# Planning for the future of Woollahra

#### With your feedback on our short and long term priorities, we can plan the best possible future for Woollahra.

Woollahra Council has a clear vision for the next ten years: to create a thriving, inclusive, sustainable and resilient community that will benefit future generations. We want to lead on climate action and promote respectful connections between people and place so that we can enhance, protect and celebrate Woollahra's beauty, heritage and quality of life for the enjoyment of all.

Each newly elected Council is responsible for setting its strategic direction through a draft Community Strategic Plan and supporting documents including the draft Delivery Program 2022/23 to 2025/26, draft Operational Plan 2022/23 and draft Long Term Financial Plan 2022-2032. Our draft Community Strategic Plan, *Woollahra 2032*, is our 10 year vision with a focus on environmental, social, economic and civic leadership. The draft Long Term Financial Plan 2022-2032 sets out how we can achive financial security over the next 10 years. Our draft Delivery Program 2022-26 is a four year plan that outlines our medium term goals. Our draft Operational Plan 2022/23 sets out our priorities for the next 12 months and is accompanied by the draft Budget, proposed Rating Structure and Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2022/23.

These draft documents are available below, and we want to hear from you to understand if we're on the right track. We invite you to have your say on any of these documents before **Sunday 15 May 2022** - your feedback will help guide our future plans.

#### **Building financial sustainability**

Reduced income from lower interest rates on our investments, rising expenditure, the long term impact of the rate peg, and the financial impact of COVID support measures for our community and local businesses has resulted in operating deficits over recent years. We are no longer in a position to rely on cash reserves.

In order to build long term financial sustainability, we have taken steps to reduce expenditure through debt restructuring, reviewing fees and charges, a staff redundancy program and productivity savings. We are also considering potential income from advertising on bus shelters in non-heritage areas. We have reduced our operating deficit from over \$6.8m this year to \$1.1m for 2022/23 however we still need to do more to achieve a surplus.



Rates are our most important form of income and we are considering options for a special rate variation application in late 2022. Be assured that we will be engaging with the community on this during the last half of 2022. There is more work to be done to achieve financial sustainability. You can find out more about our budget <u>here</u>.

Your feedback on our short and long term plans for the future of Woollahra will guide the financial decisions we make in the next 12 months and will help set our priorities for the next 10 years.

### Community Strategic Plan (CSP): Woollahra 2032



The <u>Community Strategic Plan</u> is a 10-year plan that identifies the community's main priorities for the future, outlines the long term vision, mission and strategies for achieving these goals, as well as highlighting challenges that may affect the delivery of resources to meet the community's aims and aspirations.

#### Delivery Program (DP): 2022-2026



The <u>Delivery Program</u> is Council's commitment to its strategic goals and the actions to be taken over the next 4 years.

It is the primary reference point for all activities undertaken by an elected council during its term of office. It allows Council to determine what is achievable over the next 4 years, what the priorities are, and how programs will be scheduled.

## Operational Plan (OP): 2022/23 and Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges: 2022/23



The <u>Operational Plan</u> is Council's action plan for the next financial year. The Operational Plan also outlines a draft budget and is accompanied by the draft Budget, proposed Rating Structure and Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2022/23.

Council resolved 11/04/2022 to submit a Additional Special Variation to Rates 2022/23 Application, learn more about that process here (LINK to story).

## Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP): 2022-2032



The Long Term Financial Plan outlines how the objectives of the draft Community Strategic Plan and commitments of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan will be resourced and funded over 10 years.

The Long Term Financial Plan includes financial implications of asset management and workforce planning.

## How to have your say

It's easy to have your say. Visit our community engagement platform <u>Your Say Woollahra</u> to learn how you can register your feedback online or in person before Sunday 15 May 2022.







Woollahra Municipal Council

Return to Council's website