



# Woollahra Municipal Council

## Annual Report

2014/15



The Annual Report 2014/15 is structured into 9 parts, as follows:

**Part 1 Introduction and Overview of Council**

- What is the Annual Report?
- Message from the General Manager
- Our Municipality
- Our Council
- Our Charter
- Our Councillors
- Our Organisation
- Our Values and Our Commitment
- Our Future Direction

**Part 2 Delivery Program & Operational Plan Report**

- Our Integrated Planning Framework
- Key achievements for the year

**Part 3 Statutory Information**

- Companion Animals Management
- Community Grants
- Contracts
- Legal Proceedings
- Condition of Assets
- Capital Renewal Program
- Environmental and Infrastructure Works
- Stormwater Management Services
- Partnerships with Other Organisations
- Functions delegated to Other Organisations
- Rates Written off
- Councillor Expenses
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection
- Equal Opportunity Management Plan
- Remuneration Packages

**Part 4 Financial Statements**

- Financial Summary
- Key Financial Indicators
- Annual Financial Statements

**Part 5 Capital Works**

- Statistics
- Progress Report (including SRV funding)

**Part 6 Environmental Report Card**

- Environmental Targets Summary Table

**Part 7 GIPA Act Annual Report**

- Review Proactive Release Program
- Number of access applications received
- Number of refused applications for Schedule 1 information
- Statistical information about access applications (Tables A-I)

**Part 8 Public Interest Disclosure Annual Report**

- Statistical information on Public Interest Disclosures
- Staff awareness of Public Interest Disclosures Policy
- Public Interest Disclosures Policy



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## Annual Report

2014/15

Part 1 –

### Introduction and Overview of Council

**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.

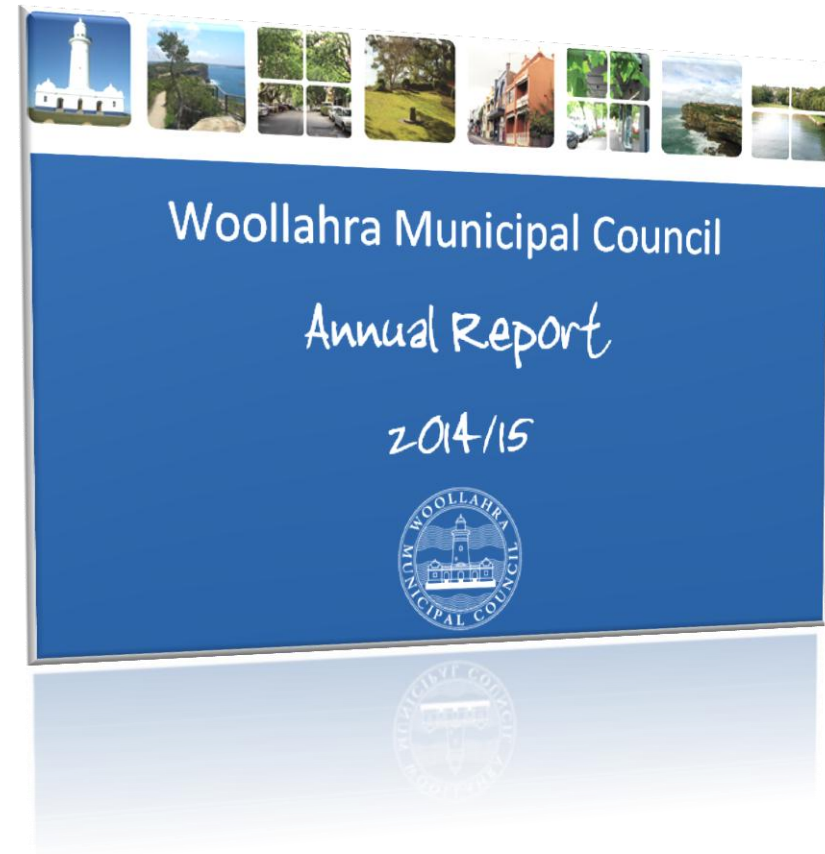
Based on community consultation, Council developed our Community Strategic Plan "Woollahra 2025 ... Our Community ... Our Place ... Our Plan", presenting a 15 year vision for the future of the Woollahra Community.

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

During the last financial year we have seen two very significant infrastructure projects delivered: the opening of the Alexandria Integrated Facility – a shared depot for Woollahra and Waverley Council staff, service vehicles and trucks, as well as the opening of a purpose built centrally located training and operational centre for the Waverley-Woollahra SES.

Following the successful completion of Stage One of the Kiaora Lands development in Double Bay – including a 242 space public car park and new retail premises for Woolworths, Dan Murphy's, About Life Organic Marketplace and other businesses, all of Stage 2 will be open by March 2016. A new three storey state of the art public library will be well positioned within the commercial centre to provide a wide variety of services for our local community. Additional retail and commercial businesses located within the arcade included in the development will continue to enhance the revitalisation of Double Bay.

The sale of two Council owned sites, the O'Dea Depot, Waterloo and 9A Cooper Park

Road, Bellevue Hill in 2014/15 will continue to provide a long term funding over the next ten years for community and infrastructure improvements that are high priorities for our local residents

Over the past 12 months we have been campaigning against forced amalgamation. The majority of our residents are opposed to an amalgamation with neighbouring councils for fear of losing local representation, local identity and the prospects of a rate hike with no guarantee of extra revenue invested in the local community.

Representing the needs of our community is important. Customer service and providing a diverse range of events and activities that boost community engagement are constantly being developed and delivered.

By partnering with local schools, artists, writers, business groups and not-for-profits we have been able to facilitate new relationships within the community.

We have advanced placemaking principles in Double Bay and Paddington and we look

forward to making more announcements on the work we have been doing to improve our unique commercial centres in early 2016.

Our new look website aims to deliver current and useful content on who we are and what we do. I am very proud of the way in which our staff dedicate their loyal service and enthusiasm to the community. Many of the projects contained in this Report are a testament to the leadership of the Council and the hard work of the people who work with us.

I commend the Annual Report to you and encourage you to visit our website for more information on our projects and local events [www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

Gary James  
General Manager

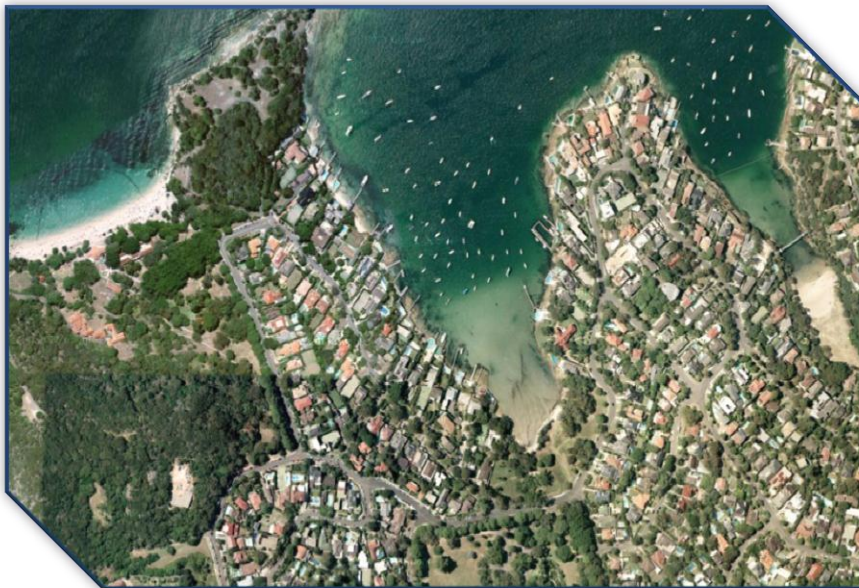


## Our Municipality

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.

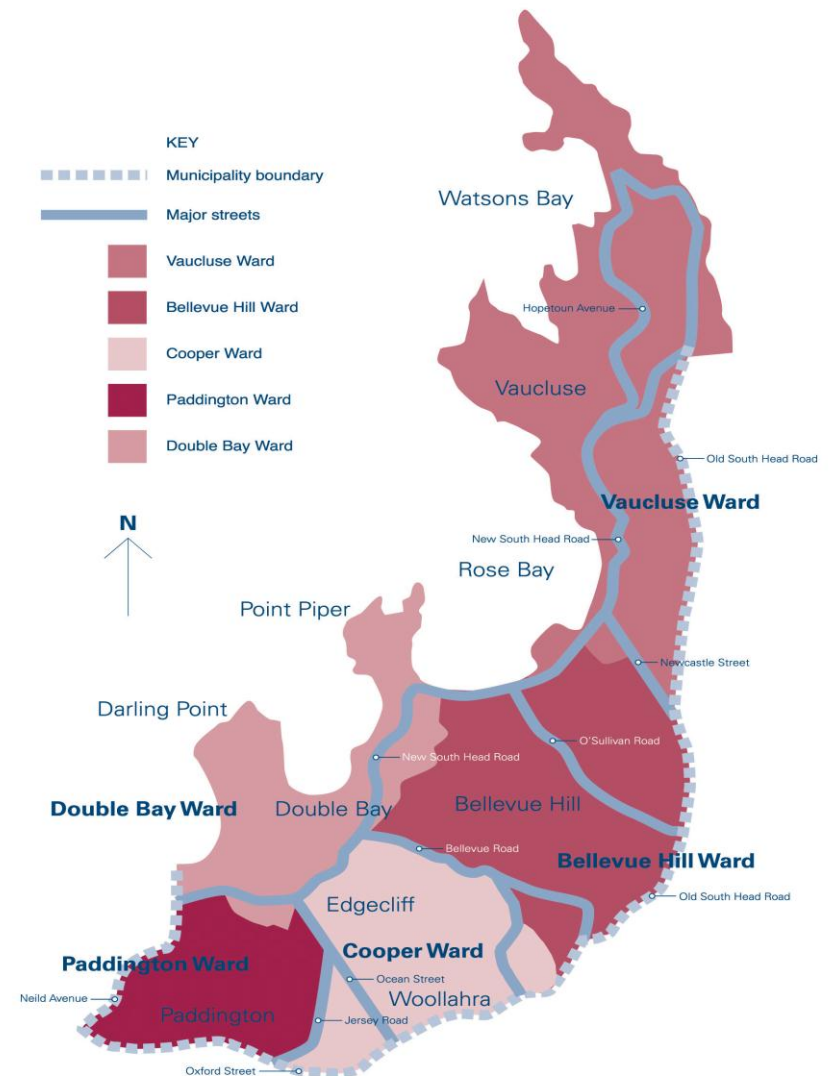
Information on upcoming meetings is available on Council's website:

[www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings\\_and\\_committees](http://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 2016. There are five electoral wards, with three Councillors representing each Ward.

BELLEVUE HILL WARD	COOPER WARD	DOUBLE BAY WARD	PADDINGTON WARD	VAUCLUSE WARD
<p><b>Greg Levenston</b> 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><b>Luise Elsing</b> 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><b>James Keulemans</b> 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><b>Peter Cavanagh</b> 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><b>Ted Bennett</b> 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><b>Andrew Petrie</b> 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><b>Anthony Marano</b> 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><b>Deborah Thomas</b> 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><b>Matthew Robertson</b> 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><b>Susan Wynne</b> 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><b>Jeff Zulman</b> 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><b>Katherine O'Regan</b> 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><b>Toni Zeltzer</b> 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><b>Elena Wise</b> COUNCILLOR</p> <p>RESIGNED 15 MAY 2015</p>	<p><b>Anthony Boskovitz</b> COUNCILLOR</p> <p>RESIGNED 1 MAY 2015</p>

## Our Organisation

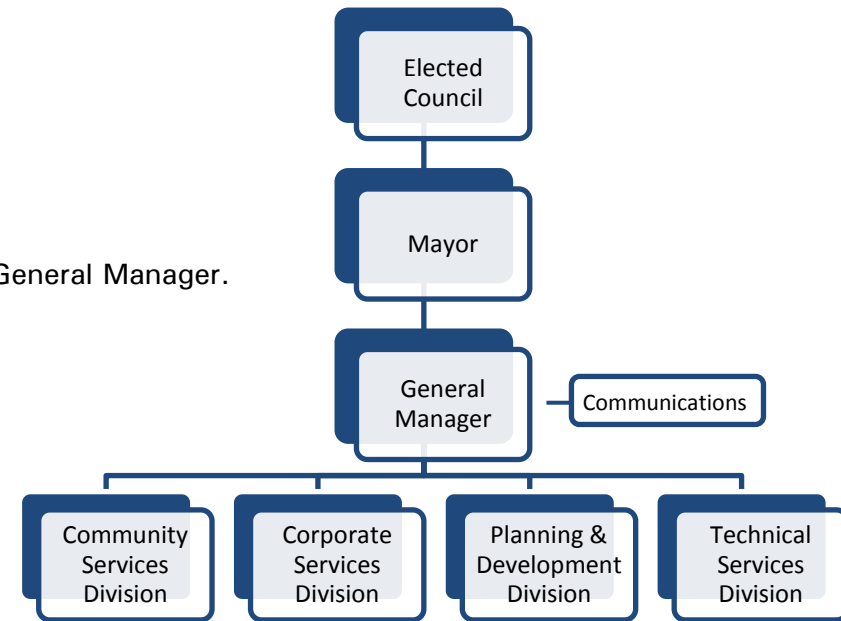
Our organisation is structured into four Divisions:

- 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](http://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.

