



Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Monday 6 April 2009*

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

9 April 2009

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

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 6 April 2009

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 6 April 2009 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 23 March 2009	1A
D2	Yarrannabee Park Trees – 226.G	1
D3	Tree Management Policy – 262.G	23
D4	Cooper Park Draft Plan of Management – 178.G MP	37

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

R1	Proposed waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Policy and Strategy – 588.G	43
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Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 23 March 2009**
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 23 March 2009 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 23 March 2009 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager – Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Yarrannabbe Park Trees**
Author: Bruce Rann - Acting Manager Open Space and Street Trees
File No: 226.G
Reason for Report: Report on assessment of trees in New Beach Road as required by a Council resolution

Recommendations:

1. That Council note the consultant's report on the assessment of the New Beach Road trees as required by Part C of the resolution of 8 September 2008;
2. That we remove Yarranabbe Tree 1;
3. That we monitor Yarranabbe Tree 12 with a view to determining removal or retention, and provide a further report;
4. That we undertake no pruning, (apart from necessary maintenance), or replacement planting until the Tree Management Policy is further developed, and the review of the Park Plan of Management is undertaken;
5. That we remove the tree cages and fill the holes (which were dug for the replacement Fig Trees) until the review of the Park Plan of Management clarifies these planting positions.
6. That we keep local residents informed of any works arising from these recommendations.

Background

In June 2008 we responded to a question without notice:

I have been barraged with letters about the Hills Weeping Fig that are or are not being planted. I am wondering whether those 2 trees are or were about to be planted and whether the Mayor could provide some publicity in your column as to the meeting that was held 2 weeks ago as to the situation.

Director Technical Services in response:

As we advised Councillors, there was a briefing given to Councillors the other night, subsequent to that briefing we have reviewed the proposed planting and the proposition is to plant 2 trees rather than 3 which preserves view corridors between the trees. That is the current proposal that is in hand.

Mayor in further response:

Councillors, can I remind you that this Council on 28th November 2005 adopted the Rushcutters Bay Park/Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Plan of Management. That was a document which had been out to public exhibition, it had reviewed the 1998 Plan of Management, it interviewed 300 users of the Rushcutters Bay and Yarranabbe Parks, consulted with other stakeholders including the Department of Lands, NSW Maritime, City of Sydney, local residents groups including Darling Point Society, Rushcutters Bay Foreshore Protection Association and the neighbouring Cruising Yacht Club and D'Albora.

That was also out for public exhibition between June and July of 2005. One of the items which was defined as being of value to the parkland for the area was the maintaining of grassy expanse with large mature trees along the parks perimeter and major access. Part of the mid term plan was to replant certain trees in Yarranabbe Park to replace those which had somehow disappeared. I also draw to your attention Councillors, that the Plan of Management requires to be reviewed in 5 years, that is 2010.

Like all plans of management it is subject to review between the times and you will recall that there has been a Notice of Motion that was passed at the last Council Meeting to the effect as to reviewing the situation

In June 2008, we commenced the process of installing the figs adjacent to the playground. The planting of trees in this location would not only fill the missing gap in the avenue planting, but also would shade the playground.

In consideration of the concerns residents expressed following notification of the proposed planting we recommended Council adopt one of three options:

- 1. Plant three Hills Figs in accordance with Council's adopted Plan of Management.*
- 2. Plant two Hills Figs further apart, therefore maintaining view lines between the trees.*
- 3. Use Port Jackson Figs which are smaller in height. We note a Port Jackson Fig appears to have been included as part of the original planting scheme and is located opposite 74 New Beach Road.*

Subsequently, Council adopted the resolution of 8 September 2008. Consequently, we have not proceeded with replacement plantings in New Beach Road to date, but have carried out a detailed assessment of the trees.

Council at its meeting of 12 May 2008, adopted the following Notice of Motion:

"That a report be brought to Community & Environment Committee setting out Council's Tree Policy and suggested amendments to make it an up to date document. Special attention to trees that cause view loss, including Council's own trees."

A report was provided 25 August 2009. This report comprised:

1. An overview of Woollahra's Vegetation Management Strategy;
2. An overview of Woollahra's tree pruning practices;
3. The legal status of trees and views;
4. A review of how other Councils and government agencies manage trees in response to view requests by residents;
5. The principles that may apply to managing public foreshore vegetation in Woollahra;
6. An overview of the introduction of Hills Fig into Sydney parks and gardens;
7. Yarranabbe Park and the history of tree management;
8. Outline whether the Yarranabbe Park trees can be pruned without undue harm;
9. Address typical submissions made regarding trees in Yarranabbe Park; and
10. Conclusion and recommendations.

Please note: Points 8-9 are attached as Annexures 1 and 2.

Having considered this report, Council resolved 8 September 2009:

- A. That a Public Tree Management Policy for the whole of the Woollahra Municipality be prepared within 9 months with timely reviews being reported to the Community and Environment Committee.*
- B. That prior to the Policy being submitted to the Community and Environment Committee, that the draft policy be reviewed by appropriate consultants and that there be public consultation and working parties involving the public to enable them to have an input into the draft policy.*
- C. That staff undertake a detailed assessment of each individual tree with the assistance of external consultants, along New Beach Road to determine options (if any), which may be able to be implemented which can retain the uniformity of the avenue, the health and integrity of the Figs, whilst considering the views of adjoining residents.*
- D. That following preparation of the report required by Part A, a report be brought to the appropriate committee with a view to reviewing the Rushcutters Bay Park Plan of Management and in particular considering the Tree Policy, including selective view pruning and selective tree replacement and the report identify any changes required to the Rushcutters Bay Park Plan of Management arising from the review of the Tree Policy.*
- E. That a review of the Rushcutters Bay Park Plan of Management be carried out that brings forward a new landscape plan which includes individual garden beds, edging and or alternative and identified tree plantings in the park and that a working party with community representatives be established and that a sunset clause be placed on that working party and that a report be brought to the appropriate committee.”.*

This report addresses Part C of the resolution. Part C calls for a technical assessment of the health and condition and possible future treatment of specific trees at New Beach Road, Darling Point. Parts A and B deal with the management of public trees throughout the municipality, and a separate progress report is being provided on this topic. Parts D and E will proceed following reporting on Part A.

Consultant’s assessment of New Beach Road trees.

We engaged an experienced and highly qualified consultant, Peter Castor, of Tree Wise Men Australia Pty Ltd, to explore options which might be able to be implemented in Yarranabbe Park to retain the uniformity of the significant avenue planting, and to preserve the health, integrity and heritage significance of the Figs, whilst considering the views of adjoining residents. A detailed assessment was undertaken of each tree along New Beach Road, including visual assessments and ultrasound testing of trees with obvious cavities.

The key findings of Peter Castor’s tree analysis were:

Generally

- Any tree pruning and removal recommendations should aim to preserve the existing health and uniformity of the planting, to achieve an acceptable level of limb drop safety and to maintain stable tree biochemistry whilst improving, where possible, resident views.

The Subject Trees

- The 19 assessed trees form a prominent and significant feature in the landscape and were planted circa 1930.
- Two Ficus species are represented in the sample:
 - Hills Fig, *Ficus microcarpa* var *hillii*
 - Port Jackson Fig, *Ficus rubiginosa* (Yarranabbe Tree 2 and Yarranabbe Tree 4)



Figure 1 Assessed Figs looking north. Sir David Martin Reserve Tree 1 in foreground

- There has been varied pruning performed on the trees over time.
- Some of the trees show evidence of topping (possible pollarding) at 4-5 metres above ground level.



Figure 2 Yarranabbe Tree 2: Port Jackson Fig, *Ficus rubiginosa*

Assessment Methodology

- Site inspections and tree assessments were undertaken on three occasions to collect data on the health and condition of the trees and root-crowns. These included:
 - Visual Tree Assessments by tree professionals (a recognised systematic method of identifying tree characteristics and hazard potential).
 - Sonic Tomograph Testing to determine the extent of internal decay in selected trees. It is generally accepted that trees with confirmed significant trunk or stem hollows should be removed in the interest of public safety.

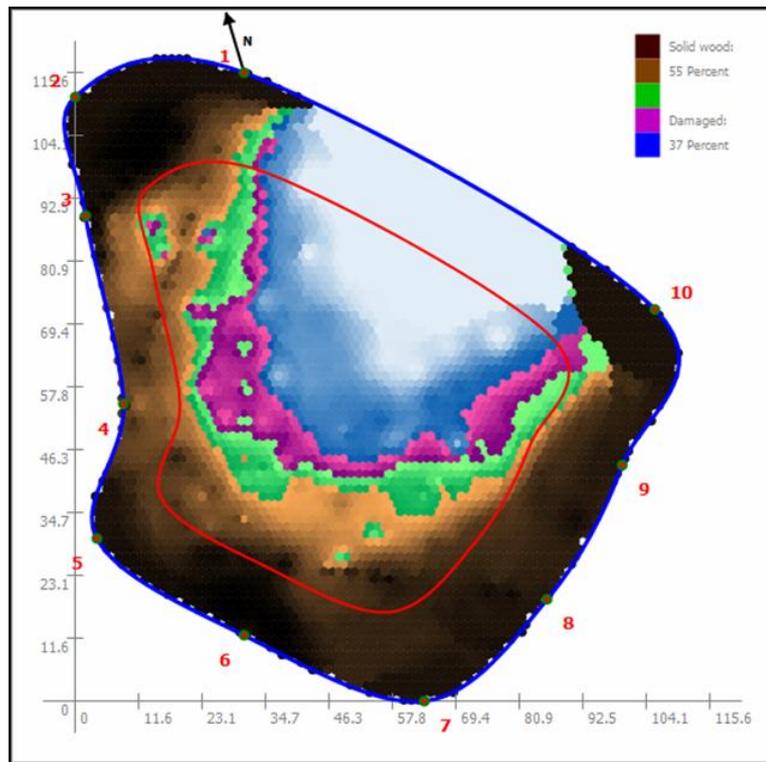


Figure 3 Tomogram of Yarranabbe Tree 1. The wound is located between sensors 1 and 10. The red line is indicative of the t/R ratio 70:30. P. Vezgoff

Key Findings

- Some trees contained full or partial bark inclusions which can lead to structural defects within the branch junction if not managed appropriately.
- Pruning is recommended with the aim to prevent a major limb collapse. Major limb collapse can result in serious damage or injury.
- Pruning is the most appropriate management option where tree safety and resident views are to be considered.



Figure 4 Yarranabbe Tree 5 with bark inclusion



Figure 5 Limb defects Yarranabbe Tree 1

Overall Recommendations

- Yarranabbe Tree 1 is recommended for removal due to significant trunk and stem defects.
- Street Tree 2 and Park Tree 7 are recommended for 10% reduction pruning.
- Park Tree 12 has defoliated, it will need to be monitored and may need to be removed.
- The remaining 15 trees have been recommended to have varying amounts of reduction pruning, depending upon their individual existing vigour and condition.



Legend	
Tree to be removed	—
Tree to be monitored	—
Tree to be pruned 10%	—
All other trees to be pruned 5%	

Figure 6 Tree Recommendations

Recommendations in Relation to Tree Pruning

- Generally the planting should be retained as the trees are in:
 - Good Vigour
 - Good Condition
 - With Long (40 years+) Safe Useful Life Expectancy.
- Reduction pruning is the method prescribed. This involves working from the outside of the crown and is designed to reduce the overall size of the height of the tree.
 - The widest and tallest branches are targeted but only to 5% or 10% of total leaf area should be removed.
 - The maximum diameter of limbs removed should be limited to 150mm at the final cut, with the majority of limbs being less than 100mm diameter.
- The aim of the moderate pruning program is to avoid initiating any subsequent epicormic growth following the pruning.
 - The leaf area will be reduced by 5-10% but without initiating new epicormics shoots.
 - Approximately 50% of the epicormic growth on the lower limbs should be removed.
 - Pruning of greater than 5-10% would initiate additional epicormic growth.
- Excessive pruning and reduced leaf area results in:
 - Reduced capacity of the tree to produce photosynthates (sugars) and could lead to tree decline. Trees with depleted sugar reserves are predisposed to disease and insect activity.
 - Dysfunctional roots which predispose trees to soil pathogens.
 - Creation of large wounds and decay entry points.
- The 5-10% reduction pruning will reduce the propensity for major limb failure through reduced wind loading and will maintain stable tree biochemistry. Crown reduction (<10% leaf area) will shorten length (lever arm) of tallest and widest limbs.
- Pruning should occur no more than once every 5 years. Following any form of canopy pruning the trees need time to “settle” to grow new leaves and re-establish a balanced root to shoot ratio.

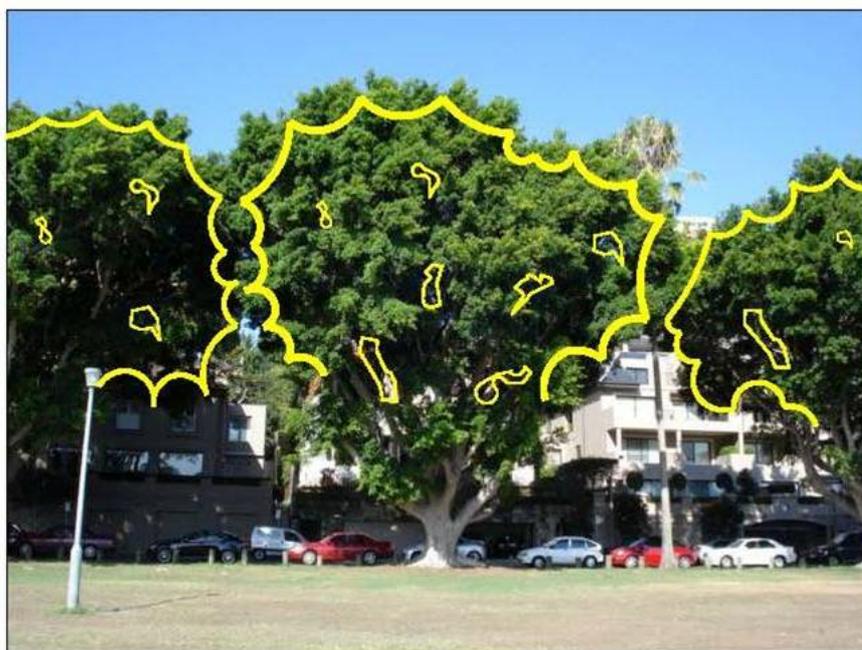


Figure 7 Example of Recommended Tree Pruning

- Gaps through the canopy and between trees will be created. There will be general view improvements as part of the prescribed 10-15% pruning

Recommendations in Relation to Ongoing Management

- Many of the trees require additional mulching within the dripline.
- Root damage within the carriageway should be minimised by means of bitumen infill and ramping. The decay within the damaged roots was found to be localised with no spread back to the main trunk. Further mower damage to surface roots should be avoided through mulching or topdressing.
- Trip hazards within the footpaths are to be managed through ramping or other techniques which do not injure the trees' roots.
- Trees should be inspected annually.

Recommended actions in response to Consultant's findings.

In response to the above findings we propose to:

- Remove Yarranabbe Tree 1 as this tree is in poor condition and could become a hazard;
- Monitor the condition of Yarranabbe Tree 12 with a view to determine whether it should be removed or retained;
- Undertake no pruning, apart from necessary maintenance, or replacement planting until:
 - The Tree Management Policy has been developed and reported to Council and the principles for replacement planting have been established , and
 - the review of the Yarranabbe Park Plan of Management has been undertaken
- Undertake mulching in the tree root zones;
- Undertake road pavement treatment as part of our road maintenance programs to remove trip hazards and protect tree roots.

Resident Group's Submission

Following the receipt of the consultant's report, briefings were held on 9 February for Councillors and on 17 February for representatives of the Rushcutters Bay Parks Enhancement Group, a group of residents with properties facing Rushcutters Bay and Yarranabbe Park. Subsequently, the residents' representatives submitted the letter attached as Annexure 2. The letter concludes with 6 points as follows, with comments:

- 1. The review of the Rushcutters Bay Park plan of Management is paramount. It must be divorced from and not await the outcome of, the revised Public Tree Management Policy.*
- 2. The review must advance expeditiously its own program, so that the creation of the masterplan for the Parks can proceed independently and without constraints of further delays.*

[Comment on 1 and 2: the Council resolution requires the Tree Management Policy to be reported to Council first so that this will be considered in reviewing the Plan of Management – a primary objective of RUBPEG is to address the issue of trees affecting views and this must be considered in a municipality wide context]

- 3. A working group should be established forthwith to set up the terms of reference for the review process. The working group would incorporate nominated Councillors, staff and community representatives, including RUBPEG.*
- 4. The working group would be charged to appoint lead consultants to advise on a suitable masterplan for the Parks.*

[Comment on 3 and 4: the Council resolution requires public consultation and a working group including one representative of RUBPEG, along with other community interest groups is one way this could be achieved]

5. *A report, incorporating the proposed masterplan, must be brought to Council by not later than 30 June 2009.*

[Comment: the Council resolution requires the Tree Management Policy to be reported to Council within 9 months – a report on the tree management policy is provided separately]

6. *Subject to Council approval, the masterplan will be implemented in stages in order of priority and affordability.*

[Comment: implementation of the plan will be subject to annual budget and management plan decisions]

Recommendations

Following on the findings of the consultant's report it is now recommended:

- That Council note the consultant's report on the assessment of the New Beach Road trees as required by Part C of the resolution of 8 September 2008;
- That we remove Yarranabbe Tree 1;
- That we monitor Yarranabbe Tree 12 with a view to determining removal or retention;
- That we undertake no pruning, (apart from necessary maintenance), or replacement planting until the Tree Management Policy is further developed, and the review of the Park Plan of Management is undertaken;
- That we remove the tree cages and fill the holes (which were dug for the replacement Fig Trees) until the review of the Park Plan of Management clarifies these planting positions;
- That we keep local residents informed of any works arising from these recommendations.

Bruce Rann
Acting Manager Open Space and Trees

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

ANNEXURES:

1. Site-Line and Pruning Issues
2. Resident Group Submissions

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Tree Management Policy**
Author: Bruce Rann - Acting Manager Open Space and Trees
File No: 262.G
Reason for Report: To respond to a Council Resolution

Recommendations:

1. That the Principles set out in the report be endorsed as the basis of the draft Tree Management Policy.
2. That the Vegetation Management Strategy Working Party be convened to review the detailed draft Tree Management Policy.
3. That expressions of interest be invited from community groups to each nominate a representative to participate in the review by the Vegetation Management Strategy Working Party.
4. That an expert peer review of the Tree Management Policy be carried out following feedback from the VMSC.
5. That, following completion of the peer review, the draft Tree Management Policy be submitted to the Community and Environment Committee with a view to placing it on public exhibition.

Background

Council at its meeting on 12 May 2008 adopted the following Notice of Motion:

“That a report be brought to Community & Environment Committee setting out Council’s Tree Policy and suggested amendments to make it an up to date document. Special attention to trees that cause view loss, including Council’s own trees.”

A report was provided 25 August 2009. This report comprised:

1. An overview of Woollahra’s Vegetation Management Strategy;
2. An overview of Woollahra’s tree pruning practices;
3. The legal status of trees and views;
4. A review of how other Councils and government agencies manage trees in response to view requests by residents;
5. The principles that may apply to managing public foreshore vegetation in Woollahra;
6. An overview of the introduction of Hills Fig into Sydney parks and gardens;
7. Yarranabbe Park and the history of tree management;
8. Outline whether the Yarranabbe Park trees can be pruned without undue harm;
9. Address typical submissions made regarding trees in Yarranabbe Park; and
10. Conclusion and recommendations.

Having considered this report, Council resolved 8 September 2008:

- A. *“That a Tree Management Policy for the whole of the Woollahra Municipality be prepared within 9 months with timely reviews being reported to the Community and Environment Committee.*

- B. *That prior to the Policy being submitted to the Community and Environment Committee, that the draft policy be reviewed by appropriate consultants and that there be public consultation and working parties involving the public to enable them to have an input into the draft policy.*
- C. *That staff undertake a detailed assessment of each individual tree with the assistance of external consultants, along New Beach Road to determine options (if any), which may be able to be implemented which can retain the uniformity of the avenue, the health and integrity of the Figs, whilst considering the views of adjoining residents.*
- D. *That following preparation of the report required by Part A, a report be brought to the appropriate committee with a view to reviewing the Rushcutters Bay Park Plan of Management and in particular considering the Tree Policy, including selective view pruning and selective tree replacement and the report identify any changes required to the Rushcutters Bay Park Plan of Management arising from the review of the Tree Policy.*
- E. *That a review of the Rushcutters Bay Park Plan of Management be carried out that brings forward a new landscape plan which includes individual garden beds, edging and or alternative and identified tree plantings in the park and that a working party with community representatives be established and that a sunset clause be placed on that working party and that a report be brought to the appropriate committee.”.*

This report addresses Parts A and B of the resolution. Part C is the subject of a separate report which also refers to Parts D and E.

Overview

Many of Woollahra's famed leafy parks and streetscapes were established during the 'Inter-war Period'. The arboricultural, aesthetic and heritage qualities of these trees are readily apparent through their age, scale, size and impact at the local community level as well as being visually significant from the harbour and adjacent ridges and valleys.

Because Woollahra has many streets with harbour and ocean views and a considerable number of waterfront parks, the potential for conflict between public and private interests regarding tree management is intense in certain locations. The Council, as the custodian of public assets and responsible for public amenity, must endeavour to strike a balance between these competing interests.

Significant concentrations of historic and cultural plantings exist that are remnants from historic estates, older subdivisions, and commemorative plantings. There are 12,000 street trees, approximately 30,000 trees in public parks, plus many thousands of trees on bushland and on private property, all of which contribute to the health and beauty of our area.

Our tree collections comprise a diverse range of species planted over a number of historical periods, and the management of our trees is a large and complex job. Trees are long term dynamic assets and their establishment and removal is often difficult from both physical and consultative points of view.

The policy will reflect industry best practice and will align with the goals and strategies of the Council's draft Community Strategy Plan and Delivery Program, which relate to tree management.

The draft policy includes guiding principles we will use for maintaining our public and private tree collections in a safe, healthy and environmentally sensitive way, while balancing public and private amenity.

The Council resolution requested” *That a Public Tree Management Policy for the whole of the Woollahra Municipality be prepared within 9 months with timely reviews being reported to the Community and Environment Committee.*

As many of the objectives and principles for public trees apply equally to private trees, the proposed draft policy is designed to be applicable to tree management on both public and private property.

How the Policy will be structured

The proposed Tree Management Policy will comprise the following sections:

1. Objectives: these are set out below and describe the overall aims for the policy
2. Principles: these are the guidelines for decision making which are set out below in three categories - general, replacement planting and view pruning.
3. Private Tree Management: this section covers the assessment of applications made under the Tree Preservation Order (which will become a Trees DCP in future) for the pruning or removal of trees on private property, and assessment of Development Application referrals.
4. Public Tree Management: this section covers the management and maintenance of street and park trees, including tree removals and replacement planting, programmed maintenance, responses to customer requests, tree asset inventories and condition surveys, guidelines for management of trees in relation to iconic views, guidelines for assessment of trees impacting on property, infrastructure and services, removal of undesirable species and replacement planting.
5. Significant and Heritage Trees: this is the currently adopted list of private and public significant trees and covers the need for review and updating.
6. Tree Selection: this comprises lists of suitable trees for street planting by street and precinct.
7. Plans of Management: this section covers guidelines for tree management and selection in site specific plans which recognise local characteristics, opportunities and constraints.

How the Policy will be developed

The following steps are proposed to give effect to Council resolution of 8 September 2008, Parts A and B.

As the first step, this report sets out below the proposed Objectives and guiding Principles which we are recommending Council adopt as the basis for the detailed tree management policy.

As the next step, it is proposed that a preliminary draft of the policy be submitted to the Vegetation Management Strategy Working Party for review. This working party comprises two nominated Councillors, Cr Howe and Cr Grieve, and a number of industry experts who previously contributed to the revision of the Tree Preservation Order (adopted 2006) and our Noxious Weed Policy and Strategy (adopted 2007), who will be invited to participate in the development of the Tree Management Policy.

It is proposed that we also invite expressions of interest from community groups to participate in the Working Party, and /or to make submissions.

It is proposed that the Working Party will develop a draft text for the policy, which will be submitted to an expert in the field for a peer review, and then submitted to the Community and Environment Committee with a view to placing the Policy on public exhibition.

Policy Objectives and Principles

Objectives

The primary objectives of tree management in Woollahra are:

- to maintain our tree canopy and leafy landscape character,
- to ensure trees in our care are healthy and well maintained,

- to ensure public safety and
- to preserve a balance of public and private amenity.

Principles

In making decisions about tree selection, planting, pruning, removal and replacement:

General Principles

- We will consider the public interest and private interests; the public interest will generally take precedence over private interests, but a major private benefit may take precedence over a minor public detriment.
- We will take into account the Goals and Strategies of the [draft] Community Strategic Plan 2010-2025 and Delivery Program 2010-2013, the relevant provisions of the Woollahra LEP and relevant DCPs, REPs and SEPPs, and the relevant provisions of Community Land and Crown Land Plans of Management.
- Whenever practicable we will promote the use of local native plant species and indigenous trees in remnant bushland areas will not be permitted to be pruned or removed except where warranted by the condition of the tree.
- Unless otherwise authorised by a Plan of Management, DCP or other adopted Council policy which has been publicly exhibited, culturally significant trees or groups of trees, including avenue plantings, will be maintained and matching replacement plantings will be carried out where required to preserve the integrity of the group.

Replacement Planting Principles

- Where trees are permitted to be removed because of poor condition or danger to public safety, replacement planting will occur with the objective of restoring (over time) lost tree canopy.
- Where trees are permitted to be removed as part of a TPO approval, replacement planting will be required as a condition of approval with the objective of restoring (over time) lost tree canopy.
- Where trees are permitted to be removed as part of a development consent, replacement planting will be required as a condition of consent with the objective of restoring (over time) lost tree canopy.
- Preferred species for private property, street and park tree replacement plantings will generally be indigenous to the local area or will be compatible with existing culturally significant trees, where applicable.
- Species selection will take into account specific local needs such as solar access, shade, overhead wiring, adjacent buildings, iconic harbour views and view corridors.
- Species selected for planting will be avoided which have potential to cause damage to or interfere with public infrastructure or private property, or iconic views.

View Pruning Principles

- Pruning of public trees for views will be considered only in situations where they affect long-standing iconic harbour views and view corridors. Pruning for views will be managed to take into account and balance private and public interests. Pruning or removal of trees to create a new iconic view will not be permitted.
- Where repeated view pruning is assessed as detrimental (or potentially detrimental) to the condition of a tree, consideration will be given to removal and replacement planting which will allow views past, over or through the selected species.

Conclusion

Council has resolved *“That a Public Tree Management Policy for the whole of the Woollahra Municipality be prepared within 9 months with timely reviews being reported to the Community and Environment Committee”* and *“That prior to the Policy being submitted to the Community and Environment Committee, that the draft policy be reviewed by appropriate consultants and that there be public consultation and working parties involving the public to enable them to have an input into the draft policy.”*

This report sets out objectives, guiding principles and a framework for the proposed policy and a process for developing the policy for Council consideration. As many of the objectives and principles for public trees apply equally to private trees, the proposed draft policy is designed to be applicable to tree management on both public and private property.

We attach two examples of how the guiding principles could be applied to some current tree management issues; please refer to annexure one and annexure two. These examples are not intended to indicate final decisions on these issues, but rather to show how specific examples could be worked through and analysed using the guiding principles.

Bruce Rann
Acting Manager Public Open Space and Trees

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Annexures:

1. Application of Principles to New Beach Road
2. Application of Principles to Wolseley Road

Item No: D4 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Cooper Park Draft Plan of Management**
Author: Paul Fraser, Parks & Recreation Coordinator
File No: 178.G MP
Reason for Report: To recommend the draft Plan of Management for Cooper Park be placed on public exhibition and submissions be invited in accordance with Section 38 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Recommendation:

- A. That Council place the draft Plan of Management for Cooper Park (Annexure 1) on public exhibition for not less than 28 days and that submissions be received for a period of not less than 42 days from the date the plan is placed on exhibition, in accordance with Section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- B. That Council considers submissions received and, where appropriate, incorporates changes in a Final Plan of Management to be further considered by Council.

Background:

Cooper Park is under the ownership of Council and the Plan of Management (PoM) must be prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. The PoM is required to form a strategic approach to the management of the land. An existing Plan of Management (2001) for Cooper Park, Double Bay, is required to be reviewed and updated. The draft Cooper Park Plan of Management has been prepared to guide Woollahra Council in the care, control and management of the Park.

Cooper Park (Suttie Road, Double Bay) occupies an area of 17.7 hectares and straddles the suburbs of Bellevue Hill and Woollahra within the southern part of Woollahra Municipality. It contains the largest area of urban bushland within the Municipality under Council control. Cooper Park possesses features and facilities suitable for both active and passive recreation and acts as an important resource for the local community and visitors outside the Municipality.

Cooper Park includes nature trails, pathway networks, eight tennis courts and kiosk, two cricket ovals (junior), two cricket practice nets, playgrounds, public toilets, community hall, and informal recreation infrastructure (park furniture).

The draft Plan of Management reviews, updates and replaces the previous Plan of Management prepared in 2001. The park is well used by local and Sydney-wide residents and overseas visitors enjoying the open space, a variety of informal recreation and sporting activities, and occasional special events.

Re-categorisation of Community Land

As part of updating the Plan of Management, Council sought to re-categorise certain areas of Cooper Park to better reflect the current and intended use.

Cooper Park is classified as ‘community land’ under the *Local Government Act 1993*. Under Section 36(4) of this Act, community land is required to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- Natural area (further categorised as either bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore).
- Sportsground
- Park
- Area of Cultural Significance
- General Community Use

Members of the public were invited to a public hearing, held on 4 December 2008, to comment on the re-categorisation proposal. Following the completion of the hearing, Council resolved on 27 January 2009, to re-categorise the recommended areas of Cooper Park to better reflect the current and intended use as outlined in the table below.

Area	Previous categorisation	Approved categorisation
Tennis kiosk/public toilets/caretakers cottage	Bushland	General Community Use
Lower Cooper Park (turfed sportsgrounds, cricket pitches & nets)	Park	Sportsground
Bunna Place & carpark	Park	General Community Use

Proposal:

The draft PoM has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*. The PoM is required to form a strategic approach to the management of the land and to guide Woollahra Council in the care, control and management of the Park. An existing Plan of Management (2001) for Cooper Park, Double Bay, is required to be reviewed and updated.

The key objective of this Plan of Management is to review and update the existing Plan of Management for Cooper Park and direct Council in meeting the future roles of the Park. The roles of Cooper Park include:

- A reminder of the history of Double Bay and Bellevue Hill in the 1800s and 1900s.
- An open space and bushland area in the midst of a high density residential and commercial area.
 - An informal recreation area for passive recreation activities.
 - A place for local children, young people and families to play informally and to play sport.
 - A place for older adults to exercise, with safe sealed walking paths and seating.
 - Opportunities for families, workers and groups to enjoy lunch and picnics.
 - Junior cricket field that attracts predominantly local and district users.
 - Venue for outdoor court sports.
 - Venue for indoor community activities and functions.
 - A place to grow fruit and vegetables in a shared community garden.
 - Publicly accessible vantage points from which to view the city and Bondi Junction.
 - A pedestrian and cycle linkage between surrounding land uses.
 - A venue for facilities catering for young children.

This Draft Plan of Management aims to:

- Establish the basis for a considered and consistent approach to the management of Cooper Park, while providing a flexible framework within which Council can respond to current needs and opportunities, as well as to future directions and pressures as demands on the Park may change.

- Satisfy the legislative requirements for preparation of a Plan of Management for community land.
- Establish a compatible relationship with the broader Council planning framework, including Council's Management Plan and its other adopted strategies, plans and policies.
- Identify the values of the Park to the community.
- Reflect the values and expectations of the community and current and potential Park users for future use and enjoyment of the Park.
- Assist Council in providing quality open space and recreational facilities that meet the needs of the community.
- Address issues, particularly in relation to the Park's ecology, creek and drainage, infrastructure, and preferred mix of recreational facilities.
- Prepare clear and achievable management strategies to guide the future use, management and enhancement of the Park, based on community expectations and the 'Basis for Management'.
- Recommend performance measures by which progress towards, and achievement of, the objectives of the Plan can be measured and reported.
- Proposes the development of a Landscape Masterplan which will guide future upgrading and maintenance of Cooper Park.

A number of issues were identified through preparation of this Draft Plan of Management and include, but are not limited to, the poor condition of Cooper Park creek and pond, declining health of some trees in the park, weed infestation of some areas of Cooper Park, lack of infrastructure within the picnic area, and reconfiguration of the Cooper Park cricket nets and sportsground.

Examples of some of the key actions authorised by this draft plan include:

- Installation of adequate lighting between the Adelaide Street entry and the tennis courts.
- Realign and stabilise pathways within Cooper Park and incorporate interpretative signage associated with the natural history and cultural history of the Park.
- Installation of park furniture and BBQ's in areas of high public use including Cooper Park picnic area.
- Minimise erosion and sedimentation of soils associated with uncontrolled stormwater flows.
- Maintain and enhance the current bush regeneration and bushcare program to address weed infestation issues.
- Rehabilitate the Cooper Park pond to its approximate original condition while recognising its role as a sediment trap.
- Investigate and offer opportunities for informal recreation including an exercise station, youth facility and community garden.

The draft Plan of Management contains a Landscape Concept Plan (page 64) which illustrates some key actions and directions for Cooper Park which will be further investigated and developed into a comprehensive landscape masterplan.

Further information is provided in relation to these key actions.

Pathway Lighting

There is limited artificial lighting associated with pedestrian access within the Park. The path leading up to Adelaide Street from the tennis kiosk has inadequate lighting to ensure safe access to tennis court patrons that enter and leave the Park via this entrance during the evening. Lighting this pathway needs to be strategically designed to allow safe access to the tennis courts without encouraging general access at night to the Park. It is inappropriate to encourage general access at night and is not cost effective to install lighting throughout the Park generally.

Pathway Improvements and Interpretation

There are approximately 4 kilometres of paved and unpaved pathways throughout Cooper Park. The pathway system is popular for bushwalking, walking groups and as a preferred thoroughfare access between local streets and shopping precincts. The majority of paths are structurally sound but require major works to provide safe and accessible pathways to ensure a functional route system throughout the Park. There is evidence of storm water erosion in some sections of walks, including the Rosewood Walk that requires stone realignment and stabilisation.

Improvement of the pathway network will coincide with the installation of Council directional signage and an interpretative strategy based on the Park's cultural significance from Aboriginal and post settlement perspectives to increase the park visitor and local communities awareness of the parks significance. Interpretative signage will be installed at various public interest points and directional signage along the main walking trails.

Park Furniture and BBQ installation

Request from the community have been received for BBQ facilities and additional picnic furniture/shelter associated with highly used areas of Cooper Park, including the Cooper Park playground and picnic area. Council staff will investigate the installation of electric BBQ's and shelter with the addition of extra garbage bins and park furniture in these areas.

Stormwater Management and Erosion

Erosion is predominantly caused by the overland flow of stormwater in the Park. There is evidence of erosion along steep embankments and the sides of the creek channel. Some pathways also show evidence of erosion and are constantly damp. Uncontrolled stormwater runoff and flows have caused damage to park facilities, as well as reducing the use of many areas in the Park for some days after rain. A Stormwater Management Plan for Cooper Park was prepared in response to the quality and quantity of stormwater flows into the Park. The majority of these recommendations have been implemented however, some further stormwater problems have occurred. A strategy to minimise erosion, nutrient loading, sedimentation of soils and soakage areas associated with uncontrolled stormwater flows needs to be investigated.

A scope of works for Bellevue Hills Shopping precinct has been determined for improvements to the streetscape with electrical and civil works which is to be completed by September 2009. The civil works include kerb and gutter reconstruction, construction of stormwater treatment devices, including porous paving and rain gardens and associated reticulation and minor street-side landscaping which will enhance the management of stormwater into Cooper Park.

Bush Regeneration

Weed infestation in the Park stems directly from the impacts of residential development and resource extraction. Many weed species introduced originally as horticultural plants on private property within the Park's catchment have, through various dispersal mechanisms, become established within Cooper Park. Weed removal is the primary requirement for the regeneration process preceding the germination of naturally occurring seed. Bush regeneration is the primary managerial theme of maintenance task in Cooper Park and has exhibited a high degree of sustainability over the past 20 years. It is a process that aims to restore the type of plant communities that existed within this area prior to European settlement through various methods of regeneration, rehabilitation and revegetation. Various areas including the southern embankment of Cooper Park and sections of the Amphitheatre have been identified as priority areas for weed management and bush regeneration strategies.

Cooper Park Pond

The Cooper Park pond has by default developed as a sediment trap for stormwater flows from adjacent streets and has fallen into disrepair. It was originally larger, however sediment and exotic weeds have encroached on the pond area and reduced capacity. Its function and attractiveness has diminished. Storm Consulting (2008) recommended four appropriate Water Sensitive Urban Design solutions for the environmental and stormwater problems evident at the pond. The preferred option consists of retro-fitting Water Sensitive Urban Design elements on to the existing drainage system. The pond area is currently under construction which addresses issues associated with sediment deposition, gross pollutants and water quality which is to be completed by April 2009.

Informal Recreation Facilities

The Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy (2006) outlined strategies that will affect the provision, management and maintenance of recreational facilities and open space within the Park. The recommendations included the investigation of options for youth-friendly infrastructure and passive recreational facilities. Community consultation has identified an increasing interest in physical fitness and an associated demand for the provision of fitness and exercise equipment within public open spaces. The installation of appropriate fitness and exercise equipment to complement existing active recreational opportunities within Cooper Park would be appropriate. Placement of equipment would be suitable in Lower Cooper Park, North Cooper Park, or in the Amphitheatre areas.

The practice cricket nets at Lower Cooper Park have been a point of some conflict between cricketers and other Park users in relation to wayward balls threatening injury and nuisance. In the short term, appropriate signage will be placed on-site directing users of the cricket nets to be mindful of other Park users. There is also the need to investigate the possible relocation of cricket nets and reconfiguration of Lower Cooper Park to minimise this conflict.

Council's Community Garden Policy encourages the establishment of community gardens in suitable locations and includes criteria for the selection of a site. Two areas that we have investigated for a possible location of a Community Garden in the Park are the flat grassed area near the Cooper Park Community Hall, or in Bellevue Gardens accessible from Kendall Street. The feasibility of establishing a community garden at these sites will be subject to further detailed investigation and a review of the Paddington Community Garden.

Proposed Consultation:

The Local Government Act requires a public exhibition period of not less than 28 days for draft plans of management. Submissions may be made up to 42 days after the date on which the draft plan is placed on exhibition. Community members will be encouraged to review the draft plan and make a submission assisted by:

- Undertaking a letter box drop to neighbouring residents;
- An advertisement placed in the local newspaper;
- Notification signs placed in the park and at all entries;
- Woollahra Council's web page;
- Copies of the PoM being available for viewing at the Woollahra Libraries and at the Council Chambers

Following the exhibition period all submissions will be reviewed and a further report prepared for Council consideration.

Conclusion:

The draft Cooper Park Plan of Management is recommended to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days. Upon review of any comments or submissions received, a further report be forward for Council's consideration.

Paul Fraser
Parks & Recreation Coordinator

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

ANNEXURES:

1. Draft Cooper Park Plan of Management

Item No: R1 Recommendation to Council
Subject: **Proposed Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Policy and Strategy**
Author: Mark Ramsay – Manager Depot and Waste Services
File No: 588.G
Reason for Report: To respond to a Resolution of Council on 9 March 2009

Recommendation:

- A. That Council place the attached draft Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Policy and Strategy, with background information, on public exhibition for 28 days with a submission period of 42 days including the exhibition period.
- B. That a report be provided at the conclusion of the exhibition period, with recommendations for a final Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Policy and Strategy.

Background:

At the Council meeting on 9 March 2009, Council passed a resolution to adopt the report on the Proposed Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Policy and Strategy recommending that:

- A. *That Council place the attached draft Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Policy and Strategy, with background information, on public exhibition for 28 days with a submission period of 42 days including the exhibition period subject to the information intended to be placed on public exhibition being submitted to Council before it goes on public exhibition.*
- B. *That a report be provided at the conclusion of the exhibition period, with recommendations for a final Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Policy and Strategy.*

Attached to this report is the proposed draft policy and the background notes to be placed on public exhibition.

Mark Ramsay
Manager Depot & Waste Services

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

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FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCILLORS**

