



Annual Report 2005-2006

Annexure 3
State of the Environment Report

Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2005/2006

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	Land	2
2.1	Intent of land sector.....	2
2.2	Woollahra Sustainability Plan	2
2.3	Neighbourhood Centres Strategy.....	3
2.4	Double Bay and Oxford Street Paddington Commercial Centres.....	3
2.5	Draft White City DCP and LEP.....	3
2.6	Child Care Centres DCP.....	3
2.7	Woollahra Section 94A Development Contributions Plan	3
2.8	Plans of management.....	4
2.9	Park and reserve improvements.....	4
2.10	Responsible dog use	4
2.11	People and Pets Day	4
2.12	Land indicators.....	5
3.	Water	6
3.1	Intent of water sector.....	6
3.2	Harbourwatch water quality	6
3.3	Environmental Works Program.....	7
3.4	Water Savings Action Plan.....	9
3.5	Every Drop Counts Business Program.....	10
3.6	Sydney Harbour Week (3 – 12 March 2006)	11
3.7	Sydney Coastal Councils Group Summer Activities Program (January 2006).....	11
3.8	Sydney Water	11
3.9	Water indicators.....	11
4.	Biodiversity	12
4.1	Intent of biodiversity sector	13
4.2	Bush regeneration and revegetation status of Council reserves.	13
4.3	Bushcare.....	13
4.4	Community education – bushland walks.....	14
4.5	Vegetation Management Strategy	14
4.6	Street trees.....	14
4.7	Tree Preservation Order	15
4.8	National Parks and Wildlife Service update.....	15
4.9	Biodiversity indicators.....	15
5.	Air.....	16
5.1	Intent of air sector	17
5.2	Energy Savings Action Plan.....	17
5.3	Regional street lighting review	17

5.4	Traffic and transport.....	17
5.5	Air quality indicators.....	18
6.	Noise.....	19
6.1	Intent of noise sector.....	20
6.2	Noise indicators.....	20
7.	Waste.....	20
7.1	Intent of waste sector.....	21
7.2	Waste Education.....	21
7.3	Waste indicators.....	22
8.	Heritage.....	23
8.1	Intent of heritage sector.....	23
8.2	Paddington Development Control Plan.....	23
8.3	Watsons Bay Baths proposed heritage listing.....	23
8.4	Local environment plans for heritage items and heritage conservation area.....	23
8.5	Contemporary heritage items.....	23
8.6	Potential heritage items in Watsons Bay and Woollahra Heritage Conservation Areas.....	23
8.7	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) heritage projects.....	24
8.8	Draft Reconciliation Statement.....	24
8.9	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.....	24
8.10	Reconciliation Week.....	24
8.11	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day of Celebration (NAIDOC) Week.....	25
8.12	Heritage indicators.....	25
9.	Vaucluse Public School vegetable garden.....	27
10.	References.....	28

Woollahra State of the Environment Report 2005/2006

1. Introduction

The 2005/2006 supplementary State of the Environment (SoE) report has been prepared to highlight activities undertaken to preserve and enhance Woollahra's environment during the reporting period. As the majority of environmental conditions do not change dramatically from year to year, it is recommended that the 2005/2006 SoE report is considered in conjunction with the last comprehensive SoE report produced for the 2003/2004 reporting period. Copies of the previous SoE reports, including the 2003/2004 report can be accessed from the Woollahra Library or from Council's website www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

SoE reporting is a statutory requirement under the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act). Every council in New South Wales (NSW) is required to prepare a SoE report as a part of its annual reporting obligations. A comprehensive SoE report is to be prepared the year following a full council election, with a supplementary report prepared for the years between. Council's last comprehensive SoE report was prepared for the 2003/2004 reporting period. Council's next comprehensive report will be prepared in 2009 for the 2008/2009 reporting period.

SoE reporting enables councils to report on the state of the environment in their local area and the progress of environmental activities undertaken during the reporting period.

The SoE report provides information on the environment under the following environmental sectors, which correspond to chapters presented in previous SoE reports:

- land
- biodiversity
- waste
- heritage.
- water
- air quality
- noise

Woollahra Council is one of the many stakeholders involved in the management of parts of the Woollahra environment. Other stakeholders include Federal and State Government agencies, such as National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Sydney Water, and the broader Woollahra community. Information from these stakeholders has been included in the report, where available. The Council plays an important role in local environmental management. However, the quality of Woollahra's environment is also influenced by many actions and events outside municipal boundaries and beyond the Council's jurisdiction.

Environmental indicators have been included in tables at the end of each environmental sector. The use of environmental indicators allows the monitoring of a specific aspect of the environment over time. Where information has been recorded for a number of years, trends can be established. Further indicators are likely to be identified in the future to assist with the monitoring of the state of the environment.

2. Land

The majority of land degradation issues facing present day NSW are the result of land use changes carried out during the first 100 to 150 years of European settlement, in particular the changes brought about by the extensive clearing of native vegetation. These changes have altered the physical, chemical, biotic and hydrological balances in the landscape and have resulted in many of the major problems we are facing today (EPA 2000).

The Woollahra Local Government Area (LGA) is located on the southern foreshores of Sydney Harbour, extending from South Head in the east to Rushcutters Bay in the west. Woollahra is the most northerly of the Eastern Suburb councils and adjoins Waverley, Randwick and Sydney City LGAs. The total area of Woollahra is 1217 hectares or twelve square kilometres including sixteen kilometres of harbour foreshore, consisting of rocky headlands, coastal cliffs and beaches.

Through the urbanisation of the Woollahra environment, much of the original vegetation has been completely removed or severely modified. As a result, urban residential land use is the most common land use in the Woollahra LGA.

The main pressures affecting land in the Woollahra LGA may be summarised under the following topics:

- urban development and consolidation
- contaminated land
- loss of native vegetation.
- soil disturbance and erosion
- acid sulfate soils

2.1 Intent of land sector

The challenge facing local planning authorities is to develop long term strategies for the sustainable use of land, on which the environmental, economic and social wellbeing of the region depends. The following activities and projects aim to contribute to the sustainable use of land.

2.2 Woollahra Sustainability Plan

Council continued to prepare the Woollahra Sustainability Plan (WSP). The plan aims to incorporate social, economic and environmental considerations into Council's broader decision making process.

Council commenced this process in 2005, in recognition of the important role that local government plays in improving the level of sustainability in the local community. The WSP is a long term plan that is being prepared to direct Council and the community towards a more sustainable future.

During the reporting period Council completed the background research stages of the project, consulted the community through a series of facilitated workshops and surveys to identify issues and a vision for the LGA, and reviewed Council's function areas for the level of sustainability. All of this information is currently being compiled into the draft WSP.

A drawing competition was conducted for primary school students in the LGA in April 2006. Council received approximately 70 entries from three schools. A number of the entries will feature in the WSP document, with the winning entry featuring on the front cover of the plan. Worm farms and book prizes were awarded to the winning students.

2.3 Neighbourhood Centres Strategy

Council continued work on preparing a Neighbourhood Centre Strategy for thirteen neighbourhood centres in the LGA. The strategy is underpinned by the principles of sustainability, where neighbourhood centres are to provide:

- a good mix of local services,
- a greater choice in housing close to shops,
- safe and active streets and places for community life,
- more people friendly areas, and
- access to public transport.

Urban design and development controls, which support the land uses, structure, form and character for each centre, were prepared during the reporting period. The controls, which will be provided in a development control plan (DCP), are supported by proposed changes to Woollahra LEP 1995. The LEP changes include modified land uses and amendments to floor space ratios and building heights. The package of proposed DCP controls and LEP amendments provides opportunities for mixed use commercial/residential development, improvements to public places and streets, and requirements for buildings to reduced reliance on non-renewable resources.

The project was broadened to include a review of non-residential land uses in William Street and Elizabeth Street Paddington.

2.4 Double Bay and Oxford Street Paddington Commercial Centres

Research into business management options for Double Bay and Oxford Street Paddington Commercial Centres was undertaken to address the flagging commercial vitality of the centres. There are distinct economic, social and environmental issues and benefits linked to the effective operation of these business centres. The Council is investigating the scope of its role in future business management options.

2.5 Draft White City DCP and LEP

Further work was carried out in the preparation of a new site-specific DCP for the White City site in Rushcutters Bay. A Draft DCP was completed and advertised. The plan includes development controls for the size and location of buildings, landscaping, stormwater management, energy efficiency, water conservation, view protection, traffic and parking, pedestrian and cycle access, contaminated land management and heritage conservation. The Council also made a decision to list the site, excluding the stormwater channel, as a heritage item.

2.6 Child Care Centres DCP

In response to a direct social need for child care facilities in the LGA, Council prepared a DCP for child care centres. This plan commenced on 19 April 2006 and assists applicants in the preparation of development proposals for child care facilities, as well as assisting Council with the assessment of these applications.

2.7 Woollahra Section 94A Development Contributions Plan

Council approved the Woollahra Section 94A Development Contributions Plan on 14 November 2005. The Plan, which commenced operation on 16 November 2005, obtains levies from all development consents for a range of capital projects for community facilities,

environmental works, infrastructure renewal, open space improvements, business centres improvements and harbourside works.

2.8 Plans of management

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires councils to prepare plans of management (PoM) for all community land. Plans of management are important management tools that are:

- prepared in consultation with the community,
- identify the important features of the land (eg natural significance, sports ground),
- clarify how council will manage the land, and
- indicate how the land may be used or developed (eg leasing).

During the reporting period the Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve PoM was adopted. Council is currently reviewing the PoMs for Woollahra Park, Foreshore Parks, Cooper Park and Trumper Park.

2.9 Park and reserve improvements

Council has undertaken a number of improvements to the parks and reserves in Woollahra, including the:

- Installation of new playgrounds at Union Street, Soudon Street, Paddington and Lyne Park. Public consultation for a new playground at Yarranabee Park was completed for installation in August 2006.
- Installation of bore, pump and irrigation system at Lough Playing Fields for irrigation to improve the sports field surface.
- Refurbishment of Rushcutters Bay Oval No.1 to improve soil water retention, reducing the need for irrigation.
- Installation of new and improved sports lighting at Lyne Park.
- Installation of a new cricket net at Trumper Park Oval.
- Installation of pathways in Cooper Park and Trumper Park to improve public access.

Landscaping, garden bed renovations and new plant-outs were carried out at Redleaf and Redleaf pool, Goomerah Crescent, Davies Reserve and Bradley Avenue. The courtyard area between McKell Cottage and McKell Park was re-landscaped and paved.

2.10 Responsible dog use

New park signage was installed in all parks where dogs are permitted to run off leash. The signage promotes responsible dog use of the parks and encourages owners to:

- maintain effective control of their animals, and
- to remove and dispose of dog faeces.

Additional waste bins were installed at Lough Playing Fields, Lyne Park, Christison Park, Rushcutters Bay Park and Styne Park to encourage people to pick up and dispose of their dog faeces.

2.11 People and Pets Day

People and Pets day is a major community event held by Council each year in October to educate, inform and encourage responsible pet ownership in the Woollahra LGA. The theme for the 2005 event was 'purr-fect pets' and the four-hour fair included stalls and displays, demonstrations, animal nursery, competitions and raffles, a free sausage sizzle and entertainment.

Some of the issues People and Pets Day aims to deal with include:

- encouraging pet owners to clean up after their animals, especially when away from home,
- encouraging the microchipping and registration of animals, and
- raising awareness of where and when owners can walk their dogs.

The Woollahra Animal Advisory Committee is involved in the planning for People and Pets Day.

In conjunction with People and Pets Day, a Pet Education Program is held where a local vet, Council ranger and dog obedience trainer visit local schools educating students about responsible pet ownership.

2.12 Land indicators

Environmental indicators have been applied to each environmental sector to provide quantifiable information to monitor a specific aspect of the environment over time. The indicators have been chosen because they provide the status of a specific aspect relating to the environment, and the information is regularly being monitored by Council and other government authorities. It must be noted that the list of indicators is not representative of outcomes for all land sector activities and projects.

The following indicators are updated yearly, or when the data is available, and provide information on specific aspects of the land environment. Where this information has been recorded for a number of years, trends can be established. The land indicators are presented in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Land indicators

Indicator	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	Trend
Total no. of DAs approved	965	996	999	1183	943	750	655	✓
No. of RFB	-		15	5	15	17	4	✓
No. A/A to existing building	-		510	852	653	622	499	✓
Total open space (public and private)	-	215 ha	215 ha	215.5 ha	215.5 ha	216 ha	216 ha	~
Public open space		101 ha	101 ha	101.5 ha	101.5 ha	102 ha	102 ha	~
No. of environment protection licences issued by the DEC	-	4	3	2	-	2	2	~
Total no. of incidents DEC pollution line	61	65	33	50	47	32	41	X
Chemical	1	9	2	2	1	1	5	X
Pesticide	1	3	0	1	2	3	2	~
Contaminated land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	~

Source: Woollahra Council (GIS open space), Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Note: DA means development application, RFB means residential flat building, A/A means alterations and additions, ha means hectare. The total number of DAs does not include amended DAs or Section 82A reviews.

Key: The following symbols represent improving (✓), worsening (X) or stable (~) trends in the monitored aspects of the environment. The trend column is left blank where there is not enough information to establish a trend. Where no information is available, the (-) symbol is used.

3. Water

Water is one of the most important natural resources for which all life on earth depends. Two thirds of the earth's surface is covered by water, of which 97% is salt water stored in the seas and oceans. Three percent of the earth's water is fresh water and only 1% of this is available to humans, plants and animals for use (Government of South Australia 2006).

The amount of water on earth is always approximately the same, and is continuously being circulated from the earth's surface to the atmosphere in what is known as the water or hydrological cycle (EPA 2000). Urbanisation of water catchments modifies the natural water cycle and places an increasing pressure on the quantity and quality of water.

The Woollahra LGA falls into two water catchment areas, Port Jackson South Catchment (95% of the LGA) and the Eastern Coastal Catchment (remaining 5%).

The main pressures impacting on water in Woollahra are:

- urbanisation of the Woollahra landscape,
- stormwater runoff (quantity and quality),
- sewage pollution, and
- pollution incidents.

3.1 Intent of water sector

Integrating the principles of total water cycle management into land management practices is vital to effectively address the pressures impacting on our water catchments. The following activities and projects aim to contribute to improving local water quality and overall water catchment health.

3.2 Harbourwatch water quality

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) measures the recreational water quality of Sydney Harbour and the surrounding beaches through the Harbourwatch and Beachwatch programs. Water samples are collected from all swimming locations in the greater metropolitan region once every six days as a part of a long term monitoring program. The DEC states that the sampling frequency is in accordance with the national health guidelines for recreational use of water. The samples are transported to a laboratory and analysed for the presence of two indicator organisms, faecal coliforms and enterococci, which may indicate the presence of sewage pollution in the water (DEC 2005).

The samples are compared to Beachwatch guidelines, which are based on the *Australia Guidelines for Recreational use of Water*, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) (1990). The results are provided as a grouped percentage of compliance with the Beachwatch guideline levels for faecal coliforms and enterococci.

Faecal coliforms detected in the water indicate the presence of recent sewage contamination at the swimming site, while the presence of enterococci indicates aged sewage contamination. The Harbourwatch monitoring program is more likely to detect aged sewage contamination than recent incidents because the samples are collected and analysed every six days (DEC 2005).

Table 2 summarises the compliance results for the five swimming locations in Woollahra for the previous two years. The 2005/2006 information will be released by the DEC in November 2006. This information will be included in the final report.

Table 2: Woollahra LGA Harbourwatch percentage compliance results

Swimming location	2004/2005				2005/2006			
	Summer Fc	Summer Ec	Winter Fc	Winter Ec	Summer Fc	Summer Ec	Winter Fc	Winter Ec
Redleaf Pool	77	61	100	91	Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.		Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.	
Rose Bay Beach	100	94	100	91	Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.		Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.	
Nielsen Park	100	100	100	100	Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.		Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.	
Parsley Bay	100	90	100	100	Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.		Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.	
Watsons Bay	100	90	100	100	Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.		Information to be released by the DEC in November 2006.	

Source: Department of Environment and Conservation

Note: Fc = faecal coliforms and Ec = enterococci.

The DEC allocates a ranking for all monitored harbour and ocean swimming beaches in the Hunter, Sydney and Illawarra regions on the basis of bacterial compliance during the summer swimming season.

The DEC releases daily Beachwatch and Harbourwatch bulletins based primarily on rainfall data. These may also include reports of sewage treatment bypasses and other pollution incidents to provide information to the community on the potential risk of bacterial contamination in swimming areas. The daily bulletins are available on the Beachwatch website www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beach. Typically bacterial contamination often occurs during periods of high rainfall when the quantity of stormwater runoff is high and sewer overflows are likely.

3.3 Environmental Works Program

Council implemented the fourth year of the five year Environmental Works Program (EWP), after receiving approval from the Minister in July 2005 to extend the program for another two years. This allows for the full implementation of the original five year EWP. The EWP largely focuses on improving stormwater quality and aims to:

- treat stormwater and improve stormwater quality both at source and at the end of the line,
- rehabilitate the natural watercourses by removing exotic vegetation and accumulated sediment and by restoring the natural habitats,
- repair the harbour front seawalls, and
- address issues of local flooding.

The following EWP projects have been undertaken during the reporting period.

Baseline database and performance management

Council continued the development of a database to assist with monitoring the performance of the EWP and other activities being undertaken by Council. Information to be recorded on the database includes the maintenance of stormwater treatment devices and other information relating to water quality within the Woollahra LGA.

Stormwater education programs

During the reporting period, Council implemented four stormwater education programs that were identified in the Environmental Education and Action Plan. These programs were:

- 'Gutter Talk' a new-for-old broom trade-in was a community participation initiative aimed at raising awareness and increasing resident ownership with regard to the concept of 'catchments',
- Local business survey to establish environmental awareness levels of high-risk business types through interviews and gauge their response to a future environmental business awards scheme,
- Community Environmental Grants Program established as a new component part of Council's Community Grants Program, providing small seed-funding grants to support schools and community groups with their completion of environmental projects,
- Environmental training development of two new programs, one program for Council operational staff and a program involving the preparation of an induction package for all medium to high risk employees, aimed at developing staff environmental awareness and responsibility.

Street sweeping and pit cleaning

The review of Council's street sweeping and pit cleaning program was completed during the reporting period. The review assessed the effectiveness of the program, the type of pollutants entering the catchments of Woollahra and recommended strategies to improve the efficiency of the program.

Recommendations to improve the program covered the areas of organisational structure and policy, street sweeping, pit cleaning, gross pollutant traps (GPT), pollution load assessment, pollution disposal and community education. The following recommendations were implemented during the reporting period:

- changes to Council's operational procedures,
- street sweeping, pit and GPT cleaning data recording has been consolidated, and
- asset attribute and catchment information has been included onto Council's Geographical Information System.

Harbour foreshore cleaning project

A review of Council's harbour foreshore cleaning program was carried out during the year. The review identified a number of recommendations for improving the program, including:

- addressing peak season (May to September) cleaning demand,
- vehicle access to beaches, and
- tailoring data recording systems for targeted environmental reporting and accuracy of information.

The recommendations will be implemented during the 2006/2007 reporting period.

Parsley Bay bush regeneration

Bush regeneration and revegetation works were carried out in Parsley Bay Reserve to remove the final areas of exotic vegetation and re-establish the area with local native plants. The works involved twelve months of maintenance to ensure the establishment of the new plants.

Local flooding, critical pits and overland flow program

Council continued to work on a number of projects tackling localised flooding problems:

- commenced construction works on the drainage system upgrade at Camp Cove Reserve, Camp Street, Watsons Bay,
- commenced construction works on the drainage system upgrade to Hampden Street, Cecil Street and Cecil Lane, Paddington,
- completed investigation and design of drainage works targeting local flooding and environmental impacts on Parsley Bay, and
- completed investigation and design of drainage system upgrade for Fisher Avenue, Vacluse and Boronia Road, Bellevue Hill.

3.4 Water Savings Action Plan

The NSW Government released the *Metropolitan Water Plan for Sydney* (MWP) in late 2004 in response to the current drought and increasing uncertainties of future water supplies. The MWP highlights the fact that 'Sydney is using more water than is sustainable'.

The MWP and the introduction of the *Energy Administration Amendment (Water and Energy Savings) Act 2005* (the Act) allocate responsibility to the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS) to promote improvements in the water and energy efficiency of key businesses, local government and NSW government agencies. A key recommendation of the MWP and the Act is that local councils who are within Sydney Water's area of operations are legally required to develop a Water Savings Action Plan (WSAP). Draft WSAPs are to be submitted to the Minister of Utilities for approval prior to finalisation.

Preparation of a WSAP determines how much water is being used at Council's top ten water using sites and identifies and prioritises actions to conserve potable (drinking) water usage. **Table 3** outlines the process of preparing the WSAP, as set out in the *Guidelines for Water Savings Action Plans*.

Table 3: Water Savings Action Plan task outline

	Water Savings Action Plan
Task 1	Determine how much water is used. Collate 12 months of water usage data to determine Council's baseline water use. The chosen base year is to be representative of normal operations. Develop Business Activity Indicators for your site's business sector.
Task 2	Planning at management level. Undertake a Water Management Review. Senior Management commitment is vital for this task.
Task 3	Determine how water is used and efficiency opportunities. The level of technical review will be dependant on the amount of water consumed and whether water efficiency benchmarks have been developed; either a walk-through review or detailed review. It is recommended that councils include the top 10 sites in the plan to capture the bulk of water use.
Task 4	Preparing the plan. The plan is to utilise the outcomes of the assessment of the baseline water use, management review and technical review and be based on templates included in the guidelines.
Task 5	Implementing and reviewing plans. Implementation of the plan is to be reviewed and reported to DEUS annually. The action plan is to be reviewed every 4 years.

Council prepared and submitted the draft WSAP to the Minister of Utilities for approval by the 30 June 2006 deadline.

3.5 Every Drop Counts Business Program

Council joined the Sydney Water Every Drop Counts Business Program in April 2005. The program offers participants a formalised water saving program that is fully supported by Sydney Water staff. The program involves the following steps:

- joint commitment: a participant must enter into a voluntary business arrangement (memorandum of understanding) with Sydney Water that demonstrates commitment to improving water management practices in the organisation,
- diagnostic to identify critical actions: the diagnostic process evaluates business performance in water resource management,
- improvement plan: the diagnostic process helps to develop a prioritised plan for saving water,
- implementation of improvement plan, and
- review performance.

During the reporting period Council completed the first three tasks of the project, having entered into the joint commitment with Sydney Water, carried out the organisational diagnostic and prepared the implementation plan.

Council initially joined the program to formalise the water conservation initiatives being undertaken in a number of departments. Participation in the program has also assisted with the technical reviews (audits) of Council's facilities and the preparation of Council's draft WSAP.

3.6 Sydney Harbour Week (3 – 12 March 2006)

Sydney Harbour Week is an annual event held in early March to celebrate Sydney Harbour. The event is coordinated by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and provides an opportunity for the community to interact with and learn about Sydney Harbour through participation in organised activities. Activities have ranged from Harbour discovery tours and educational forums to how to sail classes. Woollahra Council organised the following activities for the Sydney Harbour Week 2006:

- guided coastal bushwalk, Gap Park to Christison Park,
- Harbour Rockpool Discovery walk in collaboration with the Marine Discovery Centre,
- Harbour Snorkeling Discovery Camp Cove in collaboration with the Marine Discovery Centre, and
- marine story time for toddlers/preschoolers – film, stories and craft at the Woollahra Children's Library.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Council has organised activities for Sydney Harbour Week.

3.7 Sydney Coastal Councils Group Summer Activities Program (January 2006)

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Summer Activities Program was conducted during January 2006. The program aims to educate the community about Sydney's beautiful coastal environment through organised activities. The activities are organised by the individual councils, and coordinated by the Sydney Coastal Council's Group.

Woollahra Council organised the following activities for the January 2006 program:

- guided coastal bushwalk, Gap Park to Christison Park,
- Harbour Rockpool Discovery walks in collaboration with the Marine Discovery Centre, and
- marine story time for toddlers/preschoolers – stories and craft at the Woollahra Children's Library.

3.8 Sydney Water

Sydney Water constructed a wetland to replace the concrete channel running through the Woollahra Golf Course, Rose Bay as a part of the implementation of the Stormwater Environment Improvement Program. The project also involved the installation of a sediment trap and trash rack and the planting of local native species. The wetland will provide habitat for local wildlife and will be an aesthetic addition to the golf course (Sydney Water 2006).

3.9 Water indicators

Environmental indicators have been applied to each environmental sector to provide quantifiable information to monitor a specific aspect of the environment over time. The indicators have been chosen because they provide the status of a specific aspect relating to the environment, and the information is regularly being monitored by Council and other government authorities. It must be noted that the list of indicators is not representative of outcomes for all water sector activities and projects.

The following indicators are updated yearly, or when the data is available, and provide information on specific aspects of the water environment. Where this information has been

recorded for a number of years, trends can be established. The water indicators are presented in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Water indicators

Indicator	1999/ 2000	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	Trend
Water consumption LGA total	6 897 314 (kilolitres)	7 641 624 (kilolitres)	8 385 816 (kilolitres)	-	-	6 285 185 (kilolitres)	6 237 758 (kilolitres)	~
Water consumption Woollahra Council	79 307 (kilolitres)	95 885 (kilolitres)	99 862 (kilolitres)	113 021 (kilolitres)	63 912 (kilolitres)	48 283 (kilolitres)	38 666 (kilolitres)	✓
No. of sewage overflows,								
Dry weather	-	-	217	300	-	-	-	-
Wet weather	-	-	44	33	-	-	-	-
No. of pollution control devices installed	-	-	28	178	229	230 (10 GPTs and 220 pit baskets)	230 (10 GPTs and 220 pit baskets)	~
No. of stormwater discharge points into the harbour	118	-	-	-	-	110	-	✓
No. of water pollution incidents (DEC)	28	42	24	41	40	22	22	✓
No. of clean up notices	5	-	2	6	9	9	0	✓
No. of prevention notices	-	-	4	3	6	0	0	✓
No. of penalty infringement notices issued	28	-	2	50	14	13	12	✓

Source: Sydney Water, Woollahra Municipal Council, and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Key: The following symbols represent improving (✓), worsening (✗) or stable (~) trends in the monitored aspects of the environment. The trend column is left blank where there is not enough information to establish a trend. Where no information is available, the (-) symbol is used.

4. Biodiversity

Biological diversity or biodiversity is defined as the variety of all life forms (plants, animals and micro-organisms), the genes they contain and the ecosystems to which they form a part of (NPWS 1999). Healthy, functioning ecosystems are necessary to maintain the quality of the atmosphere, climate, fresh water, soil formation, cycling of nutrients and the disposal of wastes. Indeed, the conservation of biodiversity is a cornerstone of ecologically sustainable development (EPA 1997).

The main pressures impacting on the health of Woollahra's bushland and biodiversity are:

- fragmentation of remnant bushland,
- introduced/weed species,
- urban runoff and stormwater,

- sewer overflows,
- altered fire regime (too infrequent and not hot enough),
- habitat degradation,
- domestic animals,
- waste dumping, and
- vandalism and disturbance.

The Woollahra LGA has approximately seventy-five hectares of bushland located in nine bushland reserves. Three vegetation communities are present containing 311 native plant species, including two threatened and one vulnerable plant species.

4.1 Intent of biodiversity sector

Actions relating to biodiversity management aim to identify, maintain, enhance and protect biological diversity. The following activities and projects aim to contribute to improving the health of biodiversity in the Woollahra LGA and the Sydney region through conservation and management.

4.2 Bush regeneration and revegetation status of Council reserves.

Council continued its commitment to maintain and enhance our local biodiversity with the continued success of the bush regeneration activities being undertaken within Cooper Park, Parsley Bay Reserve and Gap Park, and the revegetation projects being undertaken in Trumper Park and Harbourview Park. **Table 5** illustrates the status of regeneration activities in Council's bushland reserves.

Table 5: Regeneration status of Council's bushland reserves

Park/Reserve	Area of bushland (hectares)	Untreated bushland area (%) remaining	Area (%) regenerated and on maintenance
Cooper Park	12	50	50
Gap Park	3.4	19	81
Trumper Park	4.3	32	68
Parsley Bay Reserve	3.15	2	98

Source: Woollahra Council Parks and Street Trees

In early 2006, Council commenced major primary clearance and regeneration projects involving Council and contract staff in Parsley Bay and Gap Parks. The Parsley Bay project will complete the primary clearance targets for the park area with the finalisation of the North West headland. The Gap Park project will add a significant section of revegetation to the old tram line area. The projects are due for completion in December 2006 and February 2007 respectively.

4.3 Bushcare

Bushcare is a community-based program in which volunteers help regenerate and preserve Woollahra's bushland, with the assistance and support of Council staff. The program provides an opportunity for volunteers to learn about the local environment, and to be actively involved in the management of bushland in Woollahra. Council currently has thirty-seven volunteers working across the four bushcare sites in Woollahra.

The following bushcare activities were undertaken during the reporting period:

- Council staff and volunteers from the Waverley Youth Group (WAYS) undertook a joint revegetation project around the tennis courts in Trumper Park,

-
- Council staff and community volunteers planted native plants in Gap and Cooper Parks in the lead up to National Tree Day on 31 July 2005, and
 - Council conducted an induction course with two training days for the new volunteers.

If you are interested or would like some more information on Bushcare, please contact Council's Bushcare Liaison Officer on 0423 020 648 or by email on bushcare@woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

4.4 Community education – bushland walks

Council conducted guided coastal bushwalks for Biodiversity Month in September 2005 and for Sydney Harbour Week in March 2006. Topics covered during the walk included remnant vegetation of the area, bush regeneration and catchment management issues. Twenty-eight people attended the Biodiversity Month walk and ten people attended the Sydney Harbour week walk. Both walks were from Christison Park, Vaucluse to the Gap at Watsons Bay.

4.5 Vegetation Management Strategy

Council continued the preparation of the Vegetation Management Strategy (VMS) during the reporting period. The purpose of the VMS is to provide a vision, objectives and principles to guide the integrated framework for managing trees and vegetation throughout the LGA. The strategy considers the desired future state of the vegetation asset in the LGA and aims to provide a balance between managing cultural heritage, street trees and preserving and enhancing biodiversity.

The strategy will be cross referenced to Council's PoM, action plans, Street Tree Masterplan, Tree Preservation Order and development control measures to manage both public and private vegetation.

The VMS is being developed with the guidance of a steering group comprising of independent tree, landscape and heritage experts and is scheduled to be completed by June 2007.

4.6 Street trees

Council prepared the draft Street Tree Masterplan in conjunction with the VMS during the reporting period. The primary function of the masterplan is to provide strategic direction in planting, maintenance, and protection of Council's street trees across the LGA.

To achieve this, the key objectives are to:

- improve the knowledge and understanding of good urban tree and forest management by the community;
- promote and capitalise the benefits of Woollahra's urban forest whilst minimising the cost of maintenance;
- maintain, reinforce and enhance the leafy characteristics of the Council's individual precincts by selection of the correct trees suited to the character of the location and site constraints;
- guide decision making and provide a transparent and accountable decision making processes for our planting, maintenance decision and application assessments;
- give design and management guidance on best practice in all areas of tree management.

The Street Tree Masterplan is scheduled to be completed by June 2007.

As a part of the Street Tree Masterplan and the Asset Management Strategy, Council's arborists commenced the ambitious project of recording the locations, species, size and health of every public tree in the LGA. The information will be invaluable for both scheduled maintenance and streetscape design planning.

4.7 Tree Preservation Order

Council revised and adopted the *Tree Preservation Order 2006* (TPO) during the reporting period. The TPO aims to secure tree amenity and preserve the existing urban forest amenity within the Woollahra Council area.

The revised TPO is clearer and less onerous for residents seeking to remove weed trees, or clear branches for safety and property protection purposes. The TPO has an expanded list of tree species that can be removed without Council's approval. This will assist in reducing weed infestation in natural bushland areas and the removal of self-sown trees on private or public land. The TPO also allows Council to pursue residents for breaches to the order for inappropriate tree pruning and removal.

4.8 National Parks and Wildlife Service update

Allocasuarina portuensis Endangered Species Recovery Project

NPWS continue to implement the Recovery Plan for the threatened plant species *Allocasuarina portuensis* (Nielsen Park She-Oak), originally found only in Nielsen Park, Sydney Harbour National Park. One hundred and thirty plants have been established in the park. NPWS staff and local volunteers are continuing to maintain these sites.

The *Allocasuarina portuensis* seedlings planted at a site in the grounds of Vacluse House and managed by The Historic Houses Trust of NSW have established well. A further site was planted with *Allocasuarina portuensis* seedlings in early 2006 at Watsons Bay, in conjunction with Woollahra Council.

Four small areas burned under prescribed conditions to enhance plant diversity have been monitored, revealing the germination and strong growth of many species including the endangered Sunshine Wattle, *Acacia terminalis subspecies terminalis*.

Maintenance of the shark net

The swimming enclosure at Nielsen Park is protected by a shark net during the summer months. The NPWS conduct an annual monitoring program of syngnathids (seahorses, seadragons and pipefish) with the removal of the shark net each year, as these species are known to colonise shark nets and other inshore structures. During the reporting period fifty-six seahorses, a protected species, were removed from the net and returned to the harbour.

4.9 Biodiversity indicators

Environmental indicators have been applied to each environmental sector to provide quantifiable information to monitor a specific aspect of the environment over time. The indicators have been chosen because they provide the status of a specific aspect relating to the environment, and the information is regularly being monitored by Council and other government authorities. It must be noted that the list of indicators is not representative of outcomes for all biodiversity sector activities and projects.

The following indicators are updated yearly, or when the data is available, and provide information on specific aspects of the biodiversity environment. Where this information has

been recorded for a number of years, trends can be established. The biodiversity indicators are presented in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Biodiversity indicators

Indicator	1998/ 1999	1999/ 2000	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	Trend
No. of remnant vegetation reserves	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	~
No. of regeneration/ revegetation sites	6	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	~
No. of species: Threatened	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	~
Vulnerable		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	~
No. recovery plans implemented	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	~
No of native flora species in LGA	311	311	311	311	311	311	311	311	~
No. of weed flora species in LGA	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	~

Source: Woollahra Municipal Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Key: The following symbols represent improving (✓), worsening (✗) or stable (~) trends in the monitored aspects of the environment. The trend column is left blank where there is not enough information to establish a trend. Where no information is available, the (-) symbol is used.

5. Air

Air or the atmosphere is essential for all life on earth as it regulates global weather and climate. The atmosphere maintains an average air temperature of 15°C that is necessary to support life on earth.

The atmosphere can be divided into three main regions: the mesosphere, stratosphere and the troposphere. Human activity, including the burning of fossil fuels, impact on the two atmospheric levels closest to the earth, the stratosphere and the troposphere (EPA 2000).

Environmental air quality is considered at three levels (EPA 1996):

Global - ozone layer depletion and climate change as a result of increased greenhouse gas levels.

Regional - photochemical smog, fine particle pollution and nitrogen dioxide.

Local - carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, lead (and other air borne toxins) and odour.

Pressures affecting local, regional and global air quality include the burning of fossil fuels for electricity and to operate vehicles and equipment, bushfires, agricultural practices and the disposal of waste. Air pollution can be dissipated or exasperated by local weather conditions.

The DEC monitors air quality twice daily throughout NSW. Air quality results are presented as the regional pollution index (RPI) and categorised as low, medium or high readings. A high pollution index reading corresponds to pollution levels that exceed health or visibility goals.

Woollahra falls within the Central Eastern Sydney airshed. In general, the majority of days (both a.m. and p.m.) experienced low to medium pollution readings. During the reporting

period, high readings were recorded for nine mornings and three were recorded for the evenings.

5.1 Intent of air sector

Management action taken in relation to air aims to improve local, regional and global air quality. The following activities and projects aim to contribute to improving air quality, through the reduction in pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

5.2 Energy Savings Action Plan

The introduction of the *Energy Administration Amendment (Water and Energy Savings) Act 2005* (the Act) not only requires Council to prepare a Water Savings Action Plan (section 2.1.3), but also requires large councils to prepare an Energy Savings Action Plan (ESAP).

An ESAP determines base line energy use for a nominated year, audits facilities and identifies and prioritises actions that will conserve energy. Council commenced the preparation of the Energy Savings Action Plan during the reporting period.

5.3 Regional street lighting review

Woollahra Council is one of twenty-nine councils within the EnergyAustralia distribution area that have joined together for the Street Lighting Improvement Program (SLIP) to improve street lighting throughout the region. The combined LGAs of the twenty-nine councils represent 87% of all the lights in EnergyAustralia's distribution area and more than 40% of all street lights in NSW.

The primary objective of the program is to seek street lighting improvements through negotiations with government, Energy Australia, industry regulators, technology suppliers and other key parties.

The SLIP was successful in gaining \$4.2 million in funding through the NSW Government's Energy Savings Fund. The funds will be used to accelerate the deployment of energy efficient street lighting technologies over the next four years. Implementation of the grant will provide energy, greenhouse and financial benefits to the community.

As a part of the grant, Woollahra Council will have approximately 975 street lights upgraded to the value of approximately \$100,000.

5.4 Traffic and transport

Community Transport Forum

Council initiated the formation of the Community Transport Forum. The aim of the forum will be to lobby for improvements to public transport, including:

- a commuter ferry service to Watsons Bay,
- an additional bus route servicing Watsons Bay, Vaucluse, Dover Heights and North Bondi, linking with the ferry service,
- disability access at Edgecliff Station,
- further investigation into light rail opportunities, and
- ongoing general maintenance and improvement to public transport services.

Pedestrian and Access Mobility Plan for Paddington (PAMP)

The draft Pedestrian and Access Mobility Plan for Paddington has been completed. The plan will be reviewed and referred to the Paddington Traffic Working Party for consideration. Once the draft plan has been through the working party, it will be submitted to Council for adoption.

Woollahra Bicycle Plan implementation

Council continues to install bicycle lanes in stages in accordance with the Woollahra Bicycle Plan 1999. Approximately 30% of the total bicycle routes and 35% of the priority bicycle routes have been installed to date. The percentage of the total bicycle route installed increased from 19.2% during 2004/2005 to 30% during 2005/2006.

Local traffic management

Council has implemented local traffic management measures in Glenmore Road and Neild Avenue, Paddington. The measures involved the removal of a roundabout, the installation of a speed hump, and road narrowing. These works were carried out to deter motorists from using local streets to access the Cross City Tunnel.

Local traffic management measures will be implemented in Hargrave Street and Cascade Street, Paddington as a part of the measures required to introduce the 40 kilometre per hour zone throughout Paddington.

5.5 Air quality indicators

Environmental indicators have been applied to each environmental sector to provide quantifiable information to monitor a specific aspect of the environment over time. The indicators have been chosen because they provide the status of a specific aspect relating to the environment, and the information is regularly being monitored by Council and other government authorities. It must be noted that the list of indicators is not representative of outcomes for all air sector activities and projects.

The following indicators are updated yearly, or when the data is available, and provide information on specific aspects of the air environment. Where this information has been recorded for a number of years, trends can be established. The air indicators are presented in **Table 7**.

Table 7: Air quality indicators

Indicators	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	Trends
Corporate (Council) greenhouse gas emissions.	5,475 CO ₂ ^e tonnes	-	-	-	5,903 CO ₂ ^e tonnes	-	-	X
RPI High – a.m.	4	13	10	14	9	6	9	X
RPI High – p.m.	1	13	13	14	4	0	3	X
No. of Council air pollution complaints	-	-	-	56	45	26	24	✓
No. of air incidents DEC pollution line	5	3	3	2	1	0	0	✓

Note: RPI means regional pollution index.

Source: Department of Environment and Conservation. Woollahra Council.

Key: The following symbols represent improving (✓), worsening (X) or stable (~) trends in the monitored aspects of the environment. The trend column is left blank where there is not enough information to establish a trend. Where no information is available, the (-) symbol is used.

6. Noise

Noise is an environmental issue often identified as a nuisance but it is equally a pollutant. Noise pollution can be defined as unwanted or offensive sounds that unreasonably intrude into our daily activities (EPA 2000). Noise in built up areas has many sources, most of which are associated with urban development. Generally residential areas are more sensitive to immediate changes in noise levels. Increases in mixed residential/commercial developments in the LGA are providing sources of noise with and competing land uses.

Common neighbourhood noise complaints relate to building sites, air conditioning systems, mechanical ventilation, freezer and cool room condensers, pool filters, barking dogs and loud music. Road traffic noise is a wide spread noise source in Woollahra. Increasing vehicular traffic levels and extended peak hours are causing a major intrusion into residential areas, particularly for people living near main transport routes.

During the reporting year the DEC's Pollution Line received twelve noise complaints within the Woollahra LGA. The DEC acknowledges that local councils receive the majority of noise complaints (DEC 2003). Council received 331 noise complaints during the reporting period. The noise complaints registered with both the DEC and Council represent an increase in the number of complaints received from the 2004/2005 reporting period. Increasing from six to twelve complaints registered by the DEC and from 281 to 331 registered with Council.

The majority of the noise complaints registered with Council related to barking dogs. Council's Animal Control Officer investigated 144 complaints regarding barking dogs, resulting in the issuing of one Nuisance Barking Order. Noise from development sites were the next highest source with sixty-one complaints, forty-two relating to general development site noise and nineteen relating to work outside of approved hours. Thirty-three noise complaints were registered with Council regarding noise from air conditioning units.

The remaining eighty-three noise complaints related to mostly domestic sources, including the operation of machinery, general domestic, pool pumps and alarms.

6.1 Intent of noise sector

Action undertaken relating to noise involves the management and resolution of noise complaints. Council resolves most noise complaints through negotiation and consultation.

6.2 Noise indicators

Environmental indicators have been applied to each environmental sector to provide quantifiable information to monitor a specific aspect of the environment over time. The indicators have been chosen because they provide the status of a specific aspect relating to the environment, and the information is regularly being monitored by Council and other government authorities. It must be noted that the list of indicators is not representative of outcomes for all noise sector activities and projects.

The following indicators are updated yearly, or when the data is available, and provide information on specific aspects of the noise environment. Where this information has been recorded for a number of years, trends can be established. The noise indicators are presented in **Table 8**.

Table 8: Noise indicators

Indicator	1998/ 1999	1999/ 2000	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	Trend
No. of Council noise complaints	-	452	36	-	284	379	281	331	✗
No. of noise incidents DEC pollution line	13	26	8	4	4	3	6	12	✗
No. of noise abatement directions	-	2	1	7	11	29	20	0	✓
No. of noise control notices	-	0	-	5	4	8	4	0	✓

Source: Woollahra Municipal Council, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Key: The following symbols represent improving (✓), worsening (✗) or stable (-) trends in the monitored aspects of the environment. The trend column is left blank where there is not enough information to establish a trend. Where no information is available, the (-) symbol is used.

Note: The dramatic increase in Council recorded complaints may be related to the introduction of the Customer Request Management System (CRMS) which enables Council to record customer requests more accurately.

7. Waste

The generation, management and disposal of waste are serious issues that affect the whole community. Potential environmental and public health impacts may arise at the different stages of the waste life cycle; product generation, transport and disposal. Impacts include air and water pollution, generation of greenhouse gases and the contamination of land (EPA 2000).

The generation of waste is a reflection of the standard of living and consumption patterns of a society, consuming more as standards of living improve (Resource NSW 2003). The DEC (EPA 2000) reports that Australia has the second highest domestic waste production per

capita among Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member nations.

There are a number of reasons why waste minimisation, management and disposal to landfill have become critical issues, including:

- limited capacity of landfill sites,
- environmental impacts associated with waste disposal including demand on raw materials and energy use,
- generation of greenhouse gases (methane) and other gases that impact on the environment;
- contamination of land and water, and
- dumping of waste materials and litter that cause health and safety hazards.

Resource NSW state that the challenge for those involved in the area of waste management is to prevent waste and to turn the unavoidable waste into one of the most important and sought after raw materials of the twenty-first century (Resource NSW 2003).

Total waste is made up of three distinct streams; municipal, building and demolition and commercial and industrial (EPA 2000). Council manages the majority of waste generated in the municipal waste stream.

Domestic waste is the largest contributor to the municipal waste stream in the Woollahra LGA, with 12,147 tonnes disposed to landfill during the 2005/2006 reporting period. The total household recycled materials (kerbside plastics, paper/cardboard and green waste) equated to 10,303 tonnes, or 206kg of materials recycled per capita. These figures are consistent with Council's tonnage figures recorded for the last few years.

7.1 Intent of waste sector

Actions relating to waste aim to reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill. Key responses to minimise waste rely on avoidance, reuse, recycle and reprocessing of waste material, with disposal as the final option (EPA 2000). The following activities and projects aim to contribute to reducing the amount of waste disposed to landfill.

7.2 Waste Education

Council carries out an active waste education program that aims to reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill by Woollahra residents and businesses. The following is a summary of the education actions undertaken during the reporting year.

Liveable Lanes

The successful Liveable Lanes project targeting illegal dumping in laneways was extended to include additional laneways (Dillon, Boundary, Glenview and Gosbell) in Paddington. As a part of the project, waste collection points were relocated to the front of the properties to prevent garbage bins being permanently left out in the laneways and residents were provided with new recycling crates. Implementation of the project has significantly reduced the amount of garbage illegally dumped in the targeted laneways. Another outcome of the project has been the reduction in the number of plastic bags being presented for garbage collection, as residents are less likely to leave plastic bags on the footpath at the front of their properties.

The initial Liveable Lanes project carried out by Council in 2003, resulted in a 50% reduction in the incidence of illegal dumping in the selected laneways of Paddington and Darling Point.

Plastic bag reduction action

The Plastic Bags Working Party was formed by Council in 2004 to reduce the number of single use plastic bags used by customers in Woollahra's local shopping precincts. Since commencing the program at the Plumer Road shops in Rose Bay, the working party has been working with local shop owners and the community in Bellevue Hill to reduce plastic bag usage in the local shopping precinct.

World Environment Day

Council held a World Environment Day environmental educational stall in the Bondi Junction Mall in 8 June 2006. The theme for World Environment Day 2006 was *Deserts and Desertification* with the slogan *Don't Desert Drylands!* The slogan emphasises the importance of protecting drylands, which cover more than 40% of the planet's land area.

Council also participated in:

- worm farming and composting demonstrations on environmental theme days/weeks,
- Clean-Up Australia Day with eight clean up sites in the LGA, and
- stalls and support provided for Council events, including People and Pets day.

7.3 Waste indicators

Environmental indicators have been applied to each environmental sector to provide quantifiable information to monitor a specific aspect of the environment over time. The indicators have been chosen because they provide the status of a specific aspect relating to the environment, and the information is regularly being monitored by Council and other government authorities. It must be noted that the list of indicators is not representative of outcomes for all waste sector activities and projects.

The following indicators are updated yearly, or when the data is available, and provide information on specific aspects of the waste environment. Where this information has been recorded for a number of years, trends can be established. The waste indicators are presented in **Table 9**.

Table 9: Waste indicators

Indicator	1999/ 2000	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003 /2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	Trend
Household waste to landfill	14,285 tonnes	13,958 tonnes	12,802 tonnes	11,893 tonnes	11,799 tonnes	12,111 tonnes	12,147 tonnes	~
Household waste per capita	281 kg	274 kg	252 kg	234 kg	236 kg	242 kg	243 kg	~
Household recycling	6,890 tonnes	7,079 tonnes	9,317 tonnes	10,086 tonnes	9,977 tonnes	9,995 tonnes	10,303 tonnes	~
Household recycling per capita	135 kg	139 kg	189 kg	198 kg	199 kg	199 kg	206 kg	✓
Civil construction and maintenance material recycled	-	2,145 tonnes	1,406 tonnes	3,554 tonnes	3,352 tonnes	4,805 tonnes		✓

Source: Woollahra Municipal Council.

Key: The following symbols represent improving (✓), worsening (✗) or stable (~) trends in the monitored aspects of the environment. The trend column is left blank where there is not enough information to establish a trend. Where no information is available, the (-) symbol is used.

8. Heritage

The Woollahra LGA has a diverse mix of significant built and natural areas. It is an area that is rich in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage that is identified in local, state and national registers. Protection of Woollahra's heritage is contained in a range of statutory and policy documents administered by Council and by various government departments and authorities.

8.1 Intent of heritage sector

Community attitudes and values relating to heritage issues change over time. Council and other levels of government have a role and statutory obligation to identify and conserve heritage. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage sites are consistently under threat by development and careless individuals. Council and NPWS officers regulate and monitor sites in relation development and use pressures. The following activities and projects aim to contribute to the identification and protection of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage in the Woollahra LGA.

8.2 Paddington Development Control Plan

Council continued the review of the Paddington Development Control Plan (DCP) in consultation with the Paddington DCP Working Party. The DCP is a precinct-based plan that contains heritage conservation controls for development on private and public land. The DCP was originally approved in 1999.

8.3 Watsons Bay Baths proposed heritage listing

Following a study into the heritage significance of Watsons Bay Baths, which included investigation of other harbourside and sea baths in Sydney, the Council decided in December 2005 to list the Baths as a heritage item. This will be carried out as part of a new Municipal-wide LEP to be prepared in the next two to three years.

8.4 Local environment plans for heritage items and heritage conservation area

During the reporting period, two LEPs listing additional heritage items and heritage conservation areas were gazetted. *Woollahra LEP 1995 (Amendment No.52)* was gazetted on 22 July 2005. This LEP listed properties in Bellevue Hill, Rose Bay and Darling Point as heritage items and also created a new heritage conservation area in Darling Point.

Woollahra LEP 1995 (Amendment No.55) was gazetted on 5 May 2006, listing further properties in Bellevue Hill and Rose Bay as heritage items.

8.5 Contemporary heritage items

Consultants completed researching the heritage significance of a select list of buildings designed by prominent and award-winning architects in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. This research included interviews with the architects, where possible. Inventory sheets were prepared for each of the properties and were sent to property owners as part of the consultation process. Reports will be presented to the Council with recommendations on further actions.

8.6 Potential heritage items in Watsons Bay and Woollahra Heritage Conservation Areas

Further stages in the research of potential heritage items in the Watsons Bay and Woollahra HCA were completed. Inventory sheets were prepared and distributed to property owners as

part of the consultation process. Reports will be presented to the Council with recommendations on further actions.

8.7 National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) heritage projects

Steele Point Cottage conservation works

The Steele Point Cottage is located in Nielsen Park and is a part of the Sydney Harbour National Park. The cottage was designed by Colonial Architect James Barnet as a barracks for the gunners associated with the Steele Point Battery and was constructed in 1880.

NPWS undertook major carpentry and joinery conservation works that included the replacement of deteriorated weatherboards and wall elements, the reconstruction of missing or deteriorated windows and doors, replacement of rusted roof iron and repainting. Works on the cottage interior will continue in 2006/2007.

8.8 Draft Reconciliation Statement

During the reporting period, Council consulted local Aboriginal organisations, local reconciliation groups (LRGs) and networks for the drafting of a Reconciliation Statement. The purpose of the Reconciliation Statement is to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and cultural contribution in the LGA and to provide Council with a framework for the future development of projects or activities in line with identified needs and issues. The Reconciliation Statement is scheduled for adoption by Council in the 06/07 reporting period.

8.9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education

In conjunction with Eastern Suburbs Organisation for Reconciling Australia (ESORA), Woollahra Council promoted bush tucker walks in the local area. John Lennis is a local Aborigine who has been permitted by the area's Elders to conduct bushwalks around the foreshore of Nielsen Park, which incorporates Aboriginal culture and education. Four bush tucker walks were conducted during the reporting period, with participants enjoying a 'bush tucker' tasting. The walks were free for participants from the local community.

Comments from bush tucker walk participants:

Thanks for organising such an event, it was wonderful. The guide was very informative, interesting and helpful, and 2 hours was packed with some yummy food tasting and learning important facts about indigenous community in a beautiful setting.

I really did feel that it was informative for locals - many of the people there were Australian born and bred (unlike me, a recently arrived Brit) and I was surprised at how little they knew about Aboriginal people, but pleasantly surprised at how keen they were to know more. I do hope you do many more of these kinds of events as it seemed to really help bridge the gap between the communities. Everyone seemed to have a fun, and most of all, a really educational experience.

8.10 Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week is held each year from the 27 May to 3 June. Reconciliation Week offers people across Australia the opportunity to focus on reconciliation, to hear about the culture and history of Australia's Indigenous people, and to explore new and better ways of meeting challenges in our communities (Reconciliation Australia 2006,

www.reconciliation.org.au). The 2006 event, *Reconciliation: take the next step*, was the 10th annual National Reconciliation Week.

For Reconciliation Week 2006, the Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum (ERLGATSIF), of which Woollahra Council is a member, developed and hosted its third Pauline McLeod Award for Reconciliation. An Award was presented to Paddington resident Peter Cooley from Koori Communications. The Award recognises the projects that Peter has designed and implemented throughout the Sydney area for Aboriginal youth, including a small engines building course, fishing program, La Pa News Letter, the Paul Trivini Cup and the recycled bike parts program.

The Pauline McLeod Award for Youth was presented to Blake Champion, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer at Maroubra Police Station. The Award acknowledges Blake's participation in the Paul Trivini Cup. He has been involved with the establishment of this event which is an annual cricket match between the Police and the local Aboriginal community members at La Perouse. This event strengthens relations with the Aboriginal and non Aboriginal communities.

The presentation of the Awards took place at Woollahra Council Chambers on Tuesday 30 May 2006, during Reconciliation Week.

The Awards ceremony also included a presentation to the winning entrants of ERLGATSIF's second annual Primary Schools Art Competition which saw over 250 entries from students across the six participating member LGAs. Jeremy Green from Cranbrook Junior School, Bellevue Hill, was the equal first winner along with Elyssa Chee from Claremont College, Randwick. All entrants had their work exhibited at the awards ceremony. Woollahra Council flew both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on Council flagpoles in recognition of Reconciliation Week.

8.11 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day of Celebration (NAIDOC) Week

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day of Celebration (NAIDOC) Week is held each year in July. The theme for NAIDOC Week 2005 was *Our future begins with solidarity*. NAIDOC week is a celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (National NAIDOC 2006, www.naidoc.org.au).

Council celebrated NAIDOC Week 2005 (3 – 10 July 2005) with Indigenous story time and at the Double Bay Junior Library and the Paddington Branch Library. Woollahra Council flew both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on Council flagpoles in recognition of NAIDOC Week.

8.12 Heritage indicators

Environmental indicators have been applied to each environmental sector to provide quantifiable information to monitor a specific aspect of the environment over time. The indicators have been chosen because they provide the status of a specific aspect relating to the environment, and the information is regularly being monitored by Council and other government authorities. It must be noted that the list of indicators is not representative of outcomes for all heritage sector activities and projects.

The following indicators are updated yearly, or when the data is available, and provide information on specific aspects of the heritage environment. Where this information has been

recorded for a number of years, trends can be established. The heritage indicators are presented in **Table 10**.

Table 10: Heritage indicators

Indicator	1999/ 2000	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	Trend
No. of Aboriginal heritage sites	64	-	75	75	75	75	75	~
No. of sites – Register of the National Estate	152	153	153	129 ¹	129 ¹	129 ¹	129	~
No. of sites – Australian Heritage Database	-	-	-	-	-	-	166 ²	-
No. of sites – Commonwealth Heritage List	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
No. of sites – National Heritage List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of sites - National Trust Register	264	264	265	266	266	266	278	✓
No. of sites - Woollahra LEP	618	620	622	624	616 ³	656	682	✓
No. of sites – State Heritage Register NSW	26	26	27	27	27	27	27	~
Heritage Conservation Area	-	6	6	6	12	13	14	✓

Note: ¹Reconciled as only the registered sites. Previous numbers included indicative sites.

²The Australian Heritage Commission was abolished in January 2004. The Register of the National Estate has been incorporated into the Australian Heritage Database, managed by the Department of Environment and Heritage. The Australian Heritage Database includes items listed on the new National Heritage List, the new Commonwealth Heritage List, and the existing Register of the National Estate. Within the Woollahra LGA, the Australian Heritage Database includes 129 'registered' places, 24 'indicative' places, 2 'interim listed' or 'removed' places and the 11 places listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List. There are currently no listings on the National Heritage List in the Woollahra LGA.

³Lower number of items is a result of removing multiple items entered more than once in Schedule 3 of WLEP 1995, and as a result of Council boundary changes.

Sources: Woollahra Municipal Council, National Parks and Wildlife Services, NSW Heritage Office, Department of Environment and Heritage, National Trust (NSW).

Key: The following symbols represent improving (✓), worsening (✗) or stable (~) trends in the monitored aspects of the environment. The trend column is left blank where there is not enough information to establish a trend. Where no information is available, the (-) symbol is used.

9. Vacluse Public School vegetable garden

Students from kindergarten to grade 6 at Vacluse Public School have planted a vegetable garden at the school. Every second Monday students are involved in planting vegetable seedlings, garden maintenance and weeding. Organic waste is collected from dedicated bins located around the school's playground and is placed in the school's worm farms each day by the environmental monitors. The worms digest the organic waste turning it into a rich fertiliser known as vermiform. The vermiform is then applied to the vegetable garden as a fertiliser.

The produce that is harvested from the garden is sold to parents directly, or at school fairs, and the money is put back into the garden to purchase new plants and tools. The school installed a water tank to collect rainwater from a building next to the garden. The water from the tank is used to irrigate the vegetable garden. The vegetable garden program is a great way for children to learn about their environment.

The project is supported and coordinated by the Vacluse Public School's teaching staff, and the P & C Environmental group.

10. References

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