



Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Tuesday 15 June 2004*

Time: *6.00 pm*

Outline Of Meeting Protocol & Procedure:

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

Delegated Authority (“D” Items):

- Community Services and Programmes.
- Health.
- Liquor Licences.
- Fire Protection Orders.
- Residential Parking Schemes (surveillance and administration).
- Traffic Management (Traffic Committee Recommendations).
- Waverley/Woollahra Process Plant.
- To require such investigations, reports or actions as considered necessary in respect of matters contained within the Business Agendas (and as may be limited by specific Council resolution).
- Confirmation of the Minutes of its Meeting.
- Any other matter falling within the responsibility of the Community and Environment Committee and not restricted by the Local Government Act or required to be a Recommendation to Full Council as listed below.
- Library Services
- Licensing.
- Regulatory.
- Waste Minimisation

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

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

Committee Membership:

7 Councillors

Quorum:

The quorum for a Committee meeting is 4 Councillors.

WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting

10 June 2004

To: The Mayor, Councillor Rundle, ex-officio
Councillors Marcus Ehrlich (Chair)
 Claudia Cullen
 Tanya Excell
 Wilhelmina Gardner
 Andrew Petrie
 Fiona Sinclair King
 John Walker

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 15 June 2004

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 Tuesday 15 June 2004 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James
General Manager

Meeting Agenda

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

Items to be Decided by this Committee using its Delegated Authority

D1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 31 May 2004	1
D2	Woollahra Traffic Committee Minutes – 1 June 2004	2
D3	Minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting Tuesday 1 June 2004	12

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

R1	Woollahra Community Safety Plan – 1041.G CSC	21
R2	New South Head Road & Hopetoun Avenue, Vaucluse – Intersection Treatment – T240.	28
R3	Extension of 24 hour off leash dog exercise area Lighthouse Reserve, Vaucluse – 271.G	31

Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 31 May 2004**
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 31 May 2004 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 31 May 2004 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager - Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee
Subject: Woollahra Traffic Committee Minutes - 1 June 2004
Author: John Stephens, Team Leader – Traffic & Transport
File No: See Traffic Committee Minutes
Reason for Report: For the Committee to consider the item requiring the decision of the Committee.

Recommendation:

THAT the Recommendations of the Traffic Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 June 2004, Section 7, Items Y1 to Y8, including Late Item Y9 be adopted.

Warwick Hatton
Director – Technical Services

Woollahra Local Traffic Committee Minutes

The meeting of the Woollahra Local Traffic Committee was held in the Council Chambers, Double Bay on Tuesday 1 June 2004, at 10.00am.

1. Attendances

Committee Members:

Present: Mr W Hatton (Chairman) (Woollahra Municipal Council)
 Mr Dean Russell (Roads and Traffic Authority)
 Sen Const S McKenna (Rose Bay Police)
 Mrs R Attuell (Clover Moore MP representative)
 Mr R Caldwell (Peter Debnam MP representative)

Staff: Mr J Stephens (Woollahra Municipal Council)
 Miss H Green (Woollahra Municipal Council)

Also in Attendance: Cr J Martin (Y1-2 Woollahra Municipal Council)
 Cr J Comino (Item Y8-Woollahra Municipal Council)
 Mr M Katsileris (Sydney Buses)
 Mr P Jacobson (Resident for Item Y1-4)

Apologies: Sgt G Thompson (Rose Bay Police)
 Mr E Yeung (Sydney Buses)
 Mr J McDonagh (Harbour-View Park Residents Group)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting No.04/04 held in Council Chambers, Double Bay on Tuesday 4 May 2004 were confirmed.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings

Nil.

4. Extraordinary Meetings

Nil.

5. Late Item/Correspondence

- A letter dated 31 May 2004 from the President of the Vaucluse Chamber of Commerce was tabled for Item Y8.
 - The Chairman advised the Committee of Council's resolution of 31 May 2004 regarding the proposed treatment for New South Head Road/Hopetoun Avenue, Vaucluse.
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6. SEPP11 Development Referrals for Assessment

Nil

7. Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Item No: Y1 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **Parking Restrictions Changes**

Author: John Stephens, Team Leader - Traffic and Transport

File No: (Refer to Table 1)

Reason for Report: Various parking restriction changes throughout the Woollahra Council area.

Recommendation:

THAT the recommendations of Items Y1-1 to Y1-4 inclusive contained in Annexure 1 be adopted.

Item Y1-1 : Intersection of Fairfax Road and Bellevue Road, Bellevue Hill – ‘No Parking’

THAT:

- A. No action be taken to remove the two unrestricted parking spaces on the southern side of Fairfax Road east of Bellevue Road.
- B. The matter of illegal parking in Bellevue Road on the southern side of Fairfax Road be referred to Council's Rangers for appropriate enforcement.
- C. The faded centreline markings in Fairfax Road be reinstated from No.9 towards Bellevue Road so as to maintain the existing parking near Bellevue Road.

Item Y1-2 : Alma Street, Paddington - upgrade and extension of school parking

THAT:

- A. The existing 'No Standing' restriction on the northern side of Alma Street and covering the White City driveway be upgraded to a 'No Stopping' restriction.
- B. The school be requested to prepare and submit a Parking and Traffic Management Plan to include options for alternate drop off and pick up areas e.g. Neild Avenue.
- C. The matter of illegal parking in Alma Street and surrounding streets be referred to Council's Parking Officers for enforcement.

Item Y1-3: Raine Street, Woollahra

THAT:

- A. The residents of Raine Street and adjoining streets be surveyed to ascertain the feasibility of extending the Resident Parking Scheme (Woollahra 1) in this area.
- B. Councillor Shapiro and the residents that responded to the survey be advised when the matter is being considered by the Traffic Committee.

Item Y1-4 : Bellevue Road, Bellevue Hill –‘No Parking’

The RTA representative requested that the reasons for supporting the provision of restricted parking at this location be noted. Those reasons were:

- Angle of garage and driveway,
- Volume and speed of traffic past the driveway,
- Proximity of driveways of Nos 120 & 122 Bellevue Road,
- Poor sight distance reversing from driveway.

THAT:

- A. A 'No Parking' restriction be installed from approximately 2m west of the driveway of 122 to the east side of driveway 124 Bellevue Road.
- B. The cost of the 'No Parking' signs be charged to the applicant.

Item No: Y2 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **36A - 48 Bay Street - Revised Works Zone**

Author: John Stephens, Team Leader - Traffic and Transport

File No: 407.G

Reason for Report: Works Zone application received from Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd associated with the site at 36A-48 Bay Street, Double Bay

Recommendation:

That:

- A. The proposed location of a Works Zone in Guilfoyle Avenue be not supported.
- B. The matter be deferred for discussion with the applicant with the view to maintaining the previously approved 30m Works Zone in Bay Street.

Item No: Y3 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **159 Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill - Works Zone**

Author: John Stephens - Team Leader Traffic and Transport

File No: 407.G

Reason for Report: Works Zone application received from CSA Architects Pty Ltd associated with the site at 159 Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill

Recommendation:

- A. THAT approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed along the frontage of 159 Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill. The length of the proposed zone is 15 metres and is subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Any directive provided by the NSW Police Department is to be complied with.
 - b) The Works Zone is to operate 7.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri, 7.00am-1.00pm Sat for 12 months.
 - c) The applicant is to ensure that the traffic lanes, footpaths and driveways, adjacent to the Works Zone, remain free of obstruction at all times during the construction.
 - d) The applicant is to provide details of the traffic control to be provided when cranes, concrete pumps and other machinery are standing in Victoria Road.

- e) The applicant is to inform Council's Traffic Engineer when the project is completed and the Works Zone can be removed.
 - f) This Works Zone is in a residential area. The fee payable shall be in accordance with Council's adopted fees and charges applying to the period for which the approval is given, and must be paid prior to the Works Zone being installed. Should the Works Zone be required for a shorter period application may be made for a pro-rata refund.
 - g) Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the cancellation of the Works Zone at Council's determination.
 - h) The developer should be advised that:
 - Should the Works Zone be required for a period longer than the approved period, permission from the Director of Technical Services is required to extend the Works Zone.
 - Should the Works Zone be required for additional hours of operation, any amendment will require the approval of the Woollahra Traffic Committee.
- B. THAT the applicant notifies all adjacent residents and business owners by a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.

Item No: Y4 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: 16 Transvaal Avenue, Double Bay - Works Zone

Author: John Stephens - Team Leader Traffic and Transport

File No: 407.G

Reason for Report: Works Zone application received from Ultrachic Pty Ltd associated with the site at 16 Transvaal Avenue, Double Bay

Recommendation:

- A. THAT approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed along the frontage of 16 Transvaal Avenue, Double Bay. The length of the proposed zone is 12 metres and is subject to the following conditions:
- a) Any directive provided by the NSW Police Department is to be complied with.
 - b) The Works Zone is to operate 7.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri, for 13 weeks, commencing 15 August, 2004 and include '2P meter 9.00am-6.00pm Sat, Public Holidays Excepted' parking restrictions.
 - c) The applicant is to ensure that the traffic lanes, footpaths and driveways, adjacent to the Works Zone, remain free of obstruction at all times during the construction.
 - d) The applicant is to provide details of the traffic control to be provided when cranes, concrete pumps and other machinery are standing in Transvaal Avenue.
 - e) The applicant is to inform Council's Traffic Engineer when the project is completed and the Works Zone can be removed.

- f) This Works Zone is in a parking meter area. The fee payable shall be in accordance with Councils adopted fees and charges applying to the period for which the approval is given, and must be paid prior to the Works Zone being installed. Should the Works Zone be required for a shorter period application may be made for a pro-rata refund.
- g) Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the cancellation of the Works Zone at Council's determination.
- h) The developer should be advised that:
- Should the Works Zone be required for a period longer than the approved period, permission from the Director of Technical Services is required to extend the Works Zone.
 - Should the Works Zone be required for additional hours of operation, any amendment will require the approval of the Woollahra Traffic Committee.
- B. THAT the applicant notifies all adjacent residents and business owners by a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.

Item No: Y5 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.

Subject: **Intersection of Carlisle Street & Hamilton Street, Rose Bay**

Author: John Stephens, Team Leader – Traffic & Transport

File No: T80.

Reason for Report: Request from resident to improve intersection traffic safety

Recommendation:

That the following actions be carried out in Carlisle Street and Hamilton Street:

- A. The two 'Stop' signs be upgraded to B size (750mm) signs located on the eastern side of Carlisle Street at the intersection of Hamilton Street.
- B. The street trees on the southern side of Carlisle Street on the eastern approach to the intersection be trimmed to improve sight distance to the above primary 'Stop' sign.
- C. The 'Stop Sign Ahead' sign outside the boundary of 17A/19 Carlisle Street be replaced with a new pictorial type advanced warning sign indicating a 'Stop' sign ahead (W3-1A).
- D. The street trees outside number 21 and 25 Carlisle Street be trimmed.
- E. A 10m 'No Stopping' zone be installed on the southern side of Carlisle Street, east of Hamilton Street.
- F. The faded 'No Stopping' signs on each of the departure sides of the zebra crossing be replaced.
- G. An advanced warning sign indicating the presence of the crossing around the corner (W6-2A) be installed on the electric light pole opposite number 6 Hamilton Street.

- H. The yellow 40km/h patch on the road pavement associated with the supplementary signs in Hamilton Street be repainted.
- I. The RTA's Road Safety Section be requested to consider:
- a proposal to install flashing lights on the 40km/h School Zone and
 - the engagement of a crossing supervisor for the zebra crossing in Carlisle Street outside McAuley Primary School.

Item No: Y6 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.

Subject: **Begg Lane, Paddington - Proposed Road Closure**

Author: John Stephens, Team Leader - Traffic & Transport

File No: 28. Pt2

Reason for Report: Request from resident to close Begg Lane to vehicular traffic.

Recommendation:

THAT:

- A. The property owners who responded to the advertising be given a key to the lockable bollard and be advised that their key access is conditional upon no long term parking occurring in Begg Lane.
- B. The emergency service authorities be given an access key to the lockable bollard.
- C. The 'No Standing' signs in Begg Lane be changed to 'No Parking' signs.
- D. The 'No Standing' restriction on the western side of Ormond Street be upgraded to 'No Parking' and a 'No Stopping' zone be placed across the entrance to Begg Lane.
- E. The cost of supplying and installing the lockable bollard be met by the property owner of 6 Ormond Street.
- F. Parking conditions in Begg Lane and its intersection with Ormond Street be monitored for six months and if the following occur, the closure to be reviewed by the Traffic Committee:
- parking in Begg Lane either side of the bollard and
 - parking across Begg Lane.

Item No: Y7 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration

Subject: **7 Victoria Street, Watsons Bay - Works Zone**

Author: John Stephens - Team Leader Traffic and Transport

File No: 407.G

Reason for Report: Works Zone application received from LH Building Services for 7 Victoria Street, Watsons Bay.

Recommendation:

- A. THAT approval be granted for a Works Zone to be temporarily installed along the frontage of 7 Victoria Street, Watsons Bay. The length of the proposed zone is 18 metres and is subject to the following conditions:
- a) Any directive provided by the NSW Police Department is to be complied with.
 - b) The Works Zone is to operate 7.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri, for 12 weeks commencing early June 2004.
 - c) The applicant is to ensure that the traffic lanes, footpaths and driveways, adjacent to the Works Zone, remain free of obstruction at all times during the construction.
 - d) The applicant is to provide details of the traffic control to be provided when cranes, concrete pumps and other machinery are standing in Victoria Street.
 - e) The applicant is to inform Council's Traffic Engineer when the project is completed and the Works Zone can be removed.
 - f) This Works Zone is in a residential area. The fee payable shall be in accordance with Council's adopted fees and charges applying to the period for which the approval is given, and must be paid prior to the Works Zone being installed. Should the Works Zone be required for a shorter period application may be made for a pro-rata refund.
 - g) Failure to comply with any of these conditions may result in the cancellation of the Works Zone at Council's determination.
 - h) The developer should be advised that:
 - Should the Works Zone be required for a period longer than the approved period, permission from the Director of Technical Services is required to extend the Works Zone.
 - Should the Works Zone be required for additional hours of operation, any amendment will require the approval of the Woollahra Traffic Committee.
- B. THAT the applicant notifies all adjacent residents and business owners by a letterbox drop of the conditions of the Works Zone.
- C. THAT approximately 18 metres of 'No Parking 7.00am-4.00pm Mon-Fri' be installed on the southern (opposite) side of 7 Victoria Street, east of the driveway of 45 Cove Street for the duration of the Works Zone.

Item No: Y8 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.

Subject: **Vaucluse Shopping Centre – Proposed parking amendments**

Author: John Stephens, Team Leader - Traffic & Transport

File No: 488.G Pt6

Reason for Report: Request from Vaucluse Chamber of Commerce to modify the existing parking restrictions.

Recommendation:

That:

- A. No action be taken to change the existing parking restrictions in New South Head Road within the Vaucluse Shopping Village.
- B. The feasibility of extending the '1 Hour parking 8.30am-8.00pm Mon-Fri; 8.30am-12.30pm Sat' restrictions on the northern side of Laguna Street be investigated.
- C. The businesses and resident who responded to the survey be advised of Council's decision.

Late Items

Y9 - New South Head Road/Hopetoun Avenue, Vaucluse - Files T329. T240.

The Chairman advised the Traffic Committee members of Council's resolution of 31 May 2004 regarding the RTA's proposed intersection layout design and parking restrictions in New South Head Road.

The Chairman requested the RTA representative to investigate amending the current plan to allow the replacement of some parking spaces back on the western side of New South Head Road within the proposed chevron on the southern approach, and the possibility of including some indented parking bays near Hopetoun Avenue was also discussed.

Recommendation:

That Council's Community and Environment Committee's resolution of 31 May 2004 to Item D4 on the intersection of New South Head Road and Hopetoun Avenue, Vaucluse, including the above request to amend the plan, be forwarded to the RTA as a matter of urgency.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.25pm.

Warwick Hatton
Chair

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group Meeting Tuesday 1 June 2004**
Author: Scot Hedge
File No: 1142.G
Reason for Report: To report on the outcomes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting held on Tuesday 1 June 2004

Recommendation:

That the minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting, held on Tuesday 1 June 2004, be received and noted.

Background:

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

Projects to be funded by the environmental levy are included in the Environmental Works Program (EWP), which is part of Council's Management Plan. As part of the conditions for the levy, the Council established and coordinates an Environmental Levy Community Reference Group (ELCRG) to provide community input and help review and monitor the progress of the EWP.

The role of the ELCRG is to:

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

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Environment Committee with a copy of the minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting held Tuesday 1 June 2004. The minutes will provide the Committee with an update on a variety of issues related to the expenditure of the environmental levy, the implementation of the Environmental Works Program and actions recommended by the Group.

Conclusion:

Reporting on the minutes of the ELCRG will keep Council informed on the progress of the expenditure of the environmental levy and the implementation of the various projects and initiatives of the EWP. The minutes will include the actions recommended by the Group for Council's consideration.

Scot Hedge
Project Officer - Environmental Works

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Annexures:

1. Minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting of Tuesday 1 June 2004.
2. Attachment 1 to Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting minutes of Tuesday 1 June 2004.

Woollahra Environmental Levy Community Reference Group Minutes

The meeting of the Woollahra Environmental Levy Community Reference Group was held in the Council Chambers, Double Bay on Tuesday 1 June 2004, at 5.00pm.

Group Members:

Present:	Cr Tanya Excell (Chair)	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Mr Michael Rolfe	(Vaucluse Progress Association)
	Professor Bruce Thom	(Friends of Parsley Bay)
	Professor Don White	(Harbourview Residents Group)
	Mr Chris Howe	(Double Bay Chamber of Commerce)
	Mrs Wilhelmina Gardner	(Vaucluse Chamber of Commerce)
Staff:	Mr Warwick Hatton	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Mr Jamie Howieson	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Mr Scot Hedge	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
Apologies:	Cr Geoff Rundle (Mayor)	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Cr Marcus Ehrlich	(Woollahra Municipal Council)
	Ms Catriona Simpson	(Vaucluse Public School)

1 Items for Information and Discussion

Item 1.1 Welcome to new Councillors

The Terms of Reference for the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group (ELCRG), adopted by Council 3 November 2003 states that the Mayor is to nominate a Councillor as chairperson and one additional Councillor to join the group. Following the council elections held on Saturday 27 March 2004, a number of changes have been made to the elected representatives on the ELCRG.

Council staff and the members would like to welcome the new Councillors to the group.

Recommendation of the Staff to the Group

That the Group welcomes Mayor Geoff Rundle, Councillor Tanya Excell and Councillor Marcus Ehrlich.

Action:

Staff recommendation adopted. No further action required.

Item 1.2 Presentation on Environmental Education and Action Plan

Woollahra Council successfully obtained a Stage 4 Stormwater Trust Grant to undertake a project to evaluate the benefits of source control of water pollution and integrated Council operations and management. The primary purpose of the project was to develop an environmental education campaign aimed at changing the behaviour and attitude of the public and improving Council operations.

Council engaged GEMS Pty Ltd to undertake the project. GEMS has developed an Environmental Education and Action Plan and their representative, Mr Chris Gray, will provide a Power Point presentation to the Group on the Plan and projects being implemented.

Recommendation of the Staff to the Group

That Mr Gray be thanked for his presentation and the information be noted.

Action:

Staff recommendation adopted. The Group also recommended that:

1. The Group accepts the general thrust of the management actions identified in the Environmental Education and Action Plan prepared by GEMS Pty Ltd.
2. Following finalisation and Council adoption of the EEAP copies be provided to the Group members.
3. A report be prepared for the next meeting on how the Environmental Education and Action Plan will be incorporated into the Environmental Works Program.

Item 1.3 Update on St Mervyns Avenue Drainage Outlet

Background:

Community concern had been raised over the ponding of stormwater and rubbish on the beach at the end of a drainage reserve at St Mervyns Avenue discharging onto Seven Shillings Beach. During minor rainfall events, where the stormwater discharge is low, stormwater can become trapped on the beach behind the beach berm. Seepage and other waters flowing from the stormwater pipeline can also become trapped in this depression or low point, which is located immediately at the drainage outlet on the beach.

Discussions were held between Council, the Waterways Authority and residents in relation to the issues raised. Early concepts suggested by the local resident recommended a CDS Technologies type Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) to capture the rubbish upstream of the outlet on the beach, at the immediate end of St Mervyns Ave roadway. To reduce the visual impact of stormwater ponding at the beach, it was also suggested that a concrete cover be constructed over the existing stormwater channel to cover up the ponding water above the high water mark

This project was not originally identified as part of the approved Environmental Works Program (EWP) 2002-2005. A local resident living adjacent to the drainage reserve kindly offered to partly fund the project, to the amount of \$35,000, for Council to construct a GPT and carry out some minor works to the stormwater outlet. A report to Council followed on 24 February 2004 outlining the project and the funding offer and approval in principal was granted to proceed with the project.

For most of 2003, further investigation works were carried out. This included concept designs to extend the stormwater outlet, catchment analysis by CDS to size the unit and a comprehensive study on the seagrass located off shore of the outlet. Further correspondence between NSW Fisheries and Waterways followed and approvals granted on the concept to extend the end of the stormwater line by approximately eight meters.

At each stage the local resident was kept informed on the progress. In response to initial concerns over the project's budget, the adjoining owner offered to increase the funding offer from \$35,000 to \$50,000. After receiving a quotation from CDS for \$62,250 to design and construct the GPT, there is a funding short fall for part of the GPT and the whole of the stormwater outlet works should Council approve to proceed with the project.

We are currently seeking a price from CDS to design and construct the outlet works in conjunction with the GPT installation. This is seen as a potential saving to Council due to having the resources on site associated with the GPT to construct the stormwater outlet at the same time. To consider constructing the two aspects of the project separately would add to the total cost compared to delivering them simultaneously. A price from CDS is expected to be available at the time of the meeting and will be tabled for information.

Staff Recommendation:

If Council approves to proceed with this project, then it is recommended that the EWP fund the short fall by re-allocating funds from the 2004/05 program. Possible projects identified and the corresponding funds are suggested as follows:

• Seven Shillings Beach/Buckhurst Ave, Point Piper, Pit Baskets	\$4,000
• Seven Shillings Beach/Victoria Rd. Point Piper Pit Baskets	\$6,000
• Edgecliff Rd Local Commercial Area, Woollahra Pit Baskets	\$6,000
• Queens St Local Commercial Area, Pit Baskets	\$6,000
• Bellevue Rd Local Commercial Area, Pit Baskets	\$4,000

• Glenmore Rd South Local Commercial Area, Pit Baskets	\$3,000
• Rose Bay South Local Commercial Area, Pit Baskets	\$4,000
• Rose Bay North Local Commercial Area, Pit Baskets	<u>\$3,000</u>
Total	\$36,000

These projects were selected, as over 220 stormwater pit baskets have previously been installed and are currently being maintained throughout Woollahra. These sites provide stormwater treatment measures over the areas identified above. Two of the above projects involve stormwater treatment devices for Seven Shillings Beach, which is consistent with the aims and objectives of this project proposal.

It should also be noted that another \$3,000 was identified for Seven Shillings Beach/St Mervyns Ave, Point Piper for 2006/07, which is outside the current approved levy. However, if this project were to proceed there would be no need for this project to be on the 2006/07 forward program.

Recommendation of the Staff to the Group

1. That a report to Council be submitted identifying proposed funding changes to the EWP for 2004/05 which could be considered as Council's contribution towards this project.
2. That the information be noted.

Action:

Staff recommendation adopted. A report to Council is to be prepared identifying the proposed funding changes to the EWP for 2004/2005.

As discussed as part of this item a report will also be prepared on the material collected from pit baskets installed within Woollahra and tabled at the meeting of 5 October 2004.

Item 1.4 Environmental Works Program for 2004/20005

A Draft Environmental Works Program for the 2004/2005 financial year has been prepared. Mr Jamie Howieson will provide the Group with an update on the forward program.

Recommendation of the Staff to the Group

That the information be noted.

Action:

The Group requested that a budget line item be introduced to the EWP covering the implementation of the environmental education actions as recommended by the GEMS report. In accordance with the recommendation for Item 1.2 staff will provide a report at the meeting of 5 October 2004 on how education will be incorporated into the EWP budget.

Item 1.5 Sydney Water Stormwater Environment Improvement Program (SEIP)

The Stormwater Environment Improvement Program (SEIP) is a five-year \$20m program approved by the EPA, which commenced in July 2000. As implementation of the SEIP progressed, it became apparent that many projects identified would not deliver cost effective stormwater quality improvements. Consequently, Sydney Water (SW) has undergone a review of its SEIP, which involved reviewing around 70 projects covering the whole of Sydney.

On 14 May 2004, Council was notified that two projects listed in their revised SEIP list in Woollahra's LGA were deemed to be feasible for delivering cost effective stormwater quality improvement, namely:

1. Woollahra Golf Course – Rose Bay wetland
2. Lough Playing Fields (formerly Clarence Place) – Double Bay GPT.

SW has awarded a joint venture between two consultants to further develop the projects listed in the revised SEIP. The next stage for the consultants is to prepare concept designs and to contact all stakeholders seeking their requirements. Further updates will be provided to the committee when they are made available to Council.

Recommendation of the Staff to the Group

That the information be noted.

Action:

Staff recommendation adopted. No further action.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday 5 October 2004.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.35pm.

Item No: R1 Recommendation to Council
Subject: **Woollahra Community Safety Plan**
Author: Vissa Chandrasekaram
File No: 1041.G CSC
Reason for Report: To inform Councillors that the final draft of Woollahra Community Safety Plan has been completed in accordance with requirements of NSW Attorney General's Department funding strategy, and to seek a recommendation that the Plan be adopted by Council.

Recommendation:

That the Woollahra Community Safety Plan be adopted by Council and forwarded to the NSW Attorney General's Department for endorsement.

Background:

Woollahra's Community Safety Plan is designed to guide Council's efforts in implementing projects to improve Community Safety in the Woollahra LGA. The Plan incorporates issues arising in consultation processes and action plans developed by the various taskforces attached to the Woollahra Community Safety Council (now Committee) since 1998.

Woollahra's Community Safety Plan analyses the crime, injury and road accident statistics of Woollahra LGA and identifies appropriate safety improvement strategies. The Plan also identifies various crime prevention strategies that Council may be able to implement. Although Police have the primary responsibility for crime prevention, Council and the community at large can assist crime prevention efforts in a variety of ways. NSW Attorney General's Department encourages community and Local Government participation in crime prevention programs by providing funding for Councils through the **Safer Community Compact Grant** Program. These grants are available to fund priority crime prevention strategies only.

On Wednesday, 26th November 2003, the Community Safety Committee of Woollahra Council endorsed the Draft Woollahra Community Safety Plan and recommended that the Plan be adopted by the Council. On 15th December 2003, the Community & Environment Committee of Woollahra Council resolved that the Plan be placed on public exhibition prior to adoption. It was exhibited between 11th February and 8th April 2004.

Consideration of the Plan at the Community & Environment Committee Meeting on 31st May 2004 was deferred until 15th June 2004, to consider correspondence received from the Vaucluse Progress Association. Some of the suggestions submitted by the Vaucluse Progress Association have been incorporated into version 2 of the Draft Woollahra Community Safety Plan. (Please refer to the Annexure 3: Final Draft Version 2 of Woollahra Community Safety Plan). A written response was sent to the President of the Vaucluse Progress Association, with thanks for their comments.

Process:

The NSW Attorney General's Department requires Community Safety Plans to be placed on public exhibition and adopted by the Council before an application for funding is made. Once the Community Safety Plan is adopted by Council, the Plan will be submitted to the Crime Prevention Division of NSW Attorney General's Department, seeking formal endorsement. Before endorsing it, NSW Attorney General's Department will refer the Plan to Minister for Police and Minister for Community Services for further comments. (Please refer to the Annexure 1: Table of Safer Community Compact Grant Application processing procedure).

Proposal:

It is proposed that the Community Safety Plan be adopted by Council and submitted to the NSW Attorney General's Department for endorsement.

Consultation:

The draft Woollahra Community Safety Plan was formally tabled at the Community Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday 3rd September 2003 for consultation, priority ranking and general comments from the members of the committee. Copies of the Plan were distributed to relevant staff members of the Council, Police and other key individuals and they were invited to make comments. Suggestions and recommendations made by the residents and staff of Woollahra Council were incorporated into the first draft of the Plan.

The first draft of the Plan was placed on public exhibition and interested parties were invited to make comments. Comments were received from Rose Bay Police Local Area Command, the Regional Crime Prevention Advisor, NSW Attorney General's Department, the Regional Violence Prevention Specialist of NSW Attorney General's Department and NSW Department of Community Services (Please refer to the Annexure 2: Incorporated comments on Woollahra Community Safety Plan). Version 1 of the final draft of the Plan, which was presented on 31st of May, was produced incorporating the comments received and inserting updated crime and injury statistics. The second version of the draft Plan (see Annexure 3) now incorporates comments from the Vacluse Progress Association, with the changes made to pages 54 and 83.

Identification of Income & Expenditure:

The adoption of the Community Safety Plan will be followed by preparation of a Safer Community Compact Grant application, which will require staff time. The application for funds for priority crime prevention projects may receive a grant up to \$ 50,000.00, if successful.

Conclusion:

Once the final draft of the Woollahra Community Safety Plan is adopted by Council, the Plan can be submitted to NSW Attorney General's Department for formal endorsement.

Visakesa Chandrasekaram
Community Safety Officer

Kylie Walshe
Director, Community Services

Annexures:

1. Table of Safer Community Compact Grant Application process and procedure (developed by the NSW Attorney General's Department).
2. Incorporated comments in Woollahra Community Safety Plan; Final Draft, Version 2
3. Woollahra Community Safety Plan; Final Draft, Version 2.

Annexure 1

Crime Prevention Planning Process

Action	Comments
1. Establish Community Safety Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify and encourage key stakeholders such as Police, family support services, CALD communities, Aboriginal communities, youth and education etc, to participate. <input type="checkbox"/> Be inclusive and open to participation <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure links to other local committees/ networks
2. Consider relevant data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Statistics and input from, Police, JJ, DoCS, health, education, BOCSAR, youth & family services, etc.
3. Undertake Community Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Design consultation to maximise community input. <input type="checkbox"/> Use existing groups, networks and organisations
4. Develop Community/ Crime Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Community snapshot including geography, demographics, identity and opportunities. <input type="checkbox"/> Data including community consultations <input type="checkbox"/> Critically analyse data to identify priority issues
5. Consider the contributing factors which increase the likelihood of crime and identify crime issues that the plan will focus on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing factors to crime may include: exposure to violence, lack of family support, education, poverty and unemployment, drug and alcohol misuse, environmental design, boredom/anger/peer pressure. <input type="checkbox"/> Use information from Community / Crime Profile <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on a limited number of issues
6. Identify and consult with relevant services to develop strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Build on existing services and programs <input type="checkbox"/> Consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - short, medium and long term strategies - victims and perpetrators - evidence that strategies will achieve outcomes - methods of monitoring and evaluation
7. Negotiate partnerships, identify responsibilities and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify potential partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> All strategies/actions must have an organisation/s responsible for implementation, agreed in advance.
8. Write Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Include local profile; community consultation; crime profile information; action plan; performance indicators; evaluation.
9. Public exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Display for 28 days plus 14 days for feedback.
10. Seek endorsement from Council and the Attorney General (AG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Following adoption by Council the plan can be submitted to the AG for endorsement as a Safer Community Compact for a 3-year period. Plan is then referred to DoCS and Police for comment. <input type="checkbox"/> Following incorporation of relevant comments, AG officially endorses Plan.
11. Implement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify strategies that require additional funds . <input type="checkbox"/> Consider a range of funding options, including government, business and philanthropic. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for Safer Community Compact Grant.

Annexure 2

Woollahra Community Safety Plan

A. Incorporated comments from January 2004 to May 2004

1 st Draft	2 nd Draft	Source
P8: Understanding Crime Prevention Principles.	Added: P8: New definition for crime prevention and descriptions on primary, secondary and tertiary level crime prevention.	Regional Crime Prevention Advisor, (RCPA) Attorney General's Department.
P17: Methodology	Added: P18: further discussed under new sub headings; approach, consultation and prioritization	RCPA
P18: Accident and Safety Analysis	Added: P24,25,26: Woollahra Injury profile was included with new 2 tables and one chart.	South East Area Health Service.
P25: Crime Profile	Amended: P 31, 32, 33, 34: Woollahra crime profile was amended. New statistical data were incorporated. Tables and charts were amended.	Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR)
P38: Public Safety 1.2.3: Licensee Accords:	Added: P 44: Owners of licensed premises.	Community Safety Officer (CSO)
P41: Improve public safety at Gap	Added: P48: 1.3.4: Harm minimization	Woollahra Safety Committee (WSC) - Gap Strategy
P45: Domestic Violence (Personal safety for older people)	Added: P52: Some health and welfare workers report anecdotally that they suspect abuse of older parents by their adult children who are living at home with them.	Response to RCPA
P56: Self Help (sub heading)	Amended: P63: Support Services and Initiatives	RCPA
P58: Personal safety: women	Added: P65: Preventing violence against women. New strategy identified.	Regional Violence Prevention Specialist (RVPS) of Attorney General's Department
P68: Malicious damage – graffiti	Added: P75: Council now offers graffiti removal service for a fee.	CSO
P70: Malicious damage – graffiti 8.1 Natural surveillance: promoting graffiti hotline	Amended: P77: Promote Council's Customer Service phone number for reporting Graffiti	CSO

P72: Broader Safety Issues	Added: P81: Detailed strategies are identified under the sub headings of fire safety, safety from internet fraud, victim support, missing people and gay & lesbian community.	CSO
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Amendments recommended by the Community Safety Committee meeting on 03/09/03

1. Unauthorized posters and banners are recognized as safety related issues, like graffiti, as they engender a sense of lawlessness
2. Reference to 'suicidal jumpers' is reworded as 'suicidal people'.
3. Safety issues related to pet animals, in particular with regard to children was identified as a concern.
4. The CSP recognizes the alcohol abuse across the whole community and will adopt appropriate strategies identified in the NSW Alcohol Summit, including locally enforceable Alcohol Accords.
5. Legislative amendment related to sale of spray cans, is taken into account through including such information into safety related community education programs.
6. The CSP identifies the importance of fire safety strategies, in particular with regard to older people and fire strategies should be included into the plan and community education program.

Amendments recommended by the members of Community Safety Committee individually:

1. The WCSP recognizes the importance of the tasks of Neighbourhood Watch Groups and such group\|s will be supported and resourced through community education programs and other appropriate strategies.
2. Information related to establishment and functions of Neighbourhood Watch program to be included into the first part of the CSP.
3. WCSP recognizes importance of efficient and safe public transport system, and CSO to communicate with transport services in order to encourage people to use public transport.
4. WCSP recognizes the importance of establishment and management of safe facilities for local young people, such as PCYCs. CSO to communicate with council staff and other agencies to improve safer youth facilities in Woollahra.
5. The WCSP identifies the personal safety issues connected to the property crimes and various preventative strategies, such as community education to be adopted to address such issues. The CSO to initiate a partnership with the crime prevention unit of the LAC to implement preventative strategies.
6. The WCSP identifies the importance of supporting the officers of LAC to implement the policing strategies in Woollahra and such support will be provided through consultation, dissemination of information and community education.
7. The CSO to commence further consultations and research on vulnerable segments of Woollahra community, including women, children, older people, gay and lesbian community. The strategies identified in the WCSP to address various safety issues will be extended to newly identified vulnerable segments of the communities.

Amendments recommended by the Vaucluse Progress Association:

1. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is identified as an agent for the safety strategy at the Gap.
2. Water safety in Sydney Harbour is identified under the 'Broader Safety Issues'.

Item No: R2 Traffic Matters on Local Roads – Recommendation to C&E for Consideration.

Subject: **New South Head Road & Hopetoun Avenue, Vacluse – Intersection Treatment**

Author: John Stephens, Team Leader – Traffic & Transport

File No: T240.

Reason for Report: Request by Council for a further report on the RTA's proposed treatment for the intersection.

Recommendation:

- A. That, as the latest amendment of the layout plan by the RTA for the intersection of New South Head Road and Hopetoun Avenue achieves Council's objectives of retaining parking on the western side of New South Head Road, the proposal is approved and the RTA is requested to proceed.
- B. That the RTA be advised of Council's decision and the RTA be thanked for its efforts.
- C. That the matter be referred as a matter of urgency to the Council meeting of 15 June 2004.

Background:

The Community and Environment Committee at its meeting held on 31 May 2004, resolved,

THAT:

- A. *"The RTA layout plan for the intersection of New South Head Road and Hopetoun Avenue tabled at the meeting be approved, subject to further negotiation with the RTA to eliminate the lane realignment on the north side of New South Head Road and the right hand turn bay at Ray Avenue with the objective of maintaining kerb side parking in New South Head Road.*
- B. *The RTA be advised of Council's decision."*

Council's resolution was discussed as a Late Item at the Woollahra Traffic Committee meeting held on 1 June 2004 and the RTA representative was requested to investigate amending the current plan to allow the replacement of some parking spaces back on the western side of New South Head Road within the proposed chevron on the southern approach. The possibility of including some indented parking bays near Hopetoun Avenue was also discussed.

A copy of the Resolution was also e-mailed to the RTA on 1 June 2004.

Proposal:

Council's Team Leader – Traffic & Transport has been verbally advised by the RTA representative that the RTA is finalising a road safety audit of the intersection design, including consideration of Council's request to maintain some kerbside parking on the western side of New South Head Road on the painted kerb blister on the southern approach.

The RTA has been requested to forward a copy of the latest layout plan of the intersection to Council prior to this meeting and this copy will be circulated with the report.

A copy of the RTA plan is attached as an **Annexure**.

The RTA representatives indicated that the proposed painted intersection layout was funded and programmed in the current financial year and these works could not be carried over into the RTA's 2004-2005 works programme. If these works don't proceed this year the funding will be transferred to another RTA programme.

The RTA will notify the affected residents prior to commencing the proposed works.

Since the previous meeting a number of residents (Mr Hoffman and Mr Cousens) and St Michaels Anglican Church (Mr Palmer and Mr O'Hara- Cranbrook Pre-school) have raised their concerns with Council staff regarding the loss of kerbside parking on the western side of New South Head Road.

Mr Cousens also raised a concern of the location of the bus stops in New South Head Road, especially the bus stop on the south side west of Captain Pipers Road near Hopetoun Avenue with the proposed intersection layout. Mr Cousens considered that the proposed treatment would not provide a solution to the issue of accidents occurring as he has observed that they mainly occur when the sun is low in the west, which affects motorists vision turning right from Hopetoun Avenue to oncoming traffic.

Other issues of concern raised by the residents was the redirection of traffic into Ray Avenue as they would not be able to turn right into their properties from New South Head Road. The RTA does not consider the number of affected vehicles to be high or a significant issue.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that:

- As the latest copy of the layout plan for the intersection of New South Head Road and Hopetoun Avenue achieves Council's objectives of reinstating parking on the western side of New South Head Road, the proposal should be approved.
- The RTA be advised of Council's decision and the RTA be thanked for its efforts.

John Stephens
Team Leader – Traffic & Transport

Warwick Hatton
Director – Technical Services

Annexure:

Copy of RTA plan.

Item No: R3 Recommendation to Council
Subject: **Extension of 24 hour off leash dog exercise area Lighthouse Reserve Vaucluse**
Author: Greg Radford Regulatory Supervisor
File No: 271 G
Reason for Report: Petition submitted to Council to allow the exercising of unleashed dogs between Signal Hill Reserve and Macquarie Lighthouse.

Recommendation:

- A. THAT Council pursuant to Section 13(6) of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, resolve to extend the Type D – “*Unleashed Dogs Allowed at all Times*” area at Lighthouse Reserve Vaucluse to cover the area defined in Annexure 1.
- B. THAT Council resolve to change the status of Christison Park Vaucluse from a Type C – “*Dogs on leash permitted at all times and unleashed between 4.30pm – 8.30am*” all year to;
- (a) Type C – “*Dogs on leash permitted at all times and unleashed between 4.30pm – 8.30am*” from September – March each year; and
- (b) Type B – “*Dogs held on leash permitted at all times*” from April – August each year;
- C. That Council note that the Historic Houses Trust is responsible for adoption of the animal control restrictions in Vaucluse Park, in accordance with the requirements of the *Companion Animals Act, 1998*.

Reason for Report:

A petition was placed before Council at its meeting of 28 January 2003, which stated;

“We are writing to you to raise the concerns of the dog owning community in Woollahra, particularly relating to dog access in the eastern part of the suburb.....Christison Park & the Coastal Walk are very much valued as the only dog friendly places in this area.....to improve the current position we would suggest:

- 1. The offleash area is extended to cover the entire Coastal Walk between Signal Hill and Macquarie Lighthouse.*
- 2. Woollahra Council should follow the example of Waverley Council and set up dispensers for dog ‘tidy’ bags and more receptacles for the collection of dog faeces.*
- 3. There should be the opportunity for full public consultation in relation to any proposed changes in the status of local parks.”*

Council resolved;

“That the petition lie on the table for fourteen (14) days and to be referred to the Animal Control Committee for consideration and then to the Community and Environment Committee.”

Background:

The area from Signal Hill Reserve to Lighthouse Reserve includes part of the Coastal Cliff Walk, which is a very popular pathway frequently used by locals, visitors and tourists. The Coastal Cliff Walk was constructed as part of the 1988 Bicentennial celebrations. The coastal walk commences in our Municipality, at the southeastern end of Christison Park, where it enters from Waverley Council and follows the coastline through several reserves to “The Gap” at Watsons Bay. The coastal walk offers users spectacular panoramic views of the harbour, city skyline and harbour suburbs.

In a report presented to the Finance & Works Committee on 1 June 1987, it was stated that;

“the coastal walk has the potential to take advantage of some of the most magnificent panoramic views in the Sydney area and vantage points could be established which would otherwise remain inaccessible to the public”; and

“the coastal walk should not be a single entity in itself, rather a co-ordinated and integrated path system along this coastal stretch”.

In July 1999 the *Companion Animals Act 1998* came into force. Section 13(6) of the Act states;

“13(6) A local authority can by order declare a public place to be an off-leash area. Such a declaration can be limited so as to apply during a particular period or periods of the day or to different periods of different days. However, there must at all times be at least one public place in the area of a local authority that is an off-leash area.”

Conversely, Section 14 of the Act allows Council to prohibit dogs from public places, as provided by the following provisions;

“14(1) Dogs are prohibited in the following places (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled):

- (c) **Recreation areas where dogs are prohibited** (meaning any public place, or part of a public place, provided or set apart by a local authority for public recreation or the playing of organised games and in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited and in which, or near the boundaries of which, there are conspicuously exhibited by the local authority at reasonable intervals notices to the effect that dogs are prohibited in or on that public place or part).*
- (d) **Public bathing areas where dogs are prohibited** (meaning any public place or any part of a public place that is used for or in conjunction with public bathing or public recreation (including a beach), in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited and in which, or near the boundaries of which, there are conspicuously exhibited by the local authority at reasonable intervals notices to the effect that dogs are prohibited in or on that public place).*

(7) A local authority is authorised to make the orders contemplated by this section.”

In response to the above legislation, Council created the following four (4) categories of control;

- Type A – Dogs prohibited
- Type B – Dogs held on leash permitted at all times
- Type C – Dogs on leash permitted at all times and unleashed between 4.30pm – 8.30am
- Type D – Unleashed dogs permitted at all times

The use of Lighthouse Reserve as an unleashed area was considered by the Community & Environment Committee at its meeting of 24 January 2000, where it was resolved;

- “A. *THAT a new category in Council’s Reserves be introduced:- Type D – Unleashed dogs allowed at all times*
- B. *THAT Council, pursuant to S.13(6) of the Companion Animals Act 1998, resolve to declare the following area as type D – Unleashed dogs allowed at all times:*
- *That area of Lighthouse Reserve illustrated in Annexure 3.*
- C. *THAT operation of this leash-free areas be monitored for a trial period of three (3) months and a further report be brought forward to Council at the end of the trial period.*
- D. *THAT the decision of the Council be publicised.”*

On 11 February 2002 the Community & Environment Committee again considered the use of Lighthouse Reserve and resolved, in part, as follows;

- “A. *THAT Council, pursuant to Section 13(6) of the Companion Animals Act 1998, resolve to declare the following areas Type D – Unleashed Dogs Allowed at all Times:*
- *Lighthouse Reserve (as illustrated in Annexure C)”*

The section of Lighthouse Reserve that was covered by the above decisions and which is currently operating as a Type D area is shown in annexure 1.

The only other areas in our Municipality that operate as Type D areas and permit unleashed dogs at all times are Yarranabbe Park, Darling Point and the northern end of Steyne Park, Double Bay.

In the northern portion of the Municipality, from Towns Road through to Watsons Bay, The other parks and reserves that are currently available for dogs include the following;

Type B – Dogs held on a leash permitted at all times

- Camp Cove Reserve
- Forsyth Park
- Samuel Park
- Signal Hill Reserve
- Vaucluse Park, excluding the area around the Tea House, the area around the children’s play area and the reserve and beach to the north of Wentworth Road

Type C – Dogs on leash permitted at all times and unleashed between 4.30pm and 8.30am

- Christison Park (refer to annexure 2)

A map will be available at the Committee meeting showing all the open space areas north of Towns Road and the restrictions that apply under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

The subject petition was presented to the Animal Advisory Committee meeting of 19 February 2003, and while no formal recommendation was made, the following points were raised;

- The coastal cliff walk was originally built solely for the use of pedestrians;
- Unleashed dogs hindered the safety of pedestrians;
- Christison Park is used extensively by children playing sport;
- Christison Park is under high demand for organised sporting events and Council's Public Open Space Section is not in favour of allowing Christison Park to be an unleashed area due to the level of contact sport played in the park;
- Reinforced the need for more bins to be provided throughout the area;
- Council's Rangers indicated that having the unleashed areas adjacent to each other would be more convenient;

A copy of the minutes from the above meeting is attached as annexure 3.

The issues raised at the above meeting concerning the suitability of Christison Park as an unleashed area are of particular relevance to the matter now before Council. While the petition does not suggest any change to the use of Christison Park, which adjoins Lighthouse Reserve, it is considered appropriate for Council to consider its use as part of this review.

In this regard, Council's Manager – Public Open Space has provided the following formal comments;

“Christison Park is an important recreational venue that provides for sports such as soccer, hockey and rugby league in winter and cricket in summer. The site currently supports a single floodlight that allows for limited night training. We are currently preparing a Development Application for the provision of improved sports lighting that will expand the number of fields available for night training at this site from one to three during the winter months. The Development Application will be submitted by the end of June 2004, where if approved, new lights may be installed before the start of the next winter season.

When considering the existing and proposed future use of Christison Park for expanded evening sports training, the current ‘off leash’ after 4:30pm status of the park is in conflict with sports users.

Therefore I recommend that Christison Park be available only for dogs ‘off-leash’ between 4:30pm and 8:30am during the summer sports season (September through to March) and on-leash at all other times.”

Approximately 12 months ago the Historic Houses Trust prohibited dogs from the following areas of Vaucluse House and Vaucluse beach on a trial basis;

- The area around the Tea House and children's play area; and
- The reserve and beach to the north of Wentworth Road

Prior to this time, dogs were required to be held on leash at all times. The area was inadequately sign posted and the restrictions on dogs could not be enforced. As such, it appears as if the local residents considered and used the area as an off leash exercise area, especially Vaucluse beach.

This matter was discussed at the most recent Animal Advisory Committee meeting held on 19 May 2004, where representations were made by a number of residents and the following issues were raised;

- The trial prohibition of dogs from the grounds of Vaucluse House and Vaucluse beach is due to finish on 3 June 2004;
- In the residents' opinion there is no grounds for the prohibition;
- The residents have made representations to the Historic Houses Trust, but they believe the Historic Houses Trust Board are going to reaffirm the prohibition without any regard to their representations;
- While the restriction of dogs from this area is not a matter for Council, Council are obliged to enforce these restrictions, pursuant to the requirements of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*;
- The residents have sought Council's support to have Vaucluse House and Vaucluse beach re-opened to dogs; and
- This matter should be brought before Council so Council can take a position.

A copy of the minutes from the above meeting is attached as annexure 4. At the time of writing this report, the Historic Houses Trust Board had not made a final decision on this matter and the trial restrictions remain in force. It is understood the Board will be meeting some time during the week commencing Monday 14 June 2004.

Consideration:

Extension of off leash area

Council's leash free areas not only provide an exercise area for dogs, but are used extensively by dog owners to socialise and to get some outdoor exercise themselves. A common complaint to Council is about dogs being exercised off the leash in inappropriate areas. The provision of off leash areas throughout the Municipality assists Council in achieving compliance with the requirements of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, by giving dog owners the opportunity to exercise their dogs within reasonable proximity to their place of residence.

The benefits to the community are significant in that a well exercised dog that is allowed to socialise with other dogs, and their owners, is generally more contented. They are also less likely to be aggressive or to disturb the amenity of the area in which they are kept by barking continuously.

At present Lighthouse Reserve is divided into two areas. One requires dogs to be leashed at all times and the other is a 24-hour off leash area. Having two different dog leash requirements has caused confusion to owners who unwittingly allow their dogs to stray into the leashed area without an obvious boundary to contain their movements.

The proposed extension of the off leash area would allow the exercise area to be more clearly defined and would alleviate any confusion.

The proposed extended area would be bound by the following physical elements;

- The Old Signal Station, now the Coastal Patrol, at the northern end of the reserve;
- Maquarie Lighthouse at the southern end of the reserve;
- A railing fence where it adjoins Old South Head Rd at the western side of the reserve; and
- A safety fence running along the cliff top, at the eastern side of the reserve.

Running through Lighthouse Reserve is the Coastal Cliff Walk. Concerns were raised at the Animal Advisory Committee meeting that dogs should not be permitted off leash over this pathway.

At present the 24 hour off leash area includes the Coastal Cliff Walk, which generally runs adjacent to the safety fence along the eastern edge of the reserve. As the Coastal Cliff Walk is only for the use of pedestrians, with cycling, roller-blading and roller-skating prohibited, Council has had no complaints relating to dogs being permitted off leash over the pathway.

In the middle section of the proposed extended off leash area the Coastal Cliff Walk moves away from the safety fence and is more centrally located due to a rock outcrop. While it may not be ideal to have the off leash area extend over the pathway at this point, it would be difficult to adequately restrict dogs from this small area. It is considered that dogs will not unduly hinder users of the pathway at this point, if the proposed extended off leash area is approved.

The current and proposed 24 hour off leash area is in close proximity to Christison Park (annexure 2), which currently allows dogs to be exercised off leash between 4.30pm and 8.30am. Outside these hours dogs must be leashed at all times.

If it is agreed that all of Lighthouse Reserve is to be classified as a 24 hour off leash area, it is considered appropriate for Council to impose greater restrictions on dogs in Christison Park, especially having regard to the comments of Council's Manager – Public Open Space. The sporting fields at Christison Park are heavily used and their use is likely to increase if Council install improved lighting. Therefore, it is appropriate that the classification of Christison Park be changed from Type C – Dogs on leash permitted at all times and unleashed between 4.30pm and 8.30am all year to;

- Type C – Dogs on leash permitted at all times and unleashed between 4.30pm and 8.30am from September – March each year; and
- Type B – Dogs held on a leash permitted at all times from April – August each year.

It is considered that the section of the Coastal Cliff Walk running between Christison Park and Lighthouse Reserve (refer to annexure 2) is to remain Type B – dogs held on leash at all times, as it is a narrow and confined space, used solely as a pedestrian pathway. Further, requiring dogs to be leashed as they move between Christison Park and Lighthouse Reserve reinforces to the users of these areas that there are different controls in place.

Finally, it is noted that the areas available to dog owners in the Vaucluse/Watsons Bay area have reduced over the past 12 months due to the restrictions imposed by the Historic Houses Trust in relation to Vaucluse House and Vaucluse beach. The prohibition of dogs from these areas is not a matter for Council, as Vaucluse House and Vaucluse beach is not under the care, control and management of Council. However, it provides weight to the representations made by residents to extend the 24 hour off leash area in Lighthouse Reserve.

Provision of dog tidy bags and receptacles for the collection of dog faeces

Council has in the past opposed the provision of dispensers for the distribution of plastic bags. The logic being that Section 20 of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, requires dog owners to clean up after their dog when it defecates in a public place. By providing dispensers, dog owners could become reliant on the bags being available at the reserve at all times. If the dispenser runs out or is vandalised the dog owner could attempt to apportion blame to the Council for them not being able to clean up after their dog.

The onus should always be on the owner of the dog to carry a bag as they may have to clean-up after their dog on the way to or from the reserve. Dogs that have been largely immobile for sometime (eg. confined to a yard) will tend to defecate soon after becoming mobile such as in the local street on the way to the park

Furthermore, there is also a cost factor involved with installing and maintaining the dispensers and maintaining the bag supply.

Section 20(2) of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* imposes a duty on Council to provide sufficient rubbish receptacles for the proper disposal of dog faeces. Council's Manager – Public Open Space advises that a number of new bins have recently been placed along the Coastal Walk including Lighthouse Reserve for this purpose. As a result of recent consultation with the Animal Advisory Committee a further two bins will be installed for the assistance of dog walkers in disposal of dog faeces along the Coastal Walk.

Later this year new signage will also be install throughout our parks and reserves. These signs with improved placement, wording and graphics, are aimed at clearly communicating the required behaviour of people picking up after their dogs and defining the areas available for on/off leash.

Other strategies are also currently being considered regarding the disposal of dog faeces and these will be reported to Council shortly.

Public consultation in relation to any proposed changes in the status of local parks

The community are consulted in relation to Council's parks when the applicable plans of management are reviewed and updated. Also, the Animal Advisory and Community and Environment Committees provide the opportunity for the community to voice their opinions with regard to companion animal matters in areas that are under the care and control of Council. Both committees are open to the public and members of the public are welcome to attend and express their views.

Conclusion:

The extension of the 24-hour off leash area in Lighthouse Reserve is an important addition to the facilities that Council provides for dog owners. The extension of this exercise area would be a logical use of an area which is not currently fully utilised and will increase the area available for dogs off-leash by approximately two hectares, further enhancing council's commitment to providing opportunities for dog exercise in suitable environments. Similarly, the seasonal restriction of dogs in Christison Park is considered appropriate at this time having regard to the existing usage of Christison Park for organised sport and its close proximity to the extended off leash area in Lighthouse Reserve. Since the Historic Houses Trust has the responsibility for the care, control and management of Vaucluse Park and Vaucluse beach, they are responsible for the animal control restrictions in that area.

Greg Radford
Regulatory Supervisor

Tim Tuxford
Manager - Compliance

Allan Coker
Director – Planning &
Development

Annexures:

1. Aerial photograph of Lighthouse Reserve illustrating the existing and proposed areas to be declared Type D – Unleashed dogs permitted at all times.
2. Aerial photograph of Lighthouse Reserve showing the current restrictions.
3. Minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee meeting held on 19 February 2003.
4. Minutes of the Animal Advisory Committee meeting held on 19 May 2004.