



Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2010/2011



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This report has been compiled by Justin Shupe, Sustainability Projects Officer, Woollahra Municipal Council. Council staff, Government agencies and members of the community are acknowledged for their invaluable contributions of information and assistance.

Woollahra Municipal Council
536 New South Head Road
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November 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT (SoE) REPORT

State of the Environment (SoE) reporting is a statutory requirement under the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act). Woollahra Council is one of the many stakeholders involved in the management of parts of the Woollahra environment. Other stakeholders include Commonwealth and State Government agencies¹, such as National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Sydney Water, and the broader Woollahra community. Information from these stakeholders has been included in the report, where available. The Council plays an important role in local environmental management. However, the quality of Woollahra's environment is also influenced by many actions and events outside municipal boundaries and beyond the Council's jurisdiction.

¹The NSW state government created the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) in September 2003. The DEC incorporates the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Botanic Gardens Trust and Resource NSW. At present, each agency is represented separately in the DEC. This is reflected in Woollahra's SoE report. However, the DEC is referenced directly when the action has come from the department.

UPDATE ON STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

During 2009 Integrated Planning and Reporting Legislation was passed through Parliament, to bring all Council's planning and reporting into a more consistent framework. Coming into effect on 1 July 2010, the legislative requirements have been amended to provide Councils with the flexibility to prepare their State of the Environment Report in a way that enables Council to focus their resources on monitoring and reporting on environmental issues that are of concern to their community and where Council may influence their management.

The environmental objectives within a Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) must be reported on. The objectives contained within a Council's CSP are informed by a Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan, which outlines what Council will deliver each year across all sectors of Council. Woollahra's Delivery Program 2009 to 2013 & Operational Plan 2011/12 describes how Council will work with our community needs and expectations in a sustainable manner.

This year's State of the Environment Report is a supplementary report that specifically outlines the environmental and sustainability activities from Council's Delivery Program 2009 to 2013 & Operational Plan 2010/11. The following tables detail those activities and show the status of each Action as at 30 June 2011.

2. Delivery Program – Goal 6: Getting around

Woollahra will be a place where it is easy to get around, easy to access our foreshore, our recreation facilities, our green open space and our public and private institutions. We will also have easy access to the city and its wide range of services and facilities, and be able to access public transport, walking cycling routes within our area.

Strategies 2025	Delivery Program Priorities 2009 to 2013		2010/11	State of the Environment 2010/2011 update
	Operational Plan Actions 2010/11			
<p>6.1 Facilitate an improved network of accessible and safe transport options.</p>	<p>6.1.1</p>	<p>Provide for sustainable, safe convenient and efficient local movement of pedestrians and vehicles.</p> <p>Implement project and actions adopted in the Woollahra Bicycle Strategy.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Delivered through the Woollahra Bicycle Strategy.</p> <p>The Woollahra Bicycle Strategy 2009 identifies regional, local and recreational routes within the municipality which consist of off-road, on-road, inter-connecting bike routes with neighbouring local government areas – City of Sydney, Waverley and Randwick, plus cycle facilities at/to public transport interchanges and local area urban villages. Council continues to implement the strategy each year. Bike Strategy maps can be viewed on Council’s website http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/services/traffic_and_transport/bicycle_plan</p>

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6.3 Promote provision of better, more integrated public and community transport.	6.3.1	Provide services and programs to support improved and accessible public transport.	✓	See 6.3.3 'Bus Shelter Improvement Program'.
	6.3.3	Maintain and upgrade where possible, public transport facilities.	✓	Delivered through the Bus Shelter Improvement Program.
		Implement bus shelters improvement program.	✓	During the reporting year Council commenced the Bus Shelters Improvement Program. The programs aims to upgrade existing bus shelters to improve facilities for those who currently catch buses and to encourage new users

3. Delivery Program – Goal 7: Protecting our environment

Woollahra will be a place where the natural environment will be protected and conserved from adverse impacts, to preserve our vegetation and wildlife habits.

We will track the achievement of our goal and strategies through the measurement and reporting of performance indicators.

Strategies 2025	Delivery Program Priorities 2009 to 2013		2010/11	State of the Environment 2010/2011
		Operational Plan Actions 2010/11		
7.1 Protect natural landscapes, systems and biodiversity.	7.1.1	Plan and implement strategies and initiatives to enhance natural landscapes and systems.	✓	Delivered through the adoption of a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). A SAP is an environmental plan that includes measurable actions and targets to improve Council's and the Local Government Area's environmental bottom line in the areas of waste, biodiversity, water, energy, climate change, transport and sustainable purchasing.
		Develop a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP).	✓	A draft Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) 2010/2025 was developed during 2010/2011. The SAP will contain targets for Climate Change, Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Waste and Transport. An adopted and implemented SAP is expected by 30 June 2012.
	7.1.2	Implement a prioritised program of improvements to natural areas.	✓	Council has commenced the preparation of a brief for the Woollahra Biodiversity Strategy.

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	<p>Implement the Cooper Creek Rehabilitation Project (DECC project).</p>	✓	<p>Council completed the Upper Pond Rehabilitation Project at Cooper Park in November 2009. In addition to this work Council has recently undertaken further restoration works at the lower reaches of the creek. The project includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creek Restoration: weeding, removal of sediment from the creek bed restoring creek bed levels back to natural levels, planting macrophytes to help improve water quality within the creek.
	<p>7.1.3 Educate and partner with the community on the protection of natural areas and waterways, including Bushcare.</p>	✓	<p>Delivered through Streamwatch and Catchment Monitoring Program. See 7.3.2 for details on the Catchment Monitoring Program.</p>
	<p>Develop and implement a stream-watch program.</p>	✓	<p>Council participates in the Sydney Water Streamwatch program which monitors water quality and macroinvertebrates (water bugs). Testing is carried out once a month. This is an ongoing program and will provide Council with continual information about the water quality and ecology of Woollahra's creeks.</p>

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7.2 Preserve and restore bushland areas and create wildlife corridor plantings.	7.2.1	Continue the implementation of the Greenweb Street Tree Strategy.	✓	The Greenweb Strategy is underway by Council.
		Identify all existing and proposed Greenweb trees as part of the Street Tree Masterplan Review.	✓	
7.3 Support cleaner, healthier waterways including improved water quality and healthy water catchments, creeks and harbour.	7.3.1	Implement a five year Capital Renewal Program for stormwater drainage infrastructure and Environmental Works Program for water quality improvement.	✓	5 year Capital Renewal Program is progressing.
	7.3.2	Undertake water quality monitoring for public waterways.	✓	Water Quality Monitoring has been undertaken across Woollahra during wet and dry conditions in each season (Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn).

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	Develop the Water Quality Monitoring Strategy.	✓	<p>Council developed a water monitoring program (Catchment Monitoring Program) that covered all four of Woollahra's catchments being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watsons Bay • Rose Bay • Double Bay • Rushcutters Bay <p>Within each catchment samples were taken from the upper, middle and end of the catchments in both dry and wet conditions for each season (Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn). Samples are compared against the ANZECC Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) Guidelines. Council is currently reviewing the draft report of the program including results and potential management actions.</p>

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	7.3.3 Provide street cleaning services to prevent litter and dirt entering the stormwater drainage system.	✓	Street cleaning services are underway to prevent litter and dirt entering stormwater drainage system. Gross pollutant traps are cleaned of organic matter every quarter.
	7.3.4 Implement the Stormwater Asset Strategy.	✓	Stormwater Asset Strategy is progressing in line with the 10 year Infrastructure and Environment Strategy. Current focus is on renewal and upgrading of pits and pipes.

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	Implement Council's Energy Savings Action Plan.	✓	Council's current Energy Savings Action Plan (ESAP) was submitted to and approved by the Minister for Utilities in April 2008. An ESAP determines how much energy is being used at Council's top ten sites and identifies and prioritises actions to reduce energy usage, a new ESAP is required every four years. Council is currently reviewing its ESAP and will be finalised by 30 June 2012. The new ESAP will allow Council to monitor and manage its energy consumption and implement further energy efficient and identify opportunities for alternative energy (e.g. solar power) thereby lowering Councils impact on the environment.
	Implement the Environmental Education Program.	✓	The Environmental Education Program is currently underway.
8.1.3	Coordinate Council's Environmental Grants Program.	✓	In 2010/2011 Community Environmental Grants were again offered to community groups and local schools. Total of 15 applications were received, with \$10,000 of funding allocated. Successful projects included school vegetable gardens, water saving initiatives, support for school green groups and composting programs.

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	Participate in the regional waste avoidance/reduction recycling project.	✓	<p>Woollahra Council is involved in the 'Love Food Hate Waste' program managed by the Office of Environment and Heritage, which is run in partnership with retailers, food manufacturers, local government authorities and community groups.</p> <p>Council is also a part of the 'Compost Revolution Project' – a regional composting project aimed at reducing food waste.</p>

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	<p>8.3.2 Implement programs to educate the community including schools, residents, community groups, businesses and staff on reducing waste and litter and increasing re-use and recycling.</p>	✓	<p>Eastern Suburbs Sustainable Business Program is helping small to medium businesses save money and reduce their impact on the environment by improving water and energy efficiency and reducing waste. A free waste assessment as part of this program will provide the most cost effective options for reducing business waste. This is offered to businesses in Woollahra, Randwick or Waverley. For further information and registration go to http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/environment/environmental_education/business.</p> <p>Council provides schools, residents and businesses with a range of information on waste management to keep up to date on and involved in, sustainable waste management.</p> <p>Council provided a new storage area in Knox Lane to manage waste, ensure correct bins bin use and avoid illegal dumping.</p>

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	8.3.3 Conduct cost effective and efficient waste collection and recycling to residents and businesses.	✓	Council continues to provide weekly garbage, recycling and organics collection to local residents.
	8.3.4 Conduct organic recycling services.	✓	<p>Introduced a new recycling service called 'Kitchen to Compost' which now allows food scraps to be placed into your green garden bin along with garden organics. The new service will reduce greenhouse emissions as well as help to reduce the amount of waste we are sending to landfill by almost half. A survey on the use of the new service showed approximately 90% of residents are using the service. To find out more information on 'Kitchen to Compost' and whether it is offered in your area visit http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/services/rubbish_and_recycling/garden_organics_services.</p>

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8.4 Reduce local water usage by Council and on private property.	8.4.1	Encourage greater community participation in water savings initiatives.	✓	As part of the NSW Environmental Trust Grant for the restoration of Cooper Park, one of the many projects rolled out was the 'Sustainable Landscapes' project. Four local resident households within the Double Bay catchment, were selected for a sustainable makeover focusing on water savings, reducing stormwater runoff and organic gardening. These houses have all completed their sustainable makeovers and are now examples to the community on how to better manage water and waste at home.

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	<p>8.4.2 Implement the Environmental Education Program for each year.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>During 2010/2011 Woollahra’s Sustainability Workshop Series hosted 13 community workshops for local residents. Topics included: Transition Town, Organic Herb Growing, Chemical Free Cleaning, Sustainable Homes, Solar Power, Science of the Surf, Composting and Worm Farming, Sustainable Christmas Ideas and Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring Organic Gardening.</p> <p>Eastern Suburbs Schools Sustainability Network (ESSSN) is a collaboration between Woollahra and Waverley Council to support local schools implement school-based sustainability initiatives. During 201/2011 ESSSN meetings were held once per school term and were strongly attended by local teachers and as well as interested parents, representatives from Council and other relevant organisations including the Marine Discovery Centre, SCRAP, Planet Ark and National Parks.</p>

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			<p>School competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th annual Environmental School Sculpture Prize, local school students were encouraged to submit sculptures in line with the theme 'Total Water Cycle Management'. • June 2011 local schools were also encouraged to enter the Schools Tree Day Native Garden Competition whereby the winning school would receive a free native garden to be planted in their school grounds on Schools Tree Day 2011.

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	<p>8.4.3 Educate the community to reduce use of potable water.</p>	✓	<p>The following programs and projects are aimed at educating the community efficient water potable water use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sustainable Building Advisory Service: As part of Woollahra Council’s continued commitment to sustainability, Council now offers residents sustainable building advice including installation of grey water systems and installation of rainwater tanks. For further information on possible design features for your building visit http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/environment/building_and_the_environment/sustainable_building_advisory_service. • Cooper Park Stormwater Harvesting and Re-Use System: A project completed with financial assistance from the NSW Finance & Services, will be connected to an irrigation system for lower Cooper Park saving 3.7ML/year of potable water.

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8.5 Promote and carry out water sensitive urban design.	8.5.1	<p>Integrate water sensitive urban design into local infrastructure and development.</p> <p>Include water sensitive urban design considerations into the new principal Local Environmental Plan (LEP).</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) is integrated into all new local infrastructure and development projects undertaken by Council. 2011 project included the construction of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features as part of streetscape improvements for O'Sullivan Road. These works improve water quality entering the harbour and increase permeable surfaces.</p> <p>Underway</p>