



# Community & Environment Committee

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

**Date:** *Monday 1 May 2006*

**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

27 April 2006

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

Dear Councillors

### **Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 1 May 2006**

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 1 May 2006 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James  
General Manager

## Meeting Agenda

Item	Subject	Pages
1	Leave of Absence and Apologies	
2	Late Correspondence	
3	Declarations of Interest	

### **Items to be Decided by this Committee using its Delegated Authority**

D1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 10 April 2006	1
D2	Public Exhibition of the Recreational Needs Assessment & Strategy – 731.G	2
D3	Feasibility of erecting screening at corner of New South Head Road & Victoria Road – 900.G	5
D4	Youth Week & Seniors Week 2006 – 967.G 2006	8
D5	Minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting Thursday 23 March 2006 – 1142.G	12
D6	Natural Environment Principal Activity – Draft 2006-2009 Management Plan – 827.G 04-07	28
D7	Community Services Principal Activity – Draft 2006-2009 Management Plan – 827.G 04-07	43
D8	Parks & Public Space Principal Activity – Draft 2006-2009 Management Plan – 827.G 04-07	69

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

**Item No:** D1 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 10 April 2006**  
**Author:** Les Windle, Manager - Governance  
**File No:** See Council Minutes  
**Reason for Report:** The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 10 April 2006 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 10 April 2006 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle

**Item No:** D2 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Public Exhibition of the Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy**  
**Author:** Scot Hedge, Parks and Recreation Coordinator  
**File No:** 731.G  
**Reason for Report:** To recommend the draft Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy be placed on public exhibition

**Recommendation:**

That the draft Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy be placed on public exhibition for 4 weeks, with submissions being accepted for 6 weeks.

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**Background:**

Stratcorp Consulting has prepared a draft Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy (Strategy) for the Woollahra municipality. The draft Strategy aims to provide Council with the necessary planning direction to further develop and expand sporting and recreational resources and to improve efficiencies.

Participation trends and activity patterns were considered to identify any gaps in current open space or recreation facility provision. The consultant has assessed the use and popularity of existing facilities and has provided information and recommendations for the Council to best meet the future recreational needs of the community.

Following the Councillor Briefing and Workshop of Monday 3 April 2006 the consultant has updated the draft document that was originally distributed with the Councillor Bulletin on Thursday 16 March.

The key objectives of the draft Strategy include:

- Provide a diversity of recreation facilities and opportunities
- Provide facilities and infrastructure that can support high levels of community use
- Encourage and support community involvement in sustainable club management and development
- Facilitate diverse recreation programs and participation opportunities (either directly by Council or external providers)
- Provide effective management, support and resources

The Strategy will ensure a continued focussed approach is taken in relation to the provision and management of leisure resources across the municipality and will build on the various open space and recreational facility improvements recently undertaken by Council. The Strategy will contribute to the effective delivery of appropriate infrastructure, facilities and services to increase participation by residents in recreational activities.

**Consultation:**

Consultation undertaken throughout the study has helped identify the community's needs and values for recreation and open space. The consultation program to date has involved:

Household telephone and in-field surveys

Surveying and interviewing schools, sporting clubs and industry groups  
Contacting Target Groups such as Youth Advisory Committee, Access Committee, and Seniors Advisory Committee  
Community workshop  
Council staff workshop  
Providing a community survey on Council's website  
Councillor briefing and workshop

As a result of the consultation process key issues were identified and have been grouped into headings such as open space, leisure facilities, sports grounds, and management. The key issues include, but are not limited to, those provided below.

### **Open space**

Council should recognise, actively promote and build on the high level of community satisfaction with Woollahra's open spaces, through ongoing park improvements and infrastructure developments, particularly paths, park furniture and informal recreation facilities

### **Leisure facilities**

In light of the popularity of walking, footpaths, walking tracks and trails should be viewed as the highest priority leisure facility in the municipality. There is also evidence of growing demand for programs, services and facilities for children, the elderly and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse groups.

### **Sports grounds,**

The priority for Council for the provision of additional sporting facilities should be on the provision of multi-use, adaptable sports turf areas that are capable of being used by a variety of sports and activities.

### **Management**

Develop alliances with schools and other land owners or managers to help resolve current and likely future shortages in open space for both passive recreation and sporting activities. Consider further opportunities to build on outcomes of the Girls Sports Working Party and continue to achieve a better balance for male and female sport participants.

The draft Strategy contains numerous recommendations to address the issues identified during research and consultation. There are a number of specific projects included in the draft 2006/2007 Capital Budget for Public Open Space, which are in accordance with the draft Strategy. Examples of such projects, and how they relate to the key issues above, include:

Dumaresq Reserve Landscaping Improvements – new turf, low key plantings and provision of park furniture to provide a quality foreshore open space for passive recreation  
Gap Park Detailed Landscape Plan – development of landscape plan which will investigate provision of a multi-use pathway through the park  
Lyne Park Landscaping Improvements – extension of foreshore promenade and other landscape treatments providing improved pedestrian tracks and informal recreation facilities  
Rose Bay Park Dinghy Storage Facility – provide facilities for water based recreation  
Elms Reserve Playground – improved leisure facility for young children  
Dillon Street Playground – improved leisure facility for young children  
Lough Playing Fields Irrigation Upgrade – works that will provide an improved multi-purpose playing surface and permit an increase in hours of usage  
Investigation into Christison Park Irrigation Renewal – research possibilities for alternative water sources and irrigation system renewal to assist in park surface improvements

The public exhibition of the draft Strategy will provide further opportunity for the community and stakeholders to raise any issues they have in relation to recreational needs and future open space requirements.

It is proposed that the document be placed on exhibition for a period of 4 weeks with submissions being accepted up to 6 weeks. These are the same as the requirements for public exhibition of Plans of Management under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

It is proposed to advertise the public exhibition of the draft Strategy in the Wentworth Courier in the first and third week of the exhibition phase. The advertisement will also appear on Council's website for the 4 week period. Displays and copies of the document will be provided in the Customer Service area of the Redleaf Chambers and within each of Woollahra's libraries.

Stakeholders identified throughout the consultation program, such as sporting groups, schools, community groups (youth, disabled, culturally diverse) and members of the public will also be notified of the public exhibition.

**Conclusion:**

It is recommended that the draft Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy be placed on exhibition for a period of 4 weeks, with submissions being accepted up to 6 weeks, to allow the community to provide comment on the Strategy.

Scot Hedge  
Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Warwick Hatton  
Director Technical Services

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**ANNEXURES:**

1. Draft Recreational Needs Assessment and Strategy (April, 2006) (distributed separately)



**Item No:** D3 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Feasibility of Erecting Screening at corner of New South Head Road and Victoria Road**  
**Author:** Scot Hedge, Parks and Recreation Coordinator  
**File No:** 900.G  
**Reason for Report:** Responding to Notice of Motion adopted by Council on 13 March 2006

**Recommendation:**

- A. That a screening structure as proposed is not feasible.
- B. That, subject to an assessment of the condition of the tree, the tree be pruned to retain in place for some time the main trunk and branches, and a banner attached as a message that Council will not tolerate the poisoning and wanton destruction of trees in the Municipality.
- C. That a further report be provided regarding the possibility of developing a scheme for rewards for information regarding breaches of the Tree Preservation Order.

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**Background:**

Council resolved on 13 March 2006 that:

*“A report be brought to the Community & Environment Committee reporting on the feasibility of erecting a screen or other structure on the corner of New South Head Road and Victoria Road for the purpose of creating screening of a similar nature of the now dying tree. The structure to be preferably painted green with a tree painted in black so as to remind residents that the Council will not tolerate the poisoning and wanton destruction of trees within the Municipality.”*

The proposal to erect a screening structure at the corner of New South Head Road and Victoria Road suggested raises a number of cost and logistical considerations involved with construction, public safety concerns, and incompatibility with Council’s development control objectives.

Construction Considerations

Erecting a screen of a similar nature to the existing tree would require a significant amount of space within the footpath reserve. In this particular location it is considered there would be insufficient space for the extensive supporting structure and footings which would be required to support a screen of the proposed size, due to:

- the necessary setbacks from the kerb to allow clear passage of passing vehicles,
- the need to provide adequate sight lines for passing vehicles, and
- the need to allow for pedestrian traffic.

Although no cost estimates have been prepared, as the nature of the structure has not been determined, construction is expected to be costly, due to the extensive supporting structure and footing excavation required, as well as necessary traffic control. The area of footpath is understood to contain a large number of underground services, which may make it cost prohibitive, or perhaps impossible, to install a footing that preserves the integrity of these services and provides the necessary structural foundation.

The erection of a large structure at the corner of New South Head Road and Victoria Road could also be a potential liability for Council in terms of creating a possible traffic hazard. Such a development would be required to be referred to the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) as it is adjacent to a state road. It is possible that the RTA may object to the proposal on traffic safety grounds.

Construction would entail closing traffic lanes in Victoria Road and New South Head Road for extended periods, which would cause significant traffic disruption, adjacent to a bus stop. The public has recently experienced traffic delays and disruption as a result of RTA road resurfacing in the same area.

#### Development Approval

A development application would be required to be submitted to erect a structure of the nature proposed. Such an application would be required to be assessed against relevant statutory controls, development controls and planning principles including, but not limited to, those identified below.

Objectives of the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 1995, at Clause 2(2)(h), include:

*“(iv) to consider the impact of development on the views of Sydney Harbour enjoyed by existing residents and to promote the practice of view sharing,  
(v) to protect and, where possible, improve the view of Sydney Harbour and its foreshore areas obtained from public land.”*

Objectives included in Part 5 of the Woollahra Residential Development Control Plan 1999, include:

*“To encourage view sharing as a means to ensuring equitable access to views from dwellings.”*

View obstruction devices aimed at having a punitive effect on a particular property may have impacts on surrounding residents and would be contrary to such objectives which encourage the principle of view sharing. It is considered that support for the approval of such a device could not be provided.

Team Leader Tree Management advises that the tree canopy cover is currently less than 10%, which is extremely unlikely to be sufficient to sustain the tree. It has been noted that there is currently a small amount of suckering (epicormic) growth, which is part of a tree's survival mechanism for a final attempt at leaf production. Extra watering of the tree is planned in an attempt to encourage the epicormic shoots, although it is likely that the toxin will eventually affect this new growth. In the worst case it is estimated that all foliage may be lost over the next four weeks.

It would be possible, however, to leave the main stem and branches of the tree in place for an extended period of time, which will remain in the view line of the adjacent property. The tree would need to be monitored for dessication and branches progressively pruned, as necessary, for safety reasons.

Council could also attach a banner to the tree advertising that the tree has been poisoned and that a reward is available for information that may lead to the identification and prosecution of parties responsible for the destruction of the tree. The value of the reward would need to be established in each case relative to the significance of the tree. It is recommended that a report be provided setting out the details of such a scheme for Council's consideration if Council wishes to pursue this approach.

A number of other Councils do have similar schemes in place and this information could be included in the report.

**Conclusion:**

The erection of a screen of a similar nature to the existing tree on the corner of New South Head Road and Victoria Road is not considered feasible due to estimated costs, construction difficulties and that such a development would not be considered compatible with local development control objectives.

It is considered that leaving the structure of the tree in place, with a banner advertising the tree has been poisoned, would be a more cost-effective option, and more appropriate for the location, to highlight the message that Council will not tolerate the poisoning and destruction of trees.

This could be further reinforced with the offer of a reward for information which could lead to a prosecution for breach of the Tree Preservation Order, as suggested above.

Scot Hedge  
Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Warwick Hatton  
Director Technical Services

**Item No:** D4 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** Youth Week and Seniors Week 2006  
**Author:** Pippa Lausen, Naomi Polivis  
**File No:** 967.G 2006  
**Reason for Report:** To advise Councillors of the activities undertaken by Council during Youth Week and Seniors Week 2006

**Recommendation:**

That the report on Youth Week and Seniors Week 2006 activities be noted.

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**Background:**

Following the announcement that Youth Week 2006 would run from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Services Development Officer at Council began a series of meetings and consultations with young people in the Woollahra area. As with past years, Woollahra Council worked in partnership with Waverley Council and WAYS (Waverley/Woollahra Action for Youth Services) and the Youth Advisory Council and formed a Youth Week Committee. This year, for the first time, Randwick City Council also joined the partnership, allowing for activities to be spread across all three municipalities.

The theme for Youth Week 2006 was “Just Add You”, and posters provided by both Commonwealth and the NSW Government promoting this theme were widely distributed to inform young people of forthcoming events.

As this year the date for Youth Week coincided with Seniors’ Week, due to the Commonwealth Games, it was also decided that the Council’s Youth Services Development Officer would work on a combined project with the Aged and Disability Development Officer.

The theme for Seniors’ Week was “Live Life” and a funding submission was developed by the Seniors’ Advisory Committee and Council’s Aged & Disability Development Officer for the intergenerational event “In the Mix @ McKell”. The Committee also decided to hold a Poetry Competition for local seniors aged 55+ to be coordinated by Mr Robin Brampton, a longstanding committee member.

Promotional material for Seniors Week events, forwarded to Council by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, was sent to all local community centres, Aged Care Facilities and retirement villages as well as the Council’s website, library and customer services.

**Consultation:**

With the help of the membership of the local Youth Advisory Committee, posters were distributed in schools and on one occasion the Youth Services Development Officer, together with a YAC representative, visited a local school assembly to promote Youth Week.

The Seniors’ Advisory Committee met and discussed plans on the combined youth and seniors’ event as well as the Poetry Competition named “Verse in the Golden Years”.

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

Council was granted \$1250 from the NSW Department of Community Services for Youth events and matched this with \$1250 from general revenue. Sponsorship was gained for prizes from a number of youth related businesses, including local music shops and cinemas.

Council received a grant of \$550.00 from the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care for the combined Seniors' and Youth event. General revenue covered part of the cost of the Seniors Week Poetry Competition together with sponsorship for prizes from Lesley McKay's Book Shop, Snowden Lane Real Estate and Mr Robin Brampton.

### **Youth and Seniors Events:**

#### **a) Youth Forum "Safe Partying"**

The Youth Forum, held at WAYS, was attended by 85 students from most of the schools in the three municipalities. All the schools in Woollahra were represented. The Forum aimed to give young people a comfortable and informal space in which to discuss all aspects of staying safe in party and group conditions. Five workshops covered the topics of registering parties with the police, First Aid, drugs and alcohol, safe sex and self-defence. Keynote speakers were a representative from RailCorp, Red Cross and a medical safety officer employed by Home Night Club.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Marcus Ehrlich, together with the Deputy Mayor of Randwick, Councillor Matson and Councillor Mora Main, Mayor of Waverley, opened the Forum and encouraged the students to participate fully in the day.

After the morning workshops, the students participated in an open roving mic forum in the afternoon and then divided in to groups to put on presentations on the topic of Safe Partying. Their work was judged by representatives of NSW Police, Red Cross and a local young DJ.

#### **b) Art Exhibition - "Allsorts"**

Urban Arts Base, an organisation dedicated to helping young people recovering from a mental illness and based in Council premises in Studio One, Double Bay, exhibited samples of their work at Bondi Pavilion during Youth Week. Opening night was on March 29<sup>th</sup> and was well-attended.

#### **c) Short Film Festival**

Eight short films made by local young people were shown at the Randwick Ritz cinema on Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The short film, *House of Dreams* made by young people in Woollahra at the Drill Hall in Sir David Martin Reserve last July was also featured and seen on the 'big screen' by some of those involved in its production.

#### **d) Bondi Blitz Youth Concert**

This event, the only concert allowed on the beach during the year, featured seven local school bands, a DJ and was headlined by *Kid Courageous* who has been featured on Triple J and FBI radio. The warm and sunny day attracted several hundred young people, their friends and families.

Let's Go Surfing attracted eight learners before it had to be called off due to unsafe conditions out in the bay.

**e) 3 on 3 Basketball Competition**

Youth Week 2006 concluded with a basketball competition held at Randwick Girls' High. This proved a popular attraction with over fifty young players getting involved.

**f) In the Mix @ McKell – Intergenerational Picnic**

Due to both Youth and Seniors' Weeks falling at the same in 2006, it was agreed within Community Services to try something different this year and run an experimental event bringing both age groups together in one of Woollahra's harbour-side parks. To this end, and with advice from both Youth Advisory Committee and the Seniors Advisory Committee, the event was aimed at younger teenagers and younger seniors, and featured an exhibition of seniors' poetry in Canonbury Cottage on site, music from young and old and interactive games and creative art works.

In all, around one hundred people participated. Councillor Boskovitz and Councillor Excell presented prizes for best artwork and the most involved junior and senior persons.

Despite intensive pre-publicity, the event had only limited success in drawing its target audience. Whilst feedback from those who were there has been entirely positive, the organisers now believe that such an event in a relatively isolated park was not the ideal to attract the two generations to get together.

Research amongst other councils on this intergenerational topic has revealed that an event such as barefoot bowls or a golf challenge can work and attract a large crowd from the two age groups.

**g) Poetry Competition "Verse in the Golden Years"**

The poetry competition was announced at the Woollahra Council Seniors Christmas concert on 13 December 2005 with entries open from January to March 2006. A total of 116 entries were received during those three months. The winning entries were announced and celebrated at an awards afternoon during Seniors Week. The three judges commented that there was a good range of entries in the five categories- Love or Romance, Celebrating growing older, Environmental, Humorous and Spiritual. The overall winner was Anne Fairbairn AM for her poem "Between the eternal and the hour", a spiritual poem dedicated to the memory of Margaret Hassan. Category winners and Highly Commended were as follows:

Love or Romance: the winning poem was "Un Parapluie D'Amour". by Marie McMillan and Highly Commended "Heloise Writes to Abelard" by Anne Fairbairn AM.  
Celebrating Growing Older: the winning poem was poem "I Sight" by Jennifer Jenkins and Highly Commended "Swedish Vases" by Barbara Cohen.  
Environmental: the winning poem was "February in Sydney" by Geoffrey Hemphill and Highly Commended "Currawong & Kookaburra" by Patricia Hirst.  
Humorous: the winning poem was "Lentigo Bay" by Anna Fried and Highly Commended "The Politician" by Dale Williams.  
Spiritual: the winning poem was "Dream" by Lana Brinkley and Highly Commended "Honk! If you are Jesus" by Dr Len Green.

The winning entries were on display at Canonbury Cottage, McKell Park between 9-12 April and then at Woollahra Council Chambers Customer Services from 19 April 2006 to 28 April 2006.

**Evaluation:**

It is recommended that Youth Week events continue to be developed in partnership with key stakeholders and in consultation with local young people and Youth Services due to the success in 2006.

It was particularly encouraging this year to work with a third council, Randwick, for the first time. This allows for more resources and a wider range of schools and students to be included in Youth Week activities.

In the future, an intergenerational event or activity such as barefoot bowls or a golf challenge can attract a larger crowd from the two age groups rather than a picnic with a variety of activities.

With the poetry competition being such a success, it is recommended that the Seniors Advisory Committee discuss holding further competitions as participants are already asking when the next round will be.

**Conclusion:**

Overall, Youth Week 2006 was successful, varied and well-attended. Over a thousand young people contributed to its success through their involvement in the planning, running or the participation in the different events. The initiative of the combined Youth and Seniors' Week event was an experiment and has yielded valuable lessons if another intergenerational project was to be planned in the future.

Seniors Week 2006 poetry competition was overwhelmingly successful with over 116 entries and the awards afternoon held with over 80 attendees at Woollahra Council Chambers.

Pippa Lausen  
Youth Services Development Officer

Lotta Jackson  
Manager Community Development

Naomi Polivis  
Aged & Disability Development Officer

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**ANNEXURES:**

Nil

**Item No:** D5 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group Meeting Thursday 23 March 2006**  
**Author:** Jamie Howieson – Project Manager Environmental Works  
**File No:** 1142.G  
**Reason for Report:** To report on the outcomes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 23 March 2006

**Recommendation:**

- A. That the minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting, held on Thursday 23 March 2006, be received and noted.
- B. That the committee supports the Reference Group and assessment panel's recommendation to engage the consultants for Stage 2 of the Environmental Education and Action Program as detailed in Annexure 2.

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**Background:**

The Minister for Local Government gave approval for Council to implement an Environmental Levy in 2002 for a three-year period. This allows Council to implement a range of environmental improvements, which aim to preserve and protect the natural beauty of the Woollahra Municipality.

The role of the ELCRG is to:

- receive and review progress reports on the implementation of the EWP;
- annually review the EWP;
- promote the EWP and its environmental objectives for the community;
- liaise with the community and provide feedback on the implementation of the EWP; and
- assist Council in seeking supplementary funding opportunities.

This report was presented to the previous Community and Environment Committee meeting on 10 April 2006 with an incorrect annexure. The report is hence presented again to this meeting 1 May 2006 with the correct minutes attached from the most recent ELCRG meeting dated 23 March 2006.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Environment Committee with a copy of the minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting held Monday 23 March 2006. The minutes will provide the Committee with an update on a variety of issues related to the implementation of the Environmental Works Program (EWP), with the main issue being extension of the Environmental Levy.

**Conclusion:**

Reporting on the minutes of the ELCRG will keep Council informed on the progress and main developments of the various projects and initiatives associated with implementing the EWP. The minutes include the actions recommended by the Group for the Committee's consideration for adoption.





Jamie Howieson  
Project Manager - Environmental Works

Warwick Hatton  
Director Technical Services

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**ANNEXURES:**

Annexure 1: Minutes of the ELCRG meeting of Thursday 23 March 2006.

Annexure 2: Consultant Assessment - Environmental Education and Action Program, Stage 2

**Item No:** D6 Delegated to Committee

**Subject:** **Natural Environment Principal Activity - Draft 2006-09 Management Plan**

**Author:** Warwick Hatton - Director Technical Services  
Allan Coker - Director Planning and Development

**File No:** 827.G 04-07

**Reason for Report:** To review the principal activity of Natural Environment prior to inclusion in the draft management plan.

### **Recommendation**

That the programs and projects for the Natural Environment principal activity be included in the draft Management Plan for subsequent review by the Strategic and Corporate Committee.

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### **Background:**

Principal Activity No 2 of the Management Plan is "Natural Environment". This principal activity has the following sub- activities:

- 2.1 Environmental Protection
- 2.2 Stormwater Systems
- 2.3 Tree Management
- 2.4 Waste Services
- 2.5 Street Cleaning
- 2.6 Bush Regeneration
- 2.7 Harbour Facilities

Included as an Annexure to this report is the proposed Natural Environment Principal Activity of the Management Plan with detailed comments on the programs and projects in each sub activity.

The Annexure includes all the details whereas set out in the following part of this report is a commentary, the purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot of the key influences or issues arising from this proposal

The operating and capital budgets will be considered in a separate budget report which reviews the overall financial position of the Council.

Following is the commentary on each sub-activity

#### **2.1 Environmental Protection**

We will be completing the Woollahra Sustainability Plan. The project has involved the review of Council's existing functions, activities, programs and policies, identification of local issues, community consultation, establish local vision, objectives and identification of actions. The plan aims to build on and promote Council's existing programs, ensuring that the principles of Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) are applied to all function areas. The Woollahra Sustainability Plan will provide the strategic direction for the sustainable management of Woollahra.

We will be preparing an Energy Savings Action Plan, a NSW Government requirement. The plan focuses on the energy use of Council's top ten energy using facilities and the actions that can be implemented to conserve energy.

We will be participating in the next stage of the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP™) program, CCP™ PLUS. Council joined the CCP™ program in 2001 and completed the five milestones of the program in May 2005. The CCP™ PLUS program aims to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council and the community.

We will be commencing the preparation of an Environmental Management Plan. Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan will build on the information gained from the preparation of the Woollahra Sustainability Plan and will provide Council with a document that will coordinate and prioritise environmental action in Woollahra.

The State of the Environment Report 2005/2006 is due to be completed by 30 November 2006, in line with Council's annual reporting requirements. The 2005/2006 report will be a supplementary report prepared in accordance with *Local Government Act 1993* requirements.

## **2.2 Stormwater Systems**

Subject to Council's decision regarding the relevant clause in Council's LEP, we will complete the Draft Development Control Plans for Stormwater Management and Flood Management, place these on exhibition for community comment, and recommend a final version for Council adoption.

We will be using the completed hydraulic modelling analysis and a comprehensive condition survey, carried out in 2005-06, to identify and prioritise works to be included in the five year capital renewal program, partly funded from the proposed Stormwater Levy.

Our Flood Plain Risk Management Committee will provide community input in the development and implementation of floodplain management plans. Floodplain management plans will be completed for the Double Bay and Rushcutters Bay catchments. A flood study of the Rose Bay catchment will be carried out.

## **2.3 Tree Management**

We will be completing further elements of the Vegetation Management Strategy, and implementing these as they are adopted by Council. We will continue to undertake street tree management and planting in accordance with adopted strategies and plans and in consultation with affected local communities.

## **2.4 Waste Services**

We plan to implement a number of education and community information projects to try to reduce incidence of dumping and increase levels of recycling. We will be conducting a survey of selected residential areas regarding our waste collection services, reviewing our green waste services and conducting an organics recycling trial in conjunction with SSROC.

## **2.5 Street Cleaning**

We will introduce an electronic recording system into our vehicles to monitor service provision, and further review street cleaning schedules and practices. .

## **2.6 Bush Regeneration**

The volunteer Bushcare Program will continue to be expanded, to achieve greater community involvement and understanding of these assets. We will be reviewing our bush regeneration works program with a view to expand the level of primary clearing achieved annually.

We will be continuing to develop community awareness programs for noxious weed eradication.

## **2.7 Harbour Facilities**

Subject to the outcome of consultations with the Watsons Bay Baths Working Party, and funding, a preferred option for upgrading the Watsons Bay Baths will be developed.

**Warwick Hatton**  
**Director Technical Services**

**Allan Coker**  
**Director Planning & Development**

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### **Annexures:**

1. Proposed Principal Activity: Natural Environment of 2006-2009 Management Plan.

**Item No:** D7 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Community Services Principal Activity - Draft 2006-09 Management Plan**  
**Author:** Kylie Walshe - Director Community Services  
Tim Tuxford – Manager Compliance  
**File No:** 827.G 04-07  
**Reason for Report:** To review the principle activity of Community Services prior to inclusion in the draft 2006-09 Management Plan.

**Recommendation:**

That the programs and projects for the Community Services principal activity be included in the draft 2006-09 Management Plan for subsequent review by the Strategic and Corporate Committee.

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**Background:**

Principal Activity No 5 of the Management Plan is "Community Services". This principal activity has the following sub- activities:

- 5.1 Community Services Management
- 5.2 Library Services
- 5.3 Community Development
- 5.4 Cultural Development
- 5.5 Environment & Public Health
- 5.6 Ranger Services

Included as Annexure 1 to this report is the proposed Community Services Principal Activity of the 2006-09 Management Plan, with detailed comments on the programs and projects in each sub activity.

The Annexure includes all the details whereas set out in the following part of this report is a commentary, the purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot of the key influences and directions of each sub-activity within this Principal Activity.

The operating and capital budgets will be considered in a separate budget report that reviews the overall financial position of the Council.

Following is the commentary on each sub-activity:

**5.1 Community Services Management**

This sub-activity covers the area of strategic planning and activities that impact on all operations of community services.

The Social Needs Study was adopted by Council in August 2005. We will implement these strategies and undertake a full review of the Social Plan in 2007/08. An emphasis will be given to improved communication with the community, with the completion of a promotions /communications plan for community services in 2007.

Our relationship with other community service providers will also be ongoing, with the continuation of the annual Community Grants Program and subsidies to Holdsworth Street Community Centre and the Woollahra Seniors Welfare Association for the provision of services to the people of Woollahra.

## **5.2 Library Services**

This sub-activity covers all library activities, including projects for library facilities and the library service as a whole.

In 2005/06 there has been an emphasis on services for young people and children with two sub-sites for children and teens added to the library web site. There has been an increase in overall circulation in this year throughout each of the libraries.

2006/07 will see the commencement of three special local history projects including Electronic archives indexing and research into the special contribution to Woollahra's history of Prominent Women and Multicultural groups. These projects will contribute to the Woollahra story in the context of Woollahra Municipality reaching 150 years old in 2010.

In 2006/07 also, a major action for the library service will be the development of a new Library and Information Strategy involving community consultation and participation. This will set directions for the years ahead.

## **5.3 Community Development**

Community Development is the inclusive term for what were two separate activity areas in previous management plans: Family & Community Development and Aged & Disability Services. This sub-activity covers planning, programs and activities for children & families, youth, women, older people, people with disabilities, people from diverse cultural back grounds, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders, community safety and volunteering.

We will continue to provide direct services for children and families at Woollahra Preschool, and for seniors and people with disabilities at EJ Ward Community Centre.

We will strengthen our relationship with Holdsworth Street Community Centre through close liaison with specialist staff with a particular focus on Community Transport and Respite services.

We will continue to implement the adopted strategies in the Ageing and Disability Services Strategy and Children's Services Strategy in co-operation with community partners.

In relation to policy development, we will commence a review of the Disability Action Plan, develop a Youth Strategy, prepare a Reconciliation Statement for adoption by Council, complete the review of the Crime Prevention Plan and implement the Community Cultural Relations Statement.

## **5.4 Cultural Development**

This sub-activity covers cultural planning and cultural development programs and activities specific to the interests of the Woollahra community.

The Woollahra Cultural Plan was adopted in 2003. This plan details the opportunities to improve the cultural life of Woollahra residents, and assist the community to express pride in their place. The continuation and development of cultural awareness and advocacy programs will enhance cultural activity occurring in Woollahra, and include; NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week activities, participation in the Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum, Poets Picnic, the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, the Readers and Writers series, Harmony Day promotion and local Citizen of the Year Awards.

We will continue to pursue partnerships and research funding options that provide opportunities for the further development of community cultural development (CCD) projects.

In relation to policy development, we will also commence a review of the Cultural Plan and develop a Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan for adoption by Council.

## **5.5 Environment & Public Health**

The activities and projects listed under this sub-activity aim to protect the health and well being of residents and visitors to our area and specifically relate to the following;

- food safety
- public health
- microbial control
- swimming pool safety
- environmental pollution control
- immunisation.

During 2005;

- 347 food premises were registered;
- 131 health premises, including skin penetrations, beauty saloons and hairdressers were registered;
- About 28 notices were issued on food premises;
- Council's Environmental Health Officers investigated over 342 customer requests, about 100 relating to noise and 50 relating to other forms of pollution;
- About 50 notices and directions were issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* or the *Local Government Act 1993* and
- About 170 babies were immunised at Council's monthly immunisation clinic.

The draft Management Plan generally focuses on the continued provision of the core environmental and public health activities, with a minor change proposed to the frequency of inspections of our food premises. In the coming year a distinction will be made as to the level of risk associated with our food premises and only the higher risk premises that prepare and handle food, such as bakeries, cafes, restaurants, takeaways and the like will continue to be inspected a minimum of twice a year. The frequency of inspections for lower risk premises that only sell package food such as bottle shops, newsagents and the like will be reduced to a minimum of one inspection per year.

Further, considering the general standard of our food premises and our current resourcing levels, the education of our food handlers will continue to be provided by our Environmental Health Officers during their inspection of the individual premises.

A major new project proposed in the draft Management Plan is the full review of the Environmental and Public Health program area. The review will concentrate on Council's food safety, public health and pollution control programs, assessing our current practices and statutory obligations before benchmarking our operations and identifying possible areas for improvement.

## 5.6 RANGER SERVICES

Council's Rangers provide a variety of enforcement services to ensure the public safety and convenience of our community in relation to the use of public places.

During 2005;

Council's Rangers investigated 360 customer requests relating to abandoned vehicles, resulting in these vehicles being removed;  
About 65 dog related fines were issued;  
About 60 stray dogs and 45 stray cats were impounded;  
Council's Animal Control Officer investigated about 115 barking dog and 20 dangerous dog, dog attack and nuisance dog matters; and  
Our Rangers again worked with the NSW Police to manage road closures and changed traffic conditions on Boxing Day, and New Years Eve.

The draft Management Plan does not propose any change to our core Ranger services, although a major project will be the implementation of the recommendations of the recent management review which was completed this year. This will include;

Improving access for Rangers to report defects while in the field;  
Reviewing the Rangers' spread of hours;  
Developing patrol sheets and work plans;  
Introducing multi-skilled "hybrid" crews that undertake parking patrol duties, such as school patrols, in conjunction with basic Ranger duties, such as patrols of Parks and Reserves; and  
Trial mobile access to the Pet Registry for the Animal Control Officer.

We will continue to organise and deliver the popular and successful '*People & Pets*' day, focussing on different pet related issues each year.

Furthermore, over the coming 12 months it is proposed to review the existing dog off-leashing hours for our Type C – Parks and Reserves. Presently, dogs are permitted off-leash between 4.30pm and 8.30am in a number of Type C areas, however several members of the Council's Animal Advisory Committee have expressed concern with these hours, stating that they are too restrictive and should be extended slightly.

### Conclusion:

In summary, the projects proposed within the Community Services Principal Activity of the draft Management Plan 2006-09 are presented for consideration by the Community & Environment Committee prior to consideration by the Strategic and Corporate Committee.

**Tim Tuxford**  
Manager Compliance



**Kylie Walshe**  
Director Community Services

### ANNEXURES:

1. Proposed Community Services Principal Activity of the 2006-09 Management Plan



**Item No:** D8 Delegated to Committee  
**Subject:** **Parks & Public Space Principal Activity - Draft 2006-09 Management Plan**  
**Author:** Warwick Hatton - Director Technical Services  
**File No:** 827.G 04-07  
**Reason for Report:** To review the principal activity of Parks & Public Space prior to inclusion in the draft management plan. .

**Recommendation:**

That the programs and projects for the Parks & Public Space principal activity be included in the draft Management Plan for subsequent review by the Strategic and Corporate Committee.

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**Background:**

Principal Activity No 4 of the Management Plan is "Parks & Public Space". This principal activity has the following sub- activities:

- 4.1 Open Space Management
- 4.2 Open Space Asset Management
- 4.3 Open Space Maintenance & Construction
- 4.4 Park Facilities

Included as an Annexure to this report is the proposed Parks & Public Space Principal Activity of the Management Plan with detailed comments on the programs and projects in each sub activity.

The Annexure includes all the details whereas set out in the following part of this report is a commentary, the purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot of the key influences or issues arising from this proposal

The operating and capital budgets will be considered in a separate budget report which reviews the overall financial position of the Council.

Following is the commentary on each sub activity:

**4.1 Open Space Management**

We will be implementing actions arising from the Recreational Needs Study as these are adopted by Council. We will continue to include promotional material on our parks for the web site, and for publication.

**4.2 Open Space Asset Management**

We propose to prepare Plans of Management for Redleaf Gardens and Cooper Park, and prepare open space policies to regulate fitness trainers and commercial dog walkers, and to manage dinghy storage. We will be developing Open Space asset management procedures and defect inspection reporting as part of the overall asset management system of the Council. We will continue to seek grant funding to supplement Council funds for capital works.

### **4.3 Open Space Maintenance & Construction**

We will be implementing improved maintenance schedules, carrying out a range of landscaping and planting upgrades in parks and gardens throughout the municipality, and continuing to refurbish playing surfaces.

#### **Park Facilities**

We will continue a roll out of new park furniture, lighting, and signage. We propose to install upgraded playgrounds at Elms Reserve, Dillon Street and Thornton Reserve, provide new irrigation systems to Lough Playing Fields and Steyne Park, install a dinghy storage facility at Rose Bay Park and renew carpark lighting in Lyne Park.

**Warwick Hatton**  
**Director Technical Services**

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#### **Annexures:**

1. Proposed 2006-09 Management Plan Parks and Public Space Principal Activity