



Woollahra Municipal Council

Annual Report

2015/16



The Annual Report 2015/16 is structured into 9 parts, as follows:

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Public Interest Disclosures Policy



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Part 1 –

Introduction and Overview of Council

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What is the Annual Report?

Council's Annual Report is one of the key accountability mechanisms between Council and the Woollahra community.

The Annual Report focuses mainly on Council's implementation of its Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

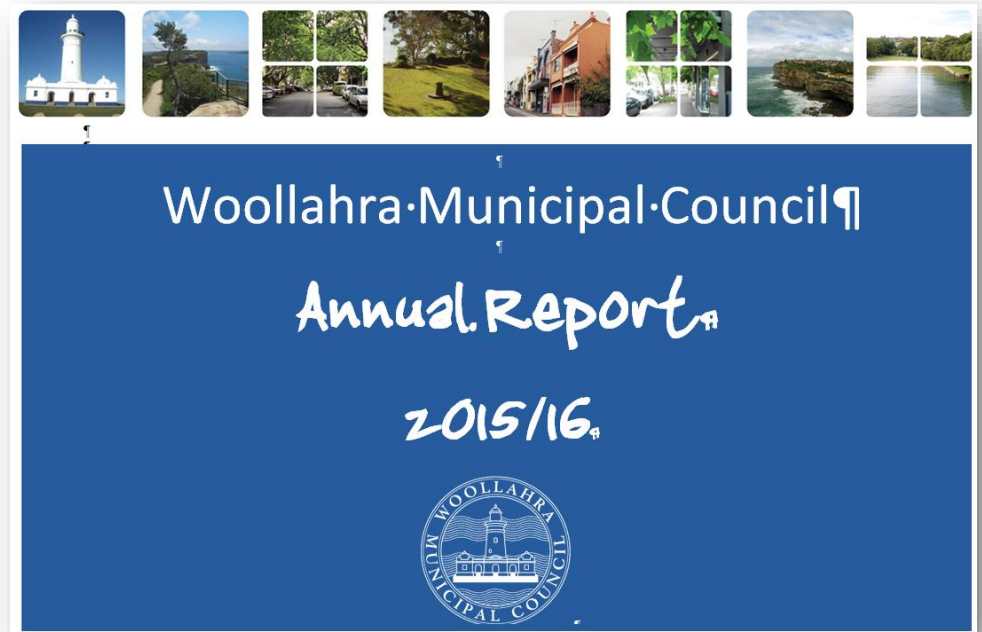
Based on community consultation, Council developed our Community Strategic Plan "Woollahra 2025 ... Our Community ... Our Place ... Our Plan", presenting a 15 year vision for the future of the Woollahra Community.

Woollahra 2025 is structured under five (5) broad themes and eleven (11) Goals, which represent the shared vision for Council and the community and sets clear strategies to meet this vision.

Council's 4 Year Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan (DPOP) identifies the Priorities and Actions that respond to the Themes, Goals and Strategies in Woollahra 2025.

The Annual Report details Council's performance against the Actions outlined in the Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan.

The Annual Report also includes a range of statutory information Council is required to report on under the Local Government Act and Regulation. This information assists the community's understanding of Council's performance as a business entity and community leader.



Message from the General Manager, Gary James

Having a strong financial position gives us the confidence of knowing we can continue to meet the future needs of our community. I am pleased to report we have delivered a range of facilities, services and projects over the last financial year that deliver substantial benefits to our residents and many visitors to the area. Many of them are detailed in this annual report. I encourage you to visit our website for a comprehensive overview of everything we do.

In addition to continuing our strong opposition to the State Government's forced amalgamation proposal, we have focussed our energy and resources on delivering great projects, building our opportunities for community engagement and planning for a positive future.

Following the successful launch of the Kiaora Place development in Double Bay, Woollahra Council opened a new state-of-the-art library which has been warmly received and has delivered a boost in membership and event attendance.

Good progress has been made on two significant projects that will continue to revitalise the commercial precincts of Rose Bay and Double Bay.

We are currently working towards delivering boutique cinemas, mixed residential and retail spaces and car parking on Council's existing Jamberoo Lane public car park facility in Double Bay. Plans are also underway on the redevelopment of the car park site within the Rose Bay commercial centre.

In the last 12 months we have invested \$8.1M on infrastructure asset improvement and community groups and not-for-profit organisations have received \$73K in funding support. We have allocated \$906K for the operation of Holdsworth, an organisation for children and adults living with intellectual disabilities; families with young children; older people who may be frail, ill, lacking mobility or experiencing social isolation; and their families and care givers.

Excellent results have been achieved on our environmental projects and sustainability targets for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 31% for 2025 have already been met. We partnered with the local community in planting thousands of seedlings as part of National Tree Day and through our ongoing bush regeneration work. Local students responded well to our annual Environmental Schools Sculpture Prize with lots of creativity applied to recycled materials and increasing community awareness about environmental protection.

I am grateful to our Councillors for their leadership and I appreciate the dedication and loyalty of our staff in delivering many of these projects and more. I commend this Annual Report to you and I encourage you to visit our website for more information www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

Gary James
General Manager

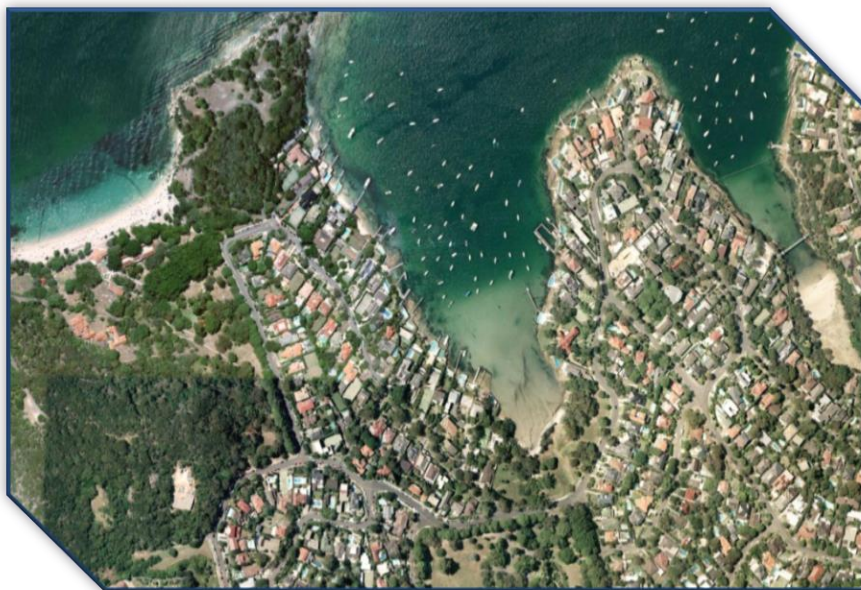


Our Municipality

The Woollahra Municipality is located in Sydney's eastern suburbs, about 5 kilometres from the Sydney GPO.

The Municipality is bounded by Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) in the north, the Waverley Council area in the east, Randwick City in the south and the City of Sydney in the west. The Woollahra Municipality includes the suburbs of Bellevue Hill, Darling Point, Double Bay, Edgecliff, Paddington (part), Point Piper, Rose Bay (part), Vaucluse (part), Watsons Bay and Woollahra.

The Municipality encompasses a total land area of 12 square kilometres, including harbour foreshore and beaches. The area is predominantly residential, with some commercial land use, parklands and a military reserve.



Natural features of the Municipality include 16 kms of harbour foreshore consisting of rocky headlands, coastal cliffs and beaches, approx. 30 hectares of bushland located in 5 reserves with 3 vegetation communities containing over 300 plant species including 2 threatened and 1 vulnerable species.

Other prominent features include Sydney Harbour National Park, the Macquarie Lighthouse, Gap Park and the award winning Rose Bay Promenade. Woollahra is also the location of some of Sydney's premier shopping precincts such as Double Bay, Paddington and Queen Street Woollahra.

The original inhabitants of the Woollahra area were the Cadigal and Birrabirragal Aboriginal people and Woollahra is thought to be named from an Aboriginal word meaning "meeting ground".

European settlement dates from 1790, although development was minimal until the 1860s. Land was used mainly for dairy farming and market gardening, with some fishing. Expansion took place in the 1880s and 1890s, continuing into the early 1900s and the inter-war period. Significant development occurred during the immediate post-war years, from the 1950s to the mid 1960s. The population has gradually declined since the late 1960s, falling from 63,000 in 1966 to 53,000 in 1976 and then to 51,000 in 1986.

The most recent census data calculated in 2011 has the population of our Municipality at 56,986 people, living in 25,875 dwellings. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Estimated Resident Population (ERP) of the Municipality in 2014 as 58,619.

Our Council

The Woollahra Local Government Area is divided into five electoral wards: Bellevue Hill, Cooper, Double Bay, Paddington and Vaucluse, each of which is represented by three Councillors.

The Councillors meet each week in different Committees and twice a month in a full Council meeting, to consider reports presented to them by Council staff. These meetings are open to the public.

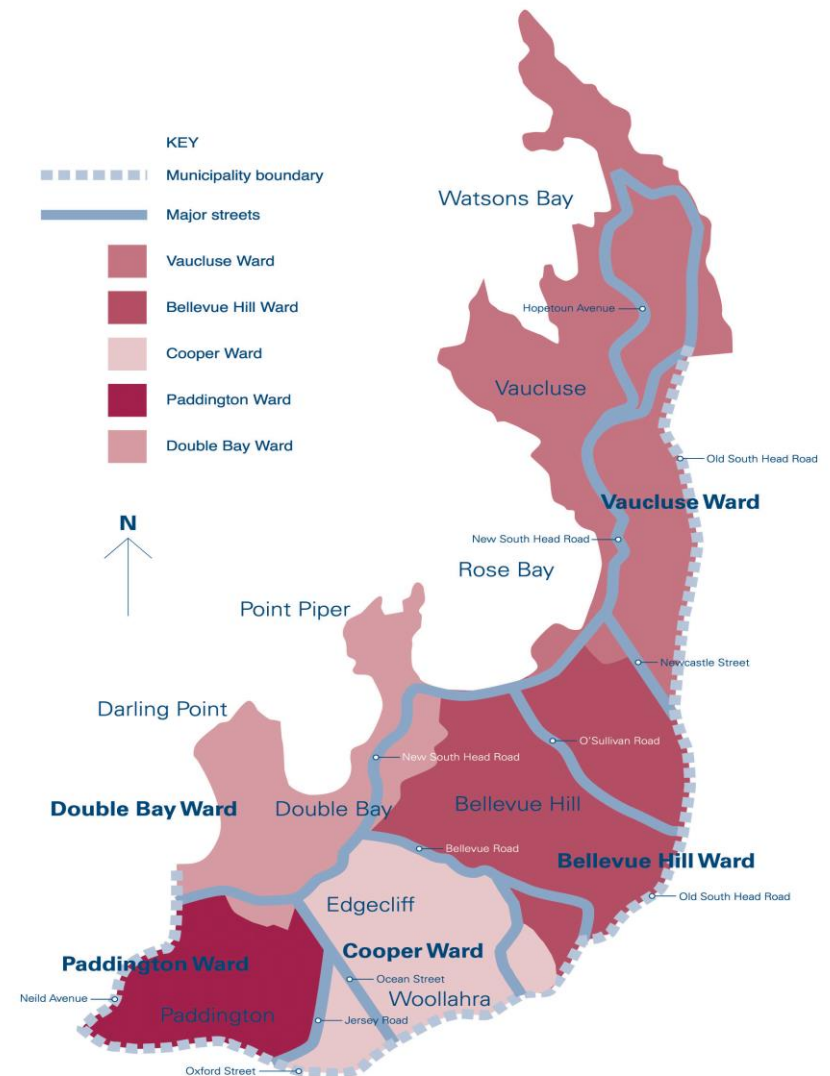
Information on upcoming meetings is available on Council's website:

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings_and_committees

The formal Committee Structure of Council is supported by a range of Advisory Committees and Working Parties that provides a wider opportunity for community involvement in the Council decision making process.

Woollahra Council is committed to the principles of access and equity. We are continually working towards improving equal access to our services and facilities to all who live in, work in and visit the area.

Wards - Woollahra Local Government Area



Our Charter

The Council's Charter as prescribed in the Local Government Act 1993 is:

- to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- to exercise community leadership
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism
- to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
- to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions
- to bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively plan for, account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- to engage in long-term strategic planning on behalf of the local community
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and promotes social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights
- to facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government

- to raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants
- to keep the local community and the State government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities
- to ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the council is affected
- to be a responsible employer.

In response to this Charter, Council has developed the following vision statement:

Our Vision Statement

Woollahra will be a great place to live, work and visit where places and spaces are safe, clean and well maintained.

Our community will offer a unique mix of urban villages with a good range of shops, services and facilities.

We will make the most of the natural beauty, leafy streetscapes, open spaces, views and proximity to the water and the city.

Our Councillors

Our community is represented by fifteen (15) Councillors, elected to Council in September 2012 for a four (4) year term. Councillor representation has been reduced to thirteen (13) Councillors due to the resignation of two (2) Councillors in May 2015. The next Local Government Elections will be held in September 2017 following the determination of the State Government's merger proposal.

BELLEVUE HILL WARD	COOPER WARD	DOUBLE BAY WARD	PADDINGTON WARD	VAUCLUSE WARD
<p>Greg Levenston COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0412 876 029 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 greg.levenston@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Luise Elsing COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0407 417 704 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 luise.elsing@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>James Keulemans COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0407 350 091 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 james.keulemans@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Peter Cavanagh COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0417 184 888 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 peter.cavanagh@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Ted Bennett COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0402 715 911 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL PO Box 1224, Double Bay NSW 1360 ted.bennett@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>Andrew Petrie COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 9363 4440 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 andrew.petrie@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Anthony Marano COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0411 640 633 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 anthony.marano@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Deborah Thomas COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 8021 9859 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 deborah.thomas@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Matthew Robertson COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0403 999 996 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 matthew.robertson@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Susan Wynne DEPUTY MAYOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0418 872 903 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 susan.wynne@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>Jeff Zulman COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 8005 0756 FAX 9363 5555 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 jeff.zulman@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Katherine O'Regan COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 0419 411 801 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 katherine.oregan@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Toni Zeltzer MAYOR</p>  <p>PHONE 9391 7013 FAX 9391 7044 MAIL C/- Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 toni.zeltzer@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Elena Wise COUNCILLOR</p> <p>RESIGNED 15 MAY 2015</p>	<p>Anthony Boskovitz COUNCILLOR</p> <p>RESIGNED 1 MAY 2015</p>

Our Organisation

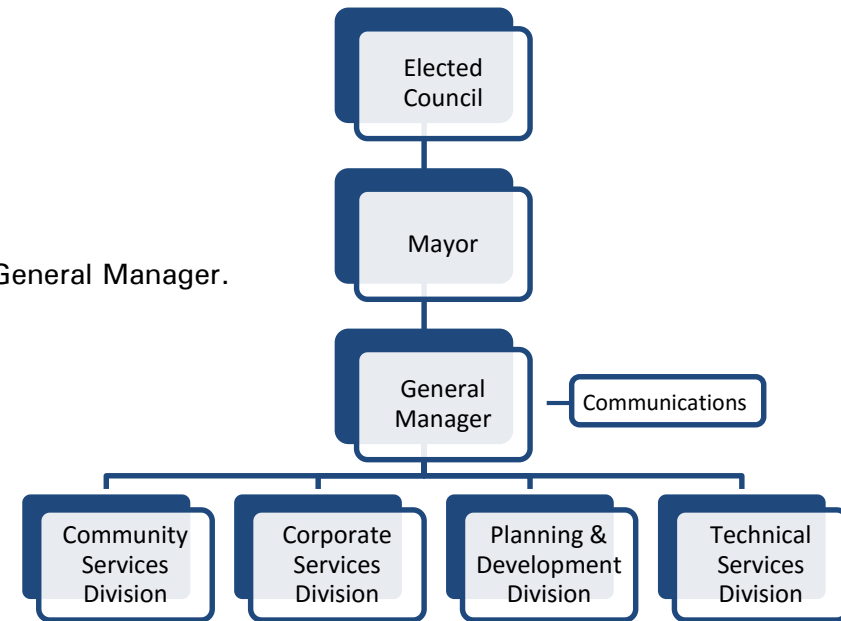
Our organisation is structured into four Divisions:

- Community Services
- Corporate Services
- Planning and Development
- Technical Services

There is also a Communications Department that reports directly to the General Manager.

Services we provide include:

- Asset management
- Capital works
- Community and cultural development
- Development assessment
- Environmental health and building control
- Recreation and open space management
- Urban planning



Internal services under the Corporate Services Division include Customer Services, Finance and Corporate Planning, Organisational Development and Human Resources, Business Assurance and Risk Management, Information Technology, Governance and Council Support.

For more information on our facilities, projects, or services, please contact our Customer Information Centre on 9391 7000, Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm or visit Council’s website www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Our Values and Our Commitment

Woollahra Municipal Council is committed to the following values:

Our Values

Respect for people

Integrity and excellent performance

Professional, quality service

Open, accountable communication

Our commitments to the community

We will deliver seamless, responsive services to our community

We respect the rights of every customer to be treated fairly

We will keep our community informed about Council services and activities and encourage community feedback

We will continually strive to improve our services to the community



Our commitments to our people

We will manage our internal processes to ensure a seamless customer experience

We will conduct a safe, fair and open workplace where achievements are recognised and people are encouraged to develop their talents

We will communicate openly and in clear and consistent language

We will challenge ourselves to go on doing better

Our Future Direction

Together, Council and the community have contributed to the development of a long term vision for Woollahra.

Through our community engagement process we identified what is important to us, the things we value about Woollahra as a place to live, work and visit and what we want to see in our community in the future. This engagement informed the development of our community strategic plan, *Woollahra 2025 - our community, our place, our plan* as well as our current Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

