



# Community & Environment Committee

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

**Date:** *Monday 2 May 2011*

**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).

## **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 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,
- Matters reserved by individual Councillors in accordance with any Council policy on "safeguards" and substantive changes.
- Parks and Reserves Plans of Management (Strategies, Policies and Objectives).
- Residential Parking Schemes - Provision and Policies.

## **Delegated Authority (“D” Items)**

- Community Services and Programs.
- Library Services
- Health.
- Licensing.
- Liquor Licences.
- Regulatory.
- Fire Protection Orders.
- Residential Parking Schemes (surveillance and administration).
- Traffic Management (Traffic Committee Recommendations).
- Waste Minimisation.
- 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 Meetings.
- 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 above.
- Statutory reviews of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

**Committee Membership:**

7 Councillors

**Quorum:**

The quorum for a Committee meeting is 4 Councillors.

# WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

## Notice of Meeting

28 April 2011

To: Her Worship The Mayor, Councillor Isabelle Shapiro ex-officio  
Councillors Susan Wynne (Chair)  
Sean Carmichael (Deputy)  
Anthony Boskovitz  
Peter Cavanagh  
Susan Jarnason  
Greg Medcraft  
Andrew Petrie

Dear Councillors

### **Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 2 May 2011**

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 2 May 2011 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James  
General Manager

## **Additional Information Relating to Committee Matters**

**Site Inspection**

**Other Matters**

## 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 11 April 2011	1
D2	Library Quarterly Report 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 – 48.G / 48.G (Strategic)	2
D3	Anti-Social Behaviour at Watsons Bay Baths and Redleaf Pool – 900.G, 145.G & 149.G	20
D4	Watsons Bay Baths – Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program Funding Application 2010 – 1147.G Part 5	25

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

**Item No:** D1 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 11 April 2011**  
**Author:** Les Windle, Manager - Governance  
**File No:** See Council Minutes  
**Reason for Report:** The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 11 April 2011 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 11 April 2011 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle  
Manager – Governance

**Item No:** D2 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Library Quarterly Report 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011**  
**Author:** Vicki Munro, Manager, Library and Information Services  
**File No:** 48.G / 48.G (Strategic)  
**Reason for Report:** To review the operations of Woollahra Library and Information Service for the quarter, 1 January to 31 March 2011.

**Recommendation:**

- A. That the report of the library service for the quarter 1 January to 31 March 2011 be received and noted.

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This report reviews Woollahra Library and Information Service's activities and projects for the period 1 January to 31 March 2011, including detailed statistical analysis, as well as progress in implementing the Library Strategic Plan, *The Way Forward*.

## 1.0 Library Usage

To gain a better understanding of the Library usage, this report compares statistics from 1 January to 31 March 2011 with the same quarter for the previous year – 1 January to 31 March 2010.

Significant points to note include:

### 1.1 Lending Services

- As at 31 March 2011, Woollahra Library and Information Service had 14,962 active members. Active membership is defined as borrowers who have used the service within a two year period. To improve the small decrease in active members the Library will be undertaking a targeted membership drive including a new brand development and loyalty scheme. The membership drive will be launched by August 2011 and will give the community a fresh look at what the Library has to offer. Watsons Bay Library continues to show growth in both active and new Library memberships for all categories. The percentage of borrowers to population currently sits at 29.83% based on the Woollahra LGA population of 50,161 (2006 ABS census).
- A total of 72,509 people visited all service points from January to March 2011. This consists of 42,588 at Double Bay, 18,014 at Paddington and 11,907 at the Watsons Bay Library.
- Library circulation has increased across all service points with an overall rise of 9%, from 99,182 to 108,378 items loaned. Circulation has increased by 10% at Paddington, 5% at Double Bay and 123% at Watsons Bay. This increase was bolstered largely by a rise in the circulation of the Junior and Young Adult collections and the success of the Summer Reading Club.

There was an average of 51.18 loans per hour between January and March, which increased 9% from 45.91 loans per hour for the previous year.

As reported in the previous quarter, the Toy Library collection ceased operation effective 31 December 2010 accounting for the sharp drop in circulation of this collection.

- The free wireless service continues to be popular, recording a total of 3,088 sessions, an increase of 23% from the total of 2,516 at the same time last year. This increase is due to customers at Watsons Bay and Local History becoming more aware of the service.

## 1.2 Information Service and Research

- Woollahra Library and Information Service moved to the PLEG statistical collection method from July 2010, which allows for a more viable method of comparison and benchmarking to other public libraries in NSW as the majority use the PLEG method. PLEG is based on a client service model with an emphasis on a number of customer service requests which were not previously measured. This method of statistical collection better reflects staff and library client interaction. As a result comparison cannot be readily made with retrospective years. However a comparison between the previous October/December 2010 quarter for all four service points and the January/March 2011 quarter using the PLEG method for both quarters shows a 12% increase in customer service requests from 24,479 to 27,885.
- Projects taken through to completion by the Local History Staff in this quarter include:
  - A gallery of images and captions from the display mounted for the Woollahra sesquicentenary in 2010 which were uploaded onto the Local History webpage 'Woollahra: a timeline in images'. The gallery will preserve the history and images of the municipality on the web and make this material available to a wide audience.
  - Two displays were mounted at the Centre – marking the anniversary of the last tram to run in Sydney and the anniversary of the Japanese Antarctic Expedition landing at Parsley Bay. The exhibition initiated requests for more information from various researchers, including tour guides, a film producer and author of scientific publications.
  - Information about Arthur Tunstall, the Woollahra Amateur Swimming and Recreation Club and the Redleaf Pool following a donation of material to the Local History Centre, for Communications regarding a Wentworth Courier article.
  - A gallery of images to appear in the forthcoming Heritage Festival display were uploaded onto the Local History website and advertised on library 'news notices'.
  - Conservation work undertaken on approximately 70 maps.
- Since the introduction of the integrated search engine, there has been an increase in the use of the databases. An increase of 448% has been recorded for this quarter (11,116 searches) compared to last year (2,029 searches).

The most popular databases this quarter include Britannica (1,011 searches), Consumer Health Complete (864 searches), NoveList Plus (805 searches), Ancestry (636 searches) and general reference database Australian New Zealand Reference database (579 searches).

While all vendors supply the numbers of searches for each database, most do not provide individual log-ins, as a result this statistic will not be included in the quarterly reports. Further developments are planned including the introduction of five new databases for the 2011/12 financial year in response to the community online needs survey (i.e. Oxford Music and Art online, IELTS – tuition in English as a second language, Humanities and Social Science online and Novelist Select). Novelist Select links to the library catalogue and helps customers discover new books that meet their needs by showing them similar titles in the library catalogue.

- The number of YourTutor sessions (online homework help) has increased in comparison to the same quarter in 2009/10 with 82 client interactions reported for the Jan-Mar 2011 quarter compared to 73 client interactions last year. An online marketing strategy is being planned for 2011 which will include YourTutor as part of the promotional activities.

### 1.3 Community Learning Programs

- The Storytime sessions at Double Bay have remained popular, with an average of 13 children per session. Paddington and Watsons Bay Libraries both have an average of 11 and 14 children per session respectively.

Rhyme time has started strongly with an average of 25-30 children per session and much positive feedback has been received from the community.

Kids Club 2011 commenced in February with Bondi and Woollahra Fire Services visiting Watsons Bay and Double Bay Central Libraries respectively. 50 children and their parents and carers attended in total over both sessions. As previously reported, the new program has invigorated attendance for the 6-10 years age group.

- Outreach services to Holdsworth Street have been reduced to one session per month in 2011 to allow an equitable service to be provided across the LGA. These sessions will be held on the first Tuesday of each month.

The Vaucluse House Tearooms sessions had a disappointing start to 2011 (7 children and 5 carers) mainly due to an increase in the target audience starting school and a delay in promotion. Promotion has been increased for the next quarter's session and it is expected that attendance will improve.

- The Children's and Young Adult team have had a busy start to 2011 with the following events:
  - Summer Reading Club Challenge ran from November 2010 - January 2011 and was very successful. The theme this year was Fairytales and Fables, focusing on traditional stories for children. Across the three libraries 176 children registered for the program, with 1,515 books noted in participant's reading logs. To celebrate the success of the program a party was held on January 27 and 50 children and their parents and carers attended, with winners and runners up of the Reading Challenge awarded prizes.
  - During January School Holidays, Summer Crafts for Kids sessions were held at each service point. Children made a natural bird feeder, 'crazy monster' magnets and decorative coloured bath salts to take home. A total of 79 attended.
  - Youth Week 2011 was celebrated with a Youth Photographic retrospective display at the Paddington service point in March. The display highlighted the artistic achievements of young people in the local government area.
  - To celebrate Harmony Day, Kids Club went Bollywood in March. Professional Bollywood dancers visited Watsons Bay and Double Bay libraries to show the children and parents how to dance like a Bollywood star. 43 children and their parents and carers attended in total over both sessions.
  - The Library was granted a last minute opportunity to hold a Young Writers Workshop with Markus Zusak in March. All High Schools in the LGA were contacted and invited to participate. Due to number restrictions local schools were asked to select two students to attend. A total of nine students attended on the day, and staff received very positive feedback both from participants and Markus.
- Cultural events hosted by the Library and Information Service during this first quarter of 2011 included:
  - Library Lovers Day was celebrated on Monday 14 February by a decoration of the library and a morning tea with performances by the Gaden Choir. Attendees at the morning tea included Mayor Isabelle Shapiro and Noeline Brown, renowned actor and Ambassador for the Ageing, who launched the Volunteer Recruitment program and the new 55+ Club.

- The annual Poets' Picnic held on February 22. This was a successful night, despite reduced crowd numbers due to weather. There were approximately 200 attendees. Several new ideas were trialled, including an intermission, a Chalk Poetry Workshop for children and jesters to entertain the crowd, which proved very positive. After surveying the crowd, 43% of attendees described the event as 'excellent', with 40% describing it as 'very good'. Similarly, the invited poets were thrilled with the evening, remarking on how professional it was.
- The 55+ Club was launched this quarter, with interested members of the community helping library staff to spread the word. This has ensured growing popularity of the initiative with 8 members attending the second session at Watsons Bay, and 14 at Paddington. Both groups expressed interest in the club and were appreciative of the library's efforts. Ideas for future gatherings include author talks and computer classes. Holdsworth Community Centre & Services included information on the club in their newsletter and the meeting was also featured as a local event in the Wentworth Courier.
- Tea Topics, the library's series of free, daytime talks returned this quarter with Bruce Dennett's talk on Pompeii and Herculaneum on March 25 attracting an audience of 85 people.



Gaden Choir at Library Lovers Day



The crowd at Poets Picnic



Summer Reading Club Party

- The Home Library Service provided a total of 4,332 items from January to March 2011 with seven new members joining. The 236 items to institutions was slightly down on last quarter due to a smaller number of requests. Navigator borrowings of 402 were up on the previous quarter which may be attributed to the fact that Audio-Read has installed a new catalogue of 290 titles.

The five existing volunteers continue with their much-appreciated work, and they made 62 visits this quarter. As a result of the volunteer recruitment program which was launched in February, four new volunteers have been interviewed and all found to be suitable. A further three have expressed interest and been sent volunteer packs and application forms.

In our recent survey, sixteen home library members indicated that they were interested in receiving computer training. Four of the volunteers, including two from the recent recruitment program, will be acting as computer buddies for these members. The buddies will be matched following a skills survey currently being prepared by the library.

### 3.0 Library Strategic Plan – Progress update

The Library Strategic Plan “The Way Forward” was adopted by Council on 17 December 2007. Progress on the key strategies is as follows:

- Buildings:

Concept design plans by architects Brewster Hjorth for the proposed new Double Bay Central Library have now been developed. Council staff are working closely with Woolworths for submission of a Development Application for the new site.

Watsons Bay celebrated its one year anniversary since moving to the new building, with the Mayor Isabelle Shapiro attending a special Rhyme Time celebration. During the first year in the new location at Watsons Bay, over 50,000 people have visited and 500 new members have joined. More than 2,500 children have attended programs in the library including Rhyme Time, Storytime and Kids Club.

Future improvements planned for Watsons Bay include looking at the installation of an awning to provide sun protection for outdoor events and a proposal for extending the hours of operation.



Watsons Bay First Birthday Party

- Collection:

As stated in that last quarterly report the recommendations of the Community Language review have been implemented. Books in community languages are now obtained from the State Library of New South Wales to anticipate demand and are rotated every 3 months. As a result Community Languages usage has increased 52% in loans compared to this time last year.

- Technology:

The Library has been working with the suppliers of the RFID self checker/loan machine and the Library Management System to improve the usability with a number of suggestions for future software upgrades. RFID equipment for Paddington and Double Bay has been delivered, ready for installation after the planned library refurbishments.

The Library has been busy planning and launching a number of initiatives utilizing social media including Flickr and YouTube. Also since 2009, the Library has used Twitter, a web-based messaging service and social networking tool that supplements our existing communication channels. At the end of the Quarter, the Library Twitter Account had over 300 followers, and the number is still climbing.

## **4.0 Community Information**

### **4.1 Projects**

Community Information Database searches this quarter experienced a substantial increase from the last quarter of 42% (from 590 to 925). This increase is a result of increasing the prominence of the database on Council's website, as well as promotion and training on use of the database.

### **4.2 Community Information Database (LINCS)**

The number of What's On subscribers has continued to increase steadily on the previous quarter by 12% (from 847 to 945) and has increased by 43% since the same quarter last year. Another increase is expected next quarter as a result of displaying the newsletter sign up link more prominently on Council's website.

### **4.3 New Resident's Kits**

The number of New Residents Kits requested this quarter decreased by 56%. A new Kit is currently being developed based on the results of the feedback survey conducted last quarter. The launch of the new kit in the coming months should result in an increase in future numbers.

#### Conclusion:

The Woollahra Library and Information Service provides a wide range of successful programs and services for the Woollahra community. Library staff continue to develop programs and services as identified in the Library Strategic Plan to keep abreast of community and technology changes.



Vicki Munro  
Manager – Library and Information Services

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## **ANNEXURES:**

Annexure 1: Library Statistics for January to March 2011

**Item No:** D3 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Anti-social behaviour at Watsons Bay Baths and Redleaf Pool**  
**Author:** Paul Fraser - Team Leader Open Space & Recreation  
**File No:** 900.G, 145.G, 149.G  
**Reason for Report:** In response to a Notice of Motion relating to possible solutions to reduce anti social and drunken behaviour at both Watsons Bay Baths and Redleaf Pool.

**Recommendation:**

- A. That staff continue to work with Aspect Studios on the review of the Redleaf Plan of Management (PoM) and Masterplan and ensure that issues of anti social behaviour are included in discussions.
- B. That upon the adoption of the Redleaf PoM and Masterplan that the relevant actions relating to anti social behaviour and the Safer by Design principles be implemented as a high priority and the relevant funds be considered in the 2012-2013 budget deliberations.

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**Background:**

Council at its meeting of 28 February 2011, adopted the following Notice of Motion;

*'That Council provide a report which looks at possible solutions to help reduce anti social and drunken behaviour at both Watsons Bay Baths and Redleaf Pool in the evenings/ early mornings. That staff consult with the Police on this matter and consider the creation of alcohol free zones.'*

Redleaf Pool and Watsons Bay Baths are both highly used all year round for passive recreation with an increase in patronage during the summer months. During December 2010 and February 2011 Council has been made aware of some anti social behaviour and incidents occurring at Redleaf Pool which coincided with the school holidays. Loud noise and underage drinking late into the night and early morning were reported. At this stage we are unaware of any complaints of this occurring at the Watsons Bay Baths.

In response to the initial complaints received about Redleaf, Council increased the patrols by Double Bay Security around the Redleaf grounds and instructed security staff to move people on if they were loud or drinking excessively. Furthermore Council organised a meeting with the Rose Bay Local Area Command to discuss various options for managing this area after hours. The Police agreed that an increased security presence would assist with the problem and instructed the security to contact Police if further assistance was required.

The Police have attended the site on numerous occasions and have reported underage drinking and anti-social behaviour. However, they have stated that the problem is not isolated to Redleaf Pool and have experienced an increase of underage drinking and loitering throughout the whole municipality.

In our discussions with Double Bay Security they advised that on numerous occasions the guards moved people on who were behaving in an anti social way. They advised that the problem seems seasonal, with an increase of issues during the warmer months and during school holidays. It was also noted that people who attend after 10pm are already intoxicated possibly corresponding with

local hotel closing times or individuals being denied service in the hotels. The presence of security guards seems to have acted as a deterrent for large groups trying to attend the site after 10pm. However we do not consider an onsite guard to be a long term, practical or economic solution.

### **Proposal:**

On the evening of 3 March 2011, Council staff met with the RBLAC and Double Bay Security at Redleaf to discuss recent incidents and the *Safer by Design* principles in relation to the park. Staff met during the night to ascertain the levels of visibility and safety of the area. The Police will be submitting a report with various recommendations including;

- Improved safety and regulatory signage at the major entry points and stairwells to the pool area.
- Installation of informal soft lighting near toilet block, stairwells and pool promenade.

These recommendations will be submitted to the consultants to be included in the PoM and Masterplan.

### Alcohol Prohibited Area

Under Section 632A of the Local Government Act 1993, Council may declare any public place (or any part of a public place) in the Council's area to be an "alcohol prohibited area". A police officer or an enforcement officer may then seize any alcohol that is in the immediate possession of a person in the alcohol prohibited area if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the person is drinking, is about to drink or has recently been drinking alcohol in this area.

The consideration of making the area an alcohol prohibited area was discussed with the Police, however the consensus was that the area may be able to be better managed or designed without the need of an alcohol prohibited area. It was also agreed that the possible creation of alcohol prohibited areas be discussed during the review of the PoM where the community and stakeholders will have a chance to have their say.

### Redleaf Plan of Management and Masterplan

Council has recently engaged Aspect Studios to review the Redleaf Plan of Management 1997. The PoM and Masterplan will provide Council with the direction for the future enhancement and management of Redleaf and surrounds. This process will include consultation with surrounding residents, stakeholders and Council staff. Currently a survey (Annexure 1) is being undertaken to determine how the community feels about the management of Redleaf. The results of this survey will help Council determine if any upgrades or improvements need to be made to the site, and will help shape the PoM to meet the changing needs of the community over the next decade. This survey has been widely distributed including; Council's website, Wentworth Courier, Woollahra Council Chambers, surrounding resident mail drop, Double Bay Library, Redleaf Café, and internal staff. Upon the completion of a draft PoM, the greater community will have the opportunity to comment on the plan as a whole through public exhibition.

Aspect Studios are aware of the recent issues of the area and will be recommending various management strategies and infrastructure to assist, in consultation with staff and the Rose Bay Local Area Command.

**Conclusion:**

Upon completion of the draft PoM, a report will be presented to the Community & Environment Committee discussing the major issues and recommendations for the management of Redleaf. It will also recommend that the draft PoM and Masterplan be placed on public exhibition for the greater community to comment on.

The draft PoM and Masterplan will recommend possible solutions to help reduce anti social and drunken behaviour at Redleaf Pool in the evenings/ early mornings. These actions can then be implemented as a high priority and the required funding be sought.

As stated previously no reports have been made to Council staff in relation to these problems occurring at the Watsons Bay Baths. Council will continue to work with Double Bay Security and the Rose Bay Local Area Command in relation to anti social behaviour occurring within Council's open space.

Paul Fraser – Team Leader, Open Space &  
Recreation Planning

Tom O'Hanlon – Director Technical Services

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**ANNEXURES:**

1. Redleaf Questionnaire

**Item No:** D4 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Watsons Bay Baths - Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program Funding Application 2010**  
**Author:** Paul Fraser – Team Leader, Open Space & Recreation Planning  
**File No:** 1147.G Part 5  
**Reason for Report:** To respond to a resolution from the Capital Works Program Status Report – December 2010 regarding the unsuccessful grant application for the Watsons Bay Baths of \$200,000 (Actions 5.3.2.7).

**Recommendation:**

- A. That Council take onboard the advice provided by representatives of the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program.
- B. That Council staff continue to source funding programs and submit applications to assist with Capital Projects.

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**Background:**

On Monday 21 February 2011, Council resolved the following;

- A. *THAT the Quarterly Progress Report – Capital Works Program for the quarter ended the 31 December 2010 be received and noted.*
- B. *THAT a report prepared to the Community & Environment Committee on the unsuccessful grant application for the Watsons Bay Baths of \$200,000 (Actions 5.3.2.7 of the Capital Works Program Status Report).*

In April 2010, Council applied for \$200,000 funding through the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program (SSHAP) for the All Ability Access Pontoon at Watsons Bay Baths.

The grant would have assisted in funding the access pontoon and associated components which allow people of all abilities to gain access to deep water at all tidal levels.

The SSHAP is part of the Sharing Sydney Harbour Regional Action Plan. It has been designed to enhance the recreational opportunities of Sydney Harbour and its tributaries for the people of and visitors to Sydney. The Access Program is a dollar-for-dollar capital works grant funding scheme administered by a Management Team within the Department of Planning. Generally the maximum amount given to one project is \$200,000 and projects that best meet the Access Program criteria and priorities are more likely to be successful.

During the grant application process, staff attended an information briefing session that outlined the SSHAP and the Metropolitan Greenspace Program. Staff also met on-site with the Coordinator of the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program to discuss the project and provide further information as it was deemed an interesting and unique project.

Before submitting the application we were very confident that we had a project that would specifically meet the criteria and priorities of the program. The general criteria for a suitable project were as follows;

- The project is for new infrastructure, or the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure that achieves one or more of the following:
  - Improves public access to, or along, the foreshores and waterways of Sydney Harbour and its tributaries for a broad range of users
  - Develops multi-purpose recreational facilities and settings
  - Improves links from the foreshore to regional access networks (waterways, ferry wharves, railway stations, cycle paths, main roads)
  - Increases the total length of foreshore accessible to the public
  - Increases recreational access opportunities between land and water
  - Increases facilities catering for non-motorised modes of transport
  - Conserves, enhances and/or interprets natural and cultural heritage values, including Aboriginal cultural heritage
- The project must meet the requirements of the relevant consent authorities
- The project is commenced within 12 months of signing the funding agreement and will be completed within 24 months of signing the funding agreement
- The project must demonstrate partnership support, possibly through community engagement, council developer partnership or a partnership between neighbouring councils
- The project must be technically and financially sustainable. Applicants must explain how maintenance requirements are minimised and how ongoing operational/maintenance funding will be raised or made available.

Through the submitted application Council also justified how the Watsons Bay Baths met four out of the five Priorities for 2010. They included;

- Meet the recreational needs of Sydney's growing population.
- Build on strategic opportunities on key harbour sites.
- Demonstrate wider community benefit.
- Bridge missing links.

Council was advised that notification of successful grants would be made in September 2010.

On 9 February 2011, Council received notification that the project was unsuccessful with this application for funding. Correspondence from Andrew Jackson, Strategy and Infrastructure Planning, stated that;

*'Unfortunately, 'Watsons Bay Baths Access Improvements' grant application was unsuccessful in this funding round. The Grants Committee and Independent Assessment Panel supported the project and acknowledged that the works would improved accessibility for the community at a popular recreational bathing location on Sydney Harbour, however did not prove as competitive as other projects'*

A list of the successful projects funded under the SSHAP 2010 is attached as Annexure 1.

### **Consultation:**

Upon receiving the unsuccessful notification letter council staff contacted the Coordinator of SSHAP to request a meeting to discuss the application process and the project. On 9 March 2011, the Director – Technical Services, Mr Tom O'Hanlon and the Team Leader – Open Space & Recreation Planning, Mr Paul Fraser meet with representatives of SSHAP.

During the meeting the representatives of SSHAP explained the review and assessment process with the following comments;

- The Grants Committee rated the project as HIGH.
- Usually only 2 - 3 projects are funded that fall in the highest band (\$150 - \$200K).
- During the grant assessment the Committee review the geographical spread of funding across harbours / Council areas.
- There was no political pressure on the outcome of successful or unsuccessful projects.
- Woollahra Council's application was of a very high standard.
- There is a process that Council may wish to appeal the decision.
- Woollahra Council is encouraged to submit new projects under the 2011 SSHAP.

Appeal Process – Upon receiving a request for an appeal, the Management Team would prepare any relevant information regarding the initial application, any new or additional information that has been provided, conduct any necessary research or data collection, and provide all information to the Steering Committee for consideration. The Steering Committee may elect to further investigate the issue, or it may accept the information provided and make a decision on the appeal based on the information available.

It should be noted that we were advised that no appeals have been submitted since the development of the SSHAP. Furthermore all money available in this year's program has been allocated to successful projects.

### **Identification of Income & Expenditure**

The unsuccessful grant funding for Watsons Bay Baths has had an affect on other projects which have had to be put on hold, and some eventually cancelled including;

- Park Tree planting
- Drinking Fountain roll out
- Park Furniture roll out
- Irrigation Feasibility studies
- General Park upgrades.

### **Conclusion:**

The Watsons Bay Baths project has been a great success for the community. It has provided a unique facility including Australia's first all-ability water access ramp which opens the baths to all user groups, with the provision of two full immersible wheelchairs for public use. The Council has received very positive feedback from the community and visitors to the area.

Staff were very confident that this project meet the relevant criteria and priorities under the 2010 SSHAP.

Upon our discussions with the representatives of SSHAP we could make the assumption that the size of the project was too large to fund considering the successful funding provided to the City of Canada Bay for the Bay Run Upgrade being \$175,500.

After the consultation meeting Council staff considered the advice and were of the opinion that the decision making process was defensible and that further appeals would probably not succeed.

Paul Fraser – Team Leader, Open Space &  
Recreation Planning

Tom O'Hanlon  
Director Technical Services

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### **ANNEXURES:**

Annexure 1 – Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program 2010 Successful Projects.

## POLITICAL DONATIONS DECISION MAKING FLOWCHART FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCILLORS

