



Woollahra Municipal Council

Annual Report

2016/17



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 Public Interest Disclosures Policy



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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.

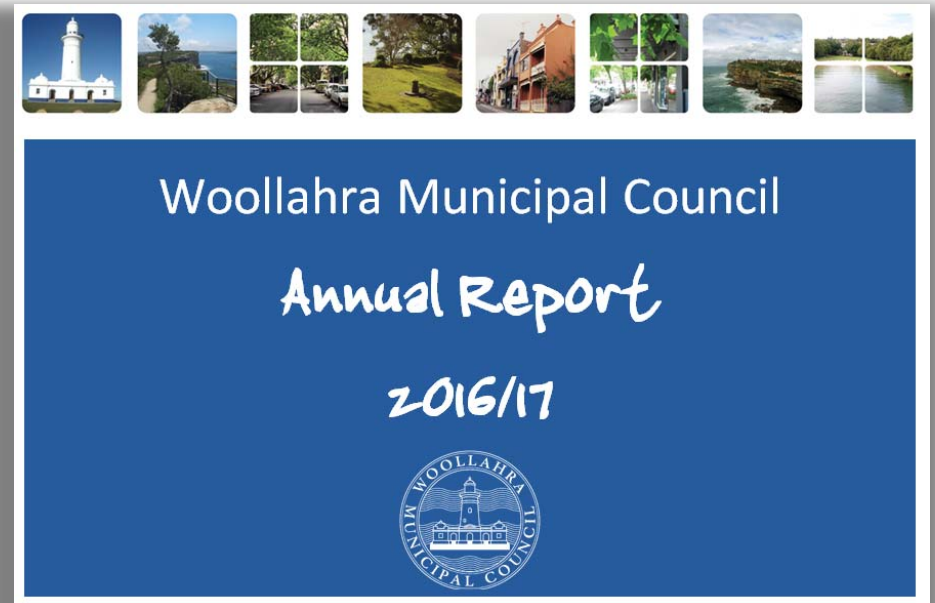
Based on community consultation, Council developed our Community Strategic Plan "Woollahra 2025 ... Our Community ... Our Place ... Our Plan", presenting a 15 year vision for the future of the Woollahra Community.

Woollahra 2025 is structured under five Themes and eleven Goals, which represent the shared vision for Council and the community and sets clear strategies to meet this vision.

Council's four 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 Mayor, Peter Cavanagh

I am delighted to be serving my first term as Mayor of Woollahra after nine years as a Councillor. I commend this Annual Report to the community and I thank the team of staff who provide excellent leadership and well considered management of our finances and resources.

Our strong financial position and the smart management of our resources and budget maximise the opportunities we have to expand the work we are doing in our community.

Good governance and maintaining a high standard of financial integrity are key priorities for any public service organisation.

As the newly elected Mayor and as a long serving member of Council's Audit and Assurance Committee I am dedicated to seeing our strong financial position continue so we can serve our community well.

Our investment in maintaining and improving infrastructure and providing a broad range of services and facilities, is balanced alongside our commitment to supporting community groups and not-for-profit agencies and promoting opportunities for greater community engagement.

Our Annual Report is a key component of our community engagement strategy that demonstrates how we as a council are delivery our vision for the future of Woollahra across the five themes outlined in our Community Strategic Plan, being: Community wellbeing, Quality places and spaces, A healthy

environment, Local prosperity and Community leadership and participation.

I look forward to working with my Councillor colleagues and staff during the next two years as Mayor to continue and improve on our excellent track record in responsible financial management and quality customer service for the benefit of the residents and ratepayers of and visitors to Woollahra. With the threat of forced amalgamation behind us I am relieved we can now focus all our attention to meeting the needs of our local community.

For more information on our services please visit our website www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Peter M Cavanagh
Mayor

Message from the General Manager, Gary James

I am pleased to present this Annual Report which provides details on the broad range of services, projects and infrastructure improvements Woollahra Council delivered for our community during 2016/17.

The Annual Report also presents our Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 which, in accordance with changes introduced into the NSW Local Government Act during 2016/17, have been audited for the first time by the NSW Auditor General. It comes as no surprise to me as General Manager that the Auditor General has given Woollahra Council an unmodified Audit Report, demonstrating our long-standing commitment to sound financial management and good governance practices.

As an organisation, Woollahra Council is responsible for infrastructure, buildings and other assets with a gross value approaching \$1 Billion and to provide a broad range of community services and facilities. We manage 1,261,583m² of road pavement, 51,016m² of footpath, 28km of kerb and gutter, 104km of stormwater drainage lines and 4,451

drainage pits. We also maintain more than 88 hectares of natural bushland and community volunteers help us to regenerate native vegetation and reduce weeds.

In doing so we consistently produce an annual balanced budget which for 2016/17 exceeded \$110 Million.

A significant proportion of our budget goes towards to managing capital works and ensuring we have infrastructure in place that serves current needs and also provides a contribution to securing long-term cost benefits, as well as social, cultural and environmental outcomes.

The community has helped shape the priorities outlined in our Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan, and other strategic planning documents. We take our lead from the community and public feedback and engagement is at the centre of service provision and the Council's plans for the future. Our expenditure responds to our commitment to the community in delivery on our agreed priorities.

Following the success of the Kiaora Place redevelopment in the Double Bay

commercial centre, we are now in a financial position to be able to pursue other large projects that will bring significant benefits to the local community and local businesses. We are excited to be progressing the Cross St Car Park and boutique cinema project in Double Bay and the Rose Bay Commercial Centre redevelopment. We will also be delivering capital works and public and open space improvements that will continue to make Woollahra a great place to live, work and visit.

Central to Council's work is our commitment to quality customer service, acting on environmental protection and sustainability, and raising community awareness, participation and engagement through hosting events that are fun, inspiring, informative, educational, and which enhance community wellbeing.

As staff we are grateful for the support of our committed elected representatives and an engaged community who share our commitment to making the best decisions for Woollahra.

Gary James
General Manager

Woollahra 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 54,240 people, living in 26,248 dwellings.

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.

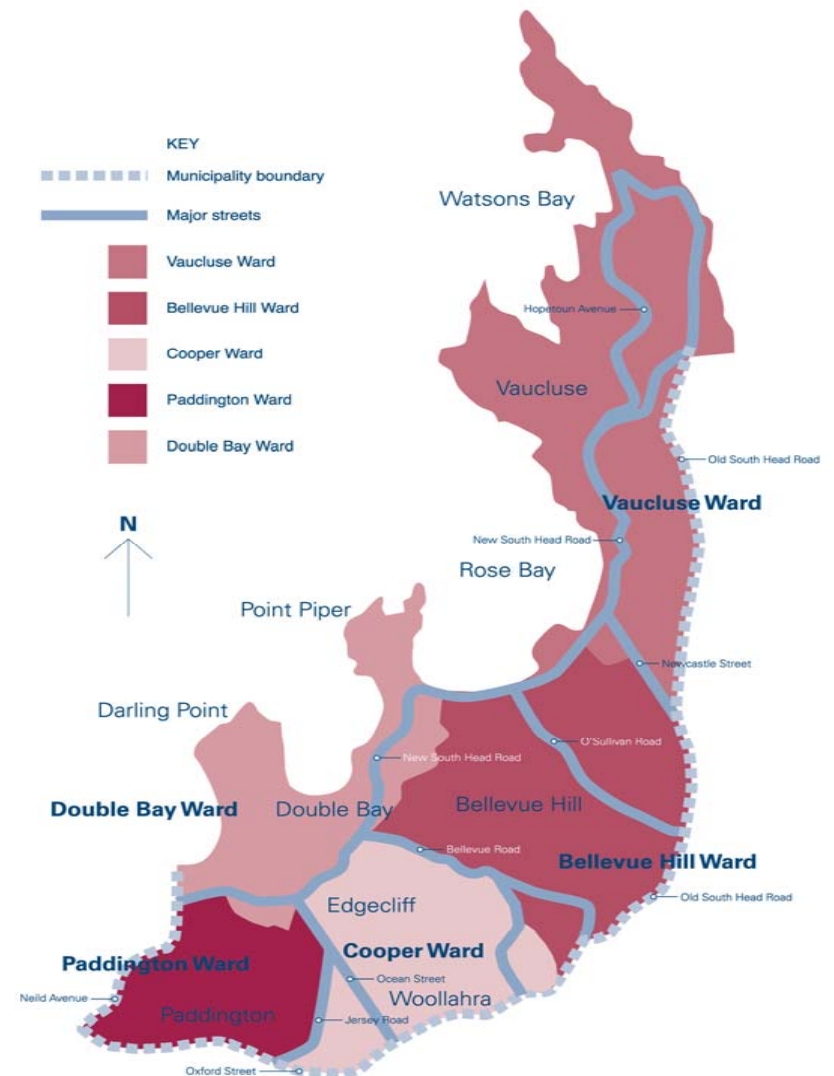
Information on upcoming meetings is available on Council's website:

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 provide 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



Guiding Principles

Council recognises the guiding principles set out in the Local Government Act in everything it does. These principles are:

Exercise of functions generally:

- Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
- Councils should carry out functions in a way that provide the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
- Councils should plan strategically for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
- Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
- Councils should work co-operatively with other Councils and the State Government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
- Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
- Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
- Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
- Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

Community participation:

- Councils should actively engage with their local communities, through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures.

Decision-making:

- Councils should recognise diverse local community needs and interests.
- Councils should consider social justice principles.

- Councils should consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.
- Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- Council decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

Financial management:

- Council spending should be responsible and sustainable, aligning general revenue and expenses.
- Councils should invest in responsible and sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of the local community.
- Councils should have effective financial and asset management, including sound policies and processes.
- Councils should have regard to achieving intergenerational equity.

Integrated planning and reporting:

- Councils should identify and prioritise key local community needs and aspirations and consider regional priorities.
- Councils should identify strategic goals to meet those needs and aspirations.
- Councils should develop activities, and prioritise actions, to work towards the strategic goals.
- Councils should ensure that the strategic goals and activities to work towards them may be achieved within council resources.
- Councils should regularly review and evaluate progress towards achieving strategic goals.
- Councils should maintain an integrated approach to planning, delivering, monitoring and reporting on strategic goals.
- Councils should collaborate with others to maximise achievement of strategic goals.
- Councils should manage risks to the local community or area or to the council effectively and proactively.
- Councils should make appropriate evidence-based adaptations to meet changing needs and circumstances

Values and Commitments

Consistent with the guiding principles, Council has established the following values and made the following commitments:

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

Councillors – June 2017

Our community is represented by fifteen Councillors, elected to Council in September 2012. Councillor representation had been reduced to eleven Councillors due to the resignation of four Councillors during the extended term to September 2017.

BELLEVUE HILL WARD	COOPER WARD	DOUBLE BAY WARD	PADDINGTON WARD	VAUCLUSE WARD
<p>Greg Levenston COUNCILLOR</p> 	<p>Luise Elsing COUNCILLOR</p> 	<p>Deborah Thomas COUNCILLOR</p> 	<p>Peter Cavanagh COUNCILLOR</p> 	<p>Ted Bennett COUNCILLOR</p> 
<p>Andrew Petrie COUNCILLOR</p> 	<p>Anthony Marano COUNCILLOR</p> 	<p>Toni Zeltzer MAYOR</p> 	<p>Matthew Robertson COUNCILLOR</p> 	<p>Susan Wynne DEPUTY MAYOR</p> 
	<p>Katherine O'Regan COUNCILLOR</p> 			

Councillors – September 2017

The September 2017 Local Government Elections has been held following the State Government’s decision not to proceed with the remaining metropolitan merger proposals. Our community is again represented by fifteen Councillors.

BELLEVUE HILL WARD	COOPER WARD	DOUBLE BAY WARD	PADDINGTON WARD	VAUCLUSE WARD
<p>Nick Maxwell COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0409 894 056 nick.maxwell@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Luise Elsing COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0407 417 704 luise.elsing@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Richard Shields COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0418 418 877 richard.shields@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Peter Cavanagh MAYOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0417 184 888 peter.cavanagh@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Claudia Cullen COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 8001 6217 claudia.cullen@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>Lucinda Regan COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0404 812 009 lucinda.regan@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Anthony Marano COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0411 640 633 anthony.marano@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Mark Silcocks COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0413 888 685 mark.silcocks@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Harriet Price COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0439 868 291 harriet.price@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Mary-Lou Jarvis COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0414 309 179 mary-lou.jarvis@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>Isabelle Shapiro COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0418 217 472 isabelle.shapiro@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Megan McEwin COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0412 455 424 megan.mcewin@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Toni Zeltzer COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>PHONE 9328 1049 toni.zeltzer@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Matthew Robertson COUNCILLOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0403 999 996 matthew.robertson@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>	<p>Susan Wynne DEPUTY MAYOR</p>  <p>MOBILE 0418 872 903 susan.wynne@woollahra.nsw.gov.au</p>

Organisation Structure

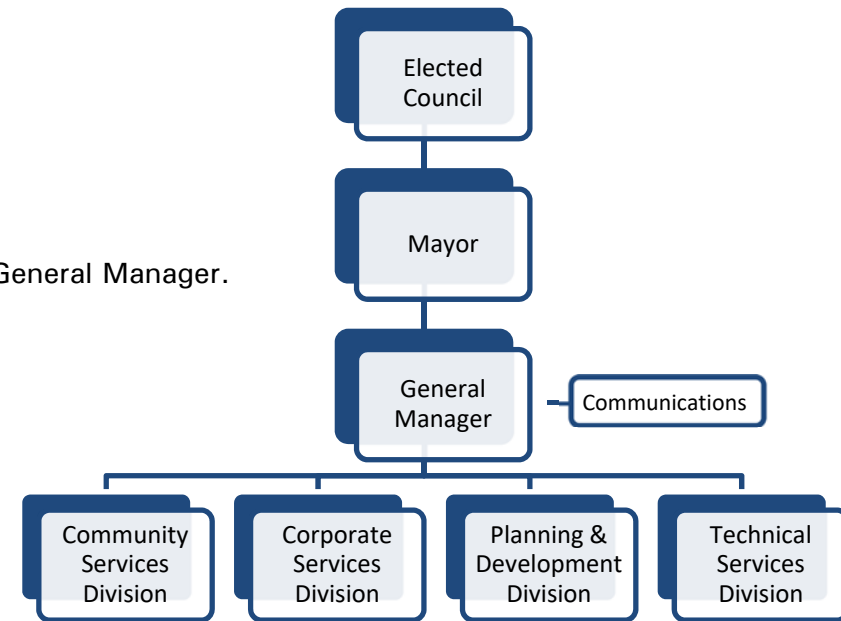
Our organisation is structured into four Divisions:

- 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

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.

