-5: Transvaal Avenue, Double Bay – Provision of Permit Holders Excepted parking spaces

1. That the redundant 3P meter parking sign on ELP SY12522 on the western side of Transvaal Avenue, 59.4m north of the northern building alignment of Cross Street, be removed.
2. That ‘3P Meter Parking 9.00am-6.00pm Mon-Sat Holidays Excepted’ be retained on the western side of Transvaal Avenue between ELP SY12522 and a new stem 68.0m north of the northern building alignment of Cross Street be installed.
3. That ‘3P Meter Parking 9.00am-6.00pm Mon-Sat Public Holidays Excepted, Permit Holders Excepted, Area DBAY’ be introduced on the western side of Transvaal Avenue between 68.0m and 80.0m north of the northern building alignment of Cross Street.

Item Y1-6: Flinton Street, Paddington – Statutory ‘No Stopping’ on right angle corner

1. That ‘No Stopping’ zones be installed for 4.1 metres either side of the right angle bend in Flinton Street outside No.28 Flinton Street, Paddington.
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Item No: Y2 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.
Subject: **Russell Street, Woollahra – Request for Resident Permit Parking**
Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer
File No: 520.
Reason for Report: Request from residents of Russell Street, Woollahra for the introduction of Resident Permit Parking Scheme.

Recommendation:

- A. That the residents of Russell Street be advised that the introduction of a Permit Parking Scheme is not warranted at this time due to:
 - i) the availability of parking spaces in the street during the peak commuter period and employment hours of the Bondi Junction shopping area
 - ii) the low parking availability during the time when peak resident usage is expected
 - iii) a Permit Parking Scheme in Russell Street would provide no benefit to residents.
-

Item No: Y3 Traffic Matters on State Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration
Subject: **Intersection of Broughton Street & Hopetoun Street, Paddington – Request for Street Mirrors**
Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer
File No: 60. / 242.
Reason for Report: To gain Traffic Committee’s concurrence for recommended action at this location.

Recommendation:

- A. That no action be taken to provide a mirror or any other recognised traffic facility at the intersection of Hopetoun Street & Broughton Street, Paddington.
-

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

Subject: **Intersection of Queen Street & Moncur Street, Woollahra – Kerb Blister Island**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: T373

Reason for Report: Response to a request from Sydney Buses to maintain left turn manoeuvre for buses from Moncur Street into Queen Street, Woollahra.

Recommendation:

- A. That a concrete kerb blister island with granite sets be provided on the northern side of Queen Street just east of Moncur Street, Woollahra,
- B. That a ‘Chevron’ sign (G9-243A) be located on the blister island (facing west).
- C. That the residents/shopkeepers within one block of this location be advised of Council’s intention to install this island.

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

Subject: **26 Forest Road (Kiaora Road), Double Bay – Works Zone**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: 407.G Pt 6

Reason for Report: Request 6m Works Zone for 4 weeks.

Recommendation:

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed for No.26 Forest Road, Double Bay. The length of the proposed Works Zone is to be 6 metres, and it is to be located on the western side of Kiaora Road from the northern side of the vehicular access to No.26 Forest Road for 6 metres in a southerly direction in Kiaora Road. This Works Zone will incorporate the existing vehicular access for this property 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 7.00am -1.00pm Sat, for a period of 4 weeks commencing 28 November 2005.
 - iii. Existing parking restrictions are to be maintained outside of the operational hours of the Works Zone.
 - iv. Suitable traffic control measures are to be put in place to manage truck movements to and from the excavation site.
 - 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 a residential area. 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 adjacent residents and business owners by a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.

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

Subject: 82 Holdsworth Street, Woollahra – Works Zone

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: 407.G Pt6

Reason for Report: Request 6m Works Zone for 4 weeks.

Recommendation:

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed for No.82 Holdsworth Street, Woollahra. The length of the proposed Works Zone is to be 6 metres, and it is to be located on the western side of Holdsworth Street centrally located across the property's frontage which is approximately 3.7 metres wide 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-3.30pm Mon-Fri only for a period of 4 weeks commencing 1 February 2006.
 - iii. Existing parking restrictions are to be maintained outside of the operational hours of the Works Zone.
 - iv. Suitable traffic control measures are to be put in place to manage truck movements to and from the excavation site.
 - 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 a residential area. 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 adjacent residents and business owners by a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.

Item No: Y7 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration
Subject: 3-11 Roylston Street, Paddington – Works Zone
Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer
File No: 407.G Pt6
Reason for Report: Request 6m Works Zone for 26 weeks.

Recommendation:

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed for No.3 Roylston Street, Paddington. The length of the proposed Works Zone is to be 8.9 metres, and it is to be located on the eastern side of Roylston Street from 2.9metres north of the prolongation of the common boundary between 11 & 13 Roylston Street for a distance of 8.9 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 7.00am – 1.00pm Sat, for a period of 26 weeks commencing 21 November 2006.
 - iii. Existing parking restrictions are to be maintained outside of the operational hours of the Works Zone.
 - iv. Suitable traffic control measures are to be put in place to manage truck movements to and from the excavation site.
 - 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 a residential area. 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 adjacent residents and business owners by a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.
- C. That the driveway area to the north of the zone become unrestricted 90 degree angle parking.
- D. That the area of the Works Zone become unrestricted 90 degree angle parking when the Works Zone is removed.

Item No: Y8 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **Woollahra Fire Station – Hoarding Application in Chiswick Lane adjacent to Station Building**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: 171.

Reason for Report: Repairs and maintenance required to windows and gutters to Chiswick Lane frontage of Forth Street Fire Station – Scaffolding required – Provision of temporary signposting & traffic conditions.

Recommendation:

- A. That the proposal to provide a hoarding in Chiswick Lane, Woollahra adjacent to the Woollahra Fire Station be approved subject to the following conditions:
- i) One length of Jersey Kerb is to be provided at each end of the scaffolding to direct the traffic through this section of lane and along the entire length of the scaffolding to protect it from through traffic.
 - ii) Temporary ‘No Stopping’ restrictions are to be placed on both sides of Chiswick Lane from Forth Street to the northern side of the vehicular access to the Fire Station Yard.
 - iii) A hoarding application being lodged with and approved by Council and the applicant complying with any and all conditions required by this approval.
 - iv) Lights being provided for the full extent of the Jersey Kerb and scaffolding to alert motorists of the presence of this structure from sunset to sunrise for the time that the scaffolding is in place.
 - v) Council to be indemnified against all claims for damage or injury that may result from either the activities or from the occupation of part of the public way during the activities. A copy of Public Liability Insurance Cover to the value of \$10,000,000 shall be provided to Council prior to the implementation of the works.
 - vi) That the applicant letterbox drop all properties which have a frontage to Chiswick Lane.
 - vii) That the applicant reinstate the lane to its previous condition including signposting following completion of the works.

LATE ITEM

Item No: Y9 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **New Years Eve, 31 December 2005 – Alteration in Watsons Bay bus service**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: 261.G Part 6

Reason for Report: Establishment of temporary Bus Terminus on eastern side of Old South Head Road between Robertson Place and Salisbury Road.

Recommendation:

- A. That State Transit be advised that there is no objection to the temporary relocation (7.00pm 31 December, 2005 to 2.00am 1 January, 2006) of their Watsons Bay bus terminus from both sides of Military Road, adjacent to Robertson Reserve to the eastern side of Old South Head Road between Salisbury Street and Robertson Place subject to:

- i) State Transit advising all of the property owners and the Church adjacent to the existing and proposed bus zones of these arrangements.
 - ii) State Transit staff providing the necessary signposting for this temporary bus zone for the appropriate time periods.
- B. That State Transit be advised that there is no objection to the temporary diversion of the bus service from Old South Head Road, turning left into Salisbury Street, turning right into Hopetoun Avenue, then right again into Old South Head Road to set down at the temporary terminus between 7.00pm on 31 December, 2005 and 2.00am on 1 January, 2006.
- C. That the matter of a Special Event Clearway in Old South Head Road be referred by the STA to the RTA's Traffic Management Centre.

LATE ITEM

Item No: Y10 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **24 New South Head Road, Vacluse - Works Zone**

Author: Frank Rotta – Traffic Engineer

File No: 407.G Pt4

Reason for Report: Works Zone alteration received from Italbuild Constructions associated with the site at 24 New South Head Road, Vacluse

Recommendation:

- A. That approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed along the frontage of 24 New South Head Road, Vacluse. The length of the proposed Works Zone is to be 9 metres and incorporates the easternmost driveway of this property and is subject to the following conditions:
- i. Approval from the RTA to be obtained for a 'Road Occupancy Licence' and sighted by Council, before any Works Zone signs are installed.
 - ii. Any directive provided by the NSW Police Department is to be complied with.
 - iii. The Works Zone is to operate between the hours of 7.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri, 7.00am-1.00pm Sat for a period of 44 weeks commencing mid November, 2005 to the end of August, 2006.
 - iv. The applicant is to provide details of the traffic control to be provided when cranes, concrete pumps and other machinery are standing in New South Head Road.
 - 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 a residential area. 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 adjacent residents and business owners by a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.
-

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.55am.

Warwick Hatton
Chair

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Library Report for the Quarter, July to September 2005**
Author: Faye Lawrence - Manager Library Services
File No: 48.G
Reason for Report: To review the library operation for the quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2005.

Recommendation:

1. That the report of the library service for the quarter 1 July to 30 September 2005 be received and noted.

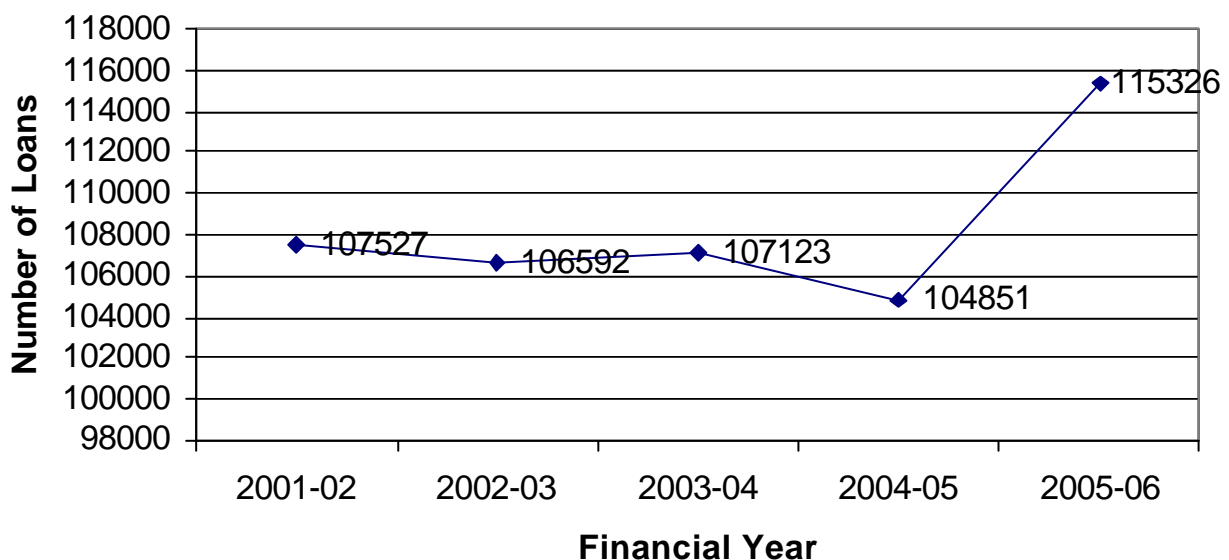
This report reviews activities and projects for the quarter July to September 2005 with attached statistics compared with the same quarter for the previous year, 2004. A five year trend line of circulation for the whole service for this quarter is also included.

1. Circulation Statistics from July to September 2005

1A. Overall Circulation:

There was an increase in circulation for the library service of 10% for this quarter when compared with the previous year July to September 2004.

Woollahra Library Circulation - July to September 2001-2006



A summary of the information from the graph is:

1. The circulation for the first quarter 1 July to 30 September 2005 has shown a significant increase of 10% on the 2004 circulation.
2. The circulation over five years for the first quarter, July to September shows a 7.25% increase change over the five years which represents 7,799 items.

1B. Circulation by Branch

When looking at each branch location the following breakdown applied for the quarter on the one year comparison, 2005 with 2004.

- Double Bay Central Library increased by 11.25% (84,792 for 2005 compared with 76,220)
- Paddington Branch Library increased by 5.8% (25,557 for 2005 compared with 24,165)
- Watsons Bay Branch Library increased by 21% (4,977 for 2005 compared with 4,111)

For each of the branches the increase was mostly due to the increase in book circulation. The adult book circulation for instance, increased by 21% across the libraries with each location recording a significant increase or 60,982 lent compared with 50,528 in 2004.

These results will be monitored further in the following period with satisfaction and preferred levels for the collection checked through a user survey later in the financial year.

Watsons Bay Branch recorded the highest percentage increase in circulation of 21%. In the last report for the previous year, Watsons Bay Branch was noted as having a significant decrease in circulation for the twelve month period.

Precise reasons for these changes can be difficult to pin-point, however it can be stated that there has been a concerted effort over the previous six months to reduce out-of-date stock in each of the libraries in order to highlight the availability of new stock on the shelves.

2. Services Other Than Circulation

2A. Reference and Information Services

The total number of reference enquiries was about the same as for 2004 or 6,910 compared with 6,930.

These enquiries are requests for library based information, face to face and via the telephone or email. The main service points are two at Double Bay for Adult and Children service areas, Paddington Library, telephone and email.

Electronic Information Service

On-line database statistics continue to show an increased usage with about 100% more logins recorded in the libraries and for remote/home access or 858 compared with 447 in 2004.

The most popular databases for dial in access were:

- Kinetica (The National Library bibliographic databases);
- Literature Resource Centre;
- Health and Wellness;
- APAFT – Australian Public Affairs;
- ANZRC – Australian and New Zealand Reference;
- Science Resource Centre;
- Britannica Online.

Website Development

Among additional pages added to the Library website in this quarter were several Parks and Reserves information sheets – updated and revised by the Local History Librarians. Completed in the particular review programme so far are:

- Chiswick Gardens;
- Gap Park;
- McKell Park;
- Parsley Bay;
- Robertson Park.

Local History Centre – July to September 2005

The following table summarises enquiries at the centre by broad category.

| Inquiry Type | Number |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Council Offices and consultants | 54 |
| Property Inquiries | 240 |
| Commissioned Property Reports | 8 |
| Local History | 136 |
| Family History | 70 |
| Assistance with equipment/catalogue | 42 |
| Other | 44 |
| Total | 594 |

More specifically, staff responded to queries on searches in relation to areas such as:

- Legal claims;
- History of facilities;
- Commission researched on heritage properties;
- Media requests for newspaper articles and television program materials.

Collection development – Local History

- Local History Centre received a donation of original plans of a number of residential flat buildings of the builder Henry Rogers dating to 1930s and 40s. The plans cover sites in Bellevue Hill, Woollahra and Double Bay.
- A further installment of the Vaucluse Progress Association Archives was received.

Council Archives

The Local History staff have worked with Council's Records department to incorporate into the Records system the City of Sydney BA plans of Paddington which came across to Woollahra Council at the time of the 1968 amalgamation. These plans were lodged with the Local History Centre at the time of the Redleaf renovations. The Local History Centre then listed and boxed these plans which were then made available at the Local History Centre. These plans have now been bar-coded and sent to Kingswood for storage along with Council's other BA plans.

Volunteers

Three (3) volunteers are working on Wednesday mornings in the Centre. The volunteers are helping with the filing of research files and photographs; with tidying, sorting and filing of the vertical files and with clippings of the newspapers for the vertical files. The Oral History volunteer program is continuing.

Community Information

A total of 645 searches were made in the quarter on the LINCS community information database. The top most popular searches were Community Facilities (55), Community Events (40), Population groups (34), Leisure (33) and Arts and Culture (24).

The *What's On* calendar is produced each month by the Community Information Librarian. This is posted to a mailing list and is available on the website. A survey is being prepared for the December mail-out to access benefits and usefulness of this product.

A significant activity in this quarter was the development of a New Residents Kit in conjunction with the Communications Unit. 124 New Residents Kits were posted out as a pilot in July and August.

2B. Cultural Events

Writers & Readers series

July – Author Paul Ham and Kokoda hero Major General Paul Cullen talked to Andrea Stretton about Paul Ham's book *Kokoda : The Definitive Account* and the recent biography of Paul Cullen by Kevin Baker, *Paul Cullen : Soldier and Citizen*. One of our most successful Writers & Readers – totally booked out.

August – In the lead up to Woollahra Garden Week, Andrew Pfeiffer, author, Double Bay local and internationally celebrated garden designer gave a talk and slide show featuring his local and international garden design projects – well attended.

September – Art historians Eileen Chanin and Steven Miller talked to Andrea Stretton about their new book *Degenerates and Perverts* which has been short-listed for the 2005 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards and the NSW Premier's 2005 History Awards – well attended.

2005 Woollahra Council Youth Photographic Award

The 12th Woollahra Council Youth Photographic Award, which is jointly sponsored by Woollahra Council, the Waverley Woollahra Arts Centre and more recently supported by Zonta Club Sydney East, attracted 89 photographic entries and 26 short films.

The prize presentation evening and short film screening took place on Wednesday 12 September at the Council and was well attended by local high school students who had entered work, their parents and teachers. The photographs and DVD of the short films remained on display in the Customer Services area of Council for a week and then moved to Paddington Library for display.

Spring Book fair

The Library held a very successful book fair on Saturday 24 September in the Blackburn Gardens with an income over \$4,000 resulting from a busy day with strong community participation.

2C. Children's Services

Children's Book Week

A highlight in this quarter was Children's Book Week in 22-28 August. For this special annual event a competition was devised and sent out to all primary schools in the municipality.

Children were asked to write or make a postcard about a favourite holiday place in Australia. Very high quality, diverse and imaginative responses were typical of the 828 entries received. The competition was judged by local children's author Moya Simons. The Mayor presented book voucher prizes at the end of the week with a good attendance.

Paddington Library had a particularly successful week with school classes attending from Glenmore Road Primary, Paddington Primary, St Francis of Assisi Primary, Temple Emanuel Child Care and Paddington Child care.

The class visits at both Paddington and Double Bay were used to promote the books which were short listed by the Children's Book of Australia and the Library Service. A total of 1,142 children came to the libraries as part of this school promotional programme in that week.

Story time in the Libraries

The story time programme is a core part of Library's activities. The aim is to enrich the younger child's experience in the library and enhance literacy. The following tables set out the number of children involved for the different sessions at the locations throughout the municipality.

| Paddington Library | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Story time Sessions | Number of Sessions | Number of Children |
| Toddler Story Time (Friday) | 12 | 173 |
| Story Time (Thursday) | 12 | 150 |
| Total | 24 | 323 |

| Holdsworth Street Community Centre | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Story time Sessions | Number of Sessions | Number of Children |
| Pre-school Children (Tuesday) | 10 | 151 |

| Double Bay Library | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Story time Sessions | Number of Sessions | Number of Children |
| Pre-school & Primary School Children (Wednesday) | 10 | 104 |
| Playgroup – Pre-school Children (Friday) | 3 | 70 |
| Special National simultaneous story time (Friday 2/9/05) – Several sessions | 1 day | 63 |
| Total | 14 | 237 |

3. Conclusion

In the first quarter of the year July to September 2005, the library had a very busy programme. Lending statistics were up when compared with the quarter for 2004 by 10% overall. There was a significant increase of 21% in the borrowing of adult books in this quarter. A thorough programme of removing out of date stock from each of the libraries so that new stock was more prominent is seen as contributing to this.

The on-line services on offer in the libraries and via home access continue to increase in usage for the catalogue, community information and various other information databases.

The Local History Service revised histories of five Parks information sheets in this quarter which were added to the Council's website. The service continues to attract significant donations of original material on the history of Woollahra and its built environment.

Special events such as the Writers and Readers series and the Children's Book Week activities have been successful in targeting key groups of library users.

The extension of the children's story time programme tailored to different age groups and in different locations has been a particularly successful strategy over the past twelve months. The statistics of the attendances for the quarter July to September 2005 indicate the popularity of this programme.

Faye Lawrence
Manager – Library Services

Lotta Jackson
Acting Director Community Services

Annexures:

1. Woollahra Library Statistical Information – July to September 2005.

Item No: D4 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Woollahra Golf Course Wetland Proposal**
Author: Jamie Howieson - Project Manager Environmental Works
File No: 221.G
Reason for Report: To update Council on Sydney Water's Stormwater Environment Improvement Program.

Recommendation:

That the information be noted.

Background:

Sydney Water Corporation (Sydney Water) is undertaking a comprehensive five-year Stormwater Environment Improvement Program (SEIP). CH2M HILL Australia Limited and Barclay Mowlem Construction Limited, as a joint venture called CHBM Water, have been contracted by Sydney Water to design and construct stormwater pollution control devices at selected sites within existing Sydney Water owned stormwater channels around Sydney. The aim of this work is to improve the quality of water entering receiving waters. Previously, Sydney Water contributed to the development and implementation of catchment based stormwater management plans, as did local councils, government agencies and local communities. The actions identified in those plans as Sydney Water's responsibility have been included in the SEIP.

Two projects had been identified within the Woollahra local government area. The first is the installation of a sediment trap and wetland in Woollahra Golf Course. The second was to be a below ground gross pollution trap at the Lough Playing Fields in Double Bay. This site has now been replaced by a sediment trap in Cooper Park.

This report provides an update since the last report to the Committee meeting in August 2005. Regular updates on the SEIP are also presented to the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group, which is also reported back to the Committee.

1. Woollahra Golf Course Proposal

A second community meeting was held on 24 August 2005 at the Woollahra Golf Club House to give an overview of the designs for the wetland and sediment trap. While there was general acceptance of the design and landscaping plans, those present at the meeting expressed a strong preference for the concrete lining of the channel walls, upstream of the wetland site, to be removed. They request that this be replaced with sandstone boulders if the budget allows.

A copy of the workshop notes is attached in Annexure 1.

Truck access to the site was also reconsidered. Originally, trucks were to use Manion Avenue but this was considered too narrow and likely to affect too many residents. The Gold Club subsequently suggested access from O'Sullivan Road through the golf course across fairway 6. This route will be used and the Club administration will ensure that play during the week is not disadvantaged. Construction works will not interfere with weekend competitions.

A photo montage taken from the power point presentation showing the before and after images of the wetland is attached in Annexure 2.

Timetable

A contract for the works has been awarded and work is due to commence mid November. The budget has allowed for stone walls in the channel, reinforced turfing of the truck access and stainless steel trash rack.

Landscaping tenders have also been received but not yet awarded.

2. Lough Playing Fields

An initial concept, to install a below ground gross pollutant trap near the sandstone garage, was investigated at Lough Playing Fields and then discussed with Council in March 2005. Site constraints, including the proximity of the cricket pitch and a nearby Energy Australia easement, made the site impractical. A second site was investigated at Cooper Park.

An options report and designs for a sediment trap, to be installed where Cooper Creek enters the stormwater pipe, have now been completed. A preferred tenderer has been selected and award of the contract is imminent. Construction is expected to commence by the end of November and is should be completed by mid February 2006.

Complaints about odours from the stormwater outfall at Double Bay led to the choice of a sediment trap being proposed for this site. This will also help improve the environment around the seagrasses in Double Bay.

A newsletter to inform the local community of the proposed works will be delivered by letter box drop. A copy of the newsletter is attached in Annexure 3. A general arrangement site plan and engineering drawing detailing the sediment trap is attached in Annexure 4.

Identification of Income & Expenditure:

Sydney Water will take responsibility for all construction and maintenance costs for each project, funded by their SEIP. Council open space and stormwater drainage assets will be upgraded at no cost to Council.

Conclusion:

These two projects are consistent with the water quality objectives of our Environmental Works Program by improving the quality of stormwater being discharged to the harbour. They also bring benefits of improved public open space amenity and upgrading of Council's stormwater drainage infrastructure with ongoing maintenance provided by Sydney Water.

Jamie Howieson
Project Manager – Environmental Works

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Annexures:

1. Woollahra Wetland, Sydney Water Workshop Report, 24 August 2005
2. Woollahra Wetland photo montage images of the wetland
3. Cooper Park, Sydney Water Community Newsletter – October 2005
4. Cooper Park, Site plan and sediment trap details

Item No: D5 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Sydney Coastal Councils Group – Technical Committee Minutes**
Author: Rebecca Peacock - Environmental Protection Coordinator
File No: 814.G
Reason for Report: Present the minutes from the SCCG Technical Committee Meetings

Recommendation:

- A. THAT the minutes of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Technical Committee meetings held on the 18 August 2005 and the 20 October 2005 be received and noted.
 - B. THAT Council write to the Sydney Coastal Councils Group advising that Council supports an open and transparent investigation into the potential use of off-shore sands for beach nourishment.
-

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community & Environment Committee with a copy of the minutes of the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) Technical Committee meetings. The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 17 September 2005 were not available at the time of preparation of this report. Provision of the SCCG minutes informs the Committee of the environmental projects and initiatives the SCCG and member councils are currently addressing.

2. Background

The SCCG is a group of sixteen councils adjacent to marine and estuarine waters in Sydney. The councils are Botany Bay, Hornsby, Leichhardt, Manly, North Sydney, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, South Sydney, Sutherland, Sydney, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra. The aim of the SCCG is to promote coordination between member councils on environmental issues relating to the sustainable management of the urban coastal environment.

There are two types of meetings conducted by the SCCG:

- Technical Committee - attended by Woollahra Council's Environmental Protection Coordinator,
- Ordinary or Full Group Meeting - attended by Woollahra Councillors appointed as representatives and the Design Team Leader.

Technical Committee meetings are conducted approximately every two months and the Ordinary meeting is conducted every three months. The minutes and agendas of both meetings can be found on the SCCG website www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/minutes_agendas.htm.

3. Projects

The Technical Committee has been working on a number of projects that are of particular interest to Woollahra Council. The following provides a brief description of the projects.

Groundwater Management Manual and Proposed Capacity Building program

In early 2004, SCCG formed a Groundwater Water Group to further investigate groundwater issues and to produce a groundwater management handbook. The handbook will serve to inform, educate and guide professional staff within local government and industry groups about the sustainable management of groundwater. Special interest will be given to the management of groundwater in coastal urban areas. The groundwater management handbook is due to be finalised at the end of 2005.

SCCG Summer Activities Program

The member councils of the SCCG are currently organising activities for the Summer Activities Program to be held during the month of January 2006. This is the second year the SCCG has coordinated the program. The program aims to raise awareness and appreciation of our coastal environments through community participation in organised activities. The program will be finalised by the end of November 2005.

Regional beach nourishment issues

The SCCG executive wrote to councils in July 2005 seeking formal consideration of regional beach nourishment issues, specifically:

- current and potential needs for beach nourishment,
- support for investigation of off-shore sands to be used for beach nourishment, and
- details of historic and planned expenditure on beach management and erosion control including nourishment, protection and buy back.

A copy of the correspondence is attached as **annexure 3**.

A number of councils, including Woollahra, advised the SCCG that they did not consider the shortage of sand for the purposes of beach nourishment an issue for their local government area (LGA).

The SCCG further requested at the Technical Committee meeting held on 20 October 2005, that councils consider if they support an open and transparent investigation on the potential use of off-shore sands for this purpose.

It is recognised that whilst beach erosion and sand nourishment are not current issues for Woollahra, the impacts associated with global warming (sea level rise, storm surge) may mean that these problems are experienced in the LGA in the future. By undertaking an investigation into the use off-shore sand means that should the issue arise, options available to responsible authorities have been investigated. It is therefore recommended that Council write to the SCCG advising that Council supports an open and transparent investigation into the potential use of off-shore sands for beach nourishment.

4. Conclusion

Involvement in the SCCG Technical Committee provides member councils with an invaluable resource. Reporting of the minutes will keep the Committee informed of the environmental projects and initiatives the SCCG and member councils are currently addressing.

Rebecca Peacock
Environmental Protection Coordinator

Chris Bluett
Manager – Strategic Planning

Annexures:

1. Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Technical Committee Meeting (18 August 2005) Minutes.
2. Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Technical Committee Meeting (20 October 2005) Minutes.
3. Correspondence from the SCCG to Council seeking formal consideration in relation to regional beach nourishment issues, 25 July 2005.

Item No: R1 Recommendation to Council
Subject: **Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005**
Author: Rebecca Peacock - Environmental Protection Coordinator
File No: 883.G
Reason for Report: To present the text of the Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005.

Recommendation:

- A. THAT the Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005 be received and adopted.
- B. THAT the Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005 be distributed to the following organisations and individuals: Council's libraries, schools within the Woollahra area, resident action groups within the Woollahra area, Chambers of Commerce within the area, adjoining councils and the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils.
- C. THAT Council formally thanks the organisations that contributed to the preparation of the Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present Council's Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005 (Draft SoE 2004/2005 report). The preparation and adoption of a state of environment (SoE) report by Council forms a part of Council's annual report that is to be submitted to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November 2005. The Draft SoE 2004/2005 report is a supplementary report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act 1993) and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* (Regulation). A supplementary SoE report provides a summary of environmental projects and actions carried out by Council, other authorities and groups located within the municipality during a financial year.

Background:

Section 428 of the LG Act 1993 specifies that within five months after the end of each financial year, a council must prepare an annual report detailing its achievements with respect to the objectives and performance targets set out in its management plan for that year.

Section 428 (2) details the information that a council is to include in the annual report, with subsection (2) (c) specifically relating to the preparation of the SoE report.

- (c) *a report as to the state of the environment in the area, and in particular in relation to the following environmental sectors:*
- (i) *land,*
 - (ii) *air,*
 - (iii) *water*
 - (iv) *biodiversity,*
 - (v) *waste,*
 - (vi) *noise,*
 - (vii) *Aboriginal heritage,*

- (viii) Non-Aboriginal heritage,
with particular reference, with regard to each such environmental sector, to:*
- (ix) management plans relating to the environment,*
- (x) special council projects relating to the environment,*
- (xi) the environmental impact of council activities.*

Sections 219 – 226 of the Regulation provides further clarification on the preparation of SoE reports. The Regulation states that a council must prepare a comprehensive SoE report for the year ending after each council election. A council may choose to prepare either a comprehensive or supplementary report for the years between council elections. As most environmental conditions do not change significantly each year, the preparation of a supplementary report is considered satisfactory.

Section 223 of the Regulation specifies that a supplementary SoE report must:

- identify any new environmental impacts since a council's last SoE report, and
- update the trends in environmental indicators that are important to each environmental sector.

Council has produced SoE reports each reporting year since 1993.

Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005:

The Draft SoE 2004/2005 report provides an update of environmental projects and initiatives undertaken by Council and other groups during the 2004/2005 reporting period, 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 inclusive. Many of the projects have now progressed further than the stage reported in this SoE report. The progress of these projects will be outlined within the next SoE report covering the 2005/2006 period.

The information provided in this report is presented under the following environmental sectors, all of which are consistent with chapters presented in previous SoE reports:

- land
- biodiversity
- waste
- heritage.
- water
- air quality
- noise

Environmental indicators have been included for each environmental sector. The use of environmental indicators allows Council and the community to monitor environmental trends over time.

The text for the Draft SoE report 2004/2005 is attached as **Annexure 1**. The report will be published in a simple, concise and reader-friendly format, similar to that used for the 2003/2004 SoE report. Photographs and graphics will be used as much as possible.

The Draft SoE 2004/2005 report has been collated and written by Council's Environmental Protection Coordinator, with officers of Strategic Planning, Public Infrastructure, Depot and Waste, Civil Works, Compliance, Property and Projects, Parks and Street Trees, Public Open Space, Communications and Community Services providing valuable information and assistance.

The document is widely distributed and provided to interested parties upon request. It is recommended that the report be distributed to the following:

- Council's libraries,
- schools within the Woollahra area,
- resident action groups within the Woollahra area,
- Chambers of Commerce within the Woollahra area,
- adjoining councils and the Southern Sydney Region of Councils, and
- State Library.

As the Draft SoE 2004/2005 report is a supplementary report, it is recommended that it be considered in conjunction with the last comprehensive report produced in 2003/2004. Hard copies of the 2004/2005 SoE report will be available for distribution from the Council Chambers and libraries and will be included on Council's website.

Consultation:

Community input was sought in preparing the Draft SoE 2004/2005 report, through correspondence targeted to active community groups and schools and through general advertisements placed in the Wentworth Courier inviting community participation. This year Council received three community responses. Information for the report was also received from the National Parks and Wildlife Authority, Department of Environment and Conservation and Sydney Water.

Conclusion:

The SoE report forms a part of Council's annual report that is to be submitted to the Department of Local Government by 30 November each year.

Woollahra's Draft SoE 2004/2005 report is a supplementary report, prepared in accordance with the LG Act 1993 and Regulations annual reporting requirements. The Draft SoE 2004/2005 report provides Council and the community with a report to monitor the implementation of environmental projects and initiatives undertaken during the 2004/2005 reporting period. The use of environmental indicators for each environmental sector provides a mechanism to monitor trends in the environment over time. It is recommended that copies of the adopted SoE report be widely distributed to organisations and groups within the region. Hard copies will also be available at the Council Chambers and libraries and available to download from Council's website.

Rebecca Peacock
Environmental Protection Coordinator

Chris Bluett
Manager Strategic Planning

Annexure

Draft Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2004/2005.

Item No: R2 Recommendation to Council
Subject: **Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Plan of Management (2005)**
Author: Scot Hedge
File No: 211.G
Reason for Report: Recommend adoption of the Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Plan of Management (2005)

Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Plan of Management (2005).

Background:

At its meeting on 11 July 2005, the Community and Environment Committee resolved:

- “A. That Council place the draft Plan of Management for Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with Section 113(c) of the Crowns Land Act 1989.*
- B. That there be a further report following consideration of submissions by the Council and Department of Lands.”*

The draft Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Plan of Management (PoM) was placed on exhibition from Friday 22 July 2005 and advertised in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1989* and *Crown Lands Regulation 2000*. In addition 1,000 newsletters were distributed to residents in the area, posters were placed in the parks and the draft was placed on Council's website. Submissions were accepted until Friday 19 August 2005.

A total of 44 submissions (Annexure 1) were received during the public exhibition period, including a submission from Sydney Water. The Foreshores and Waterways Planning and Development Advisory Committee considered the draft PoM and concluded:

“The Committee supports the draft plan of management and in particular regards the following as positive aspects of the plan of management:

- a) The proposed foreshore planting of native trees;*
- b) The proposed widening of the pedestrian bridge over the stormwater canal;*
- c) Investigating options to improve foreshore access between Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park; and*
- d) Maintaining access to the public wharf abutting Yarranabbe Park.*

The committee noted that the inter tidal area at the northern end of Yarranabbe Park has been identified for public pedestrian access under the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan.

The committee recommends that the plan of management be modified to provide for improved public access from Yarranabbe Park to the adjoining inter tidal area.”

A summary of the public submissions received, the responses to the issues raised and proposed amendments to the draft PoM are included in Annexure 2. The submissions identified a number of key issues which are addressed in more detail below.

Rushcutters Bay Park Playground

The PoM proposes the installation of a new playground adjacent to the kiosk in Rushcutters Bay Park. The playground location utilises shade provided by existing mature trees and includes a fence, which will prevent children running on to New Beach Road.

Objections to the proposed playground raised issues such as the location being near New Beach Road and the toilet block being a safety concern, a lack of demonstrated need for the playground, impacts on parking by increasing the number of visitors to the park and noise of children playing.

The playground will be located in a position such that it is visible from the seating area on the northern side of the kiosk to prevent safety concerns in this regard. Seating is also proposed to be provided adjacent to the playground to allow for parental supervision.

The Visitor Survey for Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park (April 2005) identifies 81 comments were received regarding the need for a playground in Rushcutters Bay Park. The lessee of the kiosk currently provides toys for children's use while parents visit the park and kiosk, therefore it is considered that there is demonstrated demand for a playground in the area. That is, the playground aims to cater for existing users of the park. The Survey also notes that approximately 70% of visitors walk or travel to the park other than by car, so it is not considered that a playground would significantly increase parking problems.

In regard to noise, the playground would be used during daylight hours. It is considered that any noise from the playground would not be significant and be consistent with the use of Rushcutters Bay Park for passive and active recreation.

Floodlighting of Rushcutters Bay Park Ovals

There is currently a lack of night training venues for winter sports such as Soccer, Rugby and AFL throughout Woollahra and the Eastern Suburbs in general. At the limited venues where we do provide for night training, such as at Lyne Park and Woollahra Ovals 2 and 3, use often exceeds the venue's 'carrying capacity' and as a result the turf surfaces suffer from wear. The draft Recreation Needs and Assessment Strategy (in progress) recommends Rushcutters Bay Park as a suitable venue for providing night training facilities in Woollahra and assist in meeting the high demand for night training in winter.

Submissions raise objections to floodlighting of the ovals such as increases to parking problems and usage of playing fields at night in winter, problems with glare for nearby residents and increased noise at the park during the night.

Lighting would be installed to comply with a number of Australian Standards (AS) including:

- AS2560.1-2002 Sports Lighting – General Principles;
- AS2560.2.3-2002 Sports Lighting – Lighting for Football (all codes);and
- AS4282-1997 Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.

These standards set limits for relevant lighting parameters to control impacts such as off site glare. It is considered that the use of glare shades and existing curtilage of trees would also help to minimise or prevent any off site illumination. Lights on Oval 1 and 2 would be approximately 50 and 60 metres respectively, at the closest point, from residential properties on the eastern side of New Beach Road,

Also, in accordance with the standards, the floodlights would provide a level of illumination required for training, and not at a level required for competition. It is considered that the noise levels would therefore not be significantly increased as spectators would not be present. Night training would be restricted to 9:00pm Monday to Saturday and exclude Sunday evenings.

Parking issues are discussed below.

Tree Planting

Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park contain significant stands of mature trees that are recognised in our Significant Tree Register (1991). Over time, the avenue of trees along New Beach Road has declined due to loss of trees. Some of these trees have been lost through acts of vandalism. This Plan proposes to reinstate the original avenue tree planting along New Beach Road and provide spaced shade tree planting along the foreshore as well as adjacent to the playground at Yarranabbe Park.

The main areas of tree planting include the following:

1. Rushcutters Bay Park foreshore
There is a lack of trees and shading along the foreshore pathway. The Masterplan proposed to extend the existing avenue of Paperbarks at approximately 30 metre spacings. This would offer shading to the foreshore seating and maintain framed views of the Bay.
2. Yarranabbe Park / New Beach Road avenue
The original tree lined avenue has, over time, suffered from tree removal. The Masterplan proposed to reinstate the original tree avenue of Washington Palms and Hills Weeping Figs.
3. Yarranabbe Park foreshore
There is an absence of trees along the foreshore promenade and no shading afforded to the foreshore seats. The Masterplan proposes to plant Paperbark trees. The use of Paperbark trees extends the foreshore planting scheme from Rushcutters Bay Park.

There were numerous objections to the planting of trees as proposed in the exhibited Landscape Masterplan. The objections related to impacts on residential views, the loss of open space in the Northern end of Yarranabbe Park, and a concern for decrease in safety as a result of reducing sight lines in to the parks.

Palm trees that were proposed to be planted at the Northern end of Yarranabbe Park have been removed from the amended Landscape Masterplan to maintain open space and views from this area. The palms and figs along New Beach Road however are still included in the amended Masterplan. The palms maintain elevated crowns and narrow trunks, and would therefore not significantly impact views or provide shelter for 'undesirable types', raised as a concern in some submissions.

The foreshore planting of paperbarks at approximately 30 metre centres would have only limited impact on direct views of the harbour. The proposed plantings are a minimum of 50 metres from the nearest residential property in New Beach Road, will frame views, and enhance and restore the character of the parks.

Support was also provided for the tree planting contained within the Landscape Masterplan, particularly the foreshore planting in the parks. The planting is considered to balance the interests of adjoining residents with views of the harbour with the interests of users of the Park.

Parking in New Beach Road

Many submissions raised concerns about various management actions within the parks and reserve causing further pressure on limited parking in New Beach Road. It was considered, for example, that the proposed playground and floodlighting in Rushcutters Bay Park would increase the number of visitors to the area and the length of time of visits, particularly at night outside of the daylight saving period, during the winter sport season.

Use of the park after 6pm during winter is minimal as a result of existing lighting being restricted to the pathways. Conversely, during summer the park experiences high visitation for passive use such as walking, picnicking and similar activities. The provision of sports field lighting for winter use is estimated to generate parking demands around Rushcutters Bay Park similar, or less than, those experienced during summer.

Notwithstanding the above, the PoM includes recommendations that Council increase enforcement of parking regulations and remove the number of vehicle spaces taken up by the 'No Standing Area' at the Rushcutters Bay Park Service Vehicle Entry. Independent of the PoM, a Traffic Management Study is currently being undertaken for the Darling Point Precinct, which will include actions to address or alleviate parking problems in New Beach Road.

Department of Lands

The Department of Lands (DoL) has provided comment at a number of stages during development of the PoM. Some final minor amendments were requested and the PoM has been updated accordingly. The DoL has indicated its support for Council's adoption of the PoM. Following this we are required to forward the PoM with supporting information to the Department for adoption by the Minister for Lands.

Conclusion:

Annexure 2 outlines issues raised in submissions and where applicable proposed amendments to the advertised PoM. The PoM, with recommended amendments as identified in Annexure 1, is submitted to Council for adoption (Annexure 3).

Scot Hedge
Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Annexures:

1. Copies of submissions on draft Plan of Management
2. Submissions Summary Table
3. Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve PoM (November, 2005)