

Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Monday 30 May 2011*

Time: *6.00pm*

Outline of Meeting Protocol & Procedure:

- The Chairperson will call the Meeting to order and ask the Committee/Staff to present apologies or late correspondence.
- The Chairperson will commence the Order of Business as shown in the Index to the Agenda.
- At the beginning of each item the Chairperson will ask whether a member(s) of the public wish to address the Committee.
- If person(s) wish to address the Committee, they are allowed four (4) minutes in which to do so. Please direct comments to the issues at hand.
- If there are persons representing both sides of a matter (eg applicant/objector), the person(s) against the recommendation speak first.
- At the conclusion of the allotted four (4) minutes, the speaker resumes his/her seat and takes no further part in the debate unless specifically called to do so by the Chairperson.
- If there is more than one (1) person wishing to address the Committee from the same side of the debate, the Chairperson will request that where possible a spokesperson be nominated to represent the parties.
- The Chairperson has the discretion whether to continue to accept speakers from the floor.
- After considering any submissions the Committee will debate the matter (if necessary), and arrive at a recommendation (R items which proceed to Full Council) or a resolution (D items for which the Committee has delegated authority).

Recommendation only to the Full Council (“R” Items)

- Such matters as are specified in Section 377 of the Local Government Act and within the ambit of the Committee considerations.
- Matters which involve broad strategic or policy initiatives within responsibilities of Committee.
- Matters requiring the expenditure of moneys and in respect of which no Council vote has been made.
- Matters delegated to the Council by the Traffic Authority of NSW.
- Matters not within the specified functions of the Committee,
- Matters reserved by individual Councillors in accordance with any Council policy on "safeguards" and substantive changes.
- Parks and Reserves Plans of Management (Strategies, Policies and Objectives).
- Residential Parking Schemes - Provision and Policies.

Delegated Authority (“D” Items)

- Community Services and Programs.
- Library Services
- Health.
- Licensing.
- Liquor Licences.
- Regulatory.
- Fire Protection Orders.
- Residential Parking Schemes (surveillance and administration).
- Traffic Management (Traffic Committee Recommendations).
- Waste Minimisation.
- To require such investigations, reports or actions as considered necessary in respect of matters contained within the Business Agendas (and as may be limited by specific Council resolution).
- Confirmation of the Minutes of its Meetings.
- Any other matter falling within the responsibility of the Community and Environment Committee and not restricted by the Local Government Act or required to be a Recommendation to Full Council as listed above.
- Statutory reviews of Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Committee Membership:

7 Councillors

Quorum:

The quorum for a Committee meeting is 4 Councillors.

WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting

26 May 2011

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

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 30 May 2011

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, I request your attendance at a Meeting of the Council's **Community and Environment Committee** to be held in the **Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay, on Monday 30 May 2011 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James
General Manager

Additional Information Relating to Committee Matters

Site Inspection

Other Matters

Meeting Agenda

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

Items to be Decided by this Committee using its Delegated Authority

D1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 16 May 2011	1
D2	Yarranabbe Park Draft Plan of Management for Public Exhibition – 226.G MP	2
D3	Paddington Walk of Fame – Installation of Plaques in Oxford Street, Paddington – S138/11/17 1	5
D4	Control of Rats in Double Bay Commercial Centre – 385.G	8
D5	Minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee Meeting of 18 May 2011 – 271.G AACM	20
D6	Delivery Program 2009 to 2013 and Operational Plan 2010/11 (DPOP) Quarterly Progress Report March 2011 – Goals (1) – A connected community, (2) – A supported community, (3) – A creative & vibrant community, (5) – Liveable Places, (7) – Protecting our environment & (8) – Sustainable use of resources – 1229.G	25

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

Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 16 May 2011**
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 16 May 2011 were previously circulated. In accordance with the guidelines for Committees' operations it is now necessary that those Minutes be formally taken as read and confirmed.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Community and Environment Committee Meeting of 16 May 2011 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager – Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Yarranabbe Park Draft Plan of Management for Public Exhibition**
Author: Paul Fraser, Team Leader - Open Space & Recreation Planning
File No: 226.G MP
Reason for Report: To recommend the draft Plan of Management for Yarranabbe Park be placed on public exhibition and submissions be invited in accordance with Section 113(c) of the *Crowns Land Act 1989*.

Recommendation:

- A. That Council place the draft Plan of Management for Yarranabbe Park on public exhibition for a period of 28 days in accordance with Section 113(c) of the *Crowns Land Act 1989*.
- B. That Council and the Land & Property Management Authority considers submissions received and, where appropriate, incorporates changes in a Final Plan of Management to be further considered by Council.

Background:

Yarranabbe Park is included in the Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Plan of Management 2005. Council wished to review the Yarranabbe Park section and create a stand alone Plan of Management (PoM). The draft PoM (Annexure 1) has been developed in conjunction with a new draft Masterplan (Annexure 2) for the park.

The land is Crown Land under the care, control and management of Woollahra Council as Trust Manager and therefore any amendments to the Plan are to be made in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1989*. The PoM and Masterplan are required to form a strategic approach to the management of the land.

Yarranabbe Park is a grassed parkland characterised by large mature trees and wide expanses of open space which includes a pathway running along the foreshore, a fenced playground, a fitness station, pathway lighting, 24hour dog off leash area, park furniture and Sydney Water infrastructure. The park is popular and heavily used for public recreation by walkers, joggers, fitness trainers, dog exercise, picnickers, playground users and people attending harbour activities or festival events.

In March 2010, Council invited suitably qualified consultants to prepare a PoM and Masterplan for Yarranabbe Park through Council's tendering process. On 7 June 2010, Council approved to enter into a contract with Sturt Associates Pty Ltd to undertake the project.

As part of creating the PoM and Masterplan the consultant prepared the draft plans in conjunction with a Steering Committee comprising of Councillors, representatives of community groups including the Darling Point Society and Rushcutters Bay Park Enhancement Group (RUBPEG), and Council Staff. Their role was to provide input, review and monitor the development of the PoM and Masterplan.

Proposal:

The draft PoM and Masterplan has been prepared in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1989*. Key objectives of the PoM and Masterplan include;

- developing a long term urban design strategy for the park capable of being implemented in stages considering physical and financial constraints;
- consideration and enhancement of the iconic nature of the park, its surroundings, together with its connection and association with Sydney Harbour;
- creating and reinforcing a “sense of place” including developing a vision for the park that sits within the vision for the broader precinct;
- conservation of, and interpretation of the historic and cultural aspects of the park and its surrounding;
- protection and enhancement of public views to and from the park and adjacent headland while having consideration for existing adjacent views, both public and private;
- manage existing planting while creating new planting;
- reinforce connections with other open space and strengthen its role within the urban fabric and surrounding context;
- create a balance of park uses, including both passive and active recreation while considering the amenities of adjacent residents; and
- integrate best practice environmentally sustainable design, operation and management within all aspects of the park.

A number of issues were identified through the site description and assessment, and also raised by the community, Steering Committee, Council staff and other stakeholders during the consultation phase. These issues include but are not limited to;

- tree and vegetation planning, management and maintenance;
- tree management along New Beach Road;
- water capture and reuse;
- turf maintenance;
- foreshore link between Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park;
- pathway configuration and park infrastructure;
- connection to the harbour;
- lack of shading for park users; and
- maintenance and interpretation of the historic and cultural values to visitors.

A vision for Yarranabbe Park has been determined with consideration of the objectives and values expressed by the community, the stakeholders and the Council;

“Yarranabbe Park will be a high quality, well designed & maintained open space, reflecting its iconic location while reinforcing its ‘sense of place’ on the harbours edge. The Park will retain its scenic qualities and provide for the recreation needs of the local & wider community. It will be a safe, accessible space for the harmonious enjoyment of a variety of activities and users.”

Completed Consultation:

The consultant has held various workshops with internal council staff and the Steering Committee during the development of the plan and included specific target groups in relation to the draft Plan, including the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, d’Albora Marina, RAN Sailing Association (RANSA), Darling Point Society, Rushcutters Bay Park Enhancement Group (RUBPEG) and the Woollahra Historical and Heritage Society.

Residents and park users were advised of the preparation of the PoM and were invited to participate in a questionnaire. A letter including the questionnaire, was distributed to approximately 1000 residents surrounding the park and to stakeholders groups. Signs were also placed in the park advertising that the questionnaire was available on Council’s website.

248 responses to the questionnaire were received, with a wide variety of opinions expressed. The questionnaire found that the recreational activities undertaken in Yarranabbe Park were rated with the following importance;

- Walking was the most popular activity.
- Socialising, relaxing, playing with family, friends was important to 61%.
- 44% of respondents rated dog walking as important, 30% considered it unimportant.
- The importance of exercise & personal training were evenly divided.
- Fishing & ball games weren't considered important by many.

Public Exhibition:

The *Crown Lands Act 1989*, requires a public exhibition period of at least 28 days for draft PoM's. Community members will be encouraged to review the draft plan and make a submission assisted by:

- undertaking a letter box drop to neighbouring residents;
- notification signs placed in Yarranabbe Park;
- notification in the Wentworth Courier;
- Council's web page; and
- 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 Yarranabbe Park PoM and Masterplan is recommended to be placed on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

Paul Fraser
Team Leader – Open Space & Recreation
Planning

Tom O'Hanlon
Director – Technical Services

Bruce Rann
Manager – Open Space & Trees

ANNEXURES:

1. Yarranabbe Park draft Plan of Management (PoM)
2. Yarranabbe Park draft Masterplan

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee

Subject: **Paddington Walk of Fame – Installation of Plaques in Oxford Street and Glenmore Road, Paddington**

Author: Tom O’Hanlon – Director Technical Services

File No: S138/11/17 1

Reason for Report: To seek the endorsement of the Community and Environment Committee for a proposal to install a series of plaques into the paved footpaths in Oxford Street and Glenmore Road, Paddington, to recognise significant figures in the Australian fashion industry.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse a proposal to install 16 plaques in the footpaths of Glenmore Road and Oxford Streets, Paddington, which is currently the subject of an application under Section 138 of the Roads Act

Background:

Council has received an application under Section 138 of the Roads Act from Mr Theo Onisforou to install 16 plaques into the footpaths of Oxford Street and Glenmore Rd, Paddington. Applications under S138 are determined by officers of Council’s Technical Services division as they relate to carrying out of works in a public road (including footpaths). In this instance, it is felt that endorsement of the Community and Environment Committee should be sought prior to determination of the S138 application as the proposal is for works which extend beyond routine infrastructure or technical matters.

Proposal:

It is proposed to install a total of 16 plaques in the pavements of Oxford Street and Glenmore Roads in what is known as the ‘Intersection Precinct’. Eight plaques will be installed in Oxford Street outside the shops at Nos 122 – 140 with the remaining eight plaques installed in Glenmore Road outside the shops at Nos 2 – 16.

Each plaque will measure 300mm x 300mm and will be fabricated from wear resistant manganese bronze. They will be positioned at the mid point of the shop, halfway between the storefront and the kerb. A sample of the proposed plaque design is shown at Annexure 1.

The plaques are intended to recognise and celebrate the history and evolution of the fashion industry in Australia and the particular role of Oxford Street in that evolution. Each plaque will recognise one significant figure in the Australian fashion industry.

It is anticipated that five plaques will be installed initially, celebrating the fashion identities: Collette Dinnigan, Martin Grant, RM Williams, Akira Isogawa and Mark Keighery. The remaining 11 plaques will be installed over a period of approximately five years. Selection of the identities to be celebrated will be undertaken by an independent panel of industry figures to be convened by the applicant, Mr Onisforou.

Identification of Income & Expenditure:

The costs of the acquisition and installation of the plaques will be borne by the applicant, who will seek to offset costs by engaging sponsors who will be recognised on the plaques.

Conclusion:

Technical Services staff advise that there are no technical difficulties presented by the proposal. More broadly, the proposal presents an opportunity to celebrate the distinctive nature of the Paddington fashion precinct and to provide a point of interest for shoppers and visitors to the precinct. The proposal is therefore supported.

Tom O'Hanlon
Director Technical Services

ANNEXURES:

Proposed Plaque Design

Annexure 1:

Oxford Street Paddington

Fashion walk of fame
In 2010 Celebrating Designer

AKIRA ISOGAWA

Opened his first boutique on Oxford Street in 1993 and then rose to prominence at Australian Fashion Week in 1996 with his kimono-inspired dresses. The Sydney based designer won the prestigious title of Australian Designer of the Year in 1999 and has since gone on to show his collections in Paris and is sold in some of the world's most prestigious boutiques and department stores.

McGuigan Wines Supporters of Australian Fashion

Item No: D4 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Control of Rats in Double Bay Commercial Centre**
Author: Viktor Wiecks - Food and Health Officer
File No: 385.G
Reason for Report: To respond to a 'Notice of Motion' adopted on 14 March 2011 and a petition submitted on or about 28 March 2011.

Recommendation:

1. That the petition with 27 signatories tabled at the Council meeting of 28 March 2011 concerning the "*explosion of vermin in Double Bay*" be received and noted.
2. That Council supplement its current waste, street cleaning and public health services in the Double Bay commercial area by distributing information to all businesses on the measures that they should employ to control and prevent the spread of rats and other rodents.

Reason for the Report:

This report has been prepared in response to the following 'Notice of Motion' (NOM) adopted at the Council meeting of 14 March 2011;

"That a report be brought to the Community and Environment Committee on the controlling/ridding of rats in the Double Bay commercial centre with special note on the harbour foreshore , garbage bins in laneways , uninhabited buildings Sir Stamford and the Old Double Bay picture theatre."

The above NOM was moved by Councillor Petrie and seconded by Councillor Howe.

A petition with 27 signatories was also tabled at the Council meeting of 28 March 2011. The terms of the petition were as follows;

"As you must be aware of late, there has been an explosion of vermin in Double Bay. We, the undersigned, urge the Council to take urgent action to address this health problem."

The signatories to the petition were largely business owners and operators from Double Bay.

On receiving the petition Council resolved as follows;

"That the petition lie on the table for fourteen (14) days and be referred to the appropriate Council Officer for consideration during preparation of the report on the Notice of Motion on the same matter adopted by Council on 14 March 2011."

Background:

The species of rodents most likely to be found in the Municipality include:

- Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)
- Roof Rat (*Rattus rattus*)
- House Mouse (*Mus musculus*)

These animals are well adapted to living in close association with humans, sharing our food and shelter. Rats and mice live in groups and may nest in burrows near waterways, under buildings, in trees, accumulated waste, under building materials and other areas which provide food and shelter. They can construct nests in roof voids, under floors and sometimes within stored foods. Hence rodents can contaminate food and damage structures from gnawing and are capable of transmitting disease.

The gestation period for rodents is three (3) weeks, with an average litter of 11 to 12 pups. Rats can reach reproductive maturity at three (3) months of age and sometimes as early as eight (8) weeks. According to the CSIRO, the most effective way to prevent rodents is to remove the females prior to the breeding cycle, so they fail to produce litters. Unfortunately this is not an easy task.

There is a broad consensus in urban pest control studies, that rats can not be completely eliminated or exterminated from any city, town or suburb with currently used pest control measures. Despite years of poisoning by individuals as well as professional pest controllers there are rats today in all areas of the greater metropolitan area. The explanation given is that in the collective mind of rats there is only one purpose in life, which is breeding.

Chemicals and poisons or bioagents are used to control rats. They are placed in strategic locations and rely on the rats eating the products. However rats have adopted a number of strategies to deal with the efforts of individuals and the professional pest controllers.

A particularly successful strategy is the ‘trial-and-error’ method. Rats’ instinct tells them to try “*unproven*” food sources. However, their experience tells them that a “*new*” food source could be harmful and therefore should be avoided. Put simply, rats prefer to rely on the same fresh food source from the same location rather than exploring new hard chemical material (rat poison) recently discovered in a new location.

Therefore a key strategy in controlling rats is to eliminate their “*proven*” food source.

To reduce the risk of poisoning by a new food source, rats are known to send for testing an old or a sick member of their group ie. a member which is dispensable as far as breeding is concerned. If the old rat survives then the “*new*” food source is used by the rest of the group for feeding of themselves and their litter. However, if the old rat dies, the group will not take the new food (or poison).

A review of Council’s records indicates that I.P.E.C Pest Control was engaged in February 2003 to undertake a public rat baiting program in the Double Bay commercial centre. The program was introduced in response to representations received from several businesses and residents about a perceived problem in the Gumtree and Kiaora Lane areas. 19 bait stations were placed in and around Short Lane, Gumtree Lane and Kiaora Lane for a period of 12 months. The stations were serviced monthly and left in place for approximately 12 months.

In June 2006 a public baiting program was re-introduced in Short, Gumtree and Kiaora Lanes. The program was modified and included only 12 bait stations. After the initial set-up in June 2006, the stations were checked and serviced in August 2006 and then each quarter for a 12 month period in November 2006 and February, May and August 2007. The overall cost of the 2006-2007 program was;

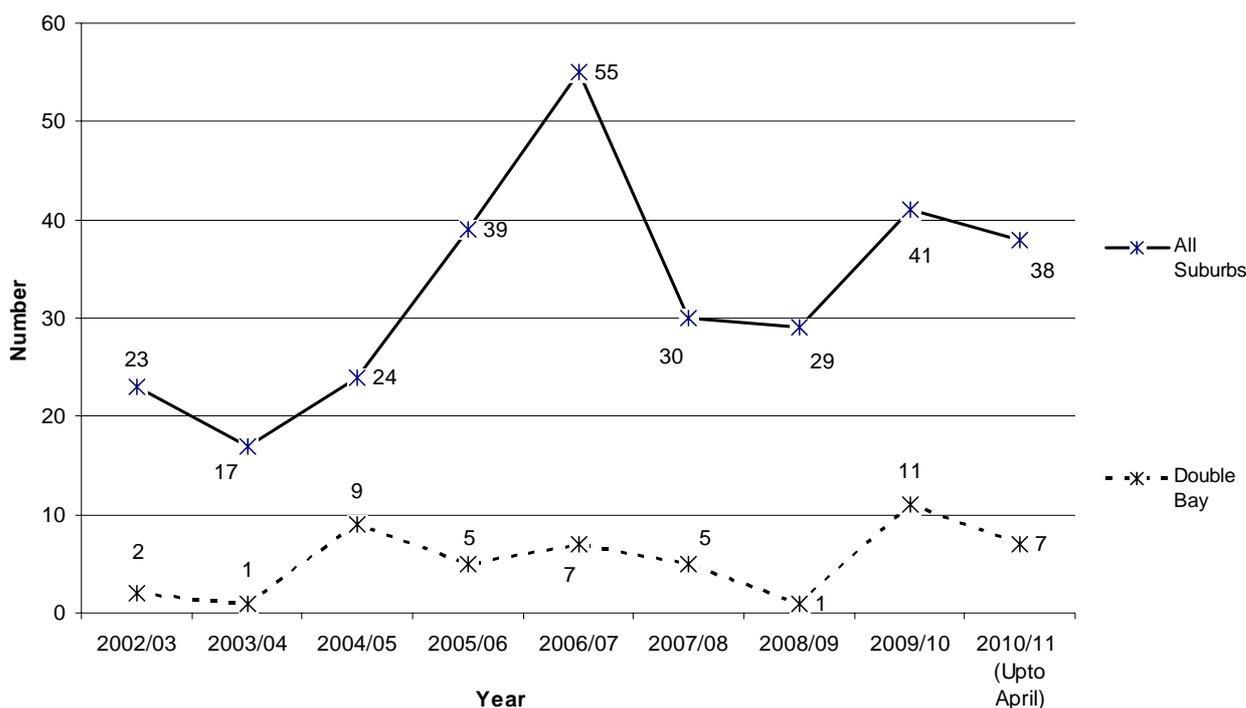
Initial set-up and rebaiting of 12 existing stations:	\$ 340
Servicing after 2 months:	\$ 170
Four (4) quarterly services - November 2006 to August 2007:	\$ 680
TOTAL	<u>\$1,190</u>

In addition to reintroducing the baiting program in mid-2006, an information sheet was developed on ‘Preventing Rodents’, which was sent to businesses that were experiencing problems. A copy of Council’s standard correspondence and the information sheet is attached as ‘Annexure 1’.

In an endeavour to understand the success of the 2003 and 2006 baiting programs, an analysis of Council’s Custom Request Management system is provided below.

It would appear that a specific category to capture customer requests on vermin was not introduced until early 2002. The category titled ‘Health Control – Vermin – Investigate’ had the first request recorded in May 2002. Therefore the review of Council’s Customer Request Management has been undertaken from 1 July 2002 to 30 April 2011.

While the ‘Health Control – Vermin – Investigate’ category is not limited to rats and rodents, it does provide some insight into the number of enquiries that have been received over the years and these results are provided in the following graphs.

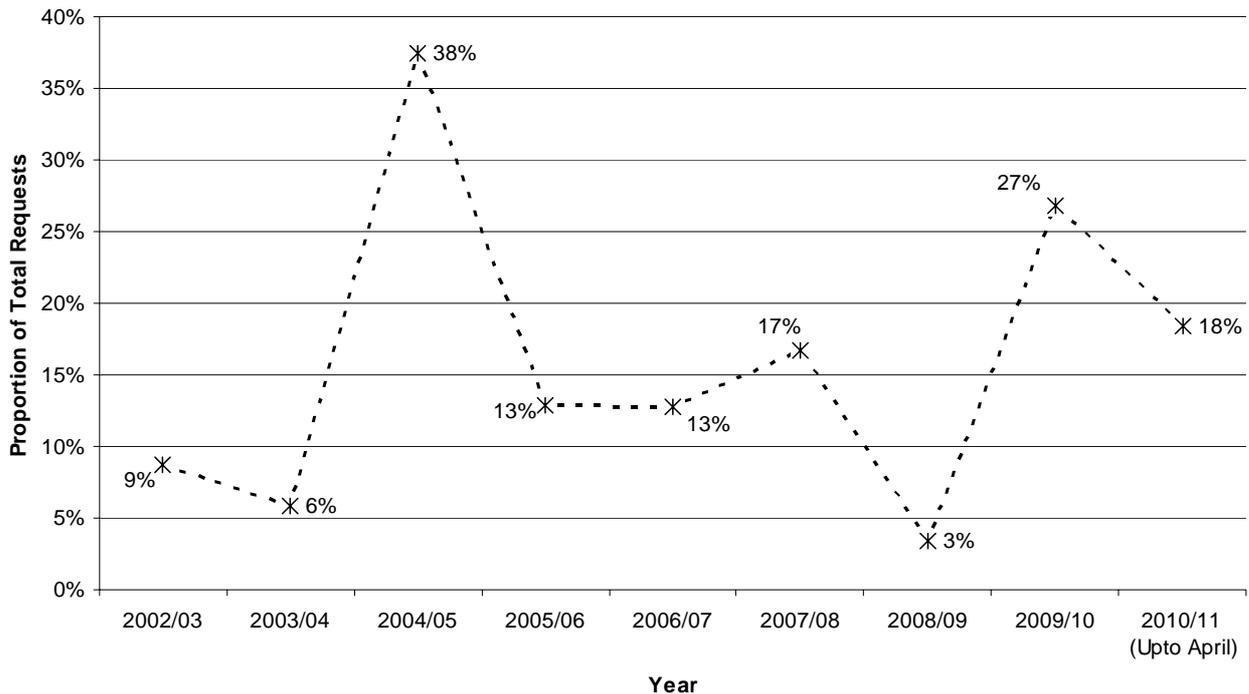


Graph 1: Number of vermin requests logged per financial year

Graph 1 indicates that there are a relatively small number of requests logged each year in relation to vermin across the Municipality and in Double Bay. The most ‘vermin’ related requests received across the Municipality were 55 requests in 2006/07. This result was more than 34% above the 2005/06 (39 recorded requests) and 2009/10 (41 recorded requests) results.

The results for Double Bay are not limited to the commercial area, being for the geographical suburb of Double Bay. Nevertheless, the Double Bay results do not directly correspond with the Council-wide results. The most ‘vermin’ requests received for the suburb of Double Bay was in 2009/10 (11 recorded requests) and 2004/05 (9 recorded requests).

As the 2010/11 figures are only for part of the year, it is possible that the Double Bay figures could at least exceed the 2004/05 figures, if not the 2009/10.



Graph 2: Percentage of vermin requests logged for Double Bay

Graph 2 illustrates the proportion of vermin requests that relate specifically to the suburb of Double Bay. Generally the proportion of requests is low, being below 20% for all years except 2004/05 (38%) and 2009/10 (27%).

The proportion of ‘vermin’ requests recorded in the suburb of Double Bay were relatively low when the Council’s previous baiting programs were in place generally during the years of 2003/04 (6%) and 2006/07 (13%).

While the above figures may not capture all the concerns expressed by residents and shopkeepers, they do provide trends over the past nine (9) years.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to complete a similar analysis of the correspondence received by Council over the same period as letters received in relation to concerns about ‘vermin’ or rats are not all categorised in the same manner.

Consideration:

Double Bay is an area that is conducive to the life cycle of rodents. It is close to the harbour, with drains connecting directly to the water’s edge. Also, as a commercial centre it has a significant number of food premises with limited storage space for products and waste. Therefore it provides a good “*proven*” food supply.

For the reasons explained under ‘Background’ above, it would not be possible to rid Double Bay of rodents. They will always be present. The only thing that Council can hope for is to control the number in an effort to ensure there is not an exponential increase in the rodent population. The key is to minimise the availability of;

1. Food;
2. Water; and
3. Habourage.

While acknowledging the concerns of the signatories of the petition tabled at the Council meeting of 28 March 2011, Council's customer request data would not support the view that there is an "explosion of vermin in Double Bay". However the proportion of 'vermin' related customer requests recorded during the periods when Council's previous rat baiting programs were undertaken would suggest that they may have made some improvement, however slight.

Council currently provides regular and extensive street cleaning and waste collection services in the Double Bay commercial centre to ensure food scraps and broken bottles do not litter the laneways and streets. The public be-tidy bins are regularly emptied to reduce the food sources for rodents and all commercial entities are generally required to have a waste collection contract with either Council or a licensed waste contractor.

In addition to collecting commercial waste Council's Waste Services staff, including the Waste Compliance Officer regularly liaise with businesses to ensure they are storing and presenting their waste in an acceptable manner.

The following comments have been provided by members of Council's Waste Services and Business Centre Team Sections;

- Comments from Emil Koro, Waste Services Coordinator

"Re your commentary below there is little I can add other than to confirm that we do have a rodent problem in Double Bay and that we are continually cleaning up the area.

The Business Centre Team Leaders are in frequent contact with Darren de Pater the Waste & Compliance Officer re waste issues, and Darren spends a lot of time talking to local business people in attempt to educate them about the placement of waste and waste disposal protocols. Darren patrols the area several times a week and organises the removal of illegal dumps.

My experience has shown that there are some business people in the precinct that simply don't care about waste disposal, and are of the opinion that it's solely a Council problem. Some of the businesses are struggling and waste disposal is low in their priorities.

Of all the business areas in the Municipality we spend more time in Double Bay than any other area to try and ensure it is kept as clean as possible. Steve Scicluna the Team Leader responsible for the collection of trade waste is very conscious of the continual battles we experience, and he and his team do their best to collect all waste and keep the area tidy. The Business Centre guys work around the clock to try and ensure the precinct is clean and tidy, but waste disposal will always be a problem given the demographic of the commercial area and the attitude of a minority."

- Comments from Mark Ramsay, Manager – Depot & Waste Services

Mark added to Emil's comments by advising that Council "will be installing 3 communal bin bays in Knox Lane in the next week or two in order to try and stop people overfilling their bins. This will be accompanied by concerted education/compliance campaign for all shopowners. Leaving bin lids open and bags of garbage next to bins is the major problem we face."

On asking Mark whether or not the rodent problem in Double Bay has got worse in recent times Mark commented as follows;

“I don’t believe that there is any evidence to support the theory that the problem is any worse now than it has been in the past.”

- Comments from Gary Gale, Business Centre & Street Cleaning Coordinator

Gary verbally advised that he had spoken with the Business Centre Team Leaders and they have not noticed any increase in the rodent activity in the Double Bay area.

Council’s Food & Health Officer also inspects all food premises in the Double Bay area generally twice a year. During these inspections recommendations are made on what pest control measures can be put in place.

Recent night time inspections (up to 9.00pm) have been carried out by the Food & Health Officer and he did not observe any additional rodent activity in the Double Bay area.

Council has the power to issue notices and orders under the provisions Section 124 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to require premises and land to be maintained in a safe and healthy condition. Action is also available pursuant to the provisions of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* in relation to littering and the incorrect presentation of waste.

Rodents can be controlled by effective sanitation, rodent proofing, trapping and chemical control and it is necessary for Council’s street cleaning and waste collection operations to be supported by the individual owners and/or occupiers of the premises.

In this regard it is considered that a critical strategy for controlling rodents in Double Bay is to encourage all property owners and/or occupiers to initiate their own control programs. If all owners and/or occupiers followed the following practical steps, the conditions in Double Bay would significantly improve;

1. **Hire qualified pest controller.** Choose a good pest control company, relying on referrals and recommendations from friends. To assist selection use: Google/pest control/selection guide;
2. **Conduct your own pest control.** Buy rat poison and baiting stations from large department stores such as Franklins, Bunning’s, Coles, Woolworths or the like;
3. **Overcome the ‘trial-and-error’ strategy of rats.** Prior to using rat poison and baits, for at least one week, feed rats with food such as fresh chicken or pasta in designated locations for the baiting stations;
4. **Reduce food sources** for rats:
 - Do not leave any food unprotected, always use vermin proof containers and ensure all fridge door seals are in good working order
 - Clean and sanitise at the end of the day as opposed to the next morning
 - If you have a compost, keep it covered at all times
 - Maintain hygiene levels in areas where waste bins are stored
 - Use sound garbage bins with tight-fitting lids

5. **Prevent rats getting inside and establishing a hospitable shelter.** The building must be vermin proof; free of any holes, cracks or other openings in the wall. Rats can enter premises through openings larger than $\frac{1}{3}$ of their width. It must be remembered that rats can easily jump at least 1 metre high and thus all walls should be repaired and maintained well above the ground level. Rubber seals under the doors are recommended;
6. **Eliminate all water sources.** As access to water is a decisive condition for rats nesting, all problems with leaking pipes, taps and water left in sinks and containers must be eliminated.

At present there are two (2) large vacant properties in Double Bay, the former Double Bay cinema on New South Head Road and the former Ritz Carlton Hotel in Cross Street. While these buildings do afford harbourage for vermin, they do not provide a significant food or water source. Furthermore, both properties have ongoing pest control programs in place and are in good clean condition. Therefore, it is not considered that these premises would significantly add to the perceived rodent problem in Double Bay.

In addition to the services that Council already provides, as briefly identified above, the Council could consider reintroducing a public rat baiting program. While the evidence does not suggest that such a program is necessary at this time, it is an option that could be considered.

Currently Sydney City Council employs a full time pest control officer and engages the services of a pest contractor if and when required. Similarly, the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has a pest controller for The Rocks and Darling Harbour areas.

The cost of providing a public baiting program will vary depending on the extent of the program. Council's 2006/07 program only cost \$1,190, however it was limited in area and only included 12 bait stations that were generally serviced every quarter.

Estimates have been obtained from two (2) companies to help understand the likely cost of reintroducing a public baiting program. The first company provided an 'over-the-phone' estimate of \$5,000 for a 12 month program.

The second company provided a more detailed estimate after carrying out several inspections of the area and after discussing the matter with Council staff and Double Bay shopkeepers. The second company's estimate included an itemised program, detailing the basic methodology, products and equipment to be used. The second estimate was approximately \$11,000 for the following program;

- Area to be serviced - Jamberoo Lane, Cross Street, Knox Lane, Knox Street and Short Street (all up to Bay Street) and Goldman and Gumtree Lanes;
- Up to 23 lockable rodent boxes would be placed through the area;
- Initial set-up and intensive service, including the provision of rodent tracking powder in the first two (2) weeks. The program area would be serviced;
 - three (3) times per week in weeks 1 and 2;
 - twice per week in weeks 3 and 4; and
 - once per week in weeks 5 and 6;
- Ongoing service would be once per month after the initial six (6) week period;
- Products to be used include hand-made bait, lard based bait, tracking powder, CO₂ pumped into suitable rodent burrows and rodent tubes

No funds have been set aside at this time in the 2010/11 or 2011/12 budgets.

It is considered a public baiting program would have little long-term effect if the private owners and/or occupiers do not put in place their own control measures as discussed above. Rodent numbers would be reduced at the beginning of a program, however to achieve sustained results, owners and/or occupiers would need to introduce and maintain their own rodent control programs.

Similarly, if owners and/or occupiers do follow the suggestions detailed in this report, it is considered that there would be even less need for a public baiting program. Critically, it is considered that private premises or the actions of the occupiers of the private premises provide the principal food source for the rodents.

Conclusion:

The community is anecdotally advising Council that there is an increasing rodent problem in the Double Bay commercial area, with the recently submitted petition stating that “*there has been an explosion of vermin in Double Bay.*” Council Staff acknowledge, as stated in the advice from Emil Koro, Council’s Waste Services Coordinator, that there is “*a rodent problem in Double Bay*”, however staff’s observations do not support the view that there has been a significant increase in the problem in recent times.

The mixture of Double Bay’s foreshore location and the activities of residents and businesses lead to rodents being present in Double Bay.

Council’s existing street cleaning and waste services aim at ensuring that the public domain areas are maintained in a clean and healthy state, while Council staff provides education (and at times regulation) to owners and/or occupiers about the implementation of sound rodent control strategies. Shortly Council will be installing three (3) communal bin bays in Knox Lane in an attempt to stop businesses from overfilling their bins and to improve the visual amenity of the area.

At this time it is not considered that a public rat baiting program is required and Council should continue to focus on the provision of education. In this regard it is recommended that information is circulated to all businesses in the Double Bay commercial centre detailing the simple steps that they can initiate to control rats and other rodents, as detailed in this report.

If Council decides to reintroduce a public baiting program in the Double Bay commercial centre, a budget allocation of up to \$11,000 would be required for the first 12 months, with a likely ongoing commitment of approximately \$5,000 per year thereafter.

Viktor Wieckes
Food & Health Officer

Tim Tuxford
Manager – Compliance

Allan Coker
Director – Planning & Development

Annexure:

1. Standard letter and ‘Preventing Rodents’ information sheet circulated to businesses in 2006/07.

Item No: D5 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee Meeting of 18 May 2011**
Author: Suzy Rich, Chair – Animal Advisory Committee
File No: 271.G AACM
Reason for Report: To submit the minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee meeting of 18 May 2011.

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday 18 May 2011 be received and noted.

Report:

The Animal Advisory Committee (AAC) was set-up in 1997 to coincide with the introduction of the *Companion Animals Act* 1998, which commenced operations on 1 September 1998.

On 27 September 2004, Council adopted the current ‘Terms of Reference’ for the AAC. The ‘Terms of Reference’ state that the purpose of the AAC is;

- “1. To serve as an advisory body to Council to assist with the development of policies, programmes, services and plans for companion animals. The AAC shall not operate in a regulatory or authoritative capacity.
2. To organise community events and educational programmes to raise awareness about companion animals and the *Companion Animals Act*.”

The ‘Terms of Reference’ further state that;

“The AAC is an advisory committee only and has no delegated authority. “The AAC will report to the Community and Environment Committee as required.”

The current members of the AAC were appointed by the Community & Environment Committee on 13 October 2008 and their term runs concurrently with the term of the Council.

As specified by the ‘Terms of Reference’, AAC meetings are held on the third Wednesday of February, May, August and November of each year. The minutes of the AAC meeting held on **Wednesday 18 May 2011** are attached for the information of the Committee.

Suzy Rich
Chair - Animal Advisory Committee

Tim Tuxford
Manager - Compliance

Annexure:

1. Minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee meeting of 18 May 2011

Item No: D6 Delegated to Committee

Subject: **Delivery Program 2009 to 2013 and Operational Plan 2010/11 (DPOP) Quarterly Progress Report March 2011 – Goals (1) – A Connected & Harmonious Community, (2) – A Supported Community, (3) – A Creative & Vibrant Community, (5) – Liveable Places, (7) – Protecting Our Environment & (8) – Sustainable Use of Resources**

Author: Vicki Munro – Acting Director Community Services
Tom O’Hanlon – Director Technical Services

File No: 1229.G

Reason for Report: To review the status of the Priorities and Actions in Council Delivery Program 2009 to 2013 and Operational Plan 2010/11 for the three months ending 31 March 2011.

Recommendation:

THAT the March 2011 Quarterly Progress Report on Goal 1 (A connected & harmonious community), Goal 2 (A supported community), Goal 3 (A creative & vibrant community), Goal 5 (Liveable places), Goal 7 (Protecting our environment) and Goal 8 (Sustainable use of resources) of Council’s Delivery Program 2009 to 2013 and Operational Plan 2010/11 be received and noted and revised target dates be adopted.

Background:

In June 2010 Council adopted the Delivery Program 2009 to 2013 and Operational Plan 2010/11 (DPOP) in line with the new Integrated Planning & Reporting Legislation for NSW Local Government.

As a consequence of the Integrated Planning & Reporting Legislation, the Local Government Act 1993 was amended to require Council to report on the progress of its Delivery Program at least every six (6) months. In response to the amendments and in order to ensure that Council’s reporting to the community remains transparent, timely and manageable under the legislation, progress reports on the Delivery Program and Operational Plan will continue to be presented quarterly for the end of September, December, March and June each year.

The framework for quarterly progress reports is consistent with the structure of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan developed around the following interrelated Themes and supporting Goals:

Theme: Community well-being
Goal 1: A connected and harmonious community.
Goal 2: A supported community.
Goal 3: A creative and vibrant community.

Theme: Quality places and spaces
Goal 4: Well planned neighbourhoods.
Goal 5: Liveable places.
Goal 6: Getting around.

Theme: A healthy environment

Goal 7: Protecting our environment.

Goal 8: Sustainable use of resources.

Theme: Local prosperity

Goal 9: Community focused economic development.

Theme: Community leadership and participation

Goal 10: Working together.

Goal 11: A well managed Council.

Annexure 1 to this report is Council's Quarterly Progress Report for the period 1 October to 31 March 2011 for Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8, being most relevant to the Community and Environment Committee (C&E).

Progress comments for all Delivery Program Priorities and Operational Plan Actions are provided in the tables of Annexure 1. Council staff update these comments on an ongoing basis for internal management purposes with the comments then collated at the end of the quarter for reporting to Council and the community. Generally, actions included in the Operational Plan relate to the current financial year, however there are a number of actions that extend beyond June 2011, as indicated in the Target Date column.

As this is the third quarterly report for 2010/11, a tick will appear in the final column in the tables headed "Updated Comments" to indicate that the comments relating to that Action have been updated since the previous quarterly report to Council. This will enable Councillors and other readers of the report to easily identify where an Action status has been updated.

Adopted Notices of Motion

To further improve the efficiency and transparency of Council's Integrated Planning & Reporting procedures, Notices of Motion which are strategic and/or project based are now included as additional Actions in the DPOP and reported on via the Quarterly Progress Report.

Adopted Notices of Motion which are non-strategic in nature, such as placement of an additional agenda item on a meeting or writing a letter to an organisation, will be monitored administratively.

During the March 2011 Quarter, three new Notice of Motion has been identified as strategic and/or project based in nature and included as a new Action. Details of this new Action are provided below:

ACTION ARISING FROM AN ADOPTED NOTICE OF MOTION	
Action number in 2010/2011 Quarterly Progress Report	Action description
5.3.2.42	5.3.2.42 Prepare a report on the controlling/ridding of rats in the Double Bay Commercial Centre, with special note on the harbour foreshore, garbage bins in laneways, uninhabited building Sir Stamford and the old Double Bay picture theatre. [Refer NOM 14/03/2011 - Clr Petrie].
5.3.5.3	5.3.5.3 Prepare a report on possible solutions to help reduce anti social and drunken behaviour both Watsons Bay Baths and Redleaf Pool in the evenings/early mornings. [Refer to NOM 28/02/2011 - Clrs Wynne & Edelman].
8.3.1.5	8.3.1.5 Prepare a report on the costs and benefits of no longer collecting e-waste from the kerb but only through the bi-annual e-waste collection which are held in conjunction with Waverley Council and that e-waste clean up dates be advertised on Council's website and included on the next clean up service fridge magnet. Refer NOM 31/01/2011 - Clrs Grieve & Jarnason].

Quarterly Progress Report Format

The Corporate and Works Committee Meeting on the 21 February 2011, resolved in part:

- C. *THAT Quarterly Progress Reports and all Delivery Program and Operational Plan reports:*
- i. *clearly identify and distinguish the different documents on the front covers of them;*
 - ii. *contain a plain English précis on the first page of the report explaining the purpose of the document and how it fits in the overall planning of the Council; and*
 - iii. *clearly identify new comments and amended target dates.*

Having reviewed the Quarterly Progress Report format in response to resolution part C above, the following changes have been incorporated into the March 2011 Quarterly Progress Reports:

- Title pages for the Delivery Program/Operational Plan Progress Report and the Capital Works Program Progress Report show a clear distinction between the two documents, both in terms of layout and colour.
- A plain English précis has been included prior to the table of contents for both the Delivery Program/Operational Plan Quarterly Progress Report and also the Capital Works Program Report.
- Amended target dates for Actions are highlighted by way of the inclusion of the original target date as a note in the progress comments column which reads:

NOTE: Original target date Day Month Year

The Quarterly Progress Reports already include provision for the identification of new comments through the inclusion of a tick (✓) in the "Updated Comments" column. Whilst this is considered sufficient to clearly identify new comments in the reports, greater care is being taken to ensure ticks have been included where comments have been updated.

The above changes have been incorporated into the Quarterly Progress Reports without the need to invest in what could be costly system modifications. The option of investing in system modifications can be investigated further subject to Councillors' feedback on the changes noted above.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that the March 2011 Quarterly Progress Report on Goal 1 (A connected & harmonious community), Goal 2 (A supported community), Goal 3 (A creative & vibrant community), Goal 5 (Liveable places), Goal 7 (Protecting our environment) and Goal 8 (Sustainable use of resources) of Council's Delivery Program 2009 to 2013 and Operational Plan 2010/11 be received and noted and revised target dates adopted.

Vicki Munro
Acting Director Community Services

Tom O'Hanlon
Director Technical Services

Annexure

- 1 DPOP Quarterly Progress Report March 2011 for Goal 1 (A connected & harmonious community), Goal 2 (A supported community), Goal 3 (A creative & vibrant community), Goal 5 (Liveable places), Goal 7 (Protecting our environment) and Goal 8 (Sustainable use of resources) – *distributed separately*.

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

