



Woollahra Municipal Council

Fit for the Future Chronology of Community Engagement

Annexure 7



Chronology of Fit for the Future Community Engagement

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26 May 2015	Sydney Metropolitan Mayors meeting <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
25 May 2015	WMC Councillors’ Briefing on Fit for the Future	-
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8 May 2015	Mayor and General Manager meeting with Member for Vacluse, the Hon Gabrielle Upton	-

5 May 2015	Sydney Metropolitan Mayors Meeting <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
28 April 2015	Executive Meeting of Sydney Metropolitan Mayors <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
26 April 2015	Mayoral Meeting with local community leader, Discover Double Bay Greg Prior	-
22 April 2015	Wentworth Courier advertisement “What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra’s future?” online survey.	24
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25 March 2015	Wentworth Courier advertisement “What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra’s future?”	30
19 March 2015	SSROC Ordinary Meeting	-
18 March 2015	Wentworth Courier - Mayoral Column	31
18 March 2015	Woollahra Council: Have your Say Website launched <i>continually being updated with information</i>	32
18 March 2015	Online Survey commenced	46
March 2015	Independent telephone survey by Micromex Research conducted 214 to 31 March (see annexure as part of submission)	See submission
March 2015	Distribution of 31,000 Flyers to Residences and Businesses by Advertising Printing Australia P/L	50
17 March 2015	Media Release: Council surveys residents on proposed amalgamation options	54
2 March 2015	WMC Councillors’ Briefing on Fit for the Future	-
17 February 2015	Mayoral Meeting with Member for Vaucluse, the Hon Gabrielle Upton	-

12 February 2015	Meeting with Naomi Dougall SSROC CEO and Mayor and General Manager	-
10 February 2015	Executive Meeting of Sydney Metropolitan Mayors <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
5 February 2015	Mayoral Meeting with Lord Mayor of Sydney, Cr Clover Moore to discuss Fit for the Future	-
8 December 2014	WMC Councillors' Briefing on Fit for the Future	-
2 December 2014	Sydney Metropolitan Mayors Group <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
6 November 2015	Sydney Metropolitan Mayors Group <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
22 September 2014	Notice of Motion <i>from Councillor Petrie</i>	56
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17 September 2014	Mayor and Acting GM at Office of Local Government – Fit for the Future Briefing	-
16 September 2014	Sydney Metropolitan Mayors Meeting <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
12 September 2014	Executive Meeting of Sydney Metropolitan Mayors <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
11 September 2014	Media Release: Government's merger plan no fit for Woollahra residents	59
27 March 2014	Sydney Metropolitan Mayors Meeting	-
24 March 2014	Mayoral Minute: <i>Local Government Review Panel – Submission to Final Paper "Revitalising Local Government"</i>	61
21 March 2014	Meeting of Sub-Committee of Sydney Metropolitan Mayors regarding response to Independent Local Government Review Panel's Final Report Revitalising Local Government	-
31 January 2014	Executive Meeting of Sydney Metropolitan Mayors <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
24 January 2014	Media Release: Sydney Metropolitan Mayors support No Forced Amalgamations	68
23 January 2014	Executive Meeting of Sydney Metropolitan Mayors <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-

23 January 2014	Sydney Metropolitan Mayors <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
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7 August 2013	Executive Sydney Metropolitan Mayors Group <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
22 July 2013	Mayoral Minute: <i>Local Government Review Panel – Submission to Future Directions Paper</i>	71
18 July 2013	Media Release: The no's have it. Woollahra residents strongly oppose amalgamation idea	75
17 July 2013	Metropolitan Mayors Group Meeting <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
July 2013	Micromex Survey July 2013 conducted on Amalgamations (see annexure as part of submission)	See Submiisson
3 July 2013	Wentworth Courier - Mayoral Column	77
26 June 2013	Metropolitan Mayors Group Meeting <i>Mayor and General Manager attended</i>	-
13 June 2013	Letterbox delivery Message from the Mayor "No Local benefits in a "global city" merger	78
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27 May 2013	Wentworth Courier to host community forum: Amalgamation attended by Mayor Petrie	-
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22 May 2013	Wentworth Courier - Mayoral Column	91
20 May 2013	Mayor Petrie Photo Shoot for Wentworth Courier with Lord Mayor Moore and Mayor Betts re: Amalgamations (outside City Town Hall)	-
13 May 2013	Notice of Motion: <i>from Councillor Robertson</i>	92

8 May 2013	Wentworth Courier - Mayoral Column	93
24 April 2013	Media Release: No Evidence that a “global city” will be good for Woollahra Residents	94
30 January 2013	Wentworth Courier - Mayoral Column	95

Letters of Feedback

18 March 2015	Bruce Bland
21 March 2015	Jennifer Turner
6 April 2015	Peter Poland
7 April 2015	John & Pat Howard
9 April 2015	Muriel Balkin
14 April 2015	Teresa Kiernan
15 May 2015	Kay Smith
29 May 2015	Fernanda Rodas
29 May 2015	Denis Ashton
1 June 2015	Pauline Calligeros
10 June 2015	Mark Silcocks
11 June 2015	Mark Silcocks



Extraordinary Council Meeting

Monday 29 June 2015

Subject

Fit for the Future Submission to IPART

Resolved Unanimously

- A. THAT Council adopt the Fit for the Future submission presented with this report, noting that the report demonstrates the Council is Fit for the Future against the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) assessment criteria.
- B. THAT the submission be lodged with IPART by 30 June 2015.
- C. THAT it be noted the Council's adopted position reflected in the submission is to pursue Woollahra Council remaining a stand-alone Council, after considering a range of merger options, on the basis that:
 - i. There is overwhelming community opposition to amalgamation and Council has responded to that opposition
 - a) 91% support keeping our local identity
 - b) 81% want Woollahra to remain a stand-alone council
 - c) 80% oppose any forced amalgamation
 - ii. There are no tangible benefits for Woollahra residents under amalgamation that cannot be delivered, or that are already being delivered under the current structure.
 - iii. NSW Treasury Corporation has confirmed that Woollahra is financially sustainable now and into the future.
 - iv. Woollahra meets five (5) of the seven (7) Fit for the Future quantifiable measures now and will meet all seven (7) by June 2016. This is four (4) years ahead of the 2020 target date.
 - v. Independent financial analysis indicates that none of the merger options achieve all seven (7) Fit for the Future measures.
 - vi. Amalgamation will result in significant and unacceptable rate rises for Woollahra ratepayers under current legislation with those increases funding rate decreases in Randwick.
 - vii. Pensioner rates will increase as they are not protected under current rating legislation.
 - viii. There is clear evidence in the State Government's 'A Plan for Growing Sydney – December 2014' that target infrastructure works for the Sydney Central Region are not in the Woollahra LGA and it is highly likely that additional funds generated through significant and unfair rate increases for ratepayers in Woollahra will be redirected under amalgamation to Randwick to progress major infrastructure projects.

- D. THAT the Council continues to pursue its very strong opposition to any forced amalgamation of Woollahra Council.
- E. THAT the Council's submission be provided to The Member for Vaucluse, the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP, The Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, and the Federal Member for Wentworth, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP.
- F. THAT a copy of the submission also be provided to the Mayors of Randwick, Waverley, Botany Bay and City of Sydney Councils.
- G. THAT the General Manager be authorised to make any minor amendments to the submission prior to lodgement.
- H. THAT Council's appreciation and thanks be extended to Professor Gary L. Sturges for his work in authoring Woollahra Council's Existing Structure Fit for the Future Business Case and for his attendance at Council's Extraordinary Meeting on 29 June 2015.

NO AMALGAMATION FOR WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPALITY



Woollahra Residents have spoken:

- > 81% support Woollahra Council to stand alone
- > 91% want to keep our local identity
- > 80% oppose a forced amalgamation with other councils

(independent survey by Micromex Research)

FIGHT TO SAVE WOOLLAHRA FROM TAKEOVER BY OTHER COUNCILS!!!

Woollahra councillors have listened to our residents and have voted unanimously **AGAINST** any amalgamation with other councils. Amalgamation with neighbouring councils will result in:

- **No tangible benefits for Woollahra residents**
- **Less local representation on an amalgamated council**
- **A loss of identity and diminished voice on local issues**
- **Big rate rises of up to \$25,000 per year**
- **Your rate INCREASES will REDUCE rates in Randwick**

NSW Treasury has confirmed Woollahra Council is financially strong now and into the future – WE CAN STAND ALONE!

What You Can Do

Say NO to amalgamation with our online petition at:

<https://www.change.org/p/save-woollahra-council>

As the NSW State Government will make the final decision on the amalgamation, you can make your position known to The NSW Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Paul Toole MP at office@toole.minister.nsw.gov.au

Inform our local state member The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP of your concerns at vaocluse@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Background

The NSW Government is undertaking a 'Fit for the Future' Local Government Reform Program. Woollahra Council may be forced to amalgamate with the City of Sydney, Randwick, Waverley and Botany Bay Councils to form a new 'Global City' Council, expected to have a combined population of more than 500,000 residents – the population of Tasmania.

Waverley Council supports a three council amalgamation with Randwick and Woollahra. **This amalgamation will effectively be a takeover of our municipality and would see annual Council rates rise by 22% to 53%, resulting in a total increase between \$7 million to \$17 million per year, based on the NSW Government rating legislation.**

These rate increases equate to a total sum of between \$70 million and \$170 million over the next 10 years – effectively transferring money from the pockets of Woollahra ratepayers to the pockets of adjoining ratepayers, the majority of whom are in Randwick.

The rate increases represent a significant, unjustifiable and unacceptable redistribution of rate revenue to Randwick ratepayers. This will occur because the average land value of a residential property in Woollahra is 2.2 times (222%) above the average land value of a residential property in Randwick and 1.7 (171%) above Waverley (see graph below).

Average Residential Land Value per Council ('000)



HELP US SAVE OUR WOOLLAHRA!!



Community Newspaper Awards
Newspaper of the year 2015

NEWSLOCAL

Wentworth Courier

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 | wentworthcourier.com.au | ESTABLISHED 1947

That's what these rich and powerful ratepayers say to Woollahra merging

Robbie Patterson

HIGH-PROFILE Woollahra ratepayers have given a resounding "no" to their council amalgamating.

And Woollahra Council last night launched a campaign to mobilise opposition to the State Government's Fit for the Future program.

Wentworth Courier surveyed prominent residents from Aussie executive chairman John Symond to former Rooster Anthony Minichiello and all agreed Woollahra had to retain its distinctive identity and fight against rate rises and loss of representation and services.



John Symond.



Theo Onisforou.



Brian White.



Bruce McWilliam.



Vince Sorrenti.



Mayor Toni Zeltzer and her deputy Greg Levenston.

United stance

Robbie Patterson

A WHO'S who of the Woollahra community has come out in support of their council and sent a strong message of no amalgamations.

From fashion designers to real estate royalty, respected experts in their fields have pushed for Woollahra Council to stand alone.

The Wentworth Courier survey comes as the council last night ramped up its campaign for independence.

More than 60 community groups attended a meeting with councillors to hatch a plan for an ongoing anti-amalgamation push.

And even those who are outspoken about over-governance, such as busi-

nessman Theo Onisforou and Aussie Home Loans boss John Symond, have backed the council.

Mr Symond said he had a "general view that in Australia we are over-governed". But he could not support Woollahra being merged unless services increased and rates did not.

Mr Onisforou, owner of the Intersection shopping strip on Oxford St, opposed a merger unless it was with City of Sydney because "it is the wealthiest council in Australia ... if it is not with them I am against it."

Joint chairman of Ray White real estate, Brian White, said: "One of the fabulous things about Woollahra Council is it has adop-

ted very distinctive identity with its district and the interaction (with) residents is quite unique".

Channel 7 commercial director Bruce McWilliam said he feared quality of service would fall in a merger.

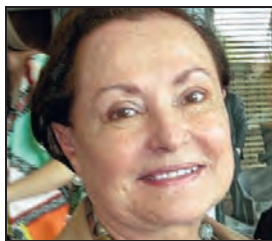
"You can only assume we will lose out if we became part of a broader local government area," he said.

Entertainer Vince Sorrenti was dead serious: "Amalgamation is a great deal for Waverley and Randwick, who clearly need us more than we need them."

Peter Wilding, managing director of Royal Hotels Australia, owner of the Inter-Continental Hotel Double Bay, said a merger was bad news for his business: "We



John Barbouttis.



Ainsley Gotto.



Sarah-Jane Clarke.



Mark Moran.



Peter Wilding.



Anthony Minichiello.



Prue MacSween.



Michael McMahon.

for staying single

COMMUNITY LEADERS OPPOSE AMALGAMATION

feel there is something unique in Double Bay in the way the council embraces the village ethos."

Former Roosters captain **Anthony Minichiello** has swapped the sands of Bondi for the views of Vaucluse. Now he wants neighbouring councils to keep their "hands off Woollahra".

Media commentator **Prue MacSween** feared it would mean "heavy rate rises and less representation"

Owner of Catalina restaurant **Michael McMahon** said the support he had received from Woollahra Council was second to none.

He said: "The council has

always helped us and been most supportive. We would never get that support from a merged super council."

Royal Australian Yacht Club commodore **John Barbouttis** said: "Each of the Woollahra, Waverley and Randwick municipalities have their own individual identities and that would not continue with amalgamation."

Public relations specialist **Ro Markson** said the council "invests in the local area, provides good councillor representation and has a deep understanding of issues peculiar to living on the harbour foreshore".

Former Private Secretary of Prime Minister John Gorton **Ainsley Gotto** said it "should be left alone to continue doing the good job it is doing."

Co-founder of Sass and Bide **Sarah-Jane Clarke** said the council had "always responded quickly to our neighbourhood needs" and a merger would not provide the same level of service or understanding.

Mark Moran is building a retirement village at Vaucluse. He said locals would suffer if they lost the "professionalism of the council and its officers" which is not "reflected in the other con-

nected government bodies".

Founder of fashion and lifestyle blog, *The Daily Edited*, **Alyce Tran** said the councils should be left separate. Investment banker and director of Pacific Road Capital Management **Paul Espie** said the council's "independence, local character and culture ... are essential parts of the rich fabric of our society."

Former NFL player **Col Scotts** argued locals would "lose our voice in a merged council".

Principal of Raine and Horne Double Bay and Bondi Beach **Ric Serrao** said he had "seen what happens when councils get bigger and I feel a lot of issues fall through the cracks".



Alyce Tran.



Paul Espie.



Col Scotts.



Ric Serrao.



**Deputy Mayor
Greg
Levenston**

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Residents Vote Against Amalgamation

Woollahra councillors have listened to the more than 80% of our residents and have voted unanimously AGAINST any amalgamation with other councils. Amalgamation with neighbouring councils will result in: no tangible benefits for Woollahra residents, less local representation on an amalgamated council, a loss of identity and diminished voice on local issues and rate rises of up to \$25,000 per year.

NSW Treasury has confirmed Woollahra Council is financially strong now and into the future. We can stand alone!

Say NO to amalgamation with our online petition at: www.change.org/p/save-woollahra-council

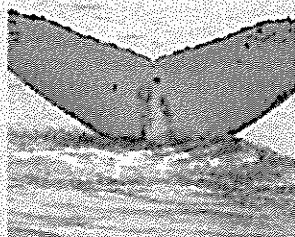
The Queen's Birthday 2015 Honours List

On behalf of Woollahra Council I would like to congratulate the following local residents who were recognised and awarded in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. The contribution they have individually and collectively made to the Australian community is immeasurable and we commend their hard work and commitment.

Emeritus Professor Terence Carney AO
Mr William Coleman AO
Mr Thomas Dery AO
Professor Bruce Brew AM
Mr Stephen Higgs AM
Conjoint Professor Florence Levy AM
Mr Robert Nation AM
Mrs Henrietta Hardy OAM
The late Mr Douglas Herps OAM
Mr Darvill Malcolm OAM
Mr Peter Poland OAM

Tis the Season for Whale Watching

Our seasonal whale watching walks allow participants to enjoy beautiful coastal vistas while searching for and identifying whales from the coastal cliff path in Vaucluse. The next walk will be held on Sunday, 21 June from 9am-11am. This is a free, one way walk from Lighthouse Reserve at Trigonometric Station to Gunyah. It is set at an easy grade, but is not suitable for wheelchairs or prams. No dogs are allowed. Bookings are essential. For more information visit: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/events.

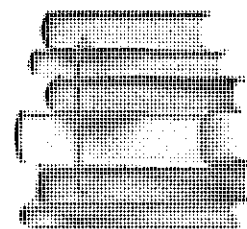


Design Excellence Awards - Entries Closing this Friday!

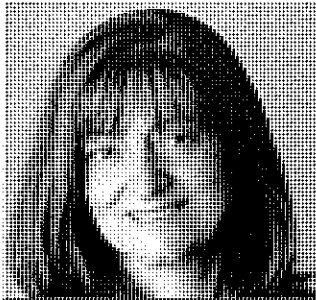
Entries are closing soon for the 2015 Woollahra Design Excellence Awards. Previously known as the Heritage Conservation Award, the awards have been expanded this year to include categories of contemporary design and sustainability, as well as heritage. The awards will highlight examples of commercial, residential, public and private buildings that make an excellent contribution to the built landscape. Local residents and their architects, planners, builders or consultants are encouraged to nominate projects completed in the last 4 years. The awards are free to enter. Complete details and award criteria are available at www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/designawards.

Woollahra Library Fine Amnesty

Return your overdue library books during the month of June and have your overdue fees waived as part of the 'Woollahra Library Fine Amnesty'. From 25 May to 30 June patrons returning outstanding items will be invited to make a \$2 donation in return for their library fines being waived. The amnesty is being held as a gesture of goodwill and applies across all Council libraries: Double Bay, Paddington and Watsons Bay, with the exception of the Local History Centre.



Wentworth Courier 3/06/15



Mayor
Toni
Zeltzer

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Out and About

Last night my fellow Councillors and I met with the leaders of many of Woolahra's community groups to outline Council's stand against amalgamation and to discuss the ramifications any forced merger would have on the residents of the municipality. It was great to see so many passionate local leaders turn up to have their say.

The meeting gave us the opportunity to present the facts on the State Government's fit for the future proposal and explain the real cost to ratepayers, which goes well beyond rates and the monetary considerations.

On Thursday I attended the opening of a wonderful new exhibition at the ArtSpace Gallery in Double Bay, featuring the works of Karen Berkecatis and Sculptor, Robyn Smith. The exhibition was launched by their excellencies, the Ambassador of Greece, Mr Nektarios Daskalakis and Mrs Eva Daskalakis. It will be open until June 8 and is well worth seeing, so I encourage you to get along if you have the opportunity.

Last week, Deputy Mayor Councillor Greg Leverston represented Council at the annual Pauline MacLeod Awards for Reconciliation and the Pauline MacLeod Primary School Art Competition Awards ceremony, which was held at Glades. The event was part of Reconciliation Week celebrations and was organised by the Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum, along with a large group of Sydney councils, including Woolahra. Congratulations to all the local students that submitted works in the Art Competition for the high standard of their entries.



**Invitation from the Mayor of Woollahra
to an Information Forum on Council Amalgamation
Tuesday 2 June 2015 7.00 pm**

I write to you in relation to an important matter impacting upon the future of our Woollahra Municipality – NSW Government's *'Fit for the Future'* Local Government Reform Programme. The recommendation for Woollahra Council under the reform program is that we amalgamate with the City of Sydney, Randwick, Waverley and Botany Bay Councils to form a new 'Global City' Council, expected to have a combined population of 670,000 residents by 2030.

Council has voted unanimously to oppose this proposal.

Faced with this recommendation for amalgamation, Woollahra Council must submit a proposal to the State Government by 30 June 2015, demonstrating that it is *"Fit for the Future"* against the Government's established assessment criteria.

The four (4) criteria are:

1. Scale and Capacity
2. Sustainability
3. Effectively managing infrastructure and delivering services for communities
4. Efficiency

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) have recently been appointed by the Government as the Expert Panel to undertake the assessment of council submissions against these criteria. IPART's determinations on whether councils are 'Fit' for the future or 'Unfit' will be reported directly to the State Government by the end of October, 2015.

Council has no concerns about meeting the seven (7) quantifiable measures that comprise criteria 2, 3 and 4 above.

However the State Government has determined that Scale and Capacity (Criteria 1 above) is the **'threshold'** criteria that submissions must first address. For Woollahra Council, this means that we must present a business case that demonstrates our proposal to stand-alone is 'superior' to the recommendation that we amalgamate into the new Global City Council.

We are aware that Randwick and Waverley Councils are seriously considering a merger proposal for themselves, with a further option to include Woollahra. Our Council will not entertain this option and plans to vigorously oppose any move in this direction. More specifically, Randwick Council's own modelling shows that, due to high land values in the Woollahra area, Woollahra ratepayers would face increases in annual rates of between 22% and 53%. Many properties in Woollahra will see a rate rise in excess of \$10,000 per year if a Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra merger was to proceed.

This rate increase equates to an amount between \$70 million and \$170 million over 10 years out of the pockets of Woollahra ratepayers in a Woollahra, Randwick, Waverley merger, if the Randwick and Waverley rating structures are applied.

These increases in rates in Woollahra will fund equivalent rate decreases for residents in Randwick.

This is totally unacceptable even in the event of any cost savings that 'may' result from that merger and for which there is no guarantee.

Our reasons for opposing any amalgamation are supported by:

- confirmation of Council's financial sustainability through a positive financial sustainability outlook rating from NSW Treasury Corporation,
- financial analysis and conclusions on merger options by the independent consultants Grant Thornton, and
- already strong community support for Woollahra Council to remain a stand-alone Council.

As this is a matter of unprecedented concern for the future of our Municipality, I am inviting you to an information forum I am holding with other community leaders and representatives at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 2 June 2015 at the Redleaf Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay. If you are not able to attend, we would be very pleased for you to send a representative of your group or organisation.

Please RSVP to my PA, Patricia Vella at patricia.vella@woollahra.nsw.gov.au or on 9391 7013.

More information and to fill out the Online survey visit Council's website <http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay>

I look forward to seeing you at this information forum.

Yours sincerely

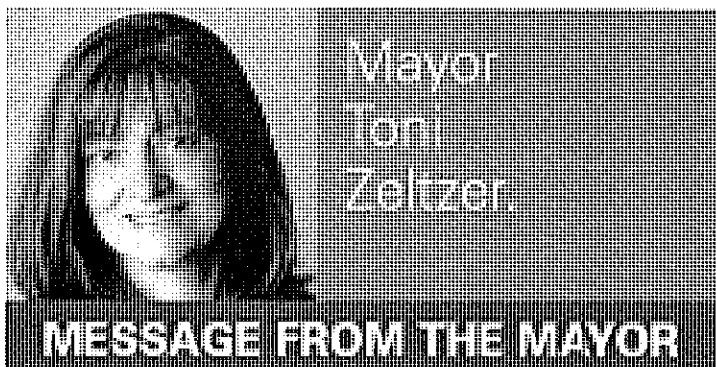


Cr Toni Zeltzer
Mayor of Woollahra

Invitation List for Community Leaders Briefing 2 June 2015

Bellevue Hill Resident Action Group
Business Network International Double Bay Chapter
Darling Point Edge
Darling Point Society
Discover Double Bay
Double Bay Chamber of Commerce
Double Bay Ladies Probus Club
Double Bay Marketing
Double Bay Networking Group
Double Bay Residents Association
Double Bay Working Party
Eastern Suburbs Time
Eastside Radio
Edgecliff Preservation Society
Harbour View Residents Group
Holdsworth Community
Latte Life
No High Rise in Double Bay
Oxford Street Working Party
Paddington Action Committee
Paddington DCP Working Party
Point Piper Residents
Queen Street & West Woollahra Association
Rose Bay Chamber of Commerce
Rose Bay Good Neighbour Group
Rose Bay Resident's Association Inc
Rushcutters Bay Foreshore Protection Association
Rushcutters Bay Park Enhancement Group
Sydney Standard
The Beast
The Greens Woollahra
The Paddington Society
The Residents First Party
The Watsons Bay Association
Vaucluse Progress Association
Watsons Bay Good Neighbour Group
Wentworth Courier
Woollahra History and Heritage Society Inc.
Woollahra Library Executive
Woollahra on Cooper Park N/Hood Watch

Wentworth Courier 27/05/15



Out and about

On Wednesday evening last week I attended the South Eastern Sydney Business Chamber Awards dinner at the Intercontinental Sydney Hotel in Double Bay. Congratulations to the Double Bay Chamber of Commerce, which was recognised at the awards for its good work and growing membership, and to all of the other worthy winners.

Last week I also attended Cusson Street West Woodlana Association's AGM and had the opportunity to speak about some of Council's key projects and activities, including our ongoing fight against amalgamation. I also discussed the upcoming Woodlana Design Excellence Awards and our new LEP and DCP documents, which come into effect last week. The Association does a great job representing local residents and businesses and I thank them for the opportunity to address the meeting. I also congratulate the outgoing president of the Association, Ken Giescham for his outstanding contribution over the last two decades and thank him for his passion and advocacy for the precinct. I welcome the new president Rosemary McDonald and look forward to working with her.

Questions for Next Meeting

Item No: 13
Subject: Questions for Next Meeting
Author: Gary James, General Manager
File No: 467.G/Q 10
Reason for Report: To allow Councillors to ask Questions for Next Meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

(Wynne/O'Regan)

15/8 That Councillors ask Questions for Next Meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Adopted

The following questions were asked:-

Councillor Bennett asking:

I noticed that on O'Sullivan Road a few of the boats have permits issued by Council to park the boats. Are we obliged to issue parking permits to boat owners in O'Sullivan Road and why?

Director Technical Services in response:

Madam Mayor, in brief there is quite a bit of history to this issue. When the Council introduced time limited parking in O'Sullivan Road which was done precisely to move on the boats there was a bit of push back from boat owners who lived in the street. So as a one-off at the time Council agreed that on that one site, the only site in the LGA, Council would issue permits to the boat owners who lived there to enable them to park boats in that street. It only applies to people who live on O'Sullivan Road.

Councillor Petrie asking:

Madam Mayor I have a series of questions. It relates to a letter that you received from Mayor Sally Betts from Waverley.

Mayor in response:

I only saw this letter at about five o'clock. It came into my inbox probably at about two thirty. Because I was having back to back meetings I only saw it quite late. I haven't had a huge amount of time to digest it but go ahead.

Councillor Petrie further asking:

Mayor Betts raises in paragraph two of her letter, which you have and I quote "the increase [in rates] of the magnitude that you suggest", being you Madam Mayor, "was the result of only one of fifty scenarios discussed by the three Councils".

My question to you is if Woollahra's unique rate system of 50% base rate and 50% ad valorem is changed to the singular ad valorem rating system of Randwick and Waverley, how is it possible for your statement that the majority of ratepayers in the Woollahra Municipality will get increases in their rates between \$1,000 and \$30,000 per annum, to be wrong?

Mayor further in response:

If you look at the brochure it says 5,500 properties will increase from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and then there will be some that will increase by as much as \$30,000 per annum. I don't think that we overstated what the impacts are going to be.

Councillor Petrie further asking:

Just to reiterate to give you some more opportunity to respond, if Woollahra's unique rates system of 50% base rate and 50% ad valorem becomes a singular ad valorem valuation between the Councils, how is it possible that your scenario and what you have pointed out is not correct?

Mayor further in response:

In fact if it became full ad valorem it would be higher than the scenario that I put forward. I will pass it to the General Manager to comment further.

General Manager responding:

Madam Mayor during this process Randwick modelled something like eighty (80) different scenarios, some of them within existing legislation, some of them outside of the current legislation, which would require appropriate changes.

What we have said all the way through this is that in the modelling we looked at our current modelling for Woollahra, we looked at the modelling and the current minimum rate for Waverley and we looked at the current modelling for Randwick with their minimum rate.

The scenario that we refer to is the difference that occurs between modelling ours, that is the base rate and that's where the smallest increase actually occurs, in the tune of about \$7 million, right up to the 53% which I think is the Randwick modelling [correction to Waverley Modelling] if their minimum rate is concerned. So we did look at all of them but the modelling that is referred to is based on the modelling that is in place at this point in time.

The reasoning behind that is that we presumed that each of those Councils would be in tune with what is the most appropriate rate modelling for that particular area. We said that if that was to apply across the whole of the merged area that would be the impact.

We were drawing attention to the fact in that based on representation of a newly merged Council, that our chances of pushing for a 50% rates base would be reduced purely and simply on the basis of representation. That is we would only have probably 3 Councillors out of 12. There would be 9 in the other areas which are strong advocates for minimum rates. So that is where those numbers actually come from.

Mayor further asking:

So the reduced representation of 3 Councillors out of 12 would mean that we would not be able to uphold that when it would disadvantage the others to go into our rating structure.

General Manager further responding:

The other point that I would like to make just in clarification, is having seen the letter there is a reference to a rating proposal in there that does not currently exist. That is a 70% base rate and that 70% base rate would require a change in legislation. I would also indicate that within that letter that in fact Waverley's rates do in fact increase under that particular scenario if that was actually dealt with.

Mayor further in response:

Just before you also go on Councillor Petrie I just want to bring attention as you brought it to the letter. In paragraph 3 where it says (and it has been written directly to me but it was circulated to the other Councillors): "I know that you were aware that these discussions have taken place with the State Government as you and I have also discussed". Now can I just elaborate on that further. I am certainly not aware and not privy to discussions going on between other Mayors and the State Government.

I have certainly gone to see my State and Federal Members to discuss the impacts on Woollahra. I have not gone anywhere beyond that. So I am not aware or privy to the discussions going on and any undertakings having been given if they are not public.

If they are not public and formalised I cannot take those into account when distributing information to anyone because they are not concrete. I am not aware of the discussions.

Councillor Betts also says that "there have been discussions between myself and herself and our General Managers etc. etc." I have to go back to the question asked by Councillor Matthew Robertson. [at a previous Council meeting]. Have I had any of these discussions with Councillor Betts? I have not entered into any discussions on amalgamations with Councillor Betts. I have met her at WAYS and other functions but I have never gone into discussions with Councillor Betts at any time regarding these.

The last time we spoke formally about amalgamations was when the General Manager and the Acting General Manager and I had a meeting which was probably the third meeting in a line to look at the model that was actually proposed by Randwick, to see how it panned out for us.

Now there are also accusations that I withheld information from Councillors. You must be aware and some Councillors have identified immediately when they received this letter, that I circulated the model that was proposed by Randwick as soon as we received it and you had every opportunity to have input which you did.

I felt that this letter which was circulated to all of you and was also circulated to me did not really cover the situation correctly at all.

Now Councillor Petrie go ahead.

Councillor Petrie asking:

Madam Mayor, this question requires a different answer.

Did you and Senior Staff ever agree to quote Mayor Betts, "That the three Councils preferred transition option would be for all three Councils to retain their own rating systems of rates for the first term of the new amalgamated Council". Considering we have opposed any forced amalgamation between the three Councils, is this true?

Mayor in response

No it is not true. Under no circumstance have we ever committed to a merger with those two Councils. We certainly undertook some modelling together. I thought that that was fair and it was something that was committed to before I became the Mayor.

There has never been an undertaking that we had a preferred option other than to stand alone and the reason for that is very clear. I certainly would not have made an undertaking on behalf of my community. Firstly, when I entered the mayoral role there was a pre-existing survey that already said that our community was 84% against amalgamations. There is no way that we would have had a preferred position that that's what we were going to have, whether it was in transition or otherwise.

Secondly, in all honesty if there was some conversation about transition I cannot imagine that the Councils themselves would have been able to ask the State Government to freeze their rates for any period of time so I do not know how that comment could be made at all.

Councillor Petrie asking:

My final question. Madam Mayor are you aware of Minister Toole's statements as quoted in the Daily Telegraph on the 21st May 2015?

He is quoted as saying, "The accumulated budget of NSW Councils is \$12 billion per annum." He then goes on to say that that "\$12 billion dollars could build 24 major hospitals, a harbour tunnel or 5 airports a year".

Does this say that Minister Toole is suggesting that all Councils should be abolished? The only way he is going to get \$12 billion every year to build 24 hospitals, a harbour tunnel or 5 airports is to abolish all Councils.

My question to you is maybe you could ask for clarification to his statement? The statement, apart from being absurd, is suggesting that he is abolishing all Councils.

Mayor in response

Can I say that I am aware of that bit of material in the media. What he is actually proposing is that the cost saving out of the mergers through the IT departments and otherwise would have a cost saving of 15% through Councils.

But if you look at the City of Sydney who merged with South Sydney, they are still so many years down the track, it is almost a decade or more. They have not got their IT divisions under control. So I actually disagree with that statement completely. It is not backed up with any evidence.

Councillor Cavanagh asking:

Last February I proposed a motion which was passed to fast track business development applications. Would you please update the Councillors on the progress to fast track development applications and if the process is now in place? Given the difficult trading times, especially in Paddington, this was urgent then and it is even more urgent now.

Director Planning and Development in response:

Madam Mayor I will take that on notice. The answer is a more complex one than it might seem. I think it is better if I do take it on notice.

Councillor Marano asking:

Madam Mayor, to follow up on Councillor Petrie's comments and tonight's debate, will you be writing to Mayor Sally Betts with the correct information regarding the potential rate rises?

Mayor in response:

I received the letter quite late in the piece. I have asked the General Manager that we make a response formally to her tomorrow. We will try and do that in the first part of the day. What I don't want Councillors, given that we are dealing with preserving our Council, is for it to be a slanging match between Mayors. I have never believed in that kind of approach under any circumstances.

I am getting the feeling from the Councillors that received the letter from Mayor Sally Betts that I must respond to the letter. I am very comfortable to respond. I feel that I have answered a lot of the questions directly relating to the letter this evening. I am very happy to make a formal response to Mayor Sally Betts by midday tomorrow.

Councillor Petrie further responding:

Can I just follow on from Councillor Marano's question to you. Can I suggest that the questions for the next meeting relating to this issue and responses from you Madam Mayor which will become part of the minutes of this meeting be sent to the Mayor of Waverley and also the Mayor of Randwick?

You made replies Madam Mayor which are very important to the way that this Council feels. Can I reiterate that rather than send a letter to Mayor Betts, that the minutes of this meeting and your responses should be sent to the Mayor of Waverley and Randwick?

Mayor further responding:

Yes I think that we will do that. If you don't mind I will include the General Manager's input as well as he attended the meetings with me. I have not had any private meetings. The meetings I attended were also attended either by the General Manager or the Director Corporate Services. I do give an undertaking that we will have a letter out to Mayor Sally Betts by midday tomorrow.

Councillor O'Regan asking:

Can you please advise as to the status of the use of the Lough Playing Fields. I understand that there have been a number of complaints lodged, particularly about the soccer being played there on a Sunday. What (if any) issues have been raised?

Has the Council taken any action or is it intending to change the access or use of those fields? If there is any proposed change to the current use, will that actually involve some community consultation?

Director Technical Services in response:

Madam Mayor, firstly I will refer the Councillors to an email sent by Paul Fraser, Council's Manager, Open Space and Trees which was sent to all Councillors this afternoon relating to this issue.

The upshot is there is a group called the Goal Sport Academy. This group has been using the Lough Playing Fields during summer and winter, with a fairly high degree of intensity.

Yes, there were some complaints from the local community about that intensity of use.

As a consequence staff from Council went and had a look at the site on a Sunday. They spoke to the Academy about their usage of the fields. It was agreed after those discussions by Council staff and members of the Academy that a way forward would be for the summertime activity to be transferred to Lyne Park.

My understanding is that the Academy is very happy with this arrangement. Prior to this being advised to the Academy and the parents, a lot of emails were forwarded to Councillors as there was an understanding that something was going to be decided tonight. This was never the case. Hence the volume of emails.

As of this afternoon our staff have been in contact with the Academy and an agreement has been reached for the Academy to use the Lough Playing Fields in winter and move to the Lyne Park in summer. I understand that both parties are very happy with this arrangement.

The complaints were about parking and intensification of use and noise, generally the sorts of complaints that come with high intense sports field use.

I hasten to add though that Council staff are not of the view that the goal soccer firm did anything wrong. We have a great relationship with them and they are truly professional.

Final Commentary from the Mayor:

Before I close this evening there is one thing that I have not said with regards to the communications that our three Councils (Woollahra, Waverley and Randwick Councils) had when we started doing the modelling.

I feel that I need to make this known. One would ask why our Council would be interested in going into discussions with Randwick and Waverley regarding a three council merger when our community was saying that they were opposed to merging?

We approached it in this way. To best represent the interests of our community we needed to be open to options put to us to see if there were any benefits. We went with an open mind and if there were any benefits then we would make those known to the community of Woollahra.

If the community felt that they wish to support those then we would support the community on that.

However through our communications and going to those meetings we found it very difficult to find any benefits for the community of Woollahra.

We found a level of cost shifting where the rates of Woollahra would in fact cross subsidise works happening in other council areas. We didn't think that was fair or equitable for our local residents.

This is why we originally entered into those discussions, negotiations and modelling, thinking that there might be something in it. Instead of the Global City Model, we looked at this smaller model to see if there was anything in it for Woollahra. It just didn't shape up, it didn't stack up for our Woollahra ratepayers. In the end they are whom we are elected to serve.

Additional Note After Close of the Ordinary Council Meeting

After the meeting the Mayor advised that she had also met with Minister Toole on one occasion.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.40 pm.

We certify that the pages numbered 1484 to 1501 inclusive are the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Woollahra Municipal Council held on 25 May 2015 and confirmed by Council at the ordinary Meeting of Council on 22 June 2015 as correct.

General Manager

Mayor

Media release

19 May 2015

Woollahra
Municipal
Council



Residents support Fit for the Future fight

Woollahra residents have delivered their verdict on the subject of amalgamation, expressing a clear preference that Woollahra Council remains stand-alone in an independent telephone survey commissioned by the council.

The survey was conducted as part of the development of Woollahra Council's *Fit for the Future* submission to the State Government, along with an online survey on Council's website which has so far returned very similar results.

An overwhelming 91% of residents that took part in the telephone survey expressed that 'local identity' and 'local representation' was important to them, and 81% said they support Woollahra Council standing alone. In addition, 80% said that they supported Council's opposition to forced amalgamation.

"Our residents have told us very clearly that they want us to fight to retain Woollahra's independence and to resist any move towards the forced amalgamation of our council and that is what we will do," said Woollahra Mayor, Councillor Toni Zeltzer.

"If Woollahra is forced to amalgamate our residents can expect to pay from \$70 million to \$170 million in additional rates over the next decade, with these increases reflected directly by equally large rate decreases in Randwick. In return for this huge increase in rates, Woollahra residents will receive greatly reduced Councillor representation and no guarantee that the money raised in Woollahra will be invested in their local area."

"I have written to Randwick and Waverley Councils and made it clear Woollahra has no interest in entering into an amalgamation with them, as proposed recently by Randwick Council. Our community has told us that they are strongly opposed to amalgamation and I and my fellow Councillors voted unanimously to defend Woollahra's strong case for standing alone," said the Mayor.

Woollahra Council has been asked to consider entering into a voluntary amalgamation with neighbouring councils as part of the State Government's Local Government reform program, or justify how it will be more *Fit for the Future* by standing alone.

Under the main model put forward by the State Government Woollahra Council would become part of a 'Global City' along with the City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Randwick and Waverley Councils. Such a mega council would have an estimated population of more than half a million people. A merger between Woollahra, Randwick and Waverley would result in a population of 270,000.

Council has been independently assessed as achieving all seven (7) of the benchmarks set by the State Government as measures of council sustainability and efficiency. Modelling indicates it would in fact be less efficient if it merged with its neighbours.

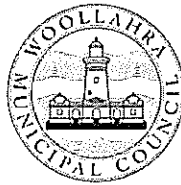
"The *Fit for the Future* program promotes the idea that bigger councils are better, and that size equals capacity, however we do not agree with that assessment," said Councillor Zeltzer.

"There is no research anywhere to support the 'bigger is better' argument, while strong evidence does exist to debunk claims that size equals capacity and efficiency. Across the Sydney metropolitan area it is the larger councils that have the weaker report cards in financial sustainability when compared to the smaller, well-run councils like Woollahra."

"Our community is telling us that the Woollahra Municipality is already the right size. This view is supported by the NSW Treasury and Council's own evidence, and we will be presenting a strong case for remaining independent," said the Mayor.

The online survey on amalgamation is still open at Council's website (www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au) and Woollahra residents are urged to have their say. Council's formal response to the State Government on *Fit for the Future* is due by June 30.

Media contact: Terry Aylett, Senior Communications Officer, 9391 7057.



Letter to the Editor of the Wentworth Courier – 19 May 2015

Last week, via the media, Randwick Mayor, Councillor Ted Seng called for a merger between his council, Woollahra and Waverley. Given that any such merger would result in huge rate increases for Woollahra residents, and equally large rate decreases for Randwick residents, our answer is no thank you.

Our residents have made it perfectly clear that their preference is for Woollahra to remain a strong, stand-alone Council, and as elected representatives of our community, my fellow Councillors and I will continue to fight for our residents' right to strong local representation.

One of the key factors behind Randwick's support for amalgamation is the claim of large cost savings, however the same savings that will benefit Randwick and Waverley residents would come at a high cost for the people of Woollahra in the form of huge rate hikes.

Randwick's own modelling shows that due to high land values in our area, Woollahra ratepayers would face rate increases of between 22% and 53% if the proposed amalgamation was to proceed. This equates to between \$70 million and up to \$170 million out of the pockets of Woollahra ratepayers over the next 10 years, if Randwick and Waverley rating structures were applied. These increases will fund equivalent rate decreases for residents in Randwick.

In return for this huge financial hit, Woollahra ratepayers would receive greatly reduced Councillor representation and no guarantee that their rate increases will be reinvested in their local area.

Woollahra Council supports sensible local government reform but this should not include amalgamation because NSW Treasury has determined that we are financially strong, now and in the future and that we meet all of the sustainability tests for standing alone.

Recently we commissioned a second, independent survey on the subject of amalgamation and local residents made it very clear they strongly support Council remaining independent. An overwhelming 91% of residents expressed that 'local identity' and 'local representation' was of importance to them, and 81% said they support Woollahra Council standing alone.

I can see how a merger between Randwick and Waverley could work and we wish our neighbours well, should they choose to take that path. However our community has delivered us a strong message that they wish to remain independent. We have listened to that message and we will fight any attempts to force change upon us, simply for the sake of change.

Councillor Toni Zeltzer
Mayor of Woollahra Municipal Council

Notices of Motion

Item No: 1
From: Councillors Petrie, Wynne and Zeltzer
Date: 6 May 2015
File No: 900.G

(Petrie/Wynne)

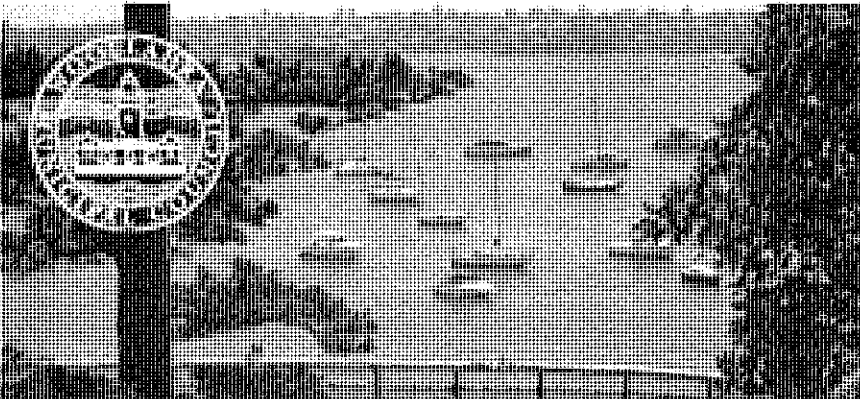
15/7 **Resolved:**

A. THAT having regard to:

- Council's strong financial sustainability rating by NSW Treasury Corporation,
- Consultants Grant Thornton's financial conclusions of all mergers options involving neighbouring Councils,
- the outcomes of the recent Community Survey where residents voiced their strong opposition to any amalgamation and expressed strong support for Woollahra to remain as a stand-alone Council,
- the likely significant increases in residential rates arising from a merger because of this Council's very high land values and,
- the loss of its locality identity which local residents attach to identifying with "Woollahra Council",

this Council continue to prepare its submission to the State Government as a stand-alone Council, resisting all options involving amalgamations.

- B. THAT the Mayor be requested to continue with any appropriate action to ensure the local community is actively involved and fully informed of the Council's position through local workshops, public meetings, local press and other forms of electronic media.
- C. THAT following Council's final consideration of its formal response which is required to be lodged with the Expert Panel appointed to assess Fit For the Future (FFF) prior to June 30 2015, Council's FFF submission be placed on public exhibition and all efforts be made to ensure there are adequate responses reflecting the community's support or otherwise to the Council's submission.
- D. THAT the Local State Member, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP and the Federal Member, The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP be requested to indicate their support for Council and make representations on Council's behalf having regard to the matters identified in A above.
- E. THAT Council authorise the funding required to implement any actions arising from this motion.
- F. THAT the Mayors of Waverley and Randwick Councils be advised of this Council's resolution to submit a standalone option to the Expert Panel assessing FFF proposals and they be requested not to include Woollahra Council in any preferred option or alternate options they are proposing which include this Council in an unsupported merger proposal.



What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra's future?

- > Loss of local identity
- > Reduced local representation
- > Rate increases
- > No guarantee of service benefits
- > Strong community opposition

Let's work to
show you what
we think
our future
is

20 April

Have your say on Woollahra's future

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

**There is still time to have your say on
amalgamation and the future of your local area.**

Have your say on Woollahra's future

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

Thank you to the hundreds of residents and business representatives who have already lodged their views on local government amalgamations via our online survey. We have extended the deadline for survey submissions until April 30, so there is still plenty of time to have your say.

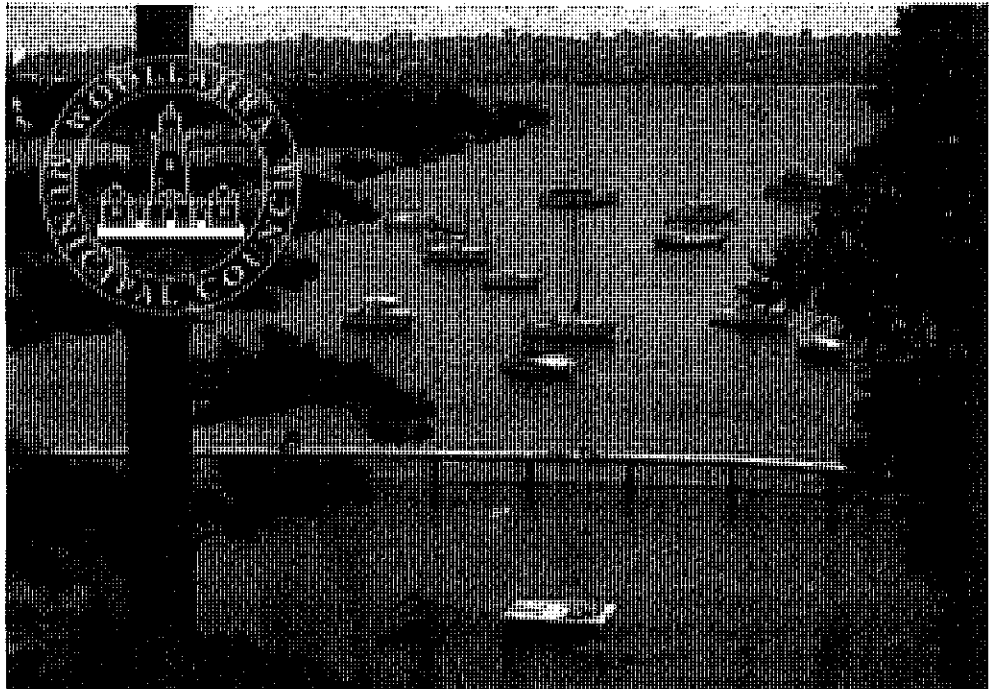
Preliminary feedback from our telephone and online surveys indicates strong community opposition to the amalgamation of Woollahra Council. There is significant support to remain a stand-alone council, which is financially sustainable into the future and which values strong local representation and maintaining its local identity.

If you have not already shared your views on local council amalgamations please visit our website before the end of the month – www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay.

Your feedback will help inform our submission to the State Government which will be presented at the end of June. Your community, your future. Please take a few minutes to have your say.

Friday, March 27, 2015

NEWS 15
The Australian Jewish News – jewishnews.net.au



What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra's future?

- > Loss of local identity
- > Reduced local representation
- > Rate increases
- > No guarantee of service benefits
- > Strong community opposition

*Please share
your views via
our online survey
before 7 April*

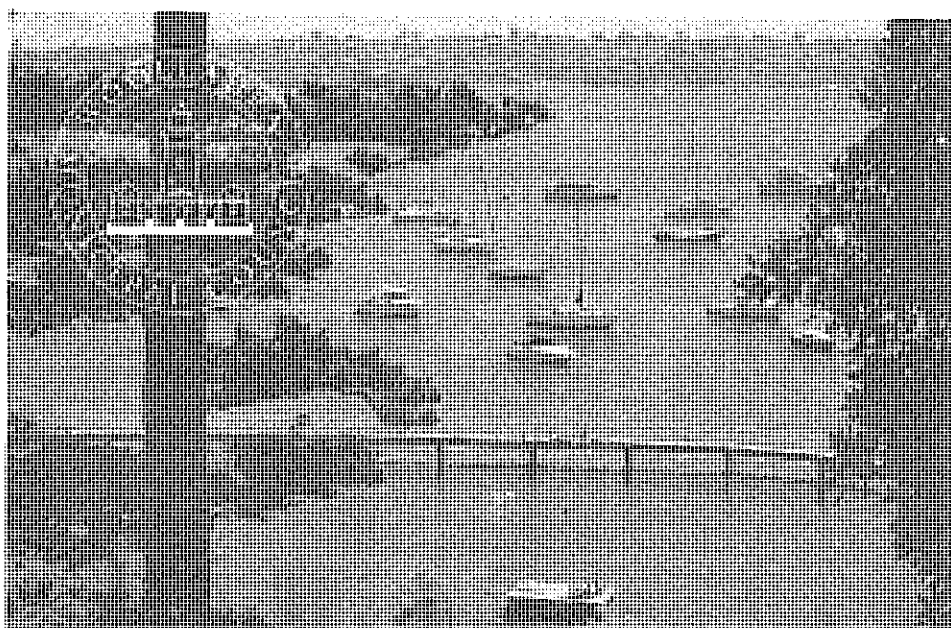
Have your say on Woollahra's future

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

LOCAL INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

EASTERN SUBURBS TIMES

Darlinghurst/Double Bay/Dover Heights/Edgecliff/Kings Cross/Paddington/Rose Bay/Vaucluse/Woollahra



What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra's future?

- > Loss of local identity
- > Reduced local maintenance
- > High increases
- > No guarantee of service benefits
- > Strong community resistance

Please share
your views on
our online survey
before 7 April

Have your **say** on Woollahra's future

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

MARCH 2015

HAVE YOUR SAY

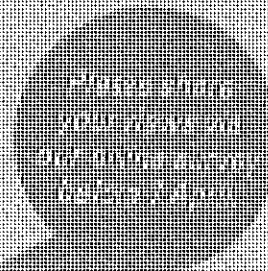
Woollahra Council rates could rise between 22% and 53% if the Council amalgamates with its neighbours, as a consequence of the State Government's Fit for the Future Local Government Reform program. Independent model-

ling indicates that many Woollahra ratepayers face rate increases between \$1,000 and \$10,000 per annum if an amalgamation with surrounding Councils was to precede.

To have your say visit:
www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/lgreform.

What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra's future?

- Loss of local identity
- Reduced local representation
- Loss of local jobs
- Loss of local services
- Loss of local amenities
- Loss of local character
- Loss of local history
- Loss of local culture
- Loss of local traditions
- Loss of local customs
- Loss of local values
- Loss of local beliefs
- Loss of local attitudes
- Loss of local behaviours
- Loss of local norms
- Loss of local mores
- Loss of local customs
- Loss of local traditions
- Loss of local culture
- Loss of local history
- Loss of local identity



Have your say on Woollahra's future

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/lgreform



Woollahra Council



Mayor
Toni
Zeltzer.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Have your say on amalgamation and the future of your community

Have your say on Woollahra's future
www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Despite continued community opposition to amalgamation and Woollahra's position as a financially strong and stable stand-alone council, the State Government has asked our Council to consider amalgamation as part of its *Fit for the Future* Local Government Reform Program.

Council is opposed to amalgamation and believes there are no demonstrated benefits for Woollahra residents, many of whom will face significant rate increases and a reduction in local representation.

Get all the facts on what amalgamation means for Woollahra's future and share your views by visiting www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay and completing an online survey before April 7. Micromex Research will also be conducting a telephone survey of randomly selected residents on Council's behalf this month to seek local feedback.

This is your community and your future, so please take action before it is too late.

Out and About

Last week I attended a meeting of Sydney Mayors in Parramatta where we had a productive discussion about metropolitan planning. There was also a focus on *Fit for the Future*, the issues it raises, and how councils are preparing their submissions to this State Government on the Local Government Reform Program.

I was very happy, last Wednesday, to attend the opening of Christopher Stockdale and Jeanette Woerner's new eatery, Little Jean at Kiaora Place. The restaurant is an excellent addition to the thriving Double Bay food scene.

On Thursday I was honoured to speak at the launch of a unique portrait exhibition at the Mark Moran Design Studio in Vaucluse. The exhibition of photographs by Prue Ruscoe during Seniors' Week, depicted the strength and diversity of senior Australians. It was a delight to catch up with Mark and Evette Moran, Jane Ferguson and local seniors, including an inspirational resident, Lola (pictured left). Lola has a fantastic attitude to ageing.



Environmental Planning And Assessment Act 1979

Exhibition of a planning proposal for 83 and 83A Yarranabbe Road, Darling Point to amend Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014

The planning proposal is to amend Woollahra LEP 2014 by making the following changes to the planning controls that apply to the land:

- Increase the floor space ratio (FSR) from 0.9:1 to 1.2:1
 - Increase the maximum building height from 10.5m to 15.2m and apply a second height of 5.7m at the highest part on 83 Yarranabbe Road
 - Increase maximum building height from 10.5m to 15.2m over part of 83A Yarranabbe Road
 - Amend the foreshore building line from 30m to 18m for residential flat building and multi dwelling housing
- The land is zoned R3 Medium Density Residential. No change to the zone is proposed. The proposed changes to the FSR, height and foreshore building line will facilitate redevelopment for a residential flat building.

Details of the public exhibition of the planning proposal and supporting material are:

Dates: Wednesday, 25 March – Friday, 8 May 2015

Location: Woollahra Council Administration Offices - Customer Service Centre
536 New South Head Road, Double Bay - 8am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday

Online: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au in the 'Have your say' section.

Written submissions on the planning proposal are invited. Submissions quoting reference: **SC2501 Plan Prop** should be addressed to the General Manager, Woollahra Council, PO Box 61 Double Bay, NSW 1360 or emailed to records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au. Submissions must be received by **4.30pm on Friday, 8 May 2015**.

For more information contact Council's Strategic Planners on 9391 7087.

Privacy notification:

Please see PRIVACY NOTIFICATION on this page.

Tender SC2769 Salisbury Road, Rose Bay - Streetscape Improvements

Woollahra Council invites suitably qualified parties to tender for the following work: Salisbury Road, Rose Bay - Streetscape Improvements. Works include the reconstruction of road infrastructure and the installation of a stormwater pit and pipe system.

A Pre-Tender meeting will be held at Council on Wednesday, 15 April at 9:00am. Proceedings of the meeting will only be circulated to those who attend or register for this tender.

The works to be undertaken in this contract are described in the Tender Document which can be downloaded at no charge from www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au - under the 'Council' tab, and then 'Tenders & Purchasing'. Hard copies are available from Council's Customer Service Area for \$150.

All interested tenderers must register their phone, fax and email details with the tender number for the relevant job to: records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au prior to the Pre-Tender meeting.

Tenders must be placed in a sealed envelope with the project name and tender number clearly marked, and lodged by 2:30pm on Thursday, 23 April 2015 in the Tender Box at the Customer Service Area of the Council, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay (open between 8:00am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday).

Costs incurred in preparing tenders will not be reimbursed. Tenders will be evaluated on the selection criteria detailed in the tender documentation. The lowest, or any tender will not necessarily be accepted. All enquiries regarding the tender should be directed to Council's Project Manager, Peter Cassillies on 0417 269 436.

Meetings for April 2015

Monday 6 April	Public Holiday	N/A
Tuesday 7 April	Application Assessment Panel	3:00pm
Monday 13 April	Urban Planning Committee	6:00pm
	Community & Environment Committee	6:00pm
	Council Meeting	8:00pm
Tuesday 14 April	Application Assessment Panel	3:00pm
Monday 20 April	Development Control Committee	6:00pm
	Corporate & Works Committee	6:00pm
Tuesday 21 April	Application Assessment Panel	3:00pm
Wednesday 22 April	DCC Site Inspections	8:00am
Monday 27 April	Urban Planning Committee	6:00pm
	Community & Environment Committee	6:00pm
	Council Meeting	8:00pm
Tuesday 28 April	Application Assessment Panel	3:00pm

Immunise your child for free

Woollahra Council holds free Immunisation Clinics to protect children from the age of two months for four years against diseases such as Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella, Hepatitis B, Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b), Meningococcal C, Pneumococcal, Rotavirus and Varicella (Chicken Pox). All parents are invited to take advantage of this free service.

These clinics are held at the Double Bay Early Childhood Health Centre, 1 Cross Street, Double Bay on the first Wednesday of every month. No appointment is necessary.

The next clinic is to be held on **Wednesday, 1 April 2015 from 1.45pm to 3.30pm**. It is important that parents and carers bring along the child's Medicare Card and Blue Book.

Parents are reminded that should an outbreak of an infectious disease occur non-immunised children may be excluded from their kindergarten/school until the outbreak is over.

For further information please contact Woollahra Council on 9391 7000.

Notice of Proposed Development

New Development Applications and Applications to Modify Development Consents have been lodged at the following sites:-

New Development Applications

DA0058/15	209 Underwood Street PADDINGTON
Applicant:	In Vision Design
Alterations and additions to existing cottage including rear ground floor extension; modifications of the existing studio to the rear of the site and pool to the rear	
DA0070/15	451 New South Head Road DOUBLE BAY (aka Kiaora Lands Development)
Applicant:	E & A Holding Australia Pty Ltd
Fitout of the premises for Sushi Maru licensed restaurant with hours of 10am to 10pm Mon-Sat and 10am-9pm Sun	
DA0074/15	15 Dumaresq Road ROSE BAY
Applicant:	Mr D B Studdy
Reconstruction of existing garage and new entry gate and stair wells	
DA0093/15	453-457 New South Head Road DOUBLE BAY
Applicant:	McCredie Group
Alterations to a shop (Kidstuff) to provide rear access and additional signage and a new ramp (replacing a step) for the New South Head Road entry	
DA0094/15	57 Balfour Road BELLEVUE HILL
Applicant:	Mr R Chapman
Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a dual occupancy comprising of two dwellings with integral garages and swimming pools to the rear setback	
DA0096/15	21 Bulkara Road BELLEVUE HILL
Applicant:	Mr P Wilsher

Extend rear balcony incorporating store room, plants

DA0097/15 12 Cor

Applicant: Ms K I

Construct new layback & cross

DA0098/15 43 Uni

Applicant: Andre

Alterations & additions the grot

DA0099/15 19 Ho

Applicant: Ms N

Alterations and additions to the

DA0100/15 139 R

Applicant: Mr R L

Attic conversion with new rear

DA0101/15 10 Kia

Applicant: Ms A

Alterations and additions includ

DA0102/15 37 We

Applicant: CSA A

New front fence and the remov

DA0103/15 17 Car

Applicant: Robins

Demolition of existing dwelling

DA0104/15 88 Oxf

Applicant: Halcyo

Alterations to windows and doc

DA0105/15 6 Kulg

Applicant: Luigi F

Alterations & additions to existir

DA0106/15 392 Ox

Applicant: lyoga i

Trading hours of yoga studio (St

DA0107/15 15 Hari

Applicant: Mr J S

Alterations and additions to the e

DA0108/15 19 Jun

Applicant: Mr M A

Internal and external modifica

DA0109/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

New side fence & entry gate

DA0110/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Delete approved timber scree

DA0111/15 19 Jun

Applicant: Mr M A

Internal and external modifica

DA0112/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0113/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0114/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0115/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0116/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0117/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0118/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0119/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0120/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0121/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0122/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

DA0123/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

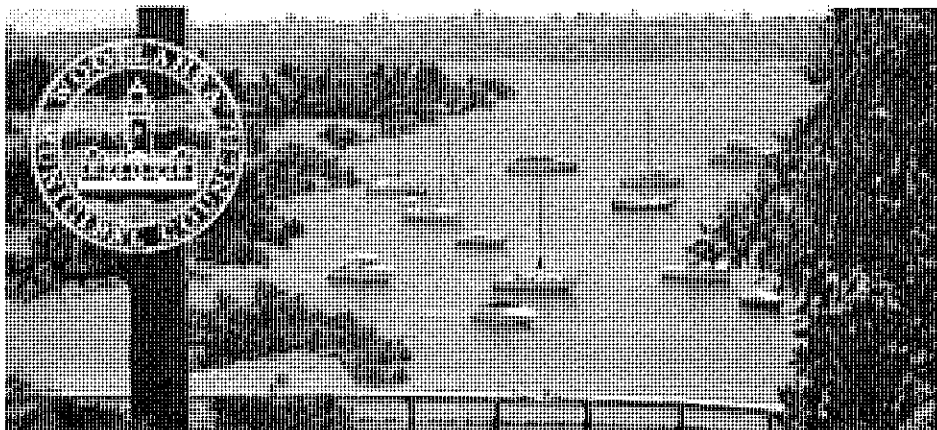
DA0124/15 2 Loch

Applicant: Mrs M

Alterations & additions to exist

25/03/15 Wentworth Courier

Wentworth Courier 25/3/15



What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra's future?

- > Loss of local identity
- > Reduced local representation
- > Rate increases
- > No guarantee of service benefits
- > Strong community opposition

Have your say
on the future of
Woollahra.
Before it is
too late.

Information packs have been
distributed to ratepayers and
a copy is available online

Have your say on Woollahra's future
www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au



Mayor
Toni
Zeltzer.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Out and About

Council celebrated International Women's Day last Wednesday with the unveiling of a plaque in Paddington honouring the memory of Rose Scott. Rose lived most of her life in the Woollahra Municipality and was a prominent member of the women's rights movement around the turn of the 20th century. I was honoured to be joined at the unveiling by former NSW Governor, Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, along with my fellow Councillors, Anthony Marano and Luise Elsing.



On Wednesday evening Cr Marano represented me at the Woollahra-Waverley SES annual Awards Ceremony and Dinner. The ceremony was held at our Council Chambers and was also attended by Waverley Mayor, Sally Betts and SES Deputy Commissioner, Greg Newton. Thank you to SES Local Controller, Kim Edwards, and congratulations to all the SES volunteers that were awarded for the wonderful work they do in our community.

Have your say on council amalgamation

Following recommendations made by an Independent Local Government Review Panel to the State Government, Woollahra Council has been asked to consider a voluntary 'global city' amalgamation with City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Waverley and Randwick Councils, or one of a number of other amalgamation options with our neighbouring councils.

Woollahra residents are proud of to be part of this municipality and have previously indicated their clear preference for remaining a stand-alone council.

As a strong, financially stable council, Woollahra is opposed to amalgamation as we believe it offers no demonstrated benefits for our ratepayers. We believe it will in fact lead to a marked reduction in local representation and a significant increase in residential rates due to higher land values in our municipality. Residents will soon be receiving a brochure from Council explaining our position on the *Fit for the Future* reform program and detailing our opposition to amalgamation.

Council has to submit its response to the *Fit for the Future* program by June 30 and we want to know your views on amalgamation. We have engaged Micromex Research to conduct a random telephone survey on our behalf, and we are also seeking residents' feedback via a brief online survey on our website - www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au. **The survey will be open until April 7** and feedback received will help Council form its response to the State Government.

This is an important issue for our community and I urge you to have your say.

A Festival of Fusion in Five Ways

Paddington's Five Ways will be holding a series of events throughout 2015 where people are invited to discover the excellent variety of goods and services offered by local businesses in the precinct.

The first event will be held on **Saturday, March 21 from 11am until 6pm**. A wide range of activities are planned for this family fun day, including food and wine tasting, live music and the Paddington Dog Show.

For more information contact Anna Field on 0424 159 080 or email: anna@thepaddingtonbeautyroom.com.au.

Check your enrolment for State Election

On **Saturday, March 28** NSW voters will go to the polls for the next state election. Voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens over 18 years old. If you have not yet enrolled to vote, or if you have moved recently and need to update your details visit: www.votensw.info for more information.

Notice of Propose

New Development Applications and Applications have been lodged at the following sites:-

New Development

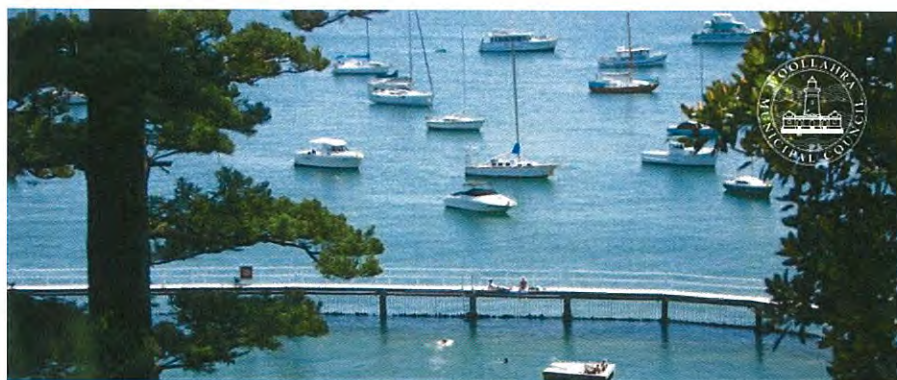
- DA0051/15** 877 New South Head Rd
Applicant: Ms K M Peik
New second floor addition to the existing dw
- DA0065/15** 32 Cascade Street PADD
Applicant: Ms S M Fraser
Alterations and additions to existing terrace ground floor and upgraded storage for waste
- DA0079/15** 26 Courtenay Road ROS
Applicant: Mr R & Mrs V Handelsm
The enclosure of the rear verandah, a new c walkway to connect the dwelling and garage
- DA0080/15** 202 Oxford Street PADD
Applicant: Jake Dowse Architects
New ancillary cafe use within the rear part o kitchen facilities and 34 seats
- DA0081/15** 94 Hargrave Street PADI
Applicant: Ms E Livingstone
Demolish existing carport structure & constr area above
- DA0082/15** 37 Wallaroy Road WOOL
Applicant: Brooke Aitken Design
Alterations and additions to the existing dwe rear of the house
- DA0083/15** 4 Suttie Road BELLEVUE
Applicant: Dr R & Mrs E R Gertler
Alterations and additions to the existing dwe garage, new lift and an addition to the front
- DA0084/15** 157-159 Hargrave Street
Applicant: Humphrey & Edwards A
Facade refurbishment to The Bellevue Hotel
- DA0085/15** 31 Caledonia Street PAD
Applicant: Mr P R Brewer
Alterations to the existing garage roof pitch
- DA0086/15** 92 Hopetoun Avenue VA
Applicant: Mr R Rembel
Interior alterations and additions to master bec
- DA0087/15** 5 Benelong Crescent BEL
Applicant: Figgis & Jefferson T.E.P./
The construction of a five unit residential flat
- DA0088/15** 5/45 Wolseley Road POIL
Applicant: Mrs A Vij
Enclose existing rear balcony to a residential
- DA0089/15** 4 Dunbar Street WATSON
Applicant: Mr H S & Mrs A Kwiatek
Modify the ground level to the path to the ex conversion, and the replacement of the exis
- DA0090/15** 35 Latimer Road BELLEV
Applicant: Mr I D & Mrs Perkins
Alterations & additions to existing dwelling in
- DA0092/15** 15 Mansion Road BELLEV
Applicant: Mr B & Mrs R A Rose
Inground concrete swimming pool
- The above applications, plans and specifications at Council's Planning & Development Division 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 1 enquiry, please quote the application referen

Applications to Amend D

- DA0845/08/6** 751-755 New South Head (aka Woolworths)
Applicant: Woolworths Properties I
Modify condition A3 in relation to landsc The adaptive use of No. 751-755 (former c Office) New South Head Road for a retail and the demolition of the pair of semi-det No. 14 Richmond Road to provide off-stre egress for service vehicles via 759 New S
- DA0008/11/4** 24A Victoria Road BELLEV
Applicant: MCK Architects
Delete condition C.1(i) and other conditio existing magnolia tree adjacent to 22 Gin Proposed new residence with basement g outbuildings, landscaping and siteworks
- DA0024/13/2** 97 Wolseley Road POINT
Applicant: Mr S & Mrs K M Harris
Minor internal and external modifications raising of lawn level, reconfiguration of tl Alterations and additions to the existing a basement garage and store, swimming po landscaping and siteworks

Wentworth Courier Clippings - 18/3/2015





What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra's future?

Have your say

[Mayor's message](#)
[What you need to know](#)
[Online survey - Have your say](#)

A message from the Mayor



Despite continued community opposition to amalgamation and our strong financial position as a stable, stand-alone council, the State Government has asked Woollahra Council to consider amalgamation as part of its Local Government Reform program.

Following recommendations made by an Independent Local Government Review Panel to the State Government, Woollahra Council has been asked to consider a voluntary 'global city' amalgamation with the City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Waverley and Randwick Councils.

The 'global city' merger would result in a huge population increase, from 58,000 to 505,000 (and up to 670,000 by 2031). The State Government's Fit for the Future program promotes the idea that bigger councils are better, and that increased size equals long-term sustainability and improved service delivery.

The Government is offering a financial incentive to each newly amalgamated council. This one-off payment is minor compared to the long-term financial impacts of amalgamation on Woollahra ratepayers.

The facts on amalgamation for Woollahra are:

- Through our community surveys we know that residents strongly favour Woollahra remaining a stand-alone council
- Woollahra Council has been independently assessed as being financially sustainable into the future
- There are no demonstrated benefits for Woollahra residents and no guarantee of better service provision through amalgamation
- There will be a marked reduction in the level of local representation
- Local residential rates will rise significantly due to higher land values in our area

Woollahra Council's opposition to amalgamation is based on:

- Your community feedback
- Endorsement of our long-term financial sustainability by NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp)
- Future modelling which indicates that there will be significant rate rises for Woollahra residents under amalgamation
- No substantive benefits for our ratepayers directly attributable to amalgamation

In March this year, 81% of local residents surveyed opposed an amalgamation. There was an overwhelming preference for Woollahra Council to remain independent, with 91% of respondents placing a top priority on local representation.

The Local Government Review Panel itself has stated that it accepts that:
*"there is no simple relationship between council size and efficiency and hence no guarantee that amalgamations will produce the benefits sought, especially cost savings."*¹
 With the huge costs associated with amalgamation, the unnecessary disruption and no guarantee of efficiencies or cost savings, Woollahra Council cannot support the Government's view that bigger is better.

The feedback we have received from the community will help shape our Fit for the Future submission to the State Government, due by 30 June 2015.

This is an important issue for our community and you can still have your say. I urge you to spare a few minutes to have your say on Woollahra's future by participating in a brief online survey [here](#).

With thanks,
 Councillor Toni Zeltzer, Mayor of Woollahra

1. Final Report of the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel, October 2013, p.73.

Have your say before it is too late

[Complete our brief online survey](#)

Consultation timeline

Regular community updates will be provided through the Mayoral Column in the Wentworth Courier and via Council's website.

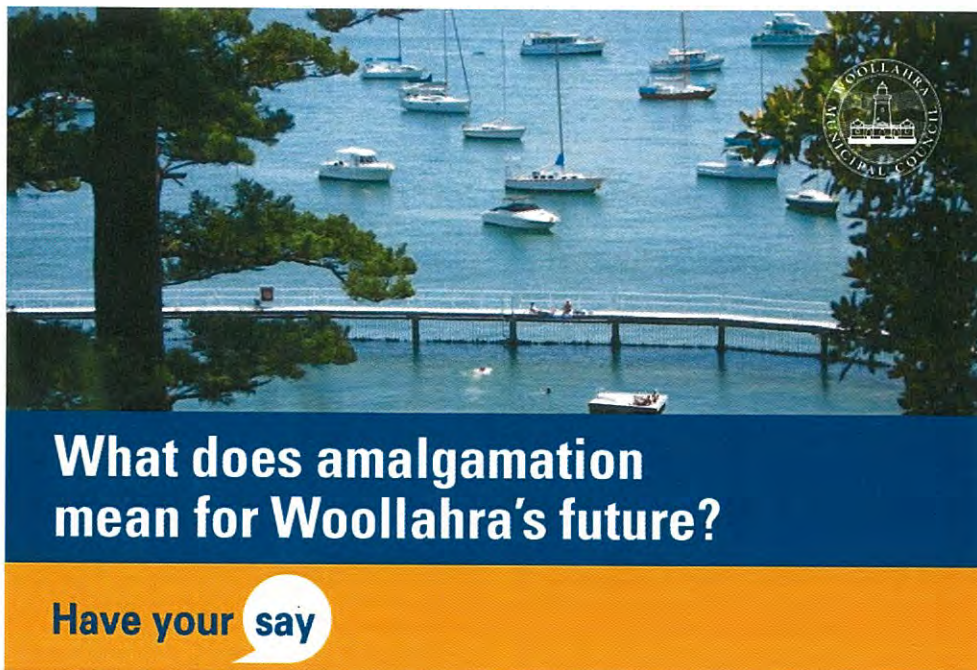
- ✓ **Information distribution (March 2015)**
Council distributes information pack to every household and business.
- ✓ **Have your say (March - April 2015)**
Council seeks feedback from the community through telephone and online surveys.
- ✓ **April - May 2015**
Council considers community feedback and determines response.
- **Finalise Fit for the Future Submission (June 2015)**
Council finalises its Fit for the Future submission.

Lodgement of Submission (30 June 2015)
Council lodges its Fit for the Future submission with IPART by 30 June 2015.

Public Exhibition (July 2015)
IPART seeks public comment on all councils' Fit for the Future submissions.

IPART Assessment (June - October 2015)
IPART assesses all councils' Fit for the Future submissions and reports its determinations to the NSW Government by 16 October 2015.




[Mayor's message](#)
[What you need to know](#)
[Online survey - Have your say](#)

What you need to know

Woollahra's current position

Stand-alone Council

View Council's adopted position [on the State Government's Fit for the Future](#) program.

Land size: 12.3km²

Current population: 57,677

Population per Councillor: 3,845

Forecast 2031 population: 67,250

Meets Fit for the Future Scale & Capacity Criteria: No

Assessment against Fit for the Future Financial Benchmarks measures *

	2014	2020
Operating Performance Ratio	✗	✓
Own Source Revenue Ratio	✓	✓
Building & Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio	✗	✓
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio	✓	✓
Asset Maintenance Ratio	✓	✓
Debt Service Ratio	✓	✓
Real Operating Expenditure per capita	✓	✓

[View Larger Map](#)

Woollahra as a stand-alone Council achieves five of these seven benchmarks now and will achieve the remaining two by June 2018, two years ahead of the State Government's target date of June 2020.

None of the amalgamation options presented below achieve all seven of the Fit For The Future Financial Benchmarks.

* Source: Report on financial benchmarks in relation to amalgamation options (April 2015) prepared by independent consultants Grant Thornton.

Woollahra Council **supports** local government reform and improvements which strengthen our community and its future. Successful local government reform can be achieved without amalgamation.

We **oppose** the amalgamation of Woollahra Council because:

- There is no evidence that an amalgamation will deliver benefits for Woollahra residents
- Modelling of existing rate structures of a Randwick, Waverley, Woollahra amalgamation reveals unacceptable inequities.
 - Rate increases for Woollahra residents of between 22% (\$7m) and 53% (\$17m) each year would be likely given land value differences
 - Up to 5,500 Woollahra ratepayers face an annual rate increase of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 p.a.
 - Woollahra rate increases would fund rate decreases in other council areas
- There is no existing evidence to support the notion that larger councils are more efficient in delivering local services
- Significant reduction in the number of Councillors representing Woollahra
- There is strong community opposition to amalgamation. In 2013 we asked Woollahra residents about amalgamation. **81% of residents told us they opposed a 'global city' amalgamation and 84% supported Woollahra remaining a stand-alone council** where local connection and representation is a priority.

Woollahra Council's long-term financial planning assessment confirms our capacity to remain an independent, stand-alone council. Three NSW Treasury reviews of Woollahra Council's future economic sustainability have reinforced our financial strength and positive outlook. **Woollahra Council is already Fit for the Future.**

Have your say
before it is too late

[Complete our brief online survey](#)

Latest updates

Radio interview Alan Jones 2GB with Cr Petrie - 5 June 2015 [📄](#)

IPART - Submission on Assessment Methodology - 25 May 2015 [📄](#)

Mayor's Media Release - 19 May 2015 [📄](#)

Mayor's letter to the Editor of the Wentworth Courier - 19 May 2015 [📄](#)

Mayor's letter to Mayor of Randwick - 18 May 2015 [📄](#)

Mayor's letter to Mayor of Waverley - 18 May 2015 [📄](#)

Council Resolution - 11 May 2015 [📄](#)

IPART to assess Fit for the Future Submissions - Media Release [📄](#)

Related documents

Fit for the Future Survey - April 2015 [📄](#)

Presentation to Community Leaders Forum - 2 June 2015 [📄](#)

IPART - Fact Sheet 'Fit for the Future Assessments' [📄](#)

IPART - Assessment Methodology Consultation Paper [📄](#)

Council Resolution - 22 September 2014 [📄](#)

Information brochure to residents [📄](#)

Report on financial benchmarks - Grant Thornton Consultants [📄](#)

Individual council data as they currently operate independently [📄](#)

Local Government Review Panel Final Report [📄](#)

NSW Government response to Local Government Review Panel Final Report [📄](#)

Woollahra Council Submission - March 2014 [📄](#)

Woollahra Council Submission - June 2013 [📄](#)

Woollahra Council Submission - March 2013 [📄](#)

NSW TCorp Financial Sustainability Report on Woollahra Council - February 2015 [📄](#)

The State Government's position

Global City Council

The *Fit for the Future* Local Government reform program is the State Government's response to the recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel. The State Government believes that our current system of local government will not be able to meet the needs of growing and changing communities.

Visit the State Government's [Fit for the Future](#) website for more information on the program.

Following recommendations made by the Panel, the State Government has asked Woollahra Council to consider a voluntary 'global city' amalgamation with the City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Waverley and Randwick Councils.

Visit the [Local Government Review Panel](#) website for more information on the Panel's research and recommendations.

The 'global city' merger would result in a huge population increase, from 58,000 to 505,000 [and up to 670,000 by 2031]. The State Government's *Fit for the Future* program promotes the idea that bigger councils are better, and that increased size equals long-term sustainability and improved service delivery.

Land size: 106.2km²

Current population: 505,903

Population per Councillor: 33,727

(Based on current maximum allowed of 15 Councillors)

Forecast 2031 population: 670,000

Meets Fit for the Future Scale & Capacity Criteria: Yes

Assessment against Fit for the Future Financial Benchmarks measures *

	2014	2020
Operating Performance Ratio	✓	✓
Own Source Revenue Ratio	✓	✓
Building & Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio	✗	✗
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio	✓	✓
Asset Maintenance Ratio	✗	✓
Debt Service Ratio	✓	✓
Real Operating Expenditure per capita	✗	✓

The Global City amalgamation option sees four of the seven benchmarks achieved now and six achieved by the State Government's target date of June 2020.

* Source: Report on financial benchmarks in relation to amalgamation options (April 2015) prepared by independent consultants Grant Thornton.

Key links

[Fit for the Future](#)

[Local Government Review Panel](#)



[View Larger Map](#)

Other amalgamation options

Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Council

Land size: 57.8km²

Current population: 270,693

Population per Councillor: 18,046
(Based on current maximum allowed of 15 Councillors)

Forecast 2031 population: 323,700

Meets Fit for the Future Scale & Capacity Criteria: No

Assessment against Fit for the Future Financial
Benchmarks measures *

	2014	2020
Operating Performance Ratio	✗	✓
Own Source Revenue Ratio	✓	✓
Building & Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio	✗	✗
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio	✓	✓
Asset Maintenance Ratio	✓	✓
Debt Service Ratio	✓	✓
Real Operating Expenditure per capita	✓	✓

The Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra amalgamation option sees five of the seven benchmarks achieved now and six achieved by the State Government's target date of June 2020.

* Source: Report on financial benchmarks in relation to amalgamation options (April 2015) prepared by independent consultants Grant Thornton. 


[View Larger Map](#)

Waverley and Woollahra Council

Land size: 21.5km²

Current population: 128,383

Population per Councillor: 8,559
(Based on current maximum allowed of 15 Councillors)

Forecast 2031 population: 149,400

Meets Fit for the Future Scale & Capacity Criteria: No

Assessment against Fit for the Future Financial
Benchmarks measures *

	2014	2020
Operating Performance Ratio	✗	✓
Own Source Revenue Ratio	✓	✓
Building & Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio	✗	✗
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio	✗	✓
Asset Maintenance Ratio	✓	✓
Debt Service Ratio	✓	✓
Real Operating Expenditure per capita	✓	✓

The Waverley and Woollahra amalgamation option sees four of the seven benchmarks achieved now and six achieved by the State Government's target date of June 2020.

* Source: Report on financial benchmarks in relation to amalgamation options (April 2015) prepared by independent consultants Grant Thornton. 


[View Larger Map](#)

City of Sydney and Woollahra Council

Land size: 26.7km²

Current population: 249,595

Population per Councillor: 16,640
(Based on current maximum allowed of 15 Councillors)

Forecast 2031 population: 340,750

Meets Fit for the Future Scale & Capacity Criteria: No

Assessment against Fit for the Future Financial
Benchmarks measures *

	2014	2020
Operating Performance Ratio	✓	✓
Own Source Revenue Ratio	✓	✓
Building & Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio	✗	✗
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio	✓	✓
Asset Maintenance Ratio	✗	✓
Debt Service Ratio	✓	✓
Real Operating Expenditure per capita	✗	✓

The City of Sydney and Woollahra amalgamation option sees four of the seven benchmarks achieved now and six achieved by the State Government's target date of June 2020.

* Source: Report on financial benchmarks in relation to amalgamation options (April 2015) prepared by independent consultants Grant Thornton. 


[View Larger Map](#)

Additional information

Following an independent panel's review of submissions due from all councils by 30 June 2015, the NSW Government will determine which councils are *Fit for the Future*.

Councils determined to be *Fit for the Future* will be given:

- Access to a State borrowing facility to help fund local infrastructure
- More flexibility with procurement and simplified reporting
- Access to a streamlined IPART process for setting rates; and
- Eligibility for additional planning powers

Whilst we hope the State Government will not proceed with forced amalgamations, we need your feedback on the 'global city' proposal and on the other options for amalgamation with neighbouring councils.

Our position is that Woollahra Council has the strength and capacity to remain a strong and sustainable independent council.

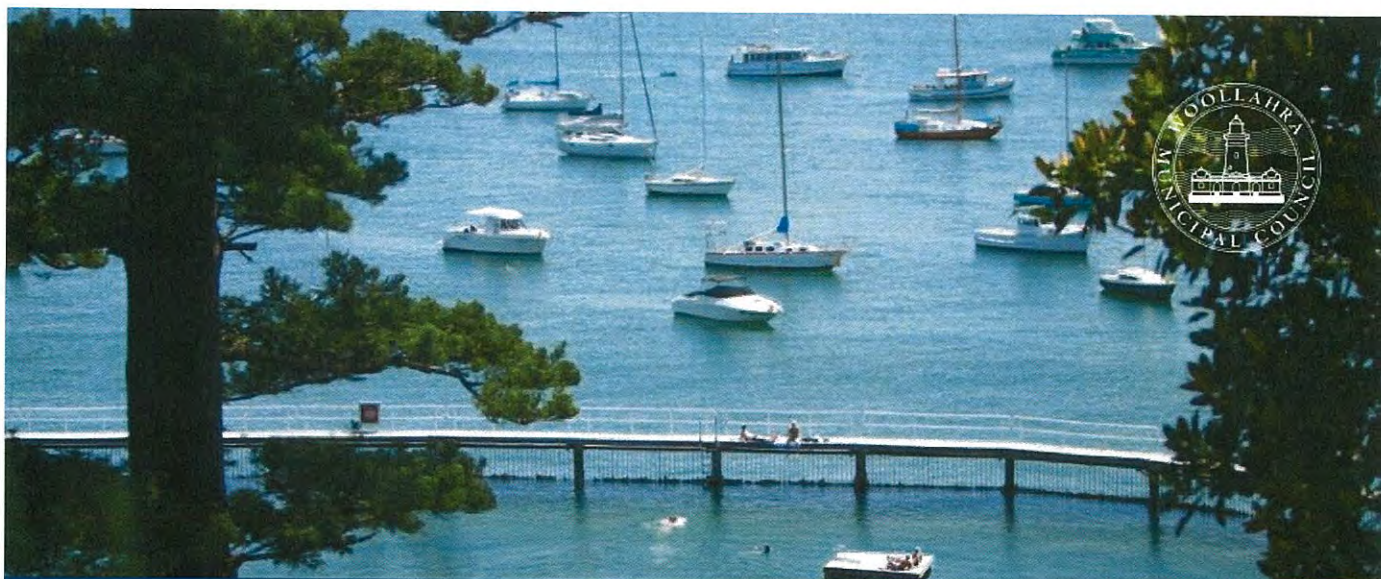
The State Government is promoting the population of council areas as the primary indicator of a council's capacity and capability.

Woollahra Council has advocated for local government reform that delivers improved services for local communities – but we have not seen any evidence that service improvements come as a direct result of making councils bigger.

The State Government has offered a one-off financial incentive for Woollahra Council to amalgamate with its neighbouring councils.

We do not consider financial incentives compensate for the significant and on-going financial burden that Woollahra ratepayers would face through amalgamation.





What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra's future?

Have your say

Mayor's message

What you need to know

Online survey - Have your say

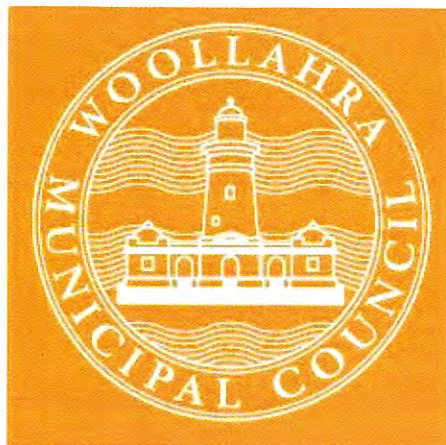
Have your say

We have engaged Micromex Research to conduct a telephone survey of randomly selected local residents during March to seek local feedback.

We also encourage you to share your views by completing a [brief online survey](#) .

Your feedback will help form our response to the State Government.





Background

Woollahra Council has been asked to consider a voluntary 'global city' amalgamation with the City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Waverley and Randwick Councils. The 'global city' merger would result in a huge population increase, from 58,000 to 505,000 [and up to 670,000 by 2031].

The State Government's Fit for the Future local government reform program promotes the idea that bigger councils are better, and that size equals capacity, however Woollahra Council does not agree with that assessment.

Council supports local government reform that strengthens our community and its future potential, but we believe this can be achieved without amalgamation.

Council now wants to know how you feel about the State Government's merger proposals. We are seeking feedback as we prepare our response to the Fit for the Future program, due by June 30. We want your input on this important issue.

For further information, please visit: http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/what_you_need_to_know

1. In which suburb do you live?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Bellevue Hill | <input type="radio"/> Paddington | <input type="radio"/> Watsons Bay |
| <input type="radio"/> Darling Point | <input type="radio"/> Point Piper | <input type="radio"/> Woollahra |
| <input type="radio"/> Double Bay | <input type="radio"/> Rose Bay | |
| <input type="radio"/> Edgecliff | <input type="radio"/> Vaucluse | |

Other (please specify)

1 / 8

12%

Next

Timeline Photos

[Back to Album](#) [What's On Woollahra's photos](#) [What's On Woollahra's Page](#)[Previous](#) [Next](#)

Have your say on Woollahra's future
www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au



What's On Woollahra

Share your views on council amalgamation on our website - www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

Despite continued community opposition to amalgamation and Woollahra Council's position as a strong and stable stand-alone council, the State Government has asked Woollahra to consider amalgamation as part of its Fit for the Future Local Government Reform Program.

Woollahra is opposed to amalgamation and believes there are no demonstrated benefits for residents, many of whom will face significant rate increases and a reduction in local representation.

Council wants to know what you think. Visit the amalgamation page of Council's website and have your say in an online survey. Your views will help Woollahra form its submission to the State Government on Fit for the Future, which is due by June 30.

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay

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What's On Woollahra

Have you had your say yet? The deadline to share your views on council amalgamation has been extended to 30 April. Tell us your thoughts via our online survey: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay


12 April



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19 March · 🌐

Share your views on council amalgamation on our website:

<http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay> . Survey closes April 7 2014,
be sure to have your say.

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What's On Woollahra

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Woollahra Libraries

6 April

It's not too late to have your say on Council amalgamation - survey here:
http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/online_survey

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Online survey - Have your say | Have your say on Woollahra's future

We have engaged Micromex Research to conduct a telephone survey of randomly selected local residents during March to seek local feedback.

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Activate Oxford St shared What's On Woollahra's photo

18 March

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What's On Woollahra

Share your views on council amalgamation on our website -
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Activate Oxford St

Get all the facts on what amalgamation means for Woollahra's future and share your views by visiting www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay and completing the online survey before April 7.

30 March



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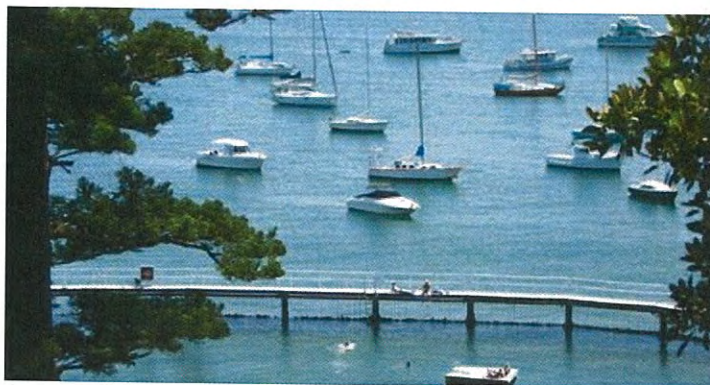
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Activate Oxford St via Woollahra Libraries

6 April · 🌐

It's not too late to have your say on Council amalgamation - survey here:
http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/online_survey



Online survey - Have your say | Have your say on Woollahra's future

We have engaged Micromex Research to conduct a telephone survey of randomly selected local residents during March to seek local feedback.

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Have your say on Woollahra Council's future

Background

Woollahra Council has been asked to consider a voluntary 'global city' amalgamation with the City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Waverley and Randwick Councils. The 'global city' merger would result in a huge population increase, from 58,000 to 505,000 [and up to 670,000 by 2031].

The State Government's Fit for the Future local government reform program promotes the idea that bigger councils are better, and that size equals capacity, however Woollahra Council does not agree with that assessment.

Council supports local government reform that strengthens our community and its future potential, but we believe this can be achieved without amalgamation.

Council now wants to know how you feel about the State Government's merger proposals. We are seeking feedback as we prepare our response to the Fit for the Future program, due by June 30. We want your input on this important issue.

For further information, please visit: http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/what_you_need_to_know

1. In which suburb do you live?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Bellevue Hill | <input type="radio"/> Paddington | <input type="radio"/> Watsons Bay |
| <input type="radio"/> Darling Point | <input type="radio"/> Point Piper | <input type="radio"/> Woollahra |
| <input type="radio"/> Double Bay | <input type="radio"/> Rose Bay | |
| <input type="radio"/> Edgecliff | <input type="radio"/> Vaucluse | |

Other (please specify)

How much do you know about Local Government reform?

The NSW State Government is reviewing the Local Government system and is encouraging local councils to consider amalgamation options to form new, larger councils.

2. How aware are you of this plan?

- ☐ I know the plan well
- ☐ I know the plan a little
- ☐ I have heard of it but know nothing about it
- ☐ I have never heard of it

Fit for the Future

Fit for the Future is the name given to the review of Local Government being carried out by the NSW State Government, in an effort to reduce the number of councils in NSW, and to make local government sustainable, efficient and effective for future generations.

Have your say on Woollahra Council's future

The preferred proposal from the State Government is that Woollahra Council, with a population of 58,000 be amalgamated with the City of Sydney, Randwick, Waverley and Botany Bay Councils, to form a 'Global City' Council for Sydney with a population of 505,000 (projected to be 670,000 by 2031).

3. Prior to taking part in this survey were you aware of this proposal?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

'Global City' Concept

An argument supporting the 'Global City' concept or (amalgamation) is that bigger councils are more financially sustainable and generally have greater capacity to influence and respond to strategic policies of the State Government. Access to State borrowing facilities and additional planning powers might also become available.

Arguments against amalgamation include evidence that smaller councils are as efficient and sustainable as larger councils in delivering services to their community. Local councils focus on local priorities. Smaller councils enjoy the benefits of local connection and greater representation through ease of access to elected Councillors.

* 4. How supportive are you of Woollahra Council pursuing its independence as a stand-alone Council?

- ☐ Completely supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

* 5. How supportive are you of Woollahra Council merging with the four other Councils (City of Sydney, Randwick, Waverley and Botany Bay) to form a 'Global City' Council?

- ☐ Completely supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

Local identity and local representation

Woollahra Council supports the vast majority of the reforms to the system of local government proposed by the State Government which will assist it to remain financially sustainable and responsive to the community's needs. However, Woollahra Council opposes the Government's proposal for amalgamation with other councils primarily because of:

- Loss of local identity
- Previous community feedback opposing amalgamation
- Modelling that indicates rate increases for Woollahra of between 22% and 53%
- No demonstrated benefits or guaranteed service improvements
- Reduced local representation

Have your say on Woollahra Council's future

*6. How important is local identity and local representation to you?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not at all important

Forced amalgamations

If the state government was to force Woollahra Council to amalgamate into a 'Global City', or with a combination of other councils, please rank the following options in order of preference with 1 being your most preferred option and 4 being your least preferred option.

*7. If Woollahra Council was forced to amalgamate, please rank the following options in order of preference:

- Amalgamate with City of Sydney, Randwick, Waverley, and Botany Bay to form the 'Global City' Council
- Amalgamate with City of Sydney only
- Amalgamate with Waverley Council only
- Amalgamate with Waverley and Randwick Councils

8. Why did you choose that?

Forced amalgamations continued

*9. How supportive are you of Woollahra Council opposing forced amalgamations by the State Government?

- ☐ Completely supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

10. Why did you choose that?

Have your say on Woollahra Council's future

11. Do you own or rent your property?

- ☐ I/we own this property
- ☐ I/we currently rent this property

12. Which of these age groups do you fit into?

- ☐ 18-34
- ☐ 35-49
- ☐ 50-64
- ☐ 65+

13. Gender

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback. Your survey responses will help Woollahra Council prepare its final submission to the State Government's Fit for the Future program, due by June 30.

Privacy notification: If you are completing the survey we will collect your name and email address. This information will only be used for qualitative research purposes for the Fit for the Future submission. Access to this information is restricted to Woollahra Council officers and other people authorised by Council.

*14. Name

*15. Email address

16. Postal address - optional



What does amalgamation mean for Woollahra's future?

- > Loss of local identity
- > Reduced local representation
- > Rate increases
- > No guarantee of service benefits
- > Strong community opposition

Have your **say** on Woollahra's future

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Have your say before it is too late.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Despite continued community opposition to amalgamation and our strong financial position as a stable, stand-alone council, the State Government has asked Woollahra Council to consider amalgamation as part of its Local Government Reform program.

Mayor of Woollahra
Councillor Toni Zeltzer

Following recommendations made by an *Independent Local Government Review Panel* to the State Government, Woollahra Council has been asked to consider a voluntary 'global city' amalgamation with the City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Waverley and Randwick Councils.

The 'global city' merger would result in a huge population increase, from 58,000 to 505,000 [and up to 670,000 by 2031]. The State Government's *Fit for the Future* program promotes the idea that bigger councils are better, and that increased size equals long-term sustainability and improved service delivery.

The Government is offering a financial incentive to each newly amalgamated council. This one-off payment is minor compared to the long-term financial impacts of amalgamation on Woollahra ratepayers.

The facts on amalgamation for Woollahra are:

- Through our previous survey we know that residents strongly favour Woollahra remaining a stand-alone council
- Woollahra Council has been independently assessed as being financially sustainable into the future
- There are no demonstrated benefits for Woollahra residents and no guarantee of better service provision through amalgamation
- There will be a marked reduction in the level of local representation
- Local residential rates will rise significantly due to higher land values in our area

Woollahra Council's opposition to amalgamation is based on:

- Your community feedback
- Endorsement of our long-term financial sustainability by NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp)
- Future modelling which indicates that there will be significant rate rises for Woollahra residents under amalgamation
- No substantive benefits for our ratepayers directly attributable to amalgamation

In 2013, 84% of local residents surveyed, opposed an amalgamation. There was an overwhelming preference for Woollahra Council to remain independent, placing a top priority on local representation.

The Local Government Review Panel itself has stated that it accepts that: *"there is no simple relationship between council size and efficiency and hence no guarantee that amalgamations will produce the benefits sought, especially cost savings."*¹ With the huge costs associated with amalgamation, the unnecessary disruption and no guarantee of efficiencies or cost savings, Woollahra Council cannot support the Government's view that bigger is better.

Your Councillors and I would like to know whether or not your position on amalgamation has changed in the last two years. Your feedback will help shape our *Fit for the Future* submission to the State Government, due by 30 June 2015. We have commissioned Micromex Research to conduct a telephone survey of randomly selected residents in March to seek local opinion.

This is an important issue for our community. I urge you to spare a few minutes to have your say on Woollahra's future by participating in a brief online survey via our website:

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

For more information on the State Government's *Fit for the Future* Local Government Reform Program, visit **www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au**

1 Final Report of the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel, October 2013, p.73.

Woollahra's current position:

STAND-ALONE COUNCIL

➤ **Woollahra** - stay as is

Population:
58,000



Woollahra Council's long-term financial planning assessment confirms our capacity to remain an independent, stand-alone council.

Three NSW Treasury reviews of Woollahra Council's future economic sustainability have reinforced our financial strength and positive outlook.

We **support** local government reform and improvements which strengthen our community and its future. Successful local government reform can be achieved without amalgamation.

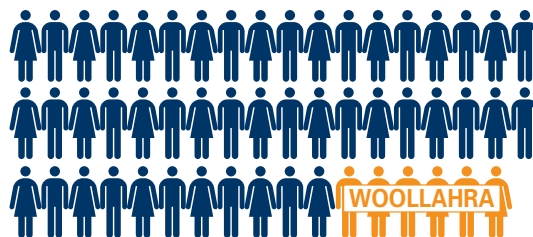
We **oppose** the amalgamation of Woollahra Council because:

- There is no evidence that an amalgamation will deliver benefits for Woollahra residents
- Modelling of existing rate structures of a Randwick, Waverley, Woollahra amalgamation reveals unacceptable inequities:
 - Rate increases for Woollahra residents of between 22% (\$7m) and 53% (\$17m) each year would be likely given land value differences
 - Up to 5,500 Woollahra ratepayers face an annual rate increase of between \$1,000 and \$10,000 p.a.
 - Woollahra rate increases would fund rate decreases in other council areas
- There is no existing evidence to support the notion that larger councils are more efficient in delivering local services
- Significant reduction in the number of Councillors representing Woollahra
- There is strong community opposition to amalgamation. In 2013 we asked Woollahra residents about amalgamation. **81% of residents told us they opposed a 'global city' amalgamation and 84% supported Woollahra remaining a stand-alone council** where local connection and representation is a priority.

The State Government's position:

➤ **Global city** - City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra councils

Population:
505,000



The *Fit for the Future* Local Government reform program is the State Government's response to the recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel. The State Government believes that our current system of local government will not be able to meet the needs of growing and changing communities.

Following a review of submissions from all councils by an independent panel, the NSW Government will determine which councils are *Fit for the Future*.

These councils will be given:

- Access to a State borrowing facility to help fund local infrastructure
- More flexibility with procurement and simplified reporting
- Access to a streamlined IPART process for setting rates; and
- Eligibility for additional planning powers

Other options:

➤ **Randwick, Waverley + Woollahra**

Population:
270,000



➤ **Waverley + Woollahra**

Population:
127,000












➤ **City of Sydney + Woollahra**

Population:
249,000



2015 approximate population figures

What you need to know:

- Whilst we hope the State Government will not proceed with forced amalgamations, we need your feedback on the 'global city' proposal and on the other options for amalgamation with neighbouring councils
- Our position is that Woollahra Council has the strength and capacity to remain a strong and sustainable independent council
- The State Government is promoting the population of council areas as the primary indicator of a council's capacity and capability
- Woollahra Council has advocated for local government reform that delivers improved services for local communities – but we have not seen any evidence that service improvements come as a direct result of making councils bigger
- The State Government has offered a one-off financial incentive for Woollahra Council to amalgamate with its neighbouring councils
- We do not consider financial incentives compensate for the significant and on-going financial burden that Woollahra ratepayers would face through amalgamation
- The State Government has set financial measures against which councils will be assessed in determining whether they are *Fit for the Future*
Woollahra Council's performance against these measures is:
 - > Operating Performance Ratio  **Achieved 2018**
 - > Own Source Revenue Ratio  **Achieved now**
 - > Building & Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio  **Achieved 2016**
 - > Infrastructure Backlog Ratio  **Achieved now**
 - > Asset Maintenance Ratio  **Achieved now**
 - > Debt Service Ratio  **Achieved now**
 - > Real Operating Expenditure per capita  **Achieved now**
- **We achieve five of these seven benchmarks now  and will achieve the remaining two  by June 2018, two years ahead of the State Government's target date of June 2020**

Woollahra Council is already *Fit for the Future*.

What you can do:

We engaged Micromex Research to conduct a telephone survey of randomly selected local residents during March to seek local feedback.

We also encourage you to share your views by completing a brief online survey via Council's website.

Your feedback will help form our response to the State Government.



 **This is your community and your future.**

Please take action.



ONLINE

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au





Media release

17 March 2015

Council surveys residents on proposed amalgamation options

Woollahra Council rates could rise between 22% and 53% if the Council amalgamates with its neighbours, as a consequence of the State Government's *Fit for the Future* Local Government Reform program.

Independent modelling indicates that many Woollahra ratepayers face rate increases between \$1,000 and \$10,000 per annum if an amalgamation with Randwick and Waverley Councils was to precede, due to high land value differences between the municipalities. Over 5,500 ratepayers would be affected by increases of this magnitude, with no guarantee of improved services, or additional services.

The State Government's Local Government Reform Program is asking Woollahra Council to consider entering into a voluntary amalgamation with neighbouring councils.

That amalgamation could take the form of a 'global city' merger with the City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Waverley and Randwick councils, or one of a number of other amalgamation options with nearby Councils.

"The *Fit for the Future* program promotes the idea that bigger councils are better, and that size equals capacity, however we do not agree with that assessment," said Woollahra Mayor, Councillor Toni Zeltzer.

"Council supports local government reform that strengthens our community and assures it is financially sustainable well into the future, but in our case we believe this can be achieved without the need to amalgamate."

"Our council already meets five (5) of the State Government's seven (7) *Fit for the Future* financial benchmarks and will achieve the remaining two (2) benchmarks by 2018, two years ahead of the 2020 target date. This strongly supports our case to remain independent," said the Mayor.

"Woollahra Council has been independently assessed as financially sustainable on three (3) occasions by NSW Treasury (TCorp). Additionally, there is no evidence that amalgamation will deliver improved services or result in any demonstrated benefits for our residents. Any amalgamation will reduce the level of local representation and we know that local rates will rise substantially," the Mayor concluded.

The Council has been in existence for 150 years and residents have made it clear that local identity is extremely important to them. Woollahra has the demonstrated capacity to remain a stand-alone council. This position has been supported by residents, who have previously indicated their overwhelming preference for Woollahra remaining independent in a 2013 survey.

Council again wants to know how its residents feel about the State Government merger proposals. It is seeking feedback as it prepares its response to the *Fit for the Future* program, due by June 30.

We will be writing to the community in relation to the amalgamation proposals, and calling on people to share their views via an online survey.

A telephone survey of randomly selected residents will also be conducted on Woollahra Council's behalf this month (March) by Micromex Research.

To find out more, or to have your say on amalgamation by completing the online survey visit: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au. Survey responses will be accepted until April 7.

For more information about the State Government's *Fit for the Future* Local Government Reform Program visit: www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au.

Media contact: Terry Aylett, Senior Communications Officer, 9391 7057.

Notice of Motion

Item No: 1
From: Councillor Petrie
Date: 16 September 2014
File No: 900.G

(Petrie/Cavanagh)

- 11/17 A. THAT the Woollahra Council note the NSW State Government's "Fit for Future" program for Local Government and reaffirm the Council's in principle support for reform of local government generally.
- B. THAT the Council continue to work with Sydney Metropolitan Mayors (SMM) and maintain our support for the bulk of the other reforms of the Local Government Review Panel that have the capacity to achieve broader community benefits and economies of scale without the need for amalgamation.
- C. THAT, having regard to the State Government's apparent preference to merge Councils in order to reduce the total number of metropolitan Councils without any regard to the individual financial strength and sustainability of individual councils, that Woollahra Council continues discussions on the "Fit for Future" program with all neighbouring councils, including the City of Sydney, which should not be seen as a formal commitment for amalgamation but as a fact finding endeavour.
- D. THAT in view of the State Government's recent response to reforming Local Government and notwithstanding Council's support for reform of Local Government generally, Woollahra Council
- (i) acknowledge and support our residents' desire to remain independent and reiterate Council's strong, in principle, position of opposing any merger/amalgamation proposal that cannot demonstrate significant tangible benefits to our Woollahra residents and ratepayers that are not achievable as a stand-alone Council.
 - (ii) make residents aware this Council is financially sound and that NSW Treasury have recently assessed the Council as financially sustainable and have determined our financial outlook for the future as "Positive."
 - (iii) note that further templates and assessment criteria is to be provided by the State Government to assist the Council to make an appropriate response to the State Government by the 30 June 2015 deadline.
 - (iv) authorise appropriate payments to the Sydney Metropolitan Mayors (SMM), of which Council is a member, to fund activities and projects not inconsistent with the Council's current adopted position of no forced amalgamations.
 - (v) authorise the General Manager to make payments necessary in order for the Council to appropriately prepare reports for the Council's consideration.
- E. THAT Council staff request from the Office of Local Government that the designated Regional Relationship Manager for Woollahra Council attend Woollahra Council to provide a comprehensive briefing to all Councillors on the "Fit for Future" program.

- F. THAT a formal independent review of the SGS Economics & Planning *Eastern Sydney Local Government Review Report* dated February 2013 commissioned by Randwick City Council be conducted, having reference to the quality of services and the outcomes for our community, to enable all Councillors to have a thorough, informed understanding of the Report.

Adopted Unanimously

Item No: 2
From: Councillor Wynne and Councillor Thomas
Date: 17 September 2014
File No: 900.G

(Thomas/O'Regan)

- 12/17 THAT a report be submitted to the appropriate Committee canvassing options and process for introducing an Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel ('IHAP') to function either as a recommending body to Council or as a body with complete delegations; the options to include the possibility of a trial period for the recommending model before progressing to the delegation model.

Adopted

Item No: 3
From: Councillor O'Regan
Date: 18 September 2014
File No: 900.G

(O'Regan/Zulman)

- 13/17 THAT Council write to the NSW Attorney General requesting swift action to change the law to make it illegal to place bill posters on poles and other surfaces and make venue operators and promoters responsible for any breach of that law.

Adopted



Mayor
Toni
Zeltzer.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

No fit here for a local council amalgamation

The NSW Government's *Fit for the Future* package for local government reform is not a good fit for Woollahra residents and reads like a forced move to bigger councils. Under the proposal all Councils are required to meet criteria, consistent with the Independent Local Government Review Panel's recommendations, which for Woollahra is a population of around 670 000 by 2031. Woollahra Council has a population of around 57,000 residents.

I do not support the view that bigger is better or smarter, and one size fits all. The *Fit for the Future* package seems to offer no options for smaller, efficient and sustainable councils like ours to continue to exist. The only voluntary aspect of the reform appears to be choosing which neighbouring councils to join.

A Woollahra Council community survey conducted in mid-2013 indicated that more than 80% of residents opposed a 'global city' merger and supported Woollahra retaining its independence.

The *Fit for the Future* package suggests more consultation with residents on the issue, which we will carry out, however I am confident that the position of our constituents will not have changed since our last survey and most Councillors have already reinforced that same position to me.

In the event of a forced merger with neighbouring councils, our residents would see an increase in their rates of up to 22% because of high land values, with no guarantee of the rates being spent locally and no guarantee of increased service provision.

Woollahra Council has received a positive financial sustainability outlook rating from NSW Treasury and we already partner with neighbouring councils to share resources and projects that benefit our local and broader community.

To remove boundaries and dismantle councils that have demonstrated fiscal responsibility, sustainability, innovation and community trust, in order to simply form larger councils would be a disappointing outcome.

We support the majority of recommendations put forward in the Independent Local Government Review Panel's report that would achieve strong, sustainable and effective councils. Initiatives like collaborative regional planning and uniform performance indicators are commendable. However we cannot support a move to amalgamation when there is so little community support for it, nor any clear benefit for the residents who elected us.

Mayoral election

I have thoroughly enjoyed my Mayoral term and I will be nominating for the position of Mayor tomorrow night at our Mayoral elections. The last 12 months have been busy and I am grateful to my Council colleagues and staff for their support. I feel there is more to be done particularly with those initiatives I commenced and would like to complete. That is why I hope to be re-elected. If I am not elected as Mayor I will continue to serve as a committed, enthusiastic Councillor and I wish to thank all the wonderful people I have met and worked with during the last 12 months. I am also exceedingly grateful to my husband and children for their patience and love during a hectic schedule of diary appointments.

New Sunday Market a welcome addition to a weekend in Woollahra

Come and enjoy some delightful fresh produce and wonderful surprises at the Woollahra Artisan Market, held each Sunday from 8.30am to 2.30pm at the car park next to Zigolini's at 53 Moncur Street, Woollahra.

The Market has a distinctively French feel and offers a great addition to your weekend plans. For more information: <http://www.woollahraartisanmarkets.com>



Draft Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Policy

The Local Government Act requires Council to annually adopt a Policy concerning the payment expenses and the provision of facilities to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors. Prior to a Policy, Council must give public notice of the proposed policy and allow at least 28 days for the submissions.

On 8 September 2014 Woollahra Council resolved to place on public exhibition a revised draft 'of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors Policy' for Council's consideration. The draft Policy proposes only one change to the existing Policy, that being the provision of electronic equipment, such as an iPad, to the Councillors.

Submissions are invited on the revised draft Policy.

The proposed Policy can be viewed at Council's Customer Service Centre, Libraries, and on our website: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

Submissions should be forwarded to The General Manager, Woollahra Municipal Council, PO Box 61 Double Bay NSW 1360 and be received by Friday, 17 October 2014.

Draft Code of Meeting Practice

On 8 September 2014 the Council resolved to place on public exhibition a revised Code of Meeting Practice.

The revised Code contains all the Local Government Act and Regulation requirements relating to procedures and proposes a number of changes to Woollahra Council's Meeting Policies and Standing Orders. Before Council can consider adopting the new draft Code, it must invite public comment and accept submissions received on the new draft Code.

The draft Code of Meeting Practice can be viewed at Council's Customer Service Centre, Libraries, and on our web site: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

Submissions are invited on the proposed Code and are to be forwarded to The General Manager, Woollahra Municipal Council, PO Box 61 Double Bay NSW 1360 by Tuesday, 28 October 2014.

Proposed Closure and Sale of Road Reserve Port Adjoining 48 Cranbrook Rd, Bellevue Hill

Council is considering the closure and sale of a portion of Cranbrook Road reserve to the adjoining property owner of 48 Cranbrook Road, Bellevue Hill.

A plan is available for viewing on Woollahra Council's web site (www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au) under 'Have your Say' section, which shows the subject portion of Cranbrook Road bound by a border hatched line infill. This rectangular shaped area has an estimated width of 6 metres and length of 10 metres. It is estimated to be some 100 square metres in size, subject to final survey.

Any member of the public wishing to make a written submission to Council with respect to the road closure and sale should do so within 28 days of the public advertisement date, being 17 September 2014.

All submissions should be addressed to The General Manager, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360. Further information can be obtained from Council's Property Officer, Minnie Cai on 9391 7991.

Notice of Proposed Development

New Development Applications and Applications to Modify Development Consents have been the following sites:

New Development Applications

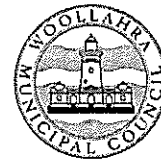
DA0313/14 Applicant:	132 Glenmore Road PADDINGTON Sophie Solomon Design
Alterations and additions to existing terrace house including internal modifications; new work to balcony with new bifold door; new window & bifold door to east elevation; work to facade including coloured glass to existing window opening & render & paint; new steel palisade fence	
DA0369/14 Applicant:	33 The Crescent VAUCLUSE S Williams
Alterations & additions including first floor addition	
DA0371/14 Applicant:	7 Wolseley Crescent POINT PIPER Archer & Wright
Various alterations and additions to the dwelling including a new garage	
DA0372/14 Applicant:	17 Village High Road VAUCLUSE Brenchley Architects
Demolition of the existing dwelling-house & the construction of a new dwelling-house and swimming pool	
DA0373/14 Applicant:	374 & 376 - 382 New South Head Road DOUBLE BAY Fivex Commercial Property Group
Amending DA to DA 568/2013 to change the use of the approved plantroom to a studio apartment including alterations and additions; the relocation of the plant room to a platform over 374 New South Head Road; re-establishing the blackwater system on the new platform	
DA0374/14 Applicant:	1 Moore Street VAUCLUSE Mr B Still & Ms S A Frearson
Alterations including enlargement of basement, new roof to garage & terrace, new windows to facade, alterations to existing balcony & extension of second floor bathroom	
DA0378/14 Applicant:	10 Oswald Lane DARLING POINT Mr B R Wain
New concrete swimming pool	
DA0379/14 Applicant:	30 Dover Road ROSE BAY Miss H Rissman
Alterations and additions to an existing dwelling-house	
DA0381/14 Applicant:	16 Cambridge Street PADDINGTON Ms C L Africh
New attic bedroom, extension of rear kitchen & minor internal alterations	
DA0382/14 Applicant:	2/339-341 Edgecliff Road WOOLLAHRA Mr G Filler
Partial enclosure of the existing first floor balcony and two new ground floor doors	
DA0383/14 Applicant:	6-8 Buller Street BELLEVUE HILL Philip Ayrton & Associates
Alterations and additions to existing semi-detached dwellings including a first floor addition, off street parking	

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Media release

11 September 2014

Woollahra
Municipal
Council



Government's merger plan no fit for Woollahra residents

Woollahra Mayor, Councillor Toni Zeltzer says the NSW Government's *Fit for the Future* package for local government reform is not a good fit for Woollahra residents and reads like a forced move to bigger councils. Under the proposal all councils are required to meet criteria, consistent with the Independent Local Government Review Panel's recommendations, which for an amalgamated Woollahra is a population of around 670, 000 by 2031. Woollahra Council has a population of around 57,000 residents.

"I thought we had a commitment to no forced amalgamations, but it sounds like the Government has taken on the Panel's unsubstantiated view that bigger is better and one size fits all," the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Toni Zeltzer said.

"The *Fit for the Future* package seems to offer no option for smaller, efficient and sustainable councils like ours to continue to exist. The only voluntary aspect of the reform appears to be choosing which neighbouring councils to join up with," the Mayor said.

A Woollahra Council community survey conducted in mid-2013 indicated that more than 80% of residents opposed a 'global city' merger and supported Woollahra retaining its independence.

"The *Fit for the Future* package suggests more consultation with residents on the issue, which we will carry out, however I am confident that the position of our constituents will not have changed since our last survey and most Councillors have already reinforced their position to me," the Mayor said.

"In the event of a forced merger with neighbouring councils, our residents would see an increase in their rates of up to 22% because of high land value, which equates to approximately \$8M p.a. with no guarantee of the rates being spent locally and no guarantee of increased service provision.

"Woollahra Council has received a positive financial sustainability outlook rating from NSW Treasury and we already partner with neighbouring councils to share resources and projects that benefit our local and broader community. We are already achieving economies of scale without the need for an amalgamation.

"To remove boundaries and dismantle councils that have demonstrated fiscal responsibility, sustainability, innovation and community trust, in order to simply form larger councils is a disappointing outcome.

"We do not share the view that bigger is better or smarter – there is no evidence to support this claim and many case studies elsewhere show the opposite. We see no material benefit for the local community in the proposed mergers that can't be achieved by Woollahra operating as a stand-alone council.

"We support the majority of recommendations put forward in the Independent Local Government Review Panel's report that could lead to strong, sustainable and effective councils. Initiatives like collaborative regional planning and uniform performance indicators are commendable.

"Whilst we are a financially sustainable council, we cannot support a move to amalgamation when there is so little community support for it, nor any clear benefit for the residents who elected us," the Mayor said.

Media contact:

Justine Henderson T: 9391 7141/0409 661708

Woollahra Council

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Mayoral Minute No: 2

**Subject: Local Government Review Panel - Submission to Final Paper ‘
Revitalising Local Government’**

Author: Cr Toni Zeltzer, Mayor of Woollahra

File No: 566.G

Reason for Report: To table Council’s submission in response to the Local Government Review Panel’s Final Paper – *‘Revitalising Local Government’*

Motion moved by Councillor O’Regan

Seconded by Councillor Cavanagh

7/4 That the Council move into a Committee of the Whole.

Adopted

In Committee of the Whole

The Councillors extensively discussed the Mayoral Minute, Council’s submission and detailed response to the Report’s 65 Recommendations.

Motion moved by Councillor Boskovitz

Seconded by Councillor Thomas

8/4 That the Committee of the Whole move back to the Council Meeting.

Adopted

(Boskovitz/Thomas)

9/4 **Resolved:**

THAT Council:

- A. Note the NSW State Government’s release of the Local Government Review Panel’s Final Report - *‘Revitalising Local Government’* on 8 January 2014 with a deadline of 7 March 2014 for lodgement of written submissions.
- B. Receive and note Council’s Submission to the Local Government Review Panel’s Final Report as presented as **Annexure 1** and our detailed response to the Report’s 65 Recommendations, presented as **Annexure 2**.
- C. Having regard to,
 - i. the community’s strong support for Woollahra Municipal Council continuing as a standalone Council,
 - ii. the strong financial sustainability rating of the Council by NSW Treasury Corporation,
 - iii. the significant increased rating impost on our residents as a consequence of a merger/amalgamation, and
 - iv. that there is no business case or evidence to support a “larger is better” philosophy guaranteeing efficient Councils

continue to pursue its independent existence,

- D. Continue to support the State Government's publicly stated position of No Forced Amalgamation of Councils and request it reaffirms this policy beyond the March 2015 State Elections.
- E. Support the following positive key recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel's Final Report:
- i. Promote the establishment of a Metropolitan Council of Mayors.
 - ii. Introduce new arrangements for collaborative, whole-of-government strategic planning at a regional level.
 - iii. Amend the NSW State Constitution to strengthen recognition of elected local government.
 - iv. Adopt a uniform core set of performance indicators for councils, linked to Integrated Planning & Reporting requirements, and ensure ongoing performance monitoring is adequately resourced.
 - v. Maintain the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme for at least 5 years, with a focus on councils facing the most severe infrastructure problems.
 - vi. Factor the need for infrastructure backlogs into any future rate-pegging or local government cost index.
 - vii. Encourage councils to make use of fees and charges and remove restrictions on fees for statutory approvals and inspections, subject to monitoring and benchmarking by IPART.
 - viii. Establish a state borrowing facility to encourage local government to make increased use of debt where appropriate by reducing the level of interest rates paid by councils and providing low-cost financial and treasury management advisory services.
 - ix. Commission IPART to undertake a further review of the rating system focussed on options to reduce or remove excessive exemptions and concessions, and on more equitable rating of apartments and multi-unit dwellings, including giving councils the option of rating residential properties on capital improved value, with a view to raising additional revenue where affordable.
 - x. Either replace rate-pegging with a new system of 'rate benchmarking' or streamline existing arrangements to remove unwarranted complexity, costs, and constraints to sound financial management.
- F. Endorse the Sydney Metropolitan Mayors support of local government reform which will increase the capacity of individual councils and strengthen collaborative relationships between state and local government.
- G. Note that the Review Panel's preferred option for council mergers in the Sydney Metropolitan Region presented in their Final Paper which includes the amalgamation of Woollahra Council with Botany Bay, Randwick, Waverley and the Council of the City of Sydney is not supported by Woollahra Council.

Introduction:

I have prepared this Mayoral Minute for two (2) reasons. The first is to enable the Council to lodge its submission to the NSW State Government in response to the Local Government Review Panel's final paper in relation to reform of local government.

The second reason is to inform our community of the Council's current position with particular reference to matters that may directly impact them and affect the Council if all the Review Panel's preferred options are adopted. I have incorporated extracts from our submission to highlight these matters.

Woollahra Council has made three previous submissions in response to the Local Government Review Panel's earlier papers:

- *Strengthening Your Community - Consultation Paper* (June 2013)
- *The Case for Sustainable Change - Discussion Paper* (March 2013)
- *Future Directions for Local Government - Options Paper* (June 2013)

The Local Government Review Panel presented their final paper – *Revitalising Local Government* to the NSW State Government on 25 October 2013, with the State Government in turn releasing the report for public consultation on 8 January 2013. In doing so, the State Government has not provided any response to the report's recommendations but has stated that the Government wants to get on with reform.

A copy of the Panel's Final Report has previously been provided to Councillors and is available on the Division of Local Government's website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au.

I now welcome this opportunity to provide feedback directly to the State Government on the Panel's recommendations which we hope will lead to constructive and positive reform of local government aimed at increasing the capacity of individual councils and strengthening collaborative relationships between state and local government.

The deadline for the lodgement of written submissions was initially set as 7 March 2014 but has been extended to Friday 4 April 2014.

Council's position on local government reform in NSW has remained consistent throughout the period of the Local Government Review Panel's work. Woollahra Council supports reform that seeks to strengthen local government but it will not support a recommendation for amalgamation in the absence of a clear business case or strong evidence that presents demonstrable benefits to the Woollahra community that cannot otherwise be provided through us remaining a stand-alone council.

Overview of the Panel's Final Report

The Panel's Final Report contains 65 recommendations across the following 12 key themes:

1. Fiscal Responsibility
2. Strengthening the Revenue Base
3. Meeting infrastructure needs
4. Improvement, Productivity and Accountability
5. Political Leadership and Good Governance
6. Advance Structural Reform
7. Regional Joint Organisations
8. Rural Councils and Community Boards
9. Metropolitan Sydney, Hunter and Central Coast
10. Non-Metropolitan Regions
11. The Far West
12. State-Local Government Relation

Annexure 2 to this report presents the Panel's 65 recommendations along with Council's response to the recommendation where applicable. In this regard we have not provided comments in response to recommendations that are not applicable. In preparing this submission, the General Manager, Director Corporate Services and I have been working closely with the Sydney Metropolitan Mayors and SSROC and I have attended meetings with Local Government NSW to assist them in framing their submission.

Executive Summary of Council's Submission

Woollahra Council has presented a very clear and consistent message throughout the period of the Local Government Reform Panel's work. That message is that this Council supports reform, but it cannot and will not support a proposal for the amalgamation of Woollahra Council in the absence of clear evidence of benefits to the community that cannot be delivered under a sensible program of reform. Merger and amalgamation is not considered an essential ingredient to meaningful reform.

Having restated that message, I can also say that the Panel is to be commended for the work they have done, and that this final report does indeed contain many recommendations for sensible reform that I am sure will lead to more sustainable councils and a much stronger local government sector if those recommendations are implemented in a genuine spirit of cooperation between councils and the NSW state government. Some of those recommendations for sensible reform are:

- Promote the establishment of a Metropolitan Council of Mayors.
- Introduce new arrangements for collaborative, whole-of-government strategic planning at a regional level.
- Amend the NSW State Constitution to strengthen recognition of elected local government.
- Adopt a uniform core set of performance indicators for councils, linked to Integrated Planning & Reporting requirements, and ensure ongoing performance monitoring is adequately resourced.
- Maintain the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme for at least 5 years, with a focus on councils facing the most severe infrastructure problems.
- Factor the need for infrastructure backlogs into any future rate-pegging or local government cost index.
- Encourage councils to make use of fees and charges and remove restrictions on fees for statutory approvals and inspections, subject to monitoring and benchmarking by IPART.
- Establish a state borrowing facility to encourage local government to make increased use of debt where appropriate by reducing the level of interest rates paid by councils and providing low-cost financial and treasury management advisory services.
- Commission IPART to undertake a further review of the rating system focussed on options to reduce or remove excessive exemptions and concessions, and on more equitable rating of apartments and multi-unit dwellings, including giving councils the option of rating residential properties on capital improved value, with a view to raising additional revenue where affordable.
- Either replace rate-pegging with a new system of 'rate benchmarking' or streamline existing arrangements to remove unwarranted complexity, costs, and constraints to sound financial management.

However, it is extremely disappointing that the Panel have chosen to ignore the views of this Council and our community in relation to maintaining our independence as a council and stick to their preferred position for the widespread amalgamation of councils, and in particular, significant amalgamations in the Sydney metropolitan area. Those recommendations include the proposed amalgamation of Woollahra Council with the City of Sydney, Botany Bay, Randwick and Waverley Councils. No business cases have been presented to support this. Financial sustainability and community representation has been diminished for local government generally in importance in return for an undefined and untested concept of strategic capacity. The Panel, in fact, agrees there is no guarantee of cost savings in any such merger.

As we have outlined in previous submissions to the Panel, and as we are now highlighting directly to the NSW State Government in this latest submission, there is no evidence whatsoever that demonstrates any benefits to our community under the amalgamation proposal.

Our submission presents evidence that ratepayers in this community will indeed be disadvantaged under the proposed amalgamation due to the disproportionately high land values that exist in this part of Sydney's eastern suburbs. The consequential negative impact those comparatively high land values have on Woollahra ratepayers under a merged rating base between Woollahra, Waverley and Randwick Council are significant and cannot be ignored in the amalgamation debate.

Modelling undertaken of the combined rating bases of Woollahra, Waverley and Randwick Councils demonstrates that under existing rating legislation, Woollahra residents would face rate increases in the order of 22% with the revenue used to subsidise service provision in Waverley and Randwick and to fund a decrease in rates for ratepayers in Randwick. We would not expect the adverse impact on Woollahra ratepayers to improve if the rating bases of the City of Sydney and Botany Bay Council were added to the mix. The reason for this is the disproportionately high land values within this municipality compared to our neighbouring councils.

Rating legislation does not permit increases of this proportion to be quarantined to the area in which they are raised. Inevitably, funds will be expended in areas of greatest need within a merged area. Given this Council's already "positive" rating by TCorp it is not unreasonable to assume our ratepayers will incur substantial rate increases but gain no benefit from these increases because the funds are likely to cross subsidise services in other areas.

Evidence provided in our previous submissions to the Panel which supported Council's 'Case to Remain' a stand-alone council included the results of an independently conducted and statistically valid random survey of residents by Micromex Research in June/July 2013. The survey concluded as follows:

- 84% of respondents attributed a positive rating to the importance of Woollahra retaining its independence and continuing to have a local connection and representation.
- 81% of respondents support Woollahra Council in opposing the 'Global City' amalgamation proposal.
- 75% of respondents are either not very supportive or not at all supportive of Woollahra Council being amalgamated into a 'Global City' Council in the absence of a business case that clearly demonstrates benefits for Woollahra residents.
- In removing the 'fence-sitters' (those somewhat supportive) the data shows that the community is 4.7:1 **against** amalgamation.

It was also striking in the results from this survey that when presented with a range of 'forced' amalgamation options, more than one third of respondents opted to continue to oppose any amalgamation – albeit forced amalgamation. Further, only 28% would have supported an amalgamation with Waverley, only 22% would support amalgamation with Waverley, Randwick and Botany Bay, and 10% would support amalgamation with just Sydney City. The least popular response was only 5% supporting the Global City concept.

The Eastern Suburbs of Sydney is not an area that warrants state government intervention. Councils in this region are sustainable and through sensible strategic and financial planning, supported by the proposed reforms that look to strengthen the revenue base for councils, councils in our region will continue to improve.

Woollahra Council has already presented TCorp with an updated long term financial plan that sees us move from our 'moderate' and 'neutral' rating to 'sound' and 'positive'. As such, we will continue to advocate for our independence as a council and strive to fully implement the strategies articulated in our Community Strategic Plan which our revised long term financial plan clearly demonstrates we are more than capable of achieving.

The Panel's 'idea' for a Global City Council is an untried and untested concept that is not supported in any way whatsoever by a sound and rigorous business case. It is simply that – an idea – promoted by the Panel as a vehicle that purports to improve the 'strategic capacity' of local government to work more collaboratively with the state government, particularly on matters of regional significance and strategic planning. However, there is no guarantee that the Panel's vision in this regard will be achieved.


Local Government boundaries in the eastern suburbs of Sydney are clearly not a determining factor for Sydney's recognition as a 'truly global city' – Sydney already is a truly global city - based on the following general characteristics which do not include geographical boundaries:

- Home to major stock exchanges and indexes
- Influential in international political affairs
- Home to world-renowned cultural institutions
- Service a major media hub
- Large mass transit networks
- Home to a large international airport
- Having a prominent skyline
- World class hospitals and universities exist.

Similarly, the provision of local services to local communities is not a characteristic of a global city. The provision of local services to local communities is the key functional role of local government. This is what keeps the 'local' in local government.

There are significant consequences of our merger into an Eastern Suburbs Council which cannot and will not be ignored by Woollahra Council in the amalgamation debate. Huge increases in council rates, the subsidisation of services across Woollahra's borders, and the provision of rate cuts for our neighbouring ratepayers is a most disturbing proposition for our residents and ratepayers. This council will not be complicit in allowing that to happen. We will not compromise our identity, our service standards to our community, nor our independent financial sustainability for the benefit of our neighbouring councils.

Endorsement of the Council's Submission to the NSW State Government is strongly recommended.


Cr Toni Zeltzer
Mayor

Annexures:

- Annexure 1: Woollahra Council Submission to the Final report of the NSW LGRP
“Revitalising Local Government” – March 2014
- Annexure 2: Woollahra Comments, Comments in response to the LGRP Final Report
Recommendations.

Sydney Metropolitan Mayors

Media Release

24 January 2014

Sydney Metropolitan Mayors Support No Forced Amalgamations

The Association of Sydney Metropolitan Mayors (SMM) has considered the final report of the Independent Local Government Review Panel - *Revitalising Local Government*.

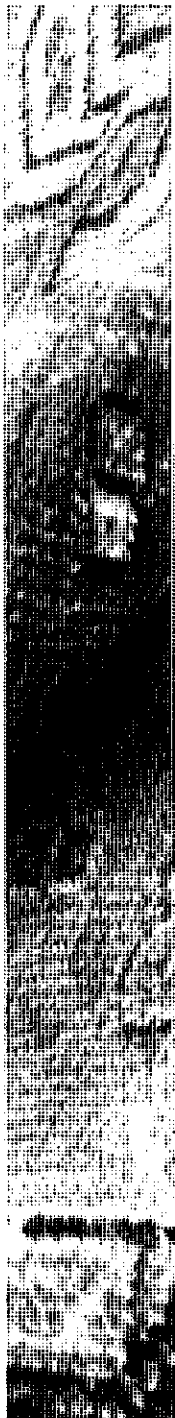
Chairman of the SMM and Mayor of the City of Canterbury, Brian Robson, said “the SMM strongly supports the NSW Government’s position of no forced amalgamations and urges the Government to continue the reform process to strengthen and support our sector. We welcome the opportunity to work closely with the State Government to build a strong local government sector that is better able to deliver a stronger and more prosperous NSW.”

In specific response to the Final Report, the SMM notes the following positive reform proposals:-

1. Improvements to local government representation, coordination and collaboration between the State and Local Government -
 - a. Support the Metropolitan Council of Mayors;
 - b. Establish a State-local Partnership Committee for Sydney and Parramatta;
 - c. Amend the NSW State Constitution to recognise Local Government
 - d. Improve representation of Local Government inside the NSW Government
2. Opportunities to strengthen the revenue base of councils -
 - a. Replacement of rate-pegging (which has led to foregone revenue) by either:
 - i. Rate-benchmarking (set by IPART)
 - ii. Streamlined rate-pegging (increased flexibility for rises)
 - iii. Earned Exemptions for Councils with high financial performance
 - b. Establish a State-borrowing facility to enable Councils to borrow funds at the same rate as the NSW Government - saving approximately 2%
 - c. Commission IPART to undertake a review of the rating system, focussing on:
 - i. Reducing / removing exemptions for Council rates
 - ii. Introducing a more equitable rate for apartments
 - d. Recommendations to improve the financial management of Councils
3. Opportunities to expand the responsibilities of Councils and to enable better resourced Councils to take on greater responsibilities, where these can be accompanied by a secure revenue stream. Examples are full partnership responsibilities in sub-regional transport strategies, cycleways and major infrastructure projects.
4. Improvements to Council governance including clarification of the roles of mayors, councillors and general managers. Support for popularly elected mayors and minimum terms of two years for those who are council-elected.

Members of the Sydney Metropolitan Mayors are of the view that if the NSW Government commits to these positive reforms, widespread amalgamations of councils in SNW may not be necessary and councils will be well placed to deliver a stronger and more prosperous NSW, in partnership with the State Government.

The Sydney Metropolitan Mayors comprise twenty two of the thirty eight Councils in the Sydney Metropolitan area and represent more than two million residents. The creation of this group is a recommendation of the Panel's report - a recommendation which had been immediately acted upon in early 2013 by Sydney Metropolitan Councils as a means to provide a voice for our region. We look forward to working collaboratively with the State and Federal Governments in high level consultations to represent both local government and our local communities, as outlined in the report.



Daily 9c
CLASSIC
CONTEM
CUSTOME



252 WENTW



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Out and About

Last weekend Cr Greg Levenston and I joined other dignitaries in attending a moving commemoration ceremony at Coogee to remember the victims of the Bali bombing. It was an honour to hear from survivors and family members and fondly remember those who died in the 2002 terror attack.

I had the great pleasure of opening the Swiss Deli by the Bay last Thursday night along with the Member for Wentworth, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP. The Deli makes a great addition to the Lyne Park area and I am sure it will be popular amongst ferry commuters, locals and visitors to the area. I wish the owners and staff all the best with their new business venture.

Congratulations to all the Royal Australian Navy personnel involved in planning the successful International Fleet Review on Sydney Harbour. The fireworks were spectacular. It was wonderful to see so many people out enjoying the great weather and a wonderful celebration to mark the centenary of the first entry of the RAN's fleet into Sydney.

I joined Deputy Mayor Katherine O'Regan, Councillors Anthony Marano, Peter Cavanagh, Anthony Boskovitz at the annual NSW Local Government Conference in Sydney a few weeks ago to hear from Councillors across the state on issues in their local areas and bigger picture issues including potential amalgamations and the need to seek community input on local government reform. It was a very interesting few days.

Help shape your neighbourhood.

Our Draft WLEP 2013 is on public exhibition and we want your comments.

Our current Woollahra LEP 1995 is over 15 years old and will be replaced by Woollahra LEP 2013.

The new LEP will apply to all land in the Woollahra Local Government Area.

Preparing this new LEP gives us the opportunity to fine-tune existing planning controls to ensure that future development is sustainable, well-designed and meets community expectations regarding the character of our neighbourhoods.

I encourage you to make a submission and have your say during the public exhibition period, which ends on 13 November 2013. You can make your submission online via our website http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/yourplan/have_your_say.

We will be holding drop-in sessions outside of normal business hours where you can come and meet with a planner and ask questions about Draft WLEP 2013. The next session will be held in our Customer Service Centre at 536 New South Head Road Double Bay on Tuesday 22 October, from 4.30pm to 7pm.

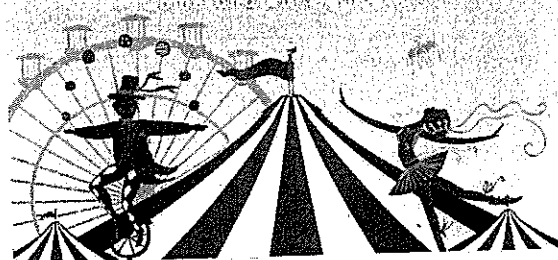
Don't miss Sydney's biggest street festival

The Double Bay Street Festival is back again. Mark your calendar for Sunday November 3.

Come along and enjoy live entertainment, food and wine tasting, rides, classic cars, police and fire services displays and more than 200 stalls. All day fun for the whole family. Event parking available at Steyne Park.

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
DOUBLE BAY STREET FESTIVAL

Join us for Sydney's most stylish Street Festival
Live entertainment • Carnival Rides • Market Stalls and Boutique Shops



Chambers and Customer Service Centre: 536 New South
Postal: PO Box 61 Double Bay NSW 1360 records@w

Draft Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2013
Draft WLEP 2013 will guide the future development of the future development area.

Draft WLEP 2013 has been prepared to update the guidelines.

Once the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure 1995.

How does the new LEP affect me?

The zoning of your land will have a new non development controls have been fine tuned affects you.

How do I view Draft WLEP 2013?

Council office and libraries: All the exhibition Bayl from 8.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday

Website: There is a dedicated website where fact sheets help explain the new LEP and how

How can I have my say on Draft WLEP 2013?

All submissions must be in writing. The de **Website:** Complete the online submission

Write: Include the title 'LEP submission' at **Email:** yourplan@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

If you have any questions during the public 9391 7000.

Privacy notification: Please refer to the p

ENVIRONMENT AND ASSESSMENT

Exhibition of the Draft Development Control Plan

Council has prepared a draft development Bellevue Hill (Lot 101, DP 827011). The

The Draft DCP guides the design and loc it seeks to address the amenity of edjoir built form across the site, and well-cons

The Draft DCP will supplement and oper site, including Woollahra Local Environm

Details of the public exhibition for the D

Dates: Wednesday 9 October 2013

Location: Woollahra Council Administ 536 New South Head Road Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.00pm

Online: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions on the Draft DCP : Submissions should be addressed to the Double Bay NSW 1360 and received by also be emailed to records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

For more information contact Council's

Notice of Preparation

New Development Applications and Applications lodged at the following sites:

New Development Applications

DA0450/13 5 Forest Road Applicant: Ergo Architect

Demolition of the existing dwelling-house, new fencing, landscaping and 1 equipment room

DA0451/13 22 Wyuna Road Applicant: Mr M Sutcliffe

Alterations & additions including new

DA0452/13 2 Wolseley Applicant: Stening Architects

New plunge pool, privacy screens & 1 dwelling

DA0453/13 3/809-823 Applicant: Thai Mass

Internal fitout for a new massage shop

DA0454/13 25-27 New Applicant: My Steppi

The conversion of two existing dwellings

DA0455/13 4 Royston Road Applicant: Ezer Style

Alterations & additions to rear of terrace

DA0456/13 14 Holdsv Applicant: Modify House

Alterations and additions to the existing garage

The above applications, plans and specifications Planning & Development Division be for 15 days from 16 October 2013 u application reference number.

Applications to Amend

DA0211/12/2 6/14 Fair Applicant: Ms H J Y

Mayoral Minute

Mayoral Minute No: 1

Subject: Local Government Review Panel - Submission to Future Directions Paper

Author: Cr Andrew Petrie, Mayor of Woollahra

File No: 566.G

Reason for Report: To table Council's submission in response to the Local Government Review Panel's *Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps* consultation paper.

(Robertson/O'Regan)

Resolved:

4/11 THAT Council:

- A. Receive and note Council's submission in response to the Local Government Review Panel's Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps consultation paper provided as **Annexure 1**.
- B. Note that Council's submission includes a self-assessment of Woollahra Council's capacity against the Local Government Review Panel's Signposts and Elements of an Effective System of Local Government' as presented in the Panel's previous consultation paper, *"Better, Stronger Local Government – The Case for Sustainable Change"*.
- C. Note that Woollahra Council passes each of the tests in the self-assessment and should not be targeted as a problem council warranting any state government intervention - let alone amalgamation into a global city.
- D. Note the results of the recent community survey of Woollahra residents that indicates:
 - i. 81% of respondents support Council's position of opposing the global city amalgamation
 - ii. 84% of respondents attributed a positive rating to the importance of Woollahra retaining its independence and continuing to have a local connection and representation
- E. Continue to oppose the Local Government Review Panel's proposal for the amalgamation of Woollahra Council in the strongest possible terms on the basis that it does not have community support or present evidence of any direct or indirect benefits to residents.
- F. Write to the Premier, the Hon Barry O'Farrell, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Don Page, and the Chair of the Local Government Review Panel, Prof Graham Sansom, drawing their attention to the strong community opposition to the Review Panel's proposal for the amalgamation of Woollahra Council into a 'global city.'

Council's Submission:

At the Council meeting held on 27 May 2013, I tabled a Mayoral Minute in relation to the Local Government Review Panel's "*Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps*" paper. The purpose of that Minute was to outline what I saw as being the structure of Council's submission in response to the Review Panel's latest consultation paper, which as you are well aware, proposed the amalgamation of Woollahra Council into a 'global city' council with the City of Sydney, Waverley, Randwick and Botany Bay Councils, and potentially the Councils of Leichhardt and Marrickville.

As my previous Mayoral Minute made very clear, this Council cannot and will not support the 'global city' idea because we haven't seen or heard any benefits for our local residents from amalgamation that could not otherwise be achieved through minor sensible reform and continuous improvement. The 'global city' proposal is simply an idea - a philosophical position of the Panel than is not supported by evidence of any benefits to the community.

This is the very strong position we have put forward to the Panel in the first section of our submission.

Having stated that, there is much more to the Panel's *Future Directions* paper than the proposed widespread amalgamation of councils. Many of the other options for sensible reform discussed in the paper do warrant support - or at the very least, further investigation. Some of these sensible reform options are:

- Develop a standard set of sustainability benchmarks for councils
- Require all councils to appoint a qualified Chief Financial Officer
- Strengthen the guidelines for councils' 4-year Delivery Programs
- Improve the rating system and streamline rate-pegging to enable councils to generate essential additional revenue
- Progressively re-distribute grant funding to provide greater assistance to rural-remote councils with limited rating potential
- Establish a State-wide Local Government Finance Agency to bring down interest costs and assist councils make better use of borrowings
- Maintain the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) for at least 5 years, with a focus on councils facing the most severe problems
- Create a Strategic Projects Fund for roads and bridges to help reduce the infrastructure backlog.

The second section of Council's submission provides feedback to the Panel in response to all of their *Twenty Essential Steps*.

The final section of the submission presents the case for Woollahra Council to continue to exist as a high functioning and strong local government authority that is very well equipped and positioned to provide efficient and effective services to its local community well into the future. This 'case to remain' is presented as an assessment of Woollahra Council's capacity against the Local Government Review Panel's Signposts and Elements of an Effective System of Local Government as presented in the Panel's previous consultation paper, "*Better, Stronger Local Government – The Case for Sustainable Change*".

Woollahra Council passes each of these tests and so should not be targeted as a problem council warranting state government intervention, let alone amalgamation into a global city.

A copy of Council's submission forwarded to the Local Government Review Panel on 28 June 2013 is provided as **Annexure 1** to this Mayoral Minute.

I have also provided as **Annexure 2** a copy of a Message from the Mayor, delivered to all households in the Woollahra Municipality, in which I outline Council's reasons for rejecting the 'global city' idea.

Community Survey:

Of primary importance in all of this current debate about the future of Local Government in NSW and the prospect of a 'global city' council for Sydney, is what is best for local communities and to what degree do communities value local connection and representation.

To answer these questions, we have asked our community directly by way of a statistically valid random survey of 400 residents conducted towards the end of June 2013 by specialist research company Micromex Research - and the answer is very clear - Woollahra residents do not want amalgamation.

Specific results from the survey include:

- 81% of respondents support Council's position of opposing the global city amalgamation, and;
- 84% of respondents attributed a positive rating to the importance of Woollahra retaining its independence and continuing to have a local connection and representation.
- After adjusting for the 'fence-sitters', 75% of respondents were not very supportive / not at all supportive of the global city amalgamation versus 16% who are supportive.
- This is a ratio of 4.7:1 against amalgamation.

The following statements are some of the direct feedback we received from the survey on the question of amalgamation:

- *Management of the LGA needs to be locally based so it best meets the needs of the community*
- *The areas proposed are far too big for Council to be able to manage effectively*
- *Some of these councils are economically strong and others are weak. As Woollahra is strong, other Councils will rely on that economic base to support themselves*
- *Council is effectively run as is and increasing the size would only decrease the quality in services and facilities*
- *Too big a Council will result in a loss of personal connection that I feel I have with Woollahra Council*
- *Demographics and geography of these areas are vastly different and would not mesh well*
- *Global City Council would not have the specific interests of Woollahra residents in mind.*

Even those who indicated some level of support for amalgamation expressed reservations about the proposal. Direct feedback included the following statements:

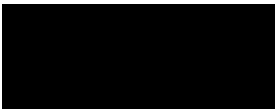
- *The connection between local residents and Council would be lost, but there could be cost savings for the Council which could strengthen services*
- *I don't feel I have enough information for me to make a qualified decision, however. I feel there would be an inequality in rates charged*
- *Amalgamation is needed to create a more economic efficient Council, but this geographical area is too large*

- *I would need to see what the benefits are for local residents, pros and cons, etc. before making an informed decision*
- *I need more information, such as when it would happen and the specific effects on the community*
- *It depends on the costs for the community. If rates and prices of services go up, then I am not supportive. If prices go down, then yes I am.*

I also know from the results of surveys conducted by Randwick and Botany Councils that residents in those areas are also strongly opposed to amalgamations.

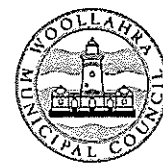
My position from the start of this debate on the future of local government has been to support the State Government's commitment of no forced amalgamations. I have also publicly stated that I support reform but I cannot support a proposal for the amalgamation of Woollahra Council in the absence of clear evidence of benefits to the community that cannot be delivered under a sensible program of reform that sees us retain our independence.

I stated in my previous Mayoral Minute that the lack of evidence in the Panel's latest discussion paper supporting their global city amalgamation proposal should make Woollahra residents quite nervous. According to our recent survey – they are.


Cr Andrew Petrie
Mayor

Annexures:

- Annexure 1: Woollahra Council Submission – 28 June 2013
Annexure 2: Message from the Mayor – 13 June 2013



Media release

18 July 2013

The no's have it. Woollahra residents strongly oppose amalgamation idea.

A recent telephone survey of Woollahra residents indicates strong opposition for the idea being put forward by the Independent Local Government Review Panel to amalgamate Woollahra Council with Botany Bay, City of Sydney, Randwick and Waverley Councils, and potentially Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

81% of the 400 residents surveyed confirmed they are opposed to the Panel's recommendation to create a 'Global City' in a survey commissioned by Woollahra Council and run by Micromex Research.

According to the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Andrew Petrie the survey results have confirmed all the public feedback he has received since the idea was announced.

"The vast majority of residents have made it clear that they oppose any kind of amalgamation with neighbouring areas," Councillor Petrie said.

Woollahra residents have strongly voiced their preference for independence and rated local connection and representation as a top priority, with 84% of respondents indicating that keeping Council 'local' was important.

The following comments are an indication of the type of responses received:

"Management of the LGA needs to be locally based so it best meets the needs of the community."

"Too big a Council will result in a loss of personal connection that I feel I have with Woollahra Council."

"Council is effectively run as is, and increasing the size would only decrease the quality in services and facilities."

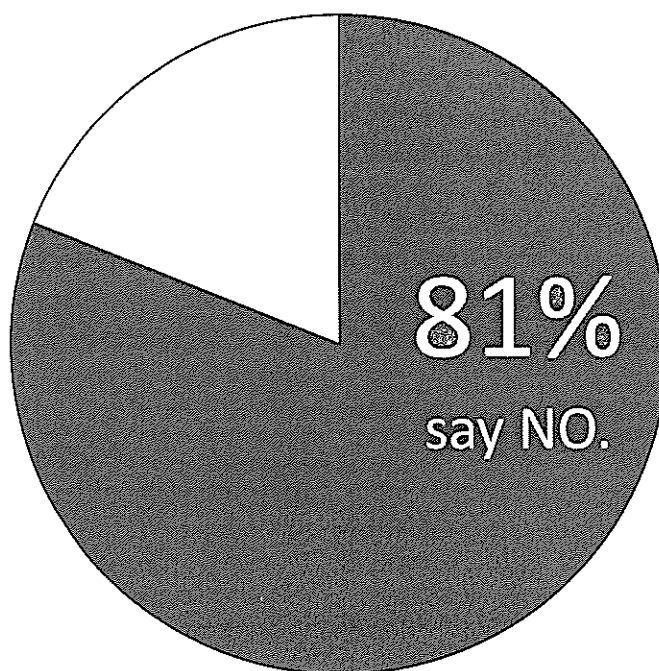
The Mayor said, "I think a lot of residents are rightfully concerned that a population increase from around 55,000 residents up to 800,000 would threaten the local connection and representation they need to ensure they get good service, and which makes them feel part of a community."

"I believe there is overwhelming support within Council and within the community to strive for improvement and to make sure local government reform is all about the quality of service we are providing. There is no public confidence in an amalgamation that has not been costed and does not bring with it significant local benefits for residents," the Mayor concluded.

The Independent Local Government Review Panel is due to report to the State Government with its final recommendations before the end of the year.

Media contact: Justine Henderson T: 9391 7141

Majority oppose global city amalgamation





Mayor
Andrew
Petrie

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Out and About

Last Wednesday I attended the first Metropolitan Mayors Association's meeting hosted by Canterbury Council. The Association consists of Mayors from metropolitan Sydney Councils who are interested in discussing shared issues and concerns including regulations, reform, planning, funding, economic development and transport and infrastructure. I will keep you up to date of the debate and progress.

For those families thinking about what to do with their kids for the school holidays here are some other ideas:

- **Manga art with Miyukiko (for cool kids aged 7 to 15 years)**
Learn how to produce your own Manga art and colourful characters.

Woolahra Council, 4 July, 10.00am – 12.30pm

Bookings essential: <http://mangadb.eventbrite.com.au>

- **Sherbet, slime and bubbles! (for 5-12 year olds)**

Get creative and enjoy a morning of messy fun. Please wear suitable clothes.

Woolahra Council, 5 July, 10.00am – 11.00am.

Bookings essential: <http://bubblesdb.eventbrite.com.au>

- **NAIDOC Bush Tucker Walk**

Enjoy a special bush tucker walk for primary school kids.

Meet at Cooper Park Café, Suttie Road, Double Bay,
11 July, 10.30am.

Bookings essential: <http://bushtuckerkids.eventbrite.com.au>

Music on the streets of Double Bay

The Double Bay Chamber of Commerce and fantastic live music venue Blue Beat have teamed up to present a line up of entertainers to perform at Guilfoyle Park on the last Saturday of each month from 11am – 3pm. "Double Bay Live" will be a great opportunity to listen to live music from a diverse range of talented artists in between shopping and visiting your favourite café.

Mark your calendars now for Sunday 3 November which is the date for the Double Bay Street Festival. It's going to be BIG!

Call for sponsors for Local Writers' Word Festival

Woolahra Council will be hosting its annual Local Writers' Word Festival on July 20. This exciting community event offers writers the opportunity to learn more about their craft, share ideas and find out more about publishing their work. Local businesses interested in sponsoring this event by providing cash sponsorship of up to \$500 to go to the winning entrants are invited to email pat.moore@woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

Young photographers and film makers – entries open for local Award



Aidan Smith's winning entry from last year, Sand

Woolahra Council's Youth Photographic Award & Short Film Prize (YPA) is back for 2013.

The Award and Prize is open to local students years 7-12. The short film must have been made in the last 18 months, be no longer than 6 minutes and must be in DVD or mini DV format. Budding

photographers can also enter the photographic categories and win cash prizes. The Themed Photographic Category is *Rear View*. Categories for the Youth Photographic Award include: Junior Themed (years 7-9); Senior Themed (years 10-12); Open (no theme or age restriction); and People's Choice (Open and decided by online public vote via Council's website).

Entries close on Friday 16 August. More information at website: http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/events/youth_photo_award

The Youth Photographic Award & Short Film Prize is proudly supported by the *Wentworth Courier* and *Metro Screen*. Our thanks to them for their support of our talented young people.

Processing of M

Woolahra Council invites suital of Mixed Food and Garden Org options, subject to satisfactory

Documents can be downloaded – "Council" – "Tenders and Pu Council's Customer Service Arc

All interested tenderers must r tender number, by sending to r

Tenders must be placed in a se Food and Garden Organics" an Tender Box located in the foyer Head Road, Double Bay betwe

Costs incurred in preparing ten on the selection criteria detailer criteria of tender will not neces

All enquiries regarding the tenc

Tender 13/05 - C Inf

Woolahra Council invites suitat O'Sullivan Road, Rose Bay Roa

A pre-tender meeting will be he Proceedings of the meeting wil this tender.

The works to be undertaken in which can be downloaded at n the Council tab, and then "Tenc Council's Customer Service Arc

All interested tenderers must r tender number for the relevant tender meeting.

Tenders must be placed in a se clearly marked and lodged by 2 at the Customer Service Area c open between the hours of 8:0

Costs incurred in preparing tent on the selection criteria detailer tender will not necessarily be a directed to Mr Sam Badalati on

Notice of

New Development Applications have been lodged at the followi

New Dev

DA0477/12	1 Cascade St
Applicant:	Roth Archite
Alterations to facade to reinstat including a change of use of the	
DA0240/13	52 Caledonia
Applicant:	Mr J A Norm
Restoration of front street facac floor level	
DA0247/13	15 Bell Stree
Applicant:	Mr P N Farre
Conversion of the existing base fitout and minor alterations	
DA0250/13	254 Glenmor
Applicant:	Mrs J E Gou
Replace polycarbonate roof with re-instate parapet urns & corbel	
DA0251/13	5 Collins Ave
Applicant:	Prescott Arch
Alterations and additions to the	
DA0252/13	81 Bellevue F
Applicant:	Anthony Gill
Alterations and additions to the new swimming pool, new fence	
DA0253/13	554-558 Old
Applicant:	CSA Architec
Demolition of existing buildings incorporating commercial space	



Message from the Mayor

Dear Resident

The Independent Local Government Review Panel has proposed that Woollahra Council be merged with Sydney, Botany Bay, Randwick, Waverley, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils to form a 'global city'. Woollahra Council rejects this idea for the following reasons:

- 1) With a potential population increase from around 57,000 to 800,000, we don't believe local residents will have the level of representation or connection that they expect and deserve. There is a real risk of local priorities being lost or diminished.
- 2) The Panel has failed to present any real benefits for local residents that would result from the 'global city' merger. In fact, there is much evidence to show that "bigger" does not guarantee "better", particularly in efficient functioning councils. No benefits have been identified for our local community that justify this massive upheaval.
- 3) There are no financials provided on whether a 'global city' would either cost or save ratepayers money.
- 4) The Panel suggests that a large 'global city' council will have much greater 'strategic capacity' to influence the State and Federal Governments on regional matters, without any consequential loss of attention to local priorities. We dispute this idea that strategic influence is more important than locally focussed work and service delivery.

Woollahra Council is sustainable in its own right, as are the other councils. With no evidence of guaranteed benefits and no costs provided, we cannot support a merger. We would much rather see the millions of dollars spent creating a 'global city' directed to improving infrastructure. Our opposition is shared by our fellow councils.

It is important you are aware of Council's position and understand what is being proposed. There are many structural, governance and financial improvements identified by the Panel which we totally support. The creation of a 'global city' however, is not one of them.

The Local Government Review Panel will soon present its recommendations to the State Government and now is the time for local communities to be heard. I encourage you to have your say on the Panel's proposed 'global city' merger before public submissions close on **Friday, 28 June**. A copy of the Panel's 'Future Directions' paper can be found at: www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Email submissions: info@localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Mail submission: Independent Local Government Review Panel
C/-Locked Bag 3015, Nowra NSW 2541

Or you can log your comments online via the *Have Your Say* page at:
<http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au>

Yours sincerely



Councillor Andrew Petrie
Mayor of Woollahra

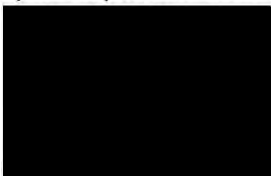
Message from the Mayor

In 1991 I was a local resident, opposed to the over-development of Double Bay. I joined others in voicing my opposition and together we succeeded in protecting the area from inappropriate high rise buildings. I already had a job as an international investment bank Director, but I decided to become a Councillor and use my spare time to ensure the best possible decisions were being made for my community.

I didn't expect my motivation would last 22 years. It has. I am still passionate about our local area and I want the best for the people who live and work here. My Councillor colleagues and I are very concerned that a 'global city' will result in less local representation for residents and we do not support the idea.

What do you want for your local community?

Share your opinion on whether we should stay a local community or become a 'global city'.



Councillor Andrew Petrie
Mayor of Woollahra
13 June 2013

***No local benefits in a
'global city' merger***



Woollahra News

Information on events in your community

Tel: 9391 7000 Fax: 9391 7001

Woollahra Council Chambers

536 New South Head Rd, Double Bay

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Council says no to 'global city'

The formation of a 'global city' with up to 800,000 residents would provide no local benefits for the residents and ratepayers of Woollahra, and the possible costs involved have not been adequately explained. That is the view of Woollahra Council in relation to a proposal from the Independent Local Government Review Panel, which has suggested that Woollahra, Sydney, Randwick, Waverley and Botany Bay councils be amalgamated, with the potential inclusion of Leichhardt and Marrickville to form a new 'global city'.

Woollahra Council does not support the proposal. Council believes that bigger does not equal better and has serious concerns about the idea, which threatens to take the 'local' out of local government.

Council wants to know your thoughts on the 'global city' proposal and will soon be conducting a random telephone survey of residents. We will also be writing to all Woollahra residents detailing our opposition to the proposal and encouraging you to have your say before submissions close on **Friday, 28 June**.

Please email your submissions to: info@localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au or comment online via the *Have Your Say* section of the Panel's website: www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Written submissions can be mailed to:

Independent Local Government Review Panel
C/Locked Bag 3015
Nowra NSW 2541



Cllr Andrew Pe
Mayor of Woo.

Youth Photo & Film Prize

The time has come for Woollahra's budding young photographers and movie makers to get to work, with entries open for Council's annual Youth Photographic Award and Short Film Prize.

The competition is proudly sponsored by the Wentworth Courier, Metro Screen and Westfields.

Photographic categories include: Junior, Senior and Open. The theme for the Open category is **Rear View Mirror**. Films entered in the Junior and Senior Short Film Prizes should be no more than six minutes long.

Entries must be submitted by 10am on Friday 28 June 2013.

For entry details call 9391 7100 or visit the library events page of Council's website: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au



Winning 2012 entry
by Aiden Smith

Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize

Entries are now open for the prestigious 2013 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, which celebrates the diversity and quality of small-scale sculptures up to 80cm tall.

This acclaimed art competition has been running since 2001. It attracts entries from around the world and offers a first prize of a \$10,000 acquisition award.

For more information visit: <http://sculptureprize.woollahra.nsw.gov.au>



Carbon Credit M
by Thor Beowul
winner 2012 Wo
Small Sculpture

Writers & Readers

The Woollahra Library and Information Service presents Kate Forsyth as the special guest at the Writers & Readers event on **Thursday 20 June**.

The internationally best-selling author of more than 20 books will be interviewed by Jacqueline Kent. Kate will discuss her new novel *The Wild Girl*.

The event gets underway at 6:00pm at the Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Rd, Double Bay. Tickets are \$20 or \$10 for Woollahra Library Friends. To book, call 9391 7100 or visit <http://kateforsytheventbrite.com.au>



Tuesday, 25 June
8am – 9:30am



To RSVP visit:

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

For more information on local events www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

WC 12/6/13



Mayor
Andrew
Petrie

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Out and about

I was very pleased to attend the Queen Street West Woollahra Association annual dinner hosted at the Centennial Hotel on June 4. I was joined by Councillors Luise Elsing and Katherine O'Reilly. At the dinner I commended the Association on the excellent service they play in representing the needs of local residents.

On the 31st of May I attended the 71st anniversary memorial service for the Accommodation Ship HMAS Kuttabul. Councillor Ted Bennett joined me for a very memorable tribute to those who lost their lives on board the ship for the sake of our country.

No local benefits in proposed 'global city' merger

In the next week and a half I will be sending out a letter to all residents which clearly outlines our opposition to the "global city" council merger being proposed by the Independent Local Government Panel. In the letter I will explain why we are opposing the merger idea and how you can have your say by June 28, before the Panel makes its recommendations to the State Government. Central to our concern is the fact that local representation will be lost as a result of a merger where there is no clear public benefit and no analysis of how much it would cost.

If Woollahra Council was to merge with Sydney, Botany Bay, Randwick, Waverley, Leichhardt and Marrickville our local population would increase from 57,000 to up to 800,000. Our opposition is shared with our neighbouring councils. In addition the letter I will be sending out to residents, we will be conducting a phone poll to gauge your reaction to the idea.

In the meantime if you are interested in finding out more and if you want to have your say go to:
<http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au>

Tackling boat storage in harbourside areas

Have your say on the best way to tackle boat storage issues in Woollahra by 28 June 2013. The State Government has released a range of options for public comment in a report from the Boat Trailer Working Group. The report can be viewed at: <http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/publications-reports/boat-trailer-working-group-report>

The options up for comment include giving council rangers the power to impound boat trailers left parked in the street for long periods of time and allowing councils to directly take action against unregistered trailers.

This is not about penalising boat owners or preventing them from parking their boat trailers on their street. The objective is to strike a balance between the right to legally park registered boat trailers on residential streets for reasonable periods of time and improving parking access on congested roads with limited parking.

Please send your comments to:
Office of Boating Safety and Maritime Affairs
Transport for NSW
PO Box K659
HAYMARKET NSW 1240
Or email: obsma@transport.nsw.gov.au

Local Writers' Word Festival – Writing Competition

**LOCAL
WRITERS'
WORD FESTIVAL**

Entries are now open for the Writing Competition of Woollahra Council's Local Writers' Word Festival on 20 July. The event celebrates new and emerging local writers. It brings best-selling authors and industry professionals together for a series of talks and writing workshops and offers aspiring authors the chance to showcase their work. Prizes of \$500 are on offer for the winners in the

Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry categories. Shortlisted writers will also have the opportunity to discuss and sell their work on the day. Competition entry is \$40, including festival ticket. General admission is \$35 or \$30 for Woollahra Library Friends. Lunch is included. Entries close Monday, 1 July. Entry is open to self-published writers or those published by a small press living in Woollahra or surrounding municipalities. A strict limit of 60,000 words applies.

For full terms and conditions visit: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library/events

WC 12/6/13



Mayor
Andrew
Petrie

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

No local benefit in 'global city' amalgamation idea

Last week I joined my Mayoral colleagues from neighbouring councils at the NewsLocal 'global city' community forum held at Sydney Boys High. Together we rejected the Independent Local Government Review Panel's proposed idea to merge seven councils (City of Sydney, Botany, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra and potentially Leichhardt and Marrickville councils).

The Panel's idea for a 'global city' would see a dramatic increase in population for our local community to 800,000 residents. I reject the notion that bigger is necessarily better.

My greatest fear is that the 'local' will be taken out of local government.

After 22 years as a local councillor and five Mayoral terms, I know our residents value their opportunity to be heard. In fact, standing up for local representation is the reason I decided to become involved in local council in the first place. I was opposed to a proposed development of two 14 storey towers in the Double Bay commercial centre on the old Ritz Carlton site. A terrible development idea that would have been built if it wasn't for a strong, local voice of opposition.

My other concern is that the 'global city' idea offers no clear benefits for local residents and there has been no mention of how much the proposed merger would cost.

So with no clear benefits, no price tag, no business case and no good reason to change, I can't support the idea.

If the Independent Local Government Review Panel is unable to communicate what the 'global city' will offer and how much residents will be required to pay I doubt they will gain greater public support.

Like me, you have the opportunity to voice your opinion on the 'global city' idea. Public submissions can be lodged up until June 28. Woollahra Council will be sending out a letter to all households on our position and we will also be conducting a phone poll to gauge your reaction to the 'global city' idea.

The Panel will be making recommendations to the State Government later in the year.

I would encourage all residents to have their say. This is your community.

Submissions can be made through email, mail or online. Please send emails to: info@localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Mail:
Independent Local Government Review Panel
C/Locked Bay 3015
Nowra NSW 2541

Or you can submit your comments via the Panel's website:

<http://www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au> (go to - Have Your Say)

Woollahra Libraries closed on 10 June

Please remember that all Woollahra Libraries (Double Bay, Watsons Bay, Paddington and Local History Centre) will be closed on Monday 10 June for the Queen's public holiday. Service resumes on Tuesday 11 June.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Code of Conduct Review Panel members for Randwick and Woollahra Councils

Woollahra and Randwick Councils are inviting Expressions of Interest for appointment to a Code of Conduct Panel that potentially provides code of conduct review services, as required, to these Councils.

The role of the conduct reviewer will be to assess, investigate and report on allegations of breaches of the Local Government Model Code of Conduct by Councillors or by the General Manager. Applicants should have:

- An understanding of local government practices.
- Knowledge of investigative processes including, but not limited to, procedural fairness requirements and the requirements of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994.
- Knowledge and experience in one or more of the following: law, investigations, public administration, public sector ethics, or alternative dispute resolution.

Conduct Reviewers will be registered on the two Council service provider panel and contracted by individual councils on a case by case basis.

For full details of Expression of Interest requirements please see the websites of the member Councils: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au or www.randwick.nsw.gov.au.

Closing Date for the Expression of Interest is 9 July 2013.

Public Exhibition Of Amended Draft Mckell Park And Darling Point Reserve Plan Of Management

Following recent local action Council has amended the previous draft Plan of Management (PoM) for McKell Park and Darling Point Reserve in accordance with the Crown Lands Act 1989 and the Local Government Act 1993.

Council, at its meeting on 27 May 2013, resolved to place the amended draft McKell Park and Darling Point Reserve Plan of Management on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days commencing 30 May 2013.

Copies of the Plan of Management can be inspected at Woollahra Council Chambers (Customer Services Desk), the Council Library at Double Bay and on Council's website: www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

You are invited to view the document and provide a written submission on the amended draft Plan. Submissions can be forwarded to the General Manager, Woollahra Municipal Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1530 or emailed to records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au. Submissions will be accepted up until 4pm, 12 July 2013.

For additional information regarding the draft Plans please contact Paul Fraser on (02) 9391 7142.

Lease granted for 334 Edgecliff Road, Woollahra

Pursuant to Section 47(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, Woollahra Municipal Council hereby gives notice of its proposal to grant a lease of Lot 1 DP 112912, otherwise known as 334 Edgecliff Road, Woollahra, for the purpose of providing seniors and community services and hire for community, recreation and private use to Holdsworth Street Community Centre Woollahra Incorporated for a term of five years, with an option to renew for a further five years on the terms and conditions set out in the draft lease.

The above proposed lease can be inspected at Woollahra Municipal Council offices located at 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay from 9 June 2013 between 8.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, or on the Council website www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

Submissions in writing may be made to the Council concerning the above proposal to grant a lease within 28 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Submissions may be addressed to The General Manager, Woollahra Municipal Council, PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1530. For enquiries contact Kylie Walsh, Director - Community Services on 9391 7908.

Notice of Proposed Development

New Development Applications and Applications to Modify Development Consents have been lodged at the following sites:

New Development Applications

- DA0107/13
Applicant: 8 Kings Road VAUCLUSE
Mrs M McDowan
Alterations and additions
- DA0203/13
Applicant: 12/59-62 New South Head Road VAUCLUSE
Mr T J Carr
Footpath seating to service adjacent Lot 11 which has a DA approval for a cafe-deck with outdoor seating
- DA0212/13
Applicant: 161 Windsor Street PADDINGTON
Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners Pty Ltd
Addition of a second storey to the existing double garage at rear of property
- DA0213/13
Applicant: 17 Russell Street VAUCLUSE
Mr M C & Mrs J P Jenkins
Demolition of existing shed and construction of a new studio
- DA0214/13
Applicant: Shop 6, 15-15A Cross Street DOUBLE BAY (aka Bar Indigo)
Bar Indigo Operations
New store room in courtyard
- DA0215/13
Applicant: 37 Ocean Street WOOLLAHRA
Mrs M Paterson
Change of use from shop to gallery at ground floor level and associated internal alterations
- DA0216/13
Applicant: 82 Caswell Street PADDINGTON
Mr F Walsh
New attic space, addition of car space, alterations to rear of property including new bathroom, kitchen, laundry & living area; removal of existing trees
- The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 5 June 2013 until 19 June 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.

Applications to Amend Development Consent

- DA0576/03/3
Applicant: 16 Hoddle Street PADDINGTON
Mr G M Burazer
Unauthorised Work: new timber deck above existing garage at rear with privacy screen around perimeter new timber stairs to courtyard with glass balustrade
- DA0467/10/2
Applicant: 106 Fletcher Street WOOLLAHRA
Mr A B Hagon
Internal and external modifications including alterations to the rear lane roller door to permit car parking at the rear of the site
Alterations and additions including relocation of kitchen and bathroom, removal of internal walls, alterations to openings, new front fence and new rear lane roller door
- DA0193/11/2
Applicant: 70 Salisbury Road BELLEVUE HILL
Grieg Natalie Design
Internal and external modifications
Demolition of an existing over/lean-to and ancillary structures and the erection of new dwelling house and swimming pool
- DA0446/11/3
Applicant: 81 Ocean Avenue DOUBLE BAY
Moody & Doyle
Modifications to the approved dwelling-house with the extension of the rear balcony area with a new tennis court above in the same location and level
- DA0145/12/2
Applicant: 10 Castra Place DOUBLE BAY
Mr P Lowy
Modification to location and size of the approved swimming pool, seawall, decking and landscaping
New swimming pool, alterations to the sea wall & landscaping
- DA0151/12/3
Applicant: 84 Victoria Road BELLEVUE HILL
Mr T Halkin
Internal and external modifications to the approved carparking structure and tennis court including changes to retaining walls and additional excavation
Extensive demolition of the existing tennis court and excavation to create a new 12 vehicle parking area with a new tennis court above in the same location and level
- DA0163/12/2
Applicant: 522 New South Head Road DOUBLE BAY
Arlington Construction Pty
Deletion of Condition C.2.B and the relocation of the fire hydrant booster system
Demolition of non-required fire stair and construction of new external steel stair, hydrant and booster valves
- DA0244/12/2
Applicant: 9 Rivers Street BELLEVUE HILL
Mr A A Anger
Internal and external modifications
Alterations & additions
- DA0475/12/2
Applicant: 5 Salisbury Street WATSONS BAY
Manago Pty Ltd
Deletion of conditions C1, C2(A) (B) & 11
Alterations and additions incorporating a new rear dock and re-location of stairs
The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 5 June 2013 until 19 June 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.
- Any person who contends that the enjoyment of their land will be detrimentally affected if the proposed development is carried out may object in writing to Council. Council will not determine the application until completion of the public inspection period and will consider any objections submitted. Please see PRIVACY NOTIFICATION below.

Notice of Development Consent Issued by Council

Development consent has been granted for the following applications:

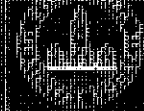
- DA0044/13
Applicant: 8 Fullerton Street WOOLLAHRA
Refurbishment works to the main building facade & car park painting of part of the building
- DA0048/13
Applicant: 18 Arthur Street BELLEVUE HILL
Alterations and additions including new decking to the rear, demolition of carport and construction of a new garage and entry, fencing and landscaping
- DA0052/13
Applicant: 324 Bellevue Road BELLEVUE HILL
Manago Pty Ltd
Alterations and additions to the existing dwelling including new garage at the front, new enclosed swimming pool, landscaping and site works
- DA0060/13
Applicant: 42 Glendon Road DOUBLE BAY
Alterations and additions to the Double Bay Bowling Club including changes to the bar, committee room and new disabled access ramp
- DA0095/13
Applicant: 2/9 Gladswood Gardens DOUBLE BAY
Alterations to Unit 2 including internal reconfiguration and upgrades and changes to balustrades and the fenestration
- DA0098/13
Applicant: 24 March Street BELLEVUE HILL
Substantial alterations and additions including a two storey addition, new double garage, attic space, external terraces and landscaping
- DA0121/13
Applicant: 120 Wallis Street WOOLLAHRA
Alterations and additions including new laundry and bathroom on the ground floor, new balustrades, new entry gate and new planter boxes
- DA0145/13
Applicant: 47 Wentworth Road VAUCLUSE
Alterations and additions
- The above consents are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday.
- The validity of a consent shall not be questioned in any legal proceedings except those commenced in the Land & Environment Court by any person within three months of the date of this advertisement.

PRIVACY NOTIFICATION The supply of personal information is voluntary. If personal information is not provided, Council may be limited in dealing with a submission. Submissions, summaries of submissions, and/or names and addresses of people making submissions may be included in publicly available reports to Council or Committee Meetings. Please note that, in accordance with section 18(1)(b) of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) you are advised that all submissions received by Council in relation to any matter will be placed on the appropriate Council file and may be disclosed to Council Officers, consultants to Council or members of the public. Pursuant to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) the Council may be obliged to allow inspection of its documents, including any submissions you may make.

GARY JAMES
GENERAL MANAGER

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028
5 June 2013

WestWorth Courier 5/06/2013



Woollahra News

Information on events in your community

Woolahra News is a free community newsletter. It is published by the Woollahra Council. For more information, please contact the Council on 9338 1111 or visit our website at www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Have your say on 'Global City'

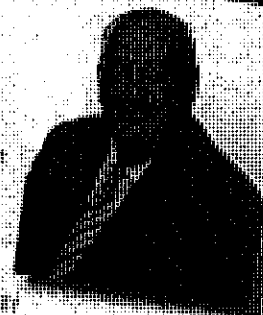
What are your thoughts on a plan to create a new 'global city' with 500,000 residents by amalgamating seven Sydney councils including Woollahra? The proposal has been put forward by the Independent Local Government Review Panel, which will present its recommendations to the State Government later in the year.

Council is opposed to the plan which it believes threatens to take the 'local' out of local government, while providing no clear benefits to ratepayers. You can have your say on the proposal, with public submissions being accepted until 28 June.

Please email your submissions to: sub@localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au or comment online via the Have Your Say section of the Panel's website: www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Additional information can be tracked on:

Independent Local Government Review Panel
Crashed Bay 3015
Hawes 1414 2041



Crashed Bay
Hawes 1414 2041

Traffic Signal Box Art

Woollahra Council is seeking submissions for art to be displayed on the traffic signal boxes located at the intersection of Crashed Bay and Hawes Roads.



Submissions should be made by email to art@woollahra.nsw.gov.au or by post to the Council, 3015 Crashed Bay, Woollahra NSW 1514. The deadline for submissions is 10.00am on Friday 10 June 2011.

Apply now for Council Grants

Woollahra Council is seeking applications for grants to support community projects and initiatives.

Grants are available for a range of projects, including community development, environmental, and cultural projects. Applications should be made by email to grants@woollahra.nsw.gov.au or by post to the Council, 3015 Crashed Bay, Woollahra NSW 1514. The deadline for applications is 10.00am on Friday 10 June 2011.

Local Writers Word Festival Writing Competition

The Local Writers Word Festival is a celebration of local writing and culture. It features a range of events, including workshops, readings, and a writing competition. The competition is open to all local writers and is held annually. For more information, please visit the Local Writers Word Festival website at www.localwriterswordfestival.com.au.

LOCAL WRITERS WORD FESTIVAL
Word Festival 2011

Crashed Bay Road



Crashed Bay Road is a major thoroughfare in Woollahra. It is a single-lane road that runs from the intersection of Crashed Bay and Hawes Roads to the intersection of Crashed Bay and Crashed Bay Road. The road is in poor condition and requires urgent maintenance.

WC 5/6/13



Mayor
Andrew
Petrie

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Out & About

Last week on 21 May Council's Oxford Street Working Party attended a site visit along Oxford Street, Paddington to discuss current issues with Kane Kelfkens, President of Paddington Business Partnership and Robby Ingham, a local Paddington business owner. We walked the length of Oxford Street taking note of things that needed attention. Not just things that Council could do but also things that business and property owners could do. The working party has been created to further work with the Paddington business community to help revive the shopping precinct.

On the same evening I also attended the Queen Street West Woollahra Associations Annual General Meeting at the National Council of Jewish Women building in Queen St, Woollahra. Ken Gresham and his team do a great job with the Association and play an important role in representing the needs of the local residents and participating in community consultation.

There was a great turn out for the NewsLocal Global City Forum event on 27 May which I attended with Lord Mayor Clover Moore and Waverley Mayor Sally Betts. I spoke about Woollahra Council's position on amalgamations. We want to keep the local in local government and do not see any benefits to our residents in becoming part of a mega council. The Independent Panel's latest report does not in any way justify the massive upheaval and disruption the implementation of a metropolitan global city would cause. There is no evidence that the size of a council determines efficiency or sustainability. Change must come with benefits.

Thanks a million to our volunteers



Two of Woollahra's fantastic volunteers

Last week we treated our local volunteers to a special thank you luncheon. We currently have around 150 volunteers who provide their time and dedication in the following areas - Bushcare, Meals on Wheels, Libraries, Community Services and other Committees. Our volunteers do a fantastic job and we are grateful to all of them. Many of them are long term volunteers and we thank them for their ongoing contribution.

'Bearly There' Storytime at Watsons Bay

Come along to the Watsons Bay Library on 11 June for this special storytime with children's author *Aleesha Darlin* and illustrator *Jill Carter Hansen* reading from their new book - **Bearly There**. This humorous story is about a boy, his old, well-loved teddy and a rascally new teddy who turns Blake's world up-side down. It's all about love and loyalty. Suitable for children 3-5 years of age and bookings are not required. For more information, call the Woollahra Library & Information Service on 9391 7100 or email library@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Calling all Green Thumbs

The Eastern Green Thumbs Network meets each quarter and is open to any residents of the eastern suburbs who have a passion for sustainable gardening - whether at home or in the community. Their next meeting is on Saturday 1 June at Waverley Community Garden, Clemenson Park, Ebley Street, Bondi Junction. It will include a basic carpentry workshop starting at 9:00am, where participants can learn how to make a planter box out of recycled timber. Then it is business as usual with the network meeting starting at 10:00am. To RSVP for this free event, contact Melissa Sellen on 9391 7095. For more information on what the group does check out their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EasternGreenThumbs>

Coping with stress

Come along to this workshop hosted by the Black Dog Institute on Building Personal Resilience and find out how adversity can play a positive role in our lives. The free workshop is on 13 June from 5:30pm - 8:30pm at Council Chambers and will give practical tips on how to enhance your personal resilience to stress. Bookings can be made online at: <http://resiliencevmc.eventbrite.com.au> for more information call Community Development on 9391 7166.

Immunise

Woollahra Council holds free Immunisation clinics for four years against diseases such as Diphtheria, Mumps and Rubella, Hepatitis B, Hib (Haemophilus Influenzae), Rotavirus and Varicella (Chickenpox) this free service.

These clinics are held at the Double Bay East on the first Wednesday of every month. No The next clinic is to be held on Wednesday that parents and carers bring along the children. Parents are reminded that should an outbreak of children may be excluded from their kinder. For further information please contact Woollahra Council on 9391 7100.

Meeting

Monday 3 June	Development Committee
Tuesday 4 June	Corporate & W
Wednesday 5 June	Application As
Monday 10 June	DCC Site Inspe
Tuesday 11 June	Public Holiday
	Application As
	Urban Planning
	Community &
	Council Meeti
Monday 17 June	Development I
	Corporate & W
Tuesday 18 June	Application As
Wednesday 19 June	DCC Site Insp
Monday 24 June	Urban Planni
	Community &
	Council Meeti
Tuesday 25 June	Application As

Public Exhibition and Draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan

Council is seeking your feedback on its revised community, our place, our plan and Draft 2013/14 which are now on public exhibition.

Revised Woollahra 2025
Originally prepared in 2009/10, Woollahra term community strategic plan for the W vision for our area for Council and the co this vision. Our revised edition largely re Woollahra 2025, however contains some Community Capacity Survey Council con Plan, and feedback from the 2012 Comm

Delivery Program & Operational Plan
Council is required to adopt a new four year's Local Government Election. Our response to the goals and strategies ide Supporting the Delivery Program is the actions, programs and projects Council includes details of Council's Draft Budget and Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges to changing community needs and expe Delivery Program and Operational Plan i The documents are now on public exhibit Centre, library branches and on our web public notices' section until Wednesday Council welcomes your comment and f General Manager, Woollahra Municipal ty by fax to: 9391 7044
emailed to: feedback@woollahra.nsw.gov.au
Submissions in relation to our revised V and Operational Plan 2013/14 should be 12 June 2013.

Note: Submissions, summaries of submissions be included in publicly available reports to Cou with section 18(1)(b) of the Privacy and Person submissions received by Council in relation to Plan 2013/14 will be placed on the appropriate consultants to Council or members of the publ Access) Act 2009 Council is obliged to allow in However, should you wish for your contact de Council's website, please indicate such in your

Notice of P

New Development Applications and Applications lodged at the following sites:

New Deve

DA0200/13	7 & 9 Davies Av
Applicant:	Mr W Pantzer
	Alterations and additions including new
DA0201/13	62 Edgecliff Roa
Applicant:	Empire Place In
	Change of use to administration assoc

Ventworth Corner 29/05/2013

Mayoral Minute

Mayoral Minute No: 2

Subject: Local Government Review Panel - future directions for nsw local government

Author: Councillor Andrew Petrie, Mayor of Woollahra

File No: 566.G

Reason for Report: To present to the Council what I see as the structure of Council's submission in response to the Local Government Review Panel's Future Directions Paper and to outline steps I intend to take during this consultation period to inform our community of the strengths of this Council as a sustainable and responsive organisation.

(Boskovitz/Robertson)

6/8 **Resolved:**

- A. That Council endorse the position put forward in this Mayoral Minute relating to the latest Independent Local Government Review Panel report and draft recommendations.
- B. That the Mayoral Minute forms the basis of Council's submission to the Independent Local Government Review Panel due at the end of June.
- C. The Council note that following the meeting with the Independent Local Government Review Panel on Tuesday 28 May I will be working in consultation with our General Manager and Communications Manager on suitable communication strategies to inform and engage with our local residents in relation to the Panel's proposal for the amalgamation of Woollahra Council with up to seven councils to form a 'global city'.

Background:

The Independent Local Government Review Panel has released its "*Future Directions for NSW Local Government – Twenty Essential Steps*" paper and is inviting submissions in response to the paper until 28 June 2013. The paper presents detailed discussion on what the Panel see as twenty essential steps towards a new sustainable model for Local Government in NSW.

Woollahra Council is preparing a comprehensive submission in response to the Panel's latest paper. This submission will address each of the proposed twenty steps - many of which I believe have considerable merit for reshaping and strengthening the future of local government in NSW but do not require amalgamations to achieve. I will present Council's submission in a future Mayoral Minute.

At this point however, I have to say that as Mayor I cannot support the Panel's proposal for the amalgamation of Woollahra Council with the City of Sydney, Waverley, Randwick and Botany Bay Councils, and potentially the Councils of Leichhardt and Marrickville, as the Panel proposes in Step 15 – Reshape Metropolitan Governance. A 'global city' of this size, as the Panel refers to with a population of between 600,000 to 800,000 people, clearly does not keep the 'local' in Local Government for the residents of Woollahra or the other affected council areas.

As I have stated publicly, this Council cannot support the 'global city' idea because we haven't seen or heard any benefits for our local residents that would not be otherwise achieved through minor sensible reform and continuous improvement. The Panel's paper does not in any way justify the massive upheaval and disruption the implementation of the super-council idea would cause for local residents nor does it present evidence of any benefits to our communities. It is simply an idea, a philosophical position of the Panel than is not supported by evidence of any benefits to the community.

Similarly, there is no evidence that the size of a council determines efficiency or sustainability.

The purpose of this report is to inform the community that we are doing whatever is necessary to protect their interests and to present to the Council what I see as the structure of Council's submission in response to the Panel's Future Directions Paper.

I have also provided copies of Council's previous submissions to the Local Government Review Panel as Annexure to this Minute.

Discussion:

Council's submission should provide comment in response to each of the following twenty steps outlined in the Panel's paper:

1. Face the challenges of change
2. Create a Sustainable System
3. Keep the 'Local' in Local Government
4. Confront Financial Realities
5. Ensure Fiscal Responsibility
6. Bolster the Revenue Base
7. Tackle the Infrastructure Backlog
8. Promote Innovation, Productivity and Competitiveness
9. Advance Improvement and Accountability
10. Improve Political Leadership
11. Enhance the Status of Mayors
12. Revisit Council-Management Relations
13. Build Strong Regions
14. Reconfigure Rural Councils
15. Reshape Metropolitan Governance
16. Strengthen the Hunter, Central Coast and Illawarra
17. Establish a 'Western Region Authority'
18. Progress the State-Local Agreement
19. Refocus Local Government NSW
20. Drive and Monitor Ongoing Reform

As I previously mentioned, many of these steps, such as ensuring fiscal responsibility, bolstering the revenue base and tackling the infrastructure backlog have considerable merit and are essential elements of a sustainable system of local government in NSW.

Similarly, the concept of establishing a metropolitan Council of Mayors to provide a 'voice' for Sydney and to represent local government and local communities in high-level consultation with State and Federal Governments has merit and warrants further detailed analysis. SSROC has already endorsed this concept in its own submission to the Panel.

Our submission will strongly argue however that the massive upheaval that would result from the widespread amalgamation of councils proposed by the Panel, particularly in the Sydney metropolitan area, is unnecessary to achieve what I see as the desired outcome of reform – being the long term sustainability of councils in a high functioning system of local government.

Is reform necessary? Clearly the answer to this is ‘yes’ as there are many councils struggling to meet the challenges and demands of modern day local government – but many more are not. This has been Woollahra’s argument in our two previous submissions to the Panel which have highlighted the many elements of good local government that are working well, not only here at Woollahra, but no doubt similarly well at many councils in NSW.

High functioning councils such as ours need to be encouraged to continue their good work and supported by sensible strategies for reform that enable them to continue to develop and improve performance. Ensuring fiscal responsibility, bolstering the revenue base and tackling the infrastructure backlog are essential first steps in this challenge.

Our submission will argue that the State Government’s focus for reform of local government should be directed towards specific intervention strategies for those council areas that are clearly struggling to meet the demands and expectations of local communities. Each of these communities have targeted priorities and different financial capacities to deliver on those priorities. The financial capacity of our community is not in question. We can deliver.

Amalgamations and new models such as the proposed Western Region Authority may well be the answer to problems in specific areas of the State but there is clearly no business case that supports the Panel’s view that widespread amalgamation is the only solution to improving the ‘system’ that is local government.

Other matters that our submission should address include:

➤ ***Challenge the Panel’s Global City concept***

The Panel makes it clear that they see the amalgamation of 5 or 7 metropolitan councils (including Woollahra) as a means of exploring the concept of a “truly ‘global city’” for Sydney. However, it needs to be highlighted that international literature identifies the characteristics of a true global city – including; business activity; human capital; information exchange; cultural experience; and political engagement.

Some of the general characteristics referred to when talking about global cities include:

- Home to major stock exchanges and indexes
- Influential in international political affairs
- Home to world-renowned cultural institutions
- Service a major media hub
- Large mass transit networks
- Home to a large international airport
- Having a prominent skyline

These characteristic do not include geographical boundaries.

Sydney, in its entirety, is already internationally recognised in the top 10 global cities of the world based on these generally accepted characteristics. Local Government boundaries in the eastern suburbs of Sydney are clearly not a determining factor for Sydney's recognition as a 'truly global city' – Sydney already is a truly global city.

Similarly, the provision of local services to local communities is not a characteristic of a global city. The provision of local services to local communities is the role of local government. This is what keeps the 'local' in local government.

➤ ***Reform of Local Government v New Local Government***

Our submission will argue that what is proposed through widespread amalgamation of local government in NSW but rather, a drastic attempt to create a higher functioning system of local government in the absence of specific evidence to demonstrate that it will work. Questions we will ask the Panel in our submission about this 'new' model for local government include:

- What are the benefits to local communities of this new Local Government?
- What will be the establishment costs?
- Where is the risk analysis?
- Where is the evidence that it will deliver any tangible benefits?
- Where is the evidence that the benefits will exceed the costs?
- How will the amalgamations be funded – more debt, more deficits, more rates?

A properly constructed business case would have answered these questions but the Panel has failed to produce any of these answers.

There are significant risks associated with any major project or reform program and a business case is essential to mitigate associated risks.

The Panel references reform of local government in Auckland as a model – yet a report from the Office of the Auditor-General in New Zealand states that more than \$100 million has been invested in setting up the new Auckland Council's financial, procurement and payroll systems and the associated monitoring and management alone. Using this as a guide across what the Panel proposes for the greater Sydney area could cost Sydney ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars – and for what benefit? Is it to accomplish 'strategic capacity' or is it to create a structure delivering 'local' benefits to communities funded by local communities?

The hundreds of millions of dollars spent on amalgamations would go a long way towards fixing the infrastructure backlog for local communities.

➤ ***The Strategic Capacity Argument***

The Panel has stated publicly that the proposed reforms, including amalgamations, are not a cost saving exercise. Rather, they state the goal as being to enhance the 'Strategic Capacity' of local government with respect to:

- Coping with complex challenges and unpredictable change
- More robust revenue base
- Scope to undertake new functions/major projects
- Ability to employ wider range of skilled staff
- Knowledge, creativity and innovation

- Credible 'real' partner for State and Federal Government

Again there is no evidence to demonstrate that this goal of enhancing 'strategic capacity' will be achieved at all, or indeed any financial, structural or governance benefits will result – particularly for Woollahra residents and ratepayers.

My strong view on this is that what the Panel is proposing through amalgamation is a significant and unnecessary risk that may not deliver any benefits at all – either strategic or financial. What will be the ultimate cost of this risk and will it pay off?

Our community will not want to take this risk and nor should they. There is a very strong connection between paying rates in return for services but there is little or no evidence to suggest there is a connection between rates and a desire for super cities and the notion of enhanced strategic capacity

Local communities want local services and local connections – they are the things that matter most and this Council is well positioned to continue to provide both of these to our residents very well.

➤ *Woollahra's Capacity*

Woollahra Council is well positioned financially to deliver local services –the TCorp report has confirmed this. Financially we are rated as 'Moderate' with a 'Neutral' outlook. While TCorp have said this rating is fine, we want to improve on this and our long term financial modelling is 'hard evidence' that we can do better. This is more evidence than is presented in the Panel's report about the benefits of amalgamation.

Our aim is to move from 'Moderate and Neutral' to 'Sound' or even 'Strong' and with a 'Positive' outlook and we are already in discussions with TCorp on what we need to do to achieve this. We will consider options in this regard over the coming months, and part of our strategy may be to ask our residents to pay a little more each week to have the benefit of improved services and faster infrastructure renewal. We have asked our community similar questions in the past and the answer has always been yes.

Will amalgamation deliver improved services to Woollahra residents? In the absence of a business case we don't know – but the Panel has already told us that amalgamating Woollahra is their preference. My intention is to ask our community directly what they think and I will present further information on how we might do this to Councillors shortly.

What we do know already from combined rates modelling of Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils is that Woollahra residents will be paying higher rates under amalgamation with no improvement in services. I don't believe this is the best outcome for our community.

Higher rates in Woollahra to fund improved services in Waverley and Randwick - how does the Mayor of Woollahra tell our residents that's a good idea?

Where to from here:

There are two community forums I will be attending with the General Manager this week where I will have the opportunity to participate in discuss on the Panel's report and to debate the topic of amalgamation.

The first of these community forums was hosted by NewsLocal earlier this evening at Sydney Boys' High School. The Global City Community Forum provided Mayors from the City of Sydney, Leichhardt, Marrickville, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra with the opportunity to speak for a few minutes on our response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel's idea for a global city. It was an interesting debate and whilst I was unable to stay for all of it I think there will be a lot more community feedback to come. The outcome of this forum was agreement from the councils present to make a combined submission to the Panel. I will circulate that submission when it is available.

The second forum is a meeting with the members of the Review Panel and the Mayors, Councillors, General Managers and Senior staff of the proposed amalgamated 'global city' Councils on Tuesday.

Information gathered from these forums will also inform the structure of our submission.

Following our meeting with the Independent Local Government Review Panel tomorrow I will be working in consultation with our General Manager and Communications Manager on a suitable communication strategy to inform and engage with our local residents on their response to the global city idea.

Conclusion:

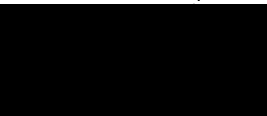
The purpose of this Mayoral Minute has been to present details of what I see as the structure of Council's submission in response to the Panel's Future Directions Paper. In particular, the Minute is to inform our community of what must be this Council's response to the proposed amalgamation of Woollahra Council into a 'global city'.

The Independent Local Government Review Panel have failed to present clear evidence of any specific benefits to be achieved from the proposed amalgamations and have provided no details of how much this widespread and drastic approach to reform of local government in NSW will cost. Quite simply, there is no business case to support the amalgamation proposal.

My position from the start of this debate on the future of local government in NSW has been to support the State Government's stated position of no forced amalgamations. Further, I have publicly stated that I support reform but I cannot support a proposal for the amalgamation of Woollahra Council in the absence of clear evidence of benefits to the community that cannot be delivered under us remaining a Council in our own right.

The Panel's latest paper presents no evidence whatsoever to change my mind. In fact, its lack of evidence should make Woollahra residents quite nervous.

Finally, I reiterate comments made in Council's submission to the Panel in March. Just as the state government recognises the need for specific specially honed planning instruments to reflect the strategic visioning for specific areas, the state government should equally recognise the need for specific intervention strategies for individual local areas and councils to ensure the future environmental, social and financial sustainability of those areas.



Cr Andrew Petrie
Mayor



Woollahra Council

www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au


Mayor
Andrew
Petrie

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Who wants to be part of a global city?



The Wentworth Courier/NewsLocal invites you to the Global City Community Forum to hear the views of community leaders and to have a say.

The forum will be held at Sydney Boys High School on May 27 from 6.00pm - 8.00pm. Attendance is free.

but registration is compulsory via the NewsLocal website <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal>

I will be speaking about Woollahra Council's position and I will be listening to what representatives of the community have to say.

Do you want to be part of a bigger Council area?

Have your say. So you have probably heard or read media reports on the Independent Local Government Review Panel's ideas for changes to local government.

Whilst the government has ruled out forced amalgamations, voluntary amalgamations and the suggested creation of a "global city" encompassing Woollahra, Randwick, Waverley, Botany Bay, Sydney, Leichhardt and Marrickville has been raised. A Panel prepare their final recommendations to the State Government they are hosting a community hearing on May 28 in the city. Community Hearings will be held to provide opportunity for local people and organisations to express their views directly to the Panel and discuss the various ideas and proposals in the paper. Fifteen community representatives will be allowed to address the Panel at the hearing and 30 minutes has been allocated to general discussion. For more information on The NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel's discussion paper Future Directions for NSW Local Government: Twenty Essential Steps and to register your interest in speaking, go to the Panel's website www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au.

Sydney Metropolitan Community Hearing

Date: 28 May 2013
Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 55 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

Woollahra farewells a friend

With the recent death of Robin Brampton OAM at the age of 82, we remember a great man who made an outstanding contribution to our local community. Robin was a founding member and past President of the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association. Robin was an articulate speaker and excellent writer, skills acquired from a successful career in publishing. Most of all Robin was visionary and he played an integral role in developing the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association which has helped shape a very unique and historic part of our local government area. A role the Association still upholds today. Robin shared his passion for his local area and for his local community freely. His enthusiasm was contagious and he has left a strong legacy for others to follow.

On behalf of our local residents and my Councilor colleagues, we would like to offer our sympathy to Robin's wife, Dorothy, and to their two daughters, Julia and Samantha and their extended families.

Invitation to attend the second Queen Street Strategic Streetscape Masterplan Meeting

You are invited to attend the second Community Consultation for this project where the draft Streetscape Masterplan will be presented, followed by a workshop to discuss the ideas. The meeting will be held tonight from 6.00-7.30pm in the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) Hall, 111 Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025. For further information, please contact Cathy Edwards-Davis on 9391 7000.

Notice of Proposed Development

New Development Applications and Applications to Modify Development Consents have been lodged at the following sites:

New Development Applications

- DA0176/13** 129 Darling Point Road DARLING POINT
Applicant: Unipoint Pty Ltd
Conversion to strata title - 4 lots
- DA0180/13** 22 Faraday Avenue RDSE BAY
Applicant: Mr M S MacIntyre & Mrs T Woodhouse
Alterations and additions including a new first floor level; removal of existing swimming pool; construction of a new swimming pool; new store
- DA0189/13** 119 Queen Street WOOLLAHRA
Applicant: Duesene Court Pty Ltd
Erection of vergola in the central courtyard to provide a covered area for the existing outdoor seating for "Bills" restaurant
- DA0190/13** 3 Caledonian Road ROSE BAY
Applicant: Mr S Spencer
Alterations to existing balcony and front boundary fence, and landscaping works including the removal of a Camphor Laurel tree
- DA0191/13** 48 Edward Street WOOLLAHRA
Applicant: Tobias Partners
Alterations & additions to the existing dwelling including new garage, swimming pool and front fence
- DA0192/13** 61 Elizabeth Street PADDINGTON
Applicant: Mr N Head
Alterations & additions to existing dwelling including new attic, carport & rear lane access
- DA0194/13** 48 Hargrave Street PADDINGTON
Applicant: Dr S Kapla
Extension to the rear of building, internal re-configuration & external alterations to the rear
- DA0195/13** 84 Lawson Street PADDINGTON
Applicant: Mrs T & Mr P P Michel
Alterations and additions to ground & first floor including new living room, new bathroom, kitchen & living area to the rear ground floor level; new bedroom, ensuite & walk-in robe within the existing roof-space incorporating dormer windows and skylights
- DA0197/13** 19 Coolong Road VAUCLUSE
Applicant: NPH Design Group Pty Ltd
Alterations and additions to existing dwelling; Removal of the existing pool; construction of a new pool; landscaping works
- DA0198/13** 4 Parsley Road VAUCLUSE
Applicant: Mrs J Vidor
Alterations and additions
- DA0199/13** 164 Sutherland Street PADDINGTON
Applicant: Ms U Scheibler
New rear single storey extension at lower ground level with paved terrace and garden; internal alterations; modification to rear windows of upper ground floor
- The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 22 May 2013 until 5 June 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.

Applications to Amend Development Consent

- DA0131/11/13** 237 Glenmore Road PADDINGTON
Applicant: Kelmor Pty Ltd
Install a kitchen exhaust outlet and an air conditioner condenser unit at the rear of the Royal Hotel
- DA0378/11/13** 17 Buresford Road ROSE BAY
Applicant: James Mackay
Extension/modification of garage and basement store
- DA0621/12/13** 45 John Street WOOLLAHRA
Applicant: Jim Demetriou Group Pty Ltd
Various internal and external modifications including a new attic level within the roof
- Significant alterations and additions (new two storey dwelling-house) including a new fence, new garage and car stacker

- DA0140/12/12** 9 Kulgoa Road BELLEVUE HILL
Applicant: Mr C A Walker
Various internal and external modifications including a new lift, modifications to the extent of excavation, modifications to the solar panels and modifications to privacy screening on the first floor level (Condition C.10f)
- Alterations and additions including a new first floor, new double garage, ancillary buildings to the rear, landscaping and site works
- DA0427/12/12** 11 Victoria Place PADDINGTON
Applicant: Mr J A & Mrs P Cotocanu
Delete skylight and replace with skylight; relocate gate position; delete steel plate cladding and replace with rendered wall and metal roofing
- Alterations and additions to the rear and within the existing breezeway of the site
- DA0402/13/12** 63 Union Street PADDINGTON
Applicant: Miss S D Forbes
Delete condition C7 (a)
- Unauthorised works including: demolition of brick fence, installation of steel posts to support rollerdoor & widening of crossover to Union Lane
- The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 22 May 2013 until 5 June 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.
- Any person who contends that the enjoyment of their land will be detrimentally affected if the proposed development is carried out may object in writing to Council. Council will not determine the application until expiration of the public inspection period and will consider any objections submitted. Please see PRIVACY NOTIFICATION below.

Other Development Applications

Advised Development (SEPP 55)

- DA0094/13** 2-4 Quarry Street PADDINGTON
Applicant: CSK Holdings Pty Ltd
Site remediation and construction of new childcare centre to provide 120 long day care places for ages 0 to 6 years with operating hours between 6.30am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday
- The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 30 days from 22 May 2013 until 20 June 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.

Notice of Development Consent Issued by Council

Development consent has been granted for the following applications:

- DA0347/12** 18 Albert Street EDGECLIFF
Subdivision of existing sites to enable construction of 2 residential flat buildings containing 6 dwellings with basement car parking for 16 vehicles, new swimming pool, landscaping, site works and alterations and additions to existing dwelling house
- DA0402/12** 10 New Beach Road DARLING POINT
Fitout of first floor and new partition wall on ground floor of "The Sail Loft"
- DA0071/13** 48 Wentworth Road VAUCLUSE
The installation of an additional roof antenna and satellite dish
- DA0101/13** 232 Oxford Street PADDINGTON
New Shop front and ATM with new signage for Commonwealth Bank
- DA0117/13** 11 Wiston Gardens DOUBLE BAY
Four (4) new posts supporting approved balconies to units 4, 5 & 6
- DA0118/13** 85-97 New South Head Road EDGECLIFF
Upgrade of existing essential fire engineering works
- DA0124/13** 8 Cooper Street DOUBLE BAY
Alterations and additions including a new front fence, new entry canopy, new screen wall at the rear and changes to fenestration
- DA0126/13** 10/22 Stafford Street DOUBLE BAY
Internal alterations to existing unit
- DA0148/13** 37 Stafford Street PADDINGTON
Sub-division for the purpose of realigning current lot boundaries with existing party walls (boundary adjustment)
- The above consents are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday.
- The validity of a consent shall not be questioned in any legal proceedings except those commenced in the Land & Environment Court by any person within three months of the date of this advertisement.

PRIVACY NOTIFICATION

The supply of personal information is voluntary. If personal information is not provided, Council may be limited in dealing with a submission. Submissions, summaries of submissions, and/or names and addresses of people making submissions may be included in publicly available reports to Council or Committee Meetings.

Please note that, in accordance with section 18(1)(b) of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW), you are advised that all submissions received by Council in relation to any matter will be placed on the appropriate Council file and may be disclosed to Councilors, Council Officers, consultants to Council or members of the public.

Pursuant to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) the Council may be obliged to allow inspection of its documents, including any submissions you may make.

GARY JAMES
GENERAL MANAGER

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028
22 May 2013

Chambers and Customer Service Centre: 536 New South Head Road Double Bay NSW 2028
Postal: PO Box 61 Double Bay NSW 1360 records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Telephone: 9391 7000
Facsimile: 9391 7044

Wentworth Courier 22/05/2013

Notice of Motion

Item No: 1
From: Councillor Matthew Robertson
Date: 9 May 2013
File No: 900.G

(Robertson/Elsing)

That Council:

- a) Notes the latest report from the Independent Local Government Review Panel
- b) Welcomes the report's position in support of no forced amalgamations.
- c) Expresses concern that the report proposes a 'Super-City' merger of Woollahra Council with the City of Sydney, Waverley, Randwick, Botany (and possibly Leichhardt and Marrickville councils), without citing demonstrable benefits for Woollahra residents.
- d) Notes that any merger of Woollahra Council with neighbouring councils will inevitably reduce the level of local representation and strength of local democracy in the east, city and inner west of Sydney.
- e) Commit to continue to support local government as the level of government closest to the people and maintain Woollahra residents' rights to determine the future of their municipality and their local representation.

Lost

Note: A Division was called by Councillors Roberston and Thomas

For the Motion

Councillor Wynne
Councillor Zulman
Councillor Elsing
Councillor Roberston

Against the Motion

Councillor Boskovitz
Councillor Bennett
Councillor Levenston
Councillor Marano
Councillor O'Regan
Councillor Petrie
Councillor Thomas

4/7



Mayor
Andrew
Petre

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Out and about

Good luck to all the Easts Rugby supporters and players for the season ahead. The Club does a fantastic job of looking after its members and raising the profile and community interest in a fantastic sport. Well done to Head Coach Mark Baines and Club President Anthony McQuillen on providing strong leadership for the Club. Go the Beaters!

Last week I went along to the Southern Sydney Regional Councils meeting with the Mayor and General Managers to hear from the NSW Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Don Pape. He confirmed the Government's position of no forced amalgamations.

The Council's Outcast Street Working Party is off and running with our first meeting scheduled for this week. I will keep you updated.

Lindesay Open Day Saturday 11 May

Mayor Pape gave Lindesay, the first Gothic Revival house in Australia built in 1834 to the National Trust in 1982.

The house will be open from 10am to 4pm and tours will be available at 11am, 12pm, 2pm and 3pm. Come dressed in 40s or 50s clothes to vie for a prize, play croquet on the lawn and have morning and afternoon teas as it would have been served to Mrs Pape in those times. Admission: Members free, non-members \$8.00, families \$20.00. Enquiries: 93932401.

Fears for residents lost in a 'global city'

The latest report from the Independent Local Government Review Panel supports the NSW Government's position of no forced amalgamations. So that's good news for local residents. The report does not provide clear benefits for its 'global city' proposal to merge Botany Bay, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils with the City of Sydney and potentially Leichhardt and Manlyville with an expected population increase to between 600,000 to 800,000. I just haven't seen or heard any benefits for our local residents. I still see any evidence that would justify the residents of Woollahra losing their name and local identity.

The report does not in any way justify the massive upheaval and disruption its implementation would cause for local residents. There is no evidence that the size of a council determines efficiency or sustainability. I-Corp financial analysis on the sustainability of NSW councils and the Panel's latest report confirms Woollahra Council's sustainability and the overwhelming feedback from our community is that they want the 'local' to stay in local government. I can't see the logic in merging already sustainable Councils with non-sustainable councils. I was disappointed that the report did not offer up the suggestion that removing the fees and levies imposed by the State Government to finance state responsibilities may provide councils with greater capacity for improving sustainability, viability and efficiency. With the Panel's final report due towards the end of the year, we will be keeping close watch on developments and discussing our views and community feedback with the Panel in the next two months. Let me know what you think.

Have you registered your swimming pool yet?

All pool owners are required to register their pool on the state-wide Swimming Pool Register. Closing date is 23 October 2013 and after this date fines apply. Registrations can be made online at <http://www.swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au>. Pool owners need to check the safety compliance of their pool as part of the registration process. I support the Government's move to encourage pool safety and reduce the potential for injuries and deaths from pool related incidents. Given the high number of households in our local area with backyard pools I would encourage residents to register their pool as soon as possible while the issue is fresh in our minds.

A million reasons to buy a Pink Bun

Local breast cancer survivor and former Woollahra Mayor Isabelle Shapiro and Batters Delight at Rose Bay and Bondi Junction will join forces the May to raise funds and awareness for the Batters Delight Pink Bun campaign.

From 2 May - 22 May 2013, Batters Delight Rose Bay and Bondi Junction will turn pink and donate 100% of the sale of their Pink Finger Buns to Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA). Those you can help support a very worthwhile cause.

Bargains galore at Woollahra Book Fair

Hundreds of books will be on sale at the Woollahra Library and Information Services Book Fair on Saturday 25 May and Sunday 26 May from 10am to 3pm. Library Members will be able to have a sneak preview of the books on offer from 10am to 11am on the Saturday. Come along to the Council Chambers and grab a bargain. Adult fiction and non-fiction, magazines, kids books ranging from \$0.50 to \$10 will be on offer. There will be live music, a sausage sizzle and face painting for the young at heart. This event always attracts a loyal crowd. I hope you're there.

Weight fundraiser for Rose Bay community garden

Community members are invited to join a trivia and games night on Friday 10 May from 6.30pm at the Vaudesa Bowling Club. The event will help provide funds towards establishing a community garden in Rose Bay. Tickets are \$20 per person, or \$45 if you are able to donate more. Great food and drinks, fantastic prizes and lots of fun. Everyone is welcome. Just RSVP to rosebaycommunitygarden.org to reserve your place and arrange admission pre-payment.

Notice of Proposed Development

New Development Applications and Applications to Modify Development Consents have been lodged at the following sites:

New Development Applications

- DA0128/13** 11 Hampden Avenue DARLING POINT
Applicant: Ms C Losanno
Addition of a wooden deck adjacent to rear on ground level above lower ground level garden
- DA0144/13** 202 Old South Head Road BELLEVUE HILL
Applicant: Parker Logan Property
Demolition of the existing dwelling & construction of a new boarding house comprising of 23 boarding rooms and basement level car parking
- DA0168/13** 46 New South Head Road VAUCLUSE
Applicant: Mr D F Hofbauer
Alterations and additions including a new shopfront upgrade and awning; convert part basement level to an office
- DA0173/13** 55 Bundarra Road BELLEVUE HILL
Applicant: MPRDG Pty Ltd
Proposed additional basement level to an approved dwelling
- DA0174/13** 11/317-319 Edgely Road WOOLLAHRA
Applicant: Ms L Oxley
Changes to Unit 11 including the enlargement of the lower ground floor, the conversion of existing windows to balconies and other minor modifications
- DA0175/13** 1/114 Glenmore Road PADDINGTON
Applicant: Cullenfeng Pty Ltd
Alterations to existing studio including new dormer window and four new windows with aluminium awnings
- DA0178/13** 25 Military Road WATSONS BAY
Applicant: Ms N Wilson
Change of use from an office to a health and beauty salon
- DA0179/13** 225 Edgely Road WOOLLAHRA
Applicant: Mr P Zaverdinos
Two storey addition to the rear of the dwelling including a new deck
- The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 8 May 2013 until 22 May 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.

Applications to Amend Development Consent

- DA0167/04/4** 2-16 Glenmore Road PADDINGTON
Applicant: Angus Property & Development Pty Ltd
Relocation of approved cafe from tenancy 1 to tenancy 4 with use of adjacent courtyard for outdoor seating; change of use of tenancy 4 from retail to cafe and tenancy 1 from cafe to retail
- Alterations and additions to existing mixed commercial/residential development
- DA0030/07/7** 6 Carthona Avenue DARLING POINT
(aka 7 Sutherland Crescent)
Applicant: Mr C Oxley
Change of tree described in Condition E.18 from Eucalyptus to Angophora Costata
- Erection of new residence and landscape works
- DA0087/12/3** 16 Pearce Street DOUBLE BAY
Applicant: Mrs M Caridad
Modifications to existing dwelling
- Alterations and additions to convert the existing duplex to single residence with attic level; and double garage

The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 8 May 2013 until 22 May 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.

Any person who contends that the enjoyment of their land will be detrimentally affected if the proposed development is carried out may object in writing to Council. Council will not determine the application until expiration of the public inspection period and will consider any objections submitted. Please see PRIVACY NOTIFICATION below.

Other Development Applications

Applications for a Review of a Determination

- DA0011/13** 12 Victoria Avenue WOOLLAHRA
Applicant: Mr R P & Mrs M D Osborne
Alterations to the front setback area of the building including a new hardstand car parking space, changes to the front fence and new crossover

The above application(s), plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 14 days from 8 May 2013 until 21 May 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.

Notice of Development Consent Issued by Council

Development consent has been granted for the following applications:

- DA0018/12** 18-20 Oxford Street PADDINGTON
Change of use from retail to restaurant to both ground and first floor/mezzanine level; internal refurbishment; trading hours: M-F 11am to 1am, Sat 7am - 1am & Sun 7am to midnight
- DA0517/12** 11 Derby Street VAUCLUSE
Alterations and additions
- DA0008/13** 11/58-62 New South Head Road VAUCLUSE
Change of use from office to cafe / delicatessen with outdoor seating
- DA0041/13** 22 Sutherland Crescent DARLING POINT
New swimming pool and associated landscaping works
- DA0068/13** 4 Gilliver Avenue VAUCLUSE
Alterations and additions
- DA0083/13** 103 New South Head Road VAUCLUSE
Footpath seating including tables

The above consents are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

The validity of a consent shall not be questioned in any legal proceedings except those commenced in the Land & Environment Court by any person within three months of the date of this advertisement.

PRIVACY NOTIFICATION

The supply of personal information is voluntary. If personal information is not provided, Council may be limited in dealing with a submission. Submissions, summaries of submissions, and/or names and addresses of people making submissions may be included in publicly available reports to Council or Committee Meetings.

Please note that, in accordance with section 18(1)(b) of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW), you are advised that all submissions received by Council in relation to any matter will be placed on the appropriate Council file and may be disclosed to Councillors, Council Officers, consultants to Council or members of the public.

Pursuant to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) the Council may be obliged to allow inspection of its documents, including any submissions you may make.

GARY JAMES
GENERAL MANAGER

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028
8 May 2013

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Telephone: 9391 7000
Facsimile: 9391 7044

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Media release

24 April 2013

No evidence that a 'global city' will be good for Woollahra residents

Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Andrew Petrie said he is pleased that the latest report from the Independent Local Government Review Panel supports the NSW Government's position of no forced amalgamations. According to the Mayor, the report does not provide clear benefits for its 'global city' proposal to merge Botany Bay, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils with the City of Sydney and potentially Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils, with a population of between 600,000 to 800,000 people.

"We don't support the 'global city' idea because we still haven't seen or heard any benefits for our local residents," the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Andrew Petrie said.

"The report does not in any way justify the massive upheaval and disruption its implementation would cause for local residents. There is no evidence that the size of a council determines efficiency or sustainability," the Mayor said.

"T-Corp financial analysis on the sustainability of NSW councils and the Panel's latest report confirm Woollahra Council's sustainability and the overwhelming feedback from our community is that they want the 'local' to stay in local government," he said.

"I can't see the logic in merging already sustainable Councils with non-sustainable councils. I was disappointed that the report did not offer up the suggestion that removing the fees and levies imposed by the State Government to finance state responsibilities may provide councils with greater capacity for improving sustainability, viability and efficiency.

"In Woollahra's case we would be able to allocate the \$2.6M p.a we pay in fees and levies for government services that would benefit our community directly and would further strengthen our sustainability into the future.

"We support the report's suggestion that the infrastructure renewal backlog requires a coordinated and cooperative approach from all levels of government. We also support the principles of good governance and strong leadership and reducing 'red tape'.

"I am optimistic the State Government will take up suggestions outlined in the Panel's report to provide more flexible rating income opportunities for Councils to better provide for their local communities," the Mayor concluded.

With more consultation expected with the Sydney metropolitan areas this month and next, the Panel's final report recommendations will not be presented to the State Government until September.

Media contact: Justine Henderson T: 9391 7141



Mayor
Andrew
Petrie

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Tony Greig remembered

Like most of you, I was sad to hear about the death of local resident and cricket legend Tony Greig in late December. Long after his passing, tributes will be shared for a man who made his mark on cricket and shared his love of the game with those of us who had the benefit of listening to his witty commentary. I had the honour of inviting Tony to be our guest speaker at a citizenship ceremony during my previous term as Mayor. Tony was an enthusiastic advocate for sport, he inspired many Australians and he spoke with such conviction and genuine love for Australia, which became his home. I extend my sympathy to Tony's wife, Vivian and children, Mark, Sam, Beau and Tom.

Double Bay parking options



We have taken steps to ensure the public and businesses continue to have access to as much parking as possible during the construction phase of the Kiaora Lands development in Double Bay. Major work began today on the development, which offers long-term benefits for the Double Bay commercial centre and the Woollahra community.

We know there will be some short-term inconvenience due to changes in parking and access during the demolition and building phase, but once complete, the Kiaora Lands development will provide a significant boost for business and 442 new public car spaces.

Until-overs Cross Street car park currently offers one-hour parking and has 396 spaces available to the public. Seventy-eight (78) spaces are also available in the Cosmopolitan Centre car park in Knox Street, with the first hour free.

The proposed parking changes in Double Bay include:

- Extending one-hour free parking in the Cross Street car park to two hours via a stamp validation system for customers of those businesses on the southern side of New South Head Road directly affected by the closure of the Kiaora Lands car park.
- Changing the existing one-hour metered parking on New South Head Road to time-limited (half hour) free parking.

Woollahra Council and Woolworths have been working with businesses in Double Bay to address concerns, including parking arrangements, and discussions have been positive.

The first stage of development to the south of Kiaora Lane includes the new Woolworths supermarket and is expected to take around 15 months to complete. This will be followed by the construction of a new public library and retail stores on the site of the existing Supermarket.

For more information on the development visit the Kiaora Lands website - www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/kiaoralands.

Woollahra Citizenship Awards closing soon

The Woollahra 2013 Citizenship Awards are still open for nomination. Nominate your local role model that has worked hard to improve the quality of life for others in the Woollahra Municipality and deserves recognition. Individuals, groups and projects can be nominated and awarded in the following categories:

Citizen of the Year Award, Most Innovative Community Project, Most Innovative Community Cultural/Arts Initiative, Contribution to the Environment, Contribution to Community (Local or International), Senior's Award and Youth Award. Entries close on 8 February 2013, eligibility and how to nominate can be found on Council's website. For more details call 9391 7166 or email community@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Have your say on the future of local government

The Independent Local Government Review Panel is seeking input during its second round of consultation on the future direction of local government. This round of consultation is based on a paper by the Panel called, Better, Stronger Local Government: the future of sustainable change. Council will be preparing its own submission based on this report. Community members are encouraged to provide feedback to the Local Government Reform Panel via their survey before 22 March. To read the paper and provide input go to www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au/LGRSurvey.asp

Immunise your child for free

Woollahra Council holds free Immunisation Clinics to protect children from the age of two months for four years against diseases such as Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella, Hepatitis B, Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b), Meningococcal C, Pneumococcal, Rotavirus and Varicella (Chicken Pox). All parents are invited to take advantage of this free service.

These clinics are held at the Double Bay Early Childhood Health Centre, 1 Cross Street, Double Bay on the first Wednesday of every month. No appointment is necessary.

The next clinic is to be held on Wednesday 6 February 2013 from 1.45pm to 3.30pm. It is important that parents and carers bring along the child's Medicare Card and Blue Book.

Parents are reminded that should an outbreak of an infectious disease occur non-immunised children may be excluded from their kindergarten/school until the outbreak is over.

For further information please contact Woollahra Council on 9391 7000.

Meetings for February 2013

Monday 4 February	Urban Planning Committee Community & Environment Committee Council Meeting	6.00pm 6.00pm 8.00pm
Tuesday 5 February	Application Assessment Panel	3.00pm
Monday 11 February	Development Control Committee Corporate & Works Committee	5.30pm 6.00pm
Tuesday 12 February	Application Assessment Panel	3.00pm
Wednesday 13 February	DCC Site Inspections	8.00am
Monday 18 February	Urban Planning Committee Community & Environment Committee Council Meeting	6.00pm 6.00pm 8.00pm
Tuesday 19 February	Application Assessment Panel	3.00pm
Monday 25 February	No meetings	
Tuesday 26 February	Application Assessment Panel	3.00pm

Animal Advisory Committee - Nominations open

In accordance with the Animal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, Woollahra Council is calling for nominations for membership to the Committee for the next term.

The Woollahra Council Animal Advisory Committee serves as an advisory body to Council to assist with the development of policies, programmes, services and plans for companion animals. The previous Committee's term ended in September 2012. Nominations are now being sought for the next term ending in September 2013.

The Animal Advisory Committee will consist of:

- Two (2) Councillors
 - Two (2) local animal professionals
 - Five (5) Woollahra Council residents, one from each Ward within the Municipality
- Each prospective representative must have their nomination signed by a minimum of two (2) residents from within the Municipality and include a minimum of two (2) forms of proof of residence.

If there are more prospective representatives than places available, the Mayor will determine the membership for that category based on suitability, experience and distribution of representation across the Council area.

Pro-forma nomination forms or further information can be obtained by contacting either Andrea Waghorn by calling 9391 7144.

Please mark your nomination to the attention of Andrea Waghorn, Team Administration Officer and post to Woollahra Council PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360 or deliver to Customer Services, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay by Wednesday 6 February 2013.

Winter Season 2013 - Playing Field Allocations

Council is currently planning the allocation of playing fields for sporting groups within the Municipality for the 2013 winter season 1 April to 30 September 2013.

Information on Woollahra's playing fields and application forms for their use are available on Council's web site www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

Previous winter season hirers will be sent application forms directly. Completed forms are to be returned to Council by Wednesday 6 February 2013.

For further information please contact Council's Recreational Bookings Coordinator on 9391 7000.

Notice of Proposed Development

New Development Applications and Applications to Modify Development Consents have been lodged at the following sites:

New Development Applications

DA0564/12	17 Cascade Street PADDINGTON
Applicant:	Altis Architecture/Inspire Interiors Pty Ltd
Internal alterations to existing ground floor, first floor bay window extension	
DA0902/13	62 Union Street PADDINGTON
Applicant:	Miss S D Forbes
Unauthorised works including: demolition of back fence, installation of steel posts to support rollerblind & widening of crossover to Union Lane	
DA0011/13	12 Victoria Avenue WOOLLAHRA
Applicant:	Mr R P & Mrs M D Osborne
Alterations to the front setback area of the building with a new hardstand car parking space, changes to the front fence and new crossover	

DA0013/13	37 Bundarra Road BELLEVUE HILL
Applicant:	Xkin Creative
Alterations and additions to the dwelling and a new garage and storage loft, and pool cabana	
DA0014/13	40 Fitzwilliam Road VAUCLUSE
Applicant:	David White Architects Pty Ltd
Substantial alterations & additions to existing dwelling, including the demolition of the 1950's extension and construction of a new wing, new basement levels, roof terrace & swimming pool	
DA0016/13	61 Victoria Road BELLEVUE HILL
Applicant:	Mr R Naham
Alterations and additions to the existing dwelling-house including a new double garage attached to the dwelling and reuse of the existing garage as a gym	
The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 30 January 2013 until 13 February 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.	

Applications to Amend Development Consent

DA0577/11/12	8 Longworth Avenue POINT PIPER
Applicant:	Mr P A & Mrs J L George
Internal and external modifications including reduction of excavation, internal re-configurations and amendments to the roof	
Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a new four storey residential flat building comprising three units, basement level carpark accessed via Wolseley Road, three swimming pools, landscaping and site works	
DA0074/12/12	85 Drumalbyn Road BELLEVUE HILL
Applicant:	JIC Properties Pty Ltd
Remove tree	
Rehabilitation works and BCA upgrade of existing residential flat building; landscaping works and strata subdivision into 9 lots	
The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 15 days from 30 January 2013 until 13 February 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.	
Any person who contends that the enjoyment of their land will be detrimentally affected if the proposed development is carried out may object in writing to Council. Council will not determine the application until expiration of the public inspection period and will consider any objections submitted. Please see PRIVACY NOTIFICATION below	

Other Development Applications

Advised Development (SEPP 65)

DA0190/12	14 Dumaresq Road ROSE BAY
Applicant:	Weir Phillips Architects
Remediation of contaminated sites for alterations and additions to existing residence, construction of new garage, relocate pool and removal of street trees (in front of the subject site) and replacement with four mature trees	
The above applications, plans and specifications are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between the hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday for 30 days from 30 January 2013 until 28 February 2013. On enquiry, please quote the application reference number.	

Notice of Development Consent Issued by Council

Development consent has been granted for the following applications:

DA0471/12	1 Coelweg Road VAUCLUSE
Alterations & additions	
DA0475/12	24 Wunulla Road POINT PIPER
Alterations and additions	
DA0483/12	1/691 New South Head Road ROSE BAY
Strata subdivision of property	
DA0492/12	9-11 Ranfurly Road BELLEVUE HILL
Alterations and additions to convert the existing dual occupancy into a single dwelling-house	
DA0493/12	22 Wunulla Road POINT PIPER
Alterations & additions to the existing dwelling, new swimming pool and ancillary structures, landscaping and site works	
DA0498/12	174 Hogsetown Avenue VAUCLUSE
New roof additions, addition of skylight & external staircase	
The above consents are available for public inspection at Council's Planning & Development Division between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday.	

The validity of a consent shall not be questioned in any legal proceedings except those commenced in the Land & Environment Court by any person within three months of the date of this advertisement.

PRIVACY NOTIFICATION

The supply of personal information is voluntary. If personal information is not provided, Council may be limited in dealing with a submission. Submissions, summaries of submissions, and/or names and addresses of people making submissions may be included in publicly available reports to Council or Committee Meetings.

Please note that, in accordance with section 18(1)(b) of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW), you are advised that all submissions received by Council in relation to any matter will be placed on the appropriate Council file and may be disclosed to Councillors, Council Officers, consultants to Council or members of the public.

Pursuant to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW) the Council may be obliged to allow inspection of its documents, including any submissions you may make.

GARY JAMES
GENERAL MANAGER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028
30 January 2013

Chambers and Customer Service Centre: 536 New South Head Road Double Bay NSW 2028
Postal: PO Box 61 Double Bay NSW 1360 records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Telephone: 9391 7000
Facsimile: 9391 7044

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Wentworth Courier 18 March 2015
Letter to the Editor re: Amalgamations

Democracy at work

WAVERLEY Mayor Sally Betts and councillors are to be congratulated. In declaring that the council opposes amalgamation but surveying all residents nonetheless, is an extremely democratic approach. (Courier, March 4)

Woollahra Council voted unanimously against amalgamation. So it should, it is well run and financially sound. However, I note that two of Waverley Council's options (4 and 6) involve an amalgamation with Woollahra.

The stated advantages of those amalgamations are, at best, nebulous... "...recognises eastern suburbs connections" and "...potential for more integrated planning."

One should not consider the \$10.5m 'bribe' by the NSW Government as an advantage.

The biggest loss for Woollahra (and other councils) in any amalgamation is the loss of a sense of community that amalgamations engender.

**BRUCE BLAND, Vice-president
Rose Bay Residents Association**

Anne Raymond

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 21 March 2015 3:31 PM
Subject: FW: Amalgamations.

Re: Amalgamations - According to the *Wentworth Courier*, opinions are again being sought on this vexed question. Below is a copy of what I wrote in June 2013. I cannot add more really except to reemphasize the loss of the village type area of Woollahra Municipality. I also reiterate that I cannot see that as far as density of housing is concerned, how can one compare (even) Rose Bay with developments in the inner city areas. This should be put to the people as I am aware that this is not regarded positively from Coogee or Maroubra to Woollahra. Woollahra should not have to subsidise the poorer municipalities. It is simply not on unless determined by the people at a plebiscite at the next State election. I have not heard the matter raised by any political party in the current campaign.

----- Forwarded Message

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, 27 Jun 2013 22:34:13 +1100
To: <info@localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au>
Conversation: Amalgamations.
Subject: Amalgamations.

Although I am writing in a private capacity, I have been a Committee Member of the Rose Bay Resident's Association for 13 years and so I have had many years in dealing with Woollahra Council on a wide range of issues on behalf of many residents.

I certainly see many problems in the amalgamation of such a large area, part of which is purely residential, some business and residential and some industrial. One size/design/need does not fit all. How can the needs and requirement of a harbour/ocean suburb be compared with the parts of the City – the areas for high rise compared to the areas where the height is limited to that for the residential area.

The bureaucracy to deal with such a huge area would obviously be large and impersonal whereas we know our Councillors and the Staff.

Poorer Councils will feed off those with greater funds which could make them all worse off.

Loss of the personal touch – over the years as a member of the Association, we have helped neighbours/near neighbours in relation to a particular developments that affects them. We have been to Council on (too many times to possibly count) it has always been where the developer wants something bigger/wider/longer than the RDCP permits. I fail to see how the staff/Councillors in such a large area could be concerned about some of these smaller and yet very important issues. We have had great success simply because we are a well educated sensible group of individuals who care about our residents and our area and I hope are seen to work **WITH** Council. I can only assume that that same input would be lost. I guess you call this a loss of local identity.

There are so many small issues that go on all the time e.g wanting a tree pruned, cleaning the streets. I cannot imagine that the GREAT BIG COUNCIL (SOMEWHERE) is going to have the same interest (more importantly knowledge to properly understand the problem) as the current Councillors/staff have.

I have recently had some trouble getting a DA through for a driveway into my property because of 1 particular tree root on an 80 year old tree. My Councillors knows where I live, knows the tree I am talking about – I would lose this personal touch with amalgamation.

Finally I have a great example of how A GREAT BIG COUNCIL would not work. In January/early February Ausgrid came and undertook the annual 'butchering' of our street trees. On one tree outside my neighbours home, (we are semi detached cottages) Ausgrid left twigs around the line into my property – I am responsible for the safety of my line. I have rung them, filled in a form, rung them again and been told "somebody will come out and do a report" - when only the clippers were needed. Nothing has happened yet and it is the end of June.

Amalgamated Councils – somebody would have to really persuade me how they were going to work and provide a better service before this idea got my approval Therefore I object strenuously to the proposal



Rose Bay NSW 2029

----- End of Forwarded Message

Anne Raymond

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 6 April 2015 4:36 PM
Subject: Amalgamations

Attention Mayor Toni Zeltzer and General Manager Gary James

Dear Mayor and General Manager,

I have completed your online survey but I would like to make a separate submission in my capacity as the President of the History and Heritage Society representing the view of the Society on the heritage implications of any form of merger with other Councils.

At present all of the four Councils listed as part of proposed 'global city' have Local History Sections of the Council Libraries and all of them have some form of History and/or Heritage Society. Whilst I do know that the latter are very active I am not so aware of the scope or performance of the former, other than our own Local History Centre.


Based on my considerable experience and knowledge of the work of the Librarians in our Centre I am amazed at the extent of their knowledge of the Municipality, particularly relating to heritage and the content of the records for which they are responsible. I spend quite a lot of time in the Centre and have observed people coming in and asking quite obscure questions about a building or an event. The Librarians almost always are able to suggest where the needed information can be found or at least where else it might be found if the Centre does not hold it.

It is this detailed knowledge of the Municipality that I fear may well be lost or at least watered down if the Local History Centre is transformed into a 'Global City History Centre'. Indeed, they very name is a denial of anything local!

I also fear that the Local History/Heritage Societies will disappear over time. Residents are particularly interested in the area in which they live - look at the number of resident groups we have in Woollahra - Darling Point, Paddington, Queen Street, Double Bay, Harbourview Park, Rose Bay, Vaucluse and Watsons Bay to name but many. It is difficult to see how these groups would operate with a large centralised 'Local' History Centre.

I acknowledge that there are some excellent centralised establishments that deal with heritage - the State/Mitchell Library, State Archives, the National Library and National Archives. But I doubt that they go down to the detail that each Local History Centre does or would even want to.

I think that is probably enough to demonstrate my concerns about the effect that the proposed amalgamations would have on what is, at present, a very effective means of both providing information to residents on specific questions and promoting interest in local history and heritage.


Telephones:

Paddington NSW

E-mails:

All correspondence to:

7th April 2014 (posted and e-mailed)

Mayor Toni Zeltzer
Woollahra Council
Redleaf
536 New South Head Road
DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028

Dear Madam Mayor

We have attempted to complete the Micromex Research online survey on council amalgamation but I am not confident that it worked on this occasion and we strongly want the Council and the State to know that we should passionately reject any amalgamation.

We have lived at our current address – which we own – in Hargrave Street, Paddington for more than 40 years, and we should not want to be anywhere else. Our terrace house is small but it is magnificently located within walking distance of the Sydney Opera House, the city, Bondi Beach, churches, concert halls and at least four universities.

We find your Council, Madam, far from perfect. Too many roads and footways are in a shocking state while others are prettied up. Garbage collection seems to be unsupervised and the operators treat it as a game to see who can destroy our bins fastest.

But we know of no fault with the Council that would not be very much worse following amalgamation.

It is logical that the fewer people to be served and the smaller the area in which they are, the better the service can be. This is a universal principle. It is the reason why the world's most desirable locations are federations. It is not just Australia: think of the United States, Canada, Germany... The ongoing centralisation of functions during the 20th century with the Commonwealth assuming more and more involvement in what should be State issues has not improved services except for a vast and ever-growing multitude of public service managers.

We think it is possible that amalgamation could result in cost savings but at a totally unacceptable deterioration in service and responsiveness to local needs. If retaining the Council's individuality will have a cost penalty we are prepared to live with that.

We wish you and your Council early and unequivocal success in this.

We don't want to have a Fit.

Sincerely


[REDACTED]
Double Bay,
NSW. 1360.
April 9th, 2015

The Mayor, Cr. Zeltzer,
Woollahra Municipal Council,
Double Bay, NSW, 2028

Dear Cr. Zeltzer,

Amalgamation of Woollahra Municipality into 'global city'

Before commenting on details of the State Government's abovementioned proposal on amalgamations, I would like to mention two over-riding observations:-

1) "Local Government"

In my opinion 'Local Government' means 'local' which surely relates to matters affecting our properties and surrounding areas.

This proposed amalgamation would take away our 'local' rights, as Woollahra Municipality would become an insignificant part of a greater whole, known as a 'global city'.

2) Expensive and unrequired change

Just as the Federal Government is trying to convince the population to become more self-reliant, and to demand less from government, this concept of amalgamation is being proposed by the State Government.

A whole new management infrastructure would be required to operate the amalgamated municipalities. From past experience, it is well known how expensive bureaucracy is.

My personal observations and objections

We came to live in Woollahra Municipality because we liked the area. If it becomes amalgamated, it will obviously have to be managed in the same way for the 'new' areas, which will probably necessitate higher rates and taxes.

Even the natural features, for example Sydney Harbour, the ocean, inland areas, etc. are not homogenous areas, and will have different requirements from each other, necessitating more bureaucracy.

Planning requirements should be 'local' matters, not laid down by outside authorities like the Land and Environment Court.

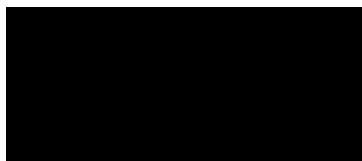
Welfare requirements will probably be different for the newly acquired municipalities – another factor to be avoided.

All in all, this whole idea seems to be the first steps by the State Government to take control of Local Government (in other words, municipalities).

Conclusion

I stand by my 2013 opposition to a 'global city' amalgamation and support Woollahra remaining a 'stand-alone Council'.

Yours Faithfully,



Anne Raymond

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2015 6:54 PM
Subject: Wollahra Council gets my vote

I would love Woollahra Council to aquire Elizabeth Bay during the new council mergers!

Woollahra Council has understood the value of preserving residenital amentity. Elizabeth Bay used to be leafy old style like Woollahra until the City of Sydney started wrecking it.

We have a lovely wide and round country town style intersection, which they are going to square and narrow to make way for more cafes. We had lovely black bitumen streets with dirt tree beds, convict bricks and terra cotta pots of Tuscan style wild foilage, however they have replaced these with shopping centre style chip bark tree beds and white concrete.

I think City of Sydney could do a better job not meddling with our residential areas but managing built commercial areas, like the CBD to Strathfield and Auburn. These built suburbs, which are aestheticy horrible, would actually benefit from the City of Sydney's contributions.

The City of Sydney does not care about residents, and essentially serves business. There are many noise and social problems caused by poorly designed development consents. This reason is also why City of Sydney would better serve built neighbourhoods like CBD to Strathfield and Auburn.

[REDACTED]
Elizabeth Bay NSW 2011

Anne Raymond

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2015 10:45 AM
Subject: Re: Please do not amalgamate the council

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your prompt and comprehensive reply.

It is appreciated - K

Sent from my iPad

On 14 May 2015, at 3:00 pm, Stephen Dunshea <Stephen.Dunshea@woollahra.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for taking the time to forward your comments to Council in relation to the potential amalgamation of Woollahra Council.

Council is still preparing its Fit for the Future submission to the State Government which will present Council's adopted position of seeking to remain a stand-alone council. Subject to the timing of finalising this submission, we are looking to place the submission on public exhibition and seek community feedback before lodging it with the State Government by 30 June 2015. Further information in this regard will be provided on our website and promoted through the local media.

Other methods by which you could express your comments would be through making representation to the Member and co-for Vacluse, The Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP and to the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Paul Toole, MP. Contact details are as follows:

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP
Member for Vacluse
Email: vacluse@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Electorate Office: 330 New South Head Road DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028
Mail: PO Box 560 DOUBLE BAY NSW 1360
Phone: (02) 9326 1856
Fax: (02) 9328 1132

The Hon. Paul Toole, MP
Minister for Local Government
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Phone: (02) 8574 7000
Fax: (02) 9339 5552
Email paul.toole@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Further, the State Government has recently announced the appointment of the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) as the expert panel tasked with assessing council submissions against the Fit for the Future assessment criteria. IPART have advised that once they have received all council submissions they will also accept public submissions on Fit for the Future proposals until 31 July 2015 to assist with their assessment. I also encourage you to forward comments to IPART at

the appropriate time. Council will keep residents advised in this regard through our website and local media.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Regards,

Stephen Dunshea

Director Corporate Services

Woollahra Municipal Council

536 New South Head Road, Double Bay NSW 2028

p +612 9391 7014 m [REDACTED]

w www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au e stephen.dunshea@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Our Values: Respect for People | Integrity and Excellent Performance | Professional Quality Service | Open Accountable Communication

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2015 10:00 AM

To: Records

Subject: Please do not amalgamate the council

I have just been to the website and read the debate on amalgamating councils.

I am strongly opposed to this. Is there somewhere I can register that viewpoint formally please? I want to do my bit to support keeping beautiful Woollahra.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2015 2:22 PM
Subject: Thanks for refusing to amalgamate with Waverley Council.

Mayor Toni Zeltzer

Thanks to you and your council for refusing to amalgamate with Waverley Council.

One reason given was the lack of caring for trees and the natural environment in Waverley. As we all know trees are our biggest asset because they help with salinity problems, clean the air from air pollution - which is one of the major killers, beautify the area and protect the painting in our buildings.

If the State Government wants to save taxpayers' money the best way is to stop duplication from State and Federal Government on Education and Health and at the same time stop blaming each other when something goes wrong.

The only thing we need in Sydney is an Excellent Public Transport System, and Buildings that are well built. We need to stop creating buildings that since the introduction of private certifiers we all know that around 85% have defects and some of them as shown on the ABC 7.30 Report 27/5/2015 are a time bomb because the developers are using cheap imported materials.

Thanks again!!

[REDACTED]
Vaucluse

Anne Raymond

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 June 2015 7:51 AM
Subject: OBJECTION - ARE WE BEING BULLIED INTO ACCEPTING AMALGAMATION?

Dear Councillors

For months now I have noted that Waverley Council's news appears to take precedence over that of Woollahra Council's news in the Wentworth Courier.

When did Waverley become a dominant council in Wentworth or has Woollahra already rolled over and agreed to amalgamation with Waverley Council despite significant local opposition to such a merger. To my observations it certainly appears to be the case.

There is an academic proposition under the heading "patterns of persuasion" and it goes like this - propositions are presented to an electorate by the media both print and electronic, emails, the media, local press, advertising etc. Those messages are planted in the psyche of residents -that is - that proposition is planted in the minds of those who hear it and take it on board as acceptable it is not questioned and it becomes part of the accepted norms.

I have lived in Woollahra since the 1960's and Waverley had never taken the ascendant position in Woollahra Municipality. Waverley Council's news was never published in the Wentworth Courier and certainly NOT IN THE DOMINANT POSITION SUCH NEWS NOW OCCUPIES IN OUR LOCAL WENTWORTH COURIER NEWSPAPER.

It is offensive to me that Waverley Council's news is taking precedent in our local newspaper presenting it at page 4 etc. and Woollahra council news some ten or more pages on in the newspaper where you have to search for it. The point is that Waverley council news is the first to be read by readers and assumes in peoples' minds a dominant position maybe even the dominant council.

Who does decide the council's newsletter position in the newspaper? Please don't tell me it is based on economics and the cost of the position is a consideration.

It seems to me that either Waverley Council is controlling the agenda and Woollahra Council may be acquiescing in the face of something of a bully!

Regards
[REDACTED]

The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are confidential and are intended solely for the addressee. Please notify the sender immediately by return if you are not the intended addressee.

The Mayor
Woolakura Council.



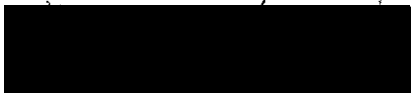
Yaucluse NSW 2030
29.5.15

Dear Mayor,

I wish to support Woolakura Council & Mr
Alex Greenwich M.P (as per attached) in
opposing Amalgamation of Councils

I also enclose a copy of my letter to The
Premier on the same subject.

Yours Sincerely



The Hon. Mr. Baird
Premier
N. S. W.

Waverley 2090

29.5.15

Dear Mr. Baird,

I have to advise I am totally opposed to

amalgamation of Councils eg Wollahra

Waverley etc. The Govt's support to amalgamation

will force me to vote against THE LIBERAL

Party at every opportunity in the future

Yours Sincerely

C.C. Wollahra Council

Anne Raymond

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 Jun 2015 5:57 PM
Subject: No Amalgamation

To The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

Dear [REDACTED]

Socrates suggested that children be taken away from their parents at birth and raised communally by the State.

Fortunately no-one took him seriously....until now.

Apparently the NSW State Government is seriously considering dramatic council amalgamations into a few mega councils, effectively turning the inhabitants of local areas into anonymous wards of the State.

This may make administration of and liaison with the Councils easier for the Government, but I'm not sure it has any benefit whatsoever for the local inhabitants, certainly not for those who, like me, reside in the generally very well run and well maintained Woollahra Council area.

On the contrary I can see only significant negatives if Woollahra were forced to merge with its neighbouring councils:

1. Potential hefty rate rises of between 22% and 53%.
2. Corresponding rate reductions for Randwick residents which would cause unnecessary disparity and inequality within the same council.
3. Minimal representation on an amalgamated Council – present estimates suggest as few as two councilors from the whole of an area stretching from Vaucluse all the way through to Paddington.
4. A loss of identity and diminished voice on local issues.
5. Inconvenience of dealing with a faceless mega council seated many kilometers away catering to up to half a million residents.
6. Vast majority of Woollahra residents do not want their council to be amalgamated.

Doubtless there will be huge costs involved in administering these mergers and potentially greater costs through the inherent inefficiencies of maintaining much larger organizations and then even more huge costs involved in de-amalgamating them again in a few years' time as has already happened in many other parts of Australia.

In fact there is not a single shred of evidence of the success of council amalgamation, neither in terms of better services nor greater cost savings and consequently one can only assume it is nothing other than short sighted hubris that has convinced this Government to pursue such a policy in the face of all the prevailing evidence, not to mention in the face of local resident dissent in what is supposed to be a free and fair democracy.

I heartily encourage you:

1. Not to support these council amalgamations
2. Not to support what can only be described as unauthorized "bribes" using tax payers money to entice impoverished councils to amalgamate voluntarily
3. And most of all, not to support any forced amalgamations.

Many thanks for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Raymond

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2015 12:45 PM
Subject: No Amalgamation

To Hon Paul Toole MP

Dear Mr. Toole,

I am writing to you today as a resident of Double Bay to lend my support to the Woollahra Council No Amalgamation campaign.

I won't go into all the obvious reasons why, regarding rate increases, rate disparities between suburbs, loss of identity and lack of local representation, as I'm sure they'll be amply covered by all the other correspondence you receive and campaign material you see.

What concerns me most, as a lifetime Liberal supporter, is that a Liberal government would force a Liberal Council to amalgamate with its neighbouring councils in direct contrast to the firmly held opinion of its mainly Liberal electorate.

I recognize that it is not your seat, but I'm sure you would agree, as an elected official, that it would have to be one of the greatest insults to a party's support network in the history of democracy and given that 80% of Woollahra residents vehemently oppose forced amalgamation, anything but democratic.

Woollahra Council is and has been for many years a very well run municipality. I can see no single advantage to any local resident from amalgamation. I understand the Government's broad policy to attempt to reduce the red tape and cost of bureaucracy, but that cannot be at the expense of the quality of life of its people. Especially when there isn't a shred of evidence from Australia or the world to suggest that Council amalgamation reduces either red tape or costs or improves the quality of life of anyone, except perhaps the Minister for Local Government, although even that remains to be proven. In fact, on the contrary, there are plenty of examples of Councils who have amalgamated, pretty quickly de-amalgamating, precisely because their efficiency and effectiveness decreased whilst their costs increased.

By all means investigate the principle of amalgamation. By all means allow those Councils who for some reason see merit in amalgamating to volunteer to do so. But please do not use tax payers' hard earned cash to offer significant financial inducements, bribes by any other name, to underperforming, poorly managed Councils to entice them to volunteer. And please, under no circumstances, force any Council to amalgamate against the clear wishes of its residents, especially not one as well managed as Woollahra and one with such a majority of your own supporters, not to mention members of other parties, in opposition to amalgamation.

Your sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Double Bay,
NSW. 2028.