



Woollahra Municipal Council

Annual Report

2017/18



The Annual Report 2017/18 is structured into 7 parts, as follows:

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Public Interest Disclosures Policy



Woollahra Municipal Council

Annual Report 2017/18

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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.

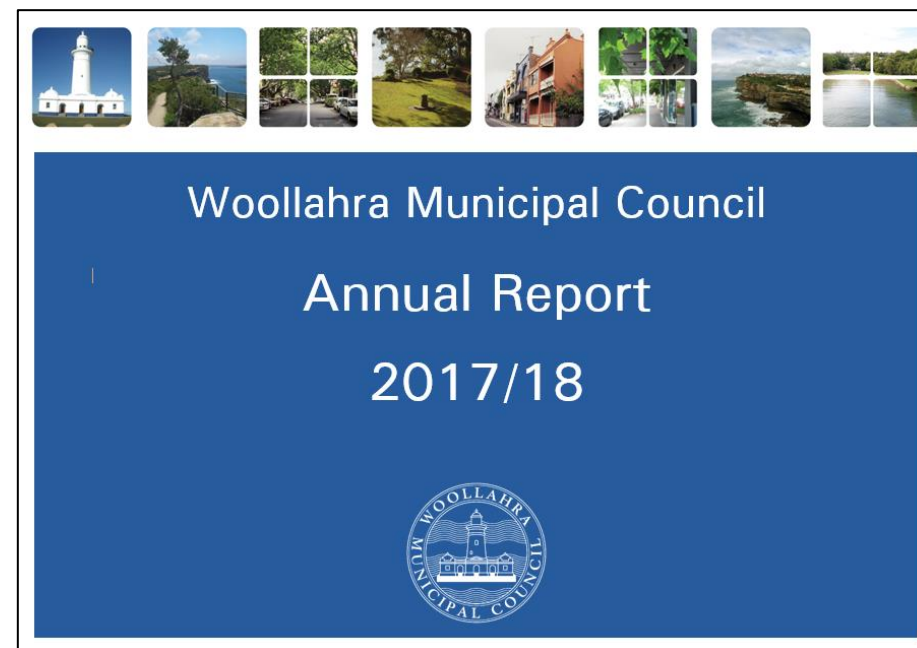
Based on community consultation, Council developed our Community Strategic Plan “Woollahra 2025 ... Our Community ... Our Place ... Our Plan”, presenting a 15 year vision for the future of the Woollahra Community.

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 General Manager, Gary James

I am pleased to present this Annual Report for 2017/18 and the associated financial statements which outline how we are delivering on social, economic and cultural projects and services that benefit our community now and into the future. I am delighted to confirm our sound financial status, a balanced budget of \$115M and a healthy operating surplus of \$8.6M to allow us financial stability, security and the capacity to fund arising infrastructure improvements and new projects.

Capital works and infrastructure improvements represent the largest spend in our budget. We delivered road, footpath, kerb and guttering renewals throughout the LGA, seawall restoration at Lyne Park and lighting upgrades at Chiswick Garden. Whilst infrastructure works and asset management are a top priority, so is planning and development, community development, efficient administration and customer service. Our expenditure on all these areas is a result of long-term planning, community engagement feedback and decisions made by Councillors that guide new projects, events and services that meet the needs of the local community.

In the last year, we have advanced the Cross Street car park and cinema site proposal for Double Bay, the community gallery space for St Brigid's (previously Woollahra Library) and the Rose Bay car park and community centre proposal. There are so many project milestones that are featured throughout the annual report. I will highlight just a few here we are particularly proud of:

- \$113K in grant funding to allow community organisations to deliver projects that contribute to skills building, support and social connection.

- \$1M for Holdsworth to support seniors and isolated members of the community through the services and activities Gaden provides.
- We invested \$110K in commercial centre support through the business chambers and networks and installed CCTV cameras in Double Bay to assist local police.

Our library continues to increase in popularity and we are pleased with the level of community engagement we are seeing at this very important community hub. We delivered a very successful cultural event Festa Italiana in Paddington in November 2017 and opened the North Cooper Park Community Garden in March 2018, we hosted well attended Seniors Week, Youth Week and NAIDOC events, as well as our signature Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Poets' Picnic, Youth Photographic Award and Short Film Prize, Digital Literary Award and library events. I am equally proud of the work we have done in environmental education and sustainability through Solar My School Program, Compost Revolution, Second Hand Saturday, e-waste collection days and significant bushland management and regeneration with the help of community volunteers.



In March 2018 changes to the determination of development applications resulted in the introduction of the Woollahra Local Planning Panel. Whilst Councillors are no longer involved in application determinations, Council has maintained the responsibility of setting strategic planning frameworks and local community engagement which must be considered by the Panel.

I would like to thank the Council staff for their ongoing dedication to excellent community service and to the projects, assets, services, events and activities outlined in this Annual Report. Our success is a testimony to their hard work, professionalism and commonly, their long service.

I commend the Annual Report for 2017/18 to the community. As always we welcome community feedback and we will continue to engage with our community groups, residents, visitors and businesses to ensure what we are delivering is in line with their top priorities, current needs and future vision. For more information on what we do and what we have planned for the year ahead please visit our website www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au and subscribe to – Woollahra What's On.

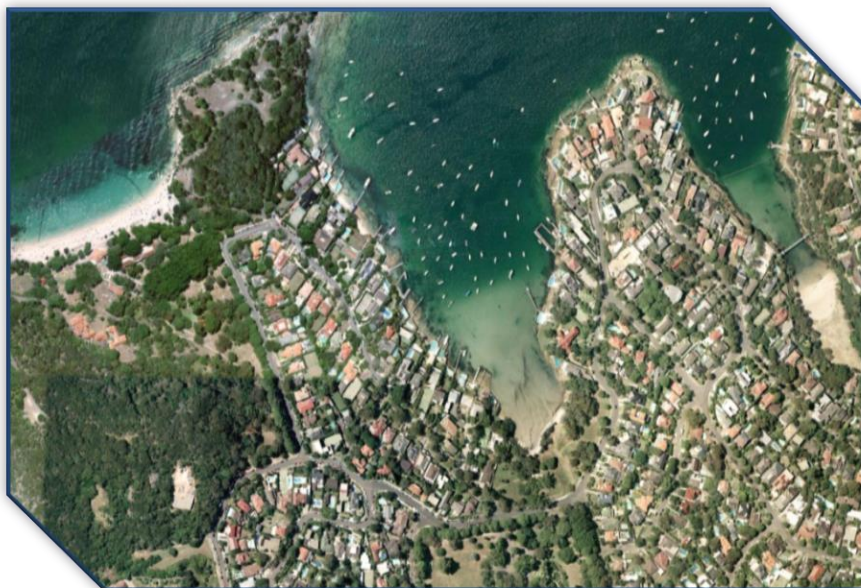
Gary James
General Manager

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.

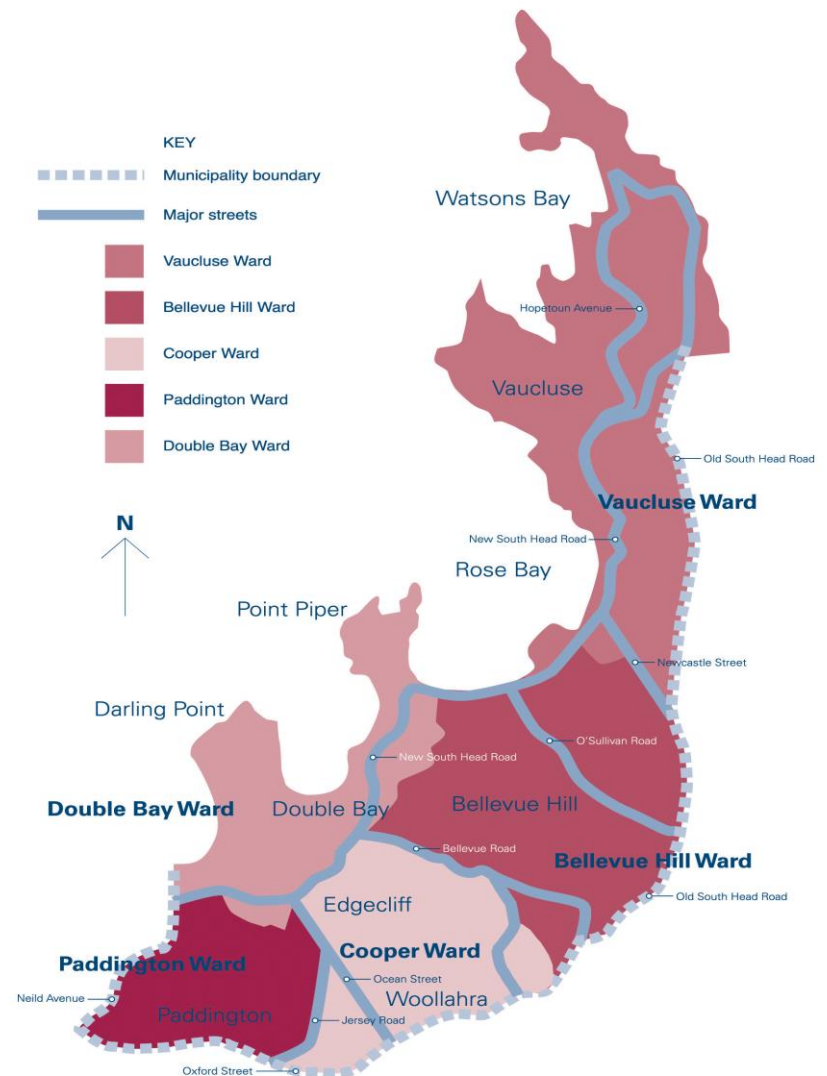
Information on upcoming meetings is available on Council’s website:

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 – 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

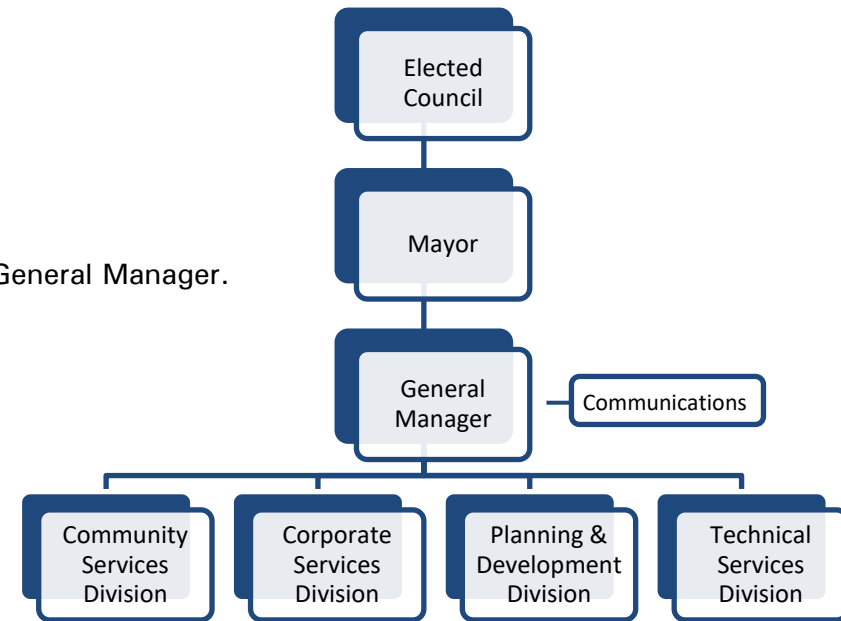
Our organisation is structured into four Divisions:

- 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 2030 - our community, our place, our plan* as well as our current Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan.

