



Attachment 3 – Special Rate Variation Priorities Evidence of Community Support

Evidence of community need / desire for service levels and or projects has come not only from work done on the suite of IP&R documents, but also from a range of strategies and plans that have been the subject of previous broad community engagement, as well as an LGA-wide survey undertaken in mid-2021.

Some of the key documents that have provided evidence to Council of the community need for improved service levels and / or additional priority projects detailed below, along with details of feedback provided as part of the engagement on those strategies and plans. Links to source documents also provided.

Source	Community feedback
<p>Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2019</p>	<p>The Woollahra Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets out a 20-year land use vision and planning priorities for the future of the Woollahra LGA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manage future growth, new technology and changing community needs • conserve our heritage, villages, local character and environment • ensure resilience and sustainability despite challenges such as climate change • identify areas for further detailed strategic planning • link Woollahra’s plans to the implementation of the NSW Government’s strategic plans <p>LSPS vision for the Woollahra LGA: <i>Outstanding heritage, lifestyle, leafy, boutique villages and an unrivalled open, sunny harbour-side landscape in Sydney’s east.</i></p> <p>Council’s <i>Your Say Woollahra</i> platform featured a tool to allow the community to make online submissions. The exhibition webpage on Council’s website was visited by 635 customers.</p> <p>General support was received for planning priorities and actions related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting heritage, including Paddington and Rushcutters Bay Park • sustainability and climate change • protecting and improving public access to parks and our foreshore • protecting and enhancing biodiversity and increasing urban green cover particularly in streets, parks and the public domain • providing more walking paths and cycleways to reduce car dependency and congestion • protecting and where possible expanding sport, leisure and other community facilities. <p>Council’s LSPS can be accessed here: https://shared-drupal-s3fs.s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/master-test/fapub_pdf/Local+Strategic+Planning+Statements/Woollahra+LSPS+2020+-+Web+version+-+March+2020_S-980+(4).pdf</p>

1. Protecting our Heritage: \$1.4m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
Micromex Community Satisfaction Survey 2021 (402 participants)	<p>Protecting heritage values and buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 81% responded Important or Very Important <p>Regulating the design and quality of new developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63% Satisfaction Identified as an Optimiser (overall satisfaction score lifts when this is improved) Key Driver (overall satisfaction score lifts when this is improved when consultation is included as a dependent variable)
Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2019	<p>General support for planning priorities and actions related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting heritage, including Paddington and Rushcutters Bay Park
Rose Bay Place Plan (201 submissions)	<p>What locals love and value about Rose Bay, how they envision the Rose Bay of the future, what they believe can be improved with the assistance of Council - themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> traffic and parking, maintenance of open spaces and Rose Bay Beach, overdevelopment and local character, supporting local businesses and activating the commercial centre.
Edgecliff Commercial Centre Strategy (100+ submissions)	<p>Responses to a visionary strategy for future development in Edgecliff - themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discussions about what local character is in Edgecliff, managing already strained traffic and parking, expressing need for improved infrastructure vs. anxieties about overdevelopment, provision of quality public and open spaces, protecting heritage, revitalisation.
Heritage Gap Analysis 2021	<p>The Woollahra Heritage Gap Analysis 2021 provides and drives a proactive approach to heritage conservation in the Woollahra LGA.</p> <p>A report was prepared to a Council meeting on 14 February 2022, where staff set out a resourcing strategy to fund the high priorities projects identified in the Action Plan over the next 18 months. Subsequently, on 14 February 2022 Council resolved:</p> <p>A. <i>Notes the report on progressing the high priority actions in the Woollahra Heritage Gap Analysis.</i></p> <p>B. <i>Note Council's current operating deficit budget position of \$6.81 million as most recently reported to Council and as included in the December 2021 Quarterly Budget Review Statement.</i></p> <p>C. <i>Note that any additional funding allocated to complete the high priority projects identified in the Heritage Gap Analysis Action Plan will increase Councils deficit budget position.</i></p>

1. Protecting our Heritage: \$1.4m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
	<p><i>D. Give consideration to the funding of priority projects identified in the Heritage Gap Analysis whilst developing the 2022-2023 Budget and Operational Plan.</i></p> <p><i>E. Notes that in the event that Council resolves into the future to apply for a Special Rate Variation (SRV), that the funding of priority projects identified in the Heritage Gap Analysis be considered as part of that application.</i></p> <p><i>F. Acknowledging Councils resolution to create the placemaking role and function in the Planning & Place Division, that the General Manager gives consideration to the reallocation of funding from the placemaking budget in order to complete the high priority projects outlined in the ‘Woollahra Heritage Gap Analysis Plan’.</i></p> <p>Council report can be accessed here: https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/255657/Council-Agenda-14-Feb-2022.pdf</p>

2. Climate Change Adaptation Measures: \$13.9m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
Micromex Community Satisfaction Survey 2021 (402 participants)	<p>Stormwater drainage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% responded Important or Very Important with only 42% of people are Satisfied or Very Satisfied. <p>Encouraging sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82% responded Important or Very Important with only 28% of people are Satisfied or Very Satisfied.
Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2019	<p>General support for planning priorities and actions related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustainability and climate change.
SRV (593 submissions)	<p>In response to the Question: <i>Are there any other projects or priorities you wish to be considered?</i>, 30 responses (7%) related to Environmental sustainability. A sample of responses relating to climate change adaptation below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response 142: “Ensure the storm water drains at Rose Bay beach are not blocked by the sand” Response 167: “Rose bay car park and Paddington flood plain mitigation works” Response 169: “None in addition, but only support flood mitigation measures within option 2” Response 181: “General appearance & functionality of area, not only maintain footpaths but also regular weed reduction of the surfaces, regular litter clean up, tree pruning & road surface repair fo the ling term, the area is litter with quick ineffective road repair that have a longevity of months not years. Effective drainage of regular flooding zones.” Response 204: “Resolve Parsley Bay & Rosebay stormwater and sewage outfall into Sydney Harbour. More Community clean-up days promoted, to address plastics and litter around Sydney Harbour foreshore. More Soft-plastics recycling options e.g. Red-cycle bins available.” Response 206: “I want a much stronger environmental focus - especially around litter, which gets into our waterways and kills wildlife, there are blue (non-recyclable) masks EVERYWHERE. I also want a much bigger focus on regenerating biodiversity (Centennial should have far less lawn/grass and far more natural ecosystem). More trees, more plants, more wildlife. A stop of cats being out at night - ever (again, as they kill precious wildlife). A stop of cars idling (pollutants are linked directly to respiratory diseases as well as contributing to climate change of course). Fewer cars or at least more electric vehicle infrastructure and a push to encourage purchase thereof. Far better recycling facilities (including soft plastics). If you were to focus in this way I would be in full support.” Response 216: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> More on street parking around Stafford Street by changing parallel to rear to curb as done In Hopetoun, Suffock, And parts of Paddington More relaxed attitude to outdoor cafe dining in Paddington Fix the Hopetoun st water issues

2. Climate Change Adaptation Measures: \$13.9m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response 264: “Climate change measures must consider flood effects from the sea as well as land. this will involve backwater inundation associated with sea level rise and associated Sydney Harbour water level extreme levels driven by storm and oceanic events. This will require consideration of efficiency and adequacy of stormwater drains entering Sydney Harbour. Costs associated with option 3 should allow for climate change adaptation measures linking freshwater flooding with backwater flooding.” • Response 265: “Flood mitigation should be a priority given current weather patterns. Need to prioritise current needs for residents within existing budget restraints not add spending on less priority areas.” • Response 307: I would like to think that Council thinks about resilience and coping with our extremes of both drought and flood when doing its planning, and not just the last one experienced <p>A copy of all submissions received can be accessed here: https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/266597/S-and-C-Agenda-17-Oct-2022-Item-R1-Attachment-5.pdf</p>
Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans	<p>The major climate change adaption (flood mitigation) projects which will be funded through this SRV derive directly from the adopted Floodplain Risk Management Studies and Plans which are in place for the various catchments throughout the Woollahra LGA.</p> <p>Development of the Plans involved significant community involvement, both through direct community membership of the WMC Flood Plain Management Committee, under whose auspices the Plans were developed, and through the detailed community survey, exhibition and consultation processes undertaken prior to adoption of the Plans. For example, the development of the Paddington FRMSP involved letter drops to over 12,000 residences and questionnaires provided to 740 directly affected households.</p> <p>It is noted that the ongoing inability of Council to fund a high priority action from the Paddington FRMSP (Cecil Street overland flow project) has been the cause of sustained local dissatisfaction.</p> <p>The SRV will also fund two smaller flood mitigation projects at Dudley Road, Rose Bay and Edgecliff Road, Woollahra. These projects derive from localised flood studies which were undertaken in direct response to concerns about flooding raised by affected residents.</p>

3. Recreation & Trees: \$10.3m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
Micromex Community Satisfaction Survey 2021 (402 participants)	<p>Parks and recreation areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% Importance (Top 5 of all priorities) <p>Managing trees in streets and parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significantly increased level of Importance than 2017 survey Key Driver (overall satisfaction score lifts when this is improved when consultation is included as a dependent variable) <p>Maintaining foreshores and beaches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% Importance Key Driver (overall satisfaction score lifts when this is improved when consultation is included as a dependent variable)
Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2019	<p>General support for planning priorities and actions related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting and improving public access to parks and our foreshore protecting and enhancing biodiversity and increasing urban green cover particularly in streets, parks and the public domain.
Recreational Needs Study 2020 (209 submissions)	<p>Improvements that the community would like to see to specific open spaces and recreational areas - themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintenance, safety, lighting, new facilities for sports and youth.
Playspace strategy (39 submissions)	<p>Priorities for play spaces - themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cleanliness, maintenance, accessibility and parking, safety and fencing, shade protection.
Crown Lands Plans of Management (389 submissions)	<p>How the community currently uses crown land parks, what they value about them, what their concerns are and what improvements they would like to see - themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> maintenance, dogs, bins, facilities. <p>Responses to the Crown reserves survey indicated that the following qualities, in order of significance are valued by our community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural environment aesthetic quality health and well-being opportunities heritage and cultural opportunities recreational opportunities access social and community opportunities landscape quality.

3. Recreation & Trees: \$10.3m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
	A main issue raised by the community was the need for; 6.5.2 Site interpretation, wayfinding, planning and design - Woollahra's Crown reserves are unique places that need to perform many roles as they continue to evolve to meet the needs of the community. Managing the evolution of any place involves thoughtful specific site design.
Requests from Community groups	Community groups such as Friends of Cooper Park continue to agitate for reviews of the Plans of Management and development of masterplans for their sites. Council currently does not have sufficient resourcing to meet these reasonable community demands.
SRV (593 submissions)	<p>In response to the Question: <i>Are there any other projects or priorities you wish to be considered?</i>, 40 responses (9%) related to Trees, open spaces and park maintenance. A sample of responses relating to trees below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response 116: “The pruning of Moreton Bay figs along New South Head Road, Rose Bay” • Response 133: “Overhanging trees are potentially dangerous and I have asked on numerous occasions for council to prune enormous trees with long low branches from the side of my terrace!!” • Response 145: “Better service for residential areas, especially maintenance for trees reference to roots overgrown of crowns and traffic controls” • Response 177: “to trim the tree which blocked the view in front of us!!!” • Response 181: “General appearance & functionality of area, not only maintain footpaths but also regular weed reduction of the surfaces, regular litter clean up, tree pruning & road surface repair for the long term, the area is litter with quick ineffective road repair that have a longevity of months not years. Effective drainage of regular flooding zones.” • Response 207: “The council currently provides too much protection of trees that are causing issues to infrastructure, housing, light, views and well being of residents. Trees should not have the protection that is currently afforded to them, particularly where they are negatively impacting residents, are not native, were meant to be hedges (not large trees), are not maintained properly by council, breach council guidelines and/or are in areas that already have green/canopy cover. Council should favour residents’ opinions and well being over the well being of the trees.” • Response 211: “Maintaining Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park as Heritage open spaces with the magnificent trees and open spaces and no more infrastructure or destroying heritage listed sea walls.” • Response 231: “Removal of large Fig Trees that are threatening nearby building foundations, blocking light into homes, and showering debris on private roofs. More beautiful and appropriately sized trees should be planted in their place.” <p>A copy of all submissions received can be accessed here: https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/266597/S-and-C-Agenda-17-Oct-2022-Item-R1-Attachment-5.pdf</p>

4. Active Transport: \$7.3m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
<p>Micromex Community Satisfaction Survey 2021 (402 participants)</p>	<p>Maintenance of footpath and kerb ramps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93% of people regard as Important or Very Important with only 34% of people are Satisfied or Very Satisfied. <p>Bicycle paths/routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 52% of people are Satisfied or Very Satisfied. <p>Managing local traffic flow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of people regard as Important or Very Important with only 23% of people are Satisfied or Very Satisfied.
<p>Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2019</p>	<p>General support for planning priorities and actions related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing more walking paths and cycleways to reduce car dependency and congestion.
<p>Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022</p>	<p>Council’s Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2022 details the steps Council will take over the next four years to further support and improve inclusion for people with a disability, and remove any remaining barriers to participation within our community.</p> <p>Consultation on the draft plan was held between 9 March – 8 April 2022; inviting submissions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion (Disability, Aged and Carers) Advisory Committee Woollahra Dementia Alliance (41 members) Disability Network of the Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network, (150 members who either provide disability services, are living with disability or are carers) Mood Active, who run exercise programs that empower people to better manage their mental health Lifestart, NDIS Partner delivering Early Childhood Early Intervention NDIS Local Area Coordination Partner Holdsworth Community JewishCare Jewish House Inala (Miroma) Sailability Rushcutters Bay Jewish Folk Centre NSW Friendship Circle Sir Roden & Lady Cutler Eastern Sydney Suicide Prevention Network Maccabi NSW Inc. The Burger Centre Pty Limited BIKEast COA Sydney Incorporated Little Heroes Swim Academy The Cottage - Dementia Day Centre <p>Feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve footpaths and access to parks by the water for people who use wheelchairs or who have mobility restrictions request that in addition to maintaining footpaths that kerb ramps be included in action

4. Active Transport: \$7.3m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
	<p>Adopted actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider accessibility when undertaking upgrades to parks, including continuous paths of travel, accessible toilets. • Explore the potential to modify locations throughout the Municipality to facilitate access for mobility impaired people to the ocean. • Maintain footpaths and increase the number of kerb ramps throughout the Municipality. • Continue to respond to requests regarding footpath trip hazards <p>A copy of the DIAP can be accessed here: https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/261275/2022_WMC-DIAP-FINAL_WEB_30Nov.pdf</p>
Active Transport Plan (149 submissions from 1 st exhibition)	<p>Community priorities for walking and cycling, how Council can improve walking and cycling in Woollahra, themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for safe cycling infrastructure, • path maintenance, • appreciation of open spaces for recreational walking and cycling, • connections to public transport/shops/open spaces/Bondi, • managing traffic and parking, • slower traffic speeds in neighbourhood.
Zero Emissions Woollahra 2021 (33 submissions)	<p>Community priorities for emissions reduction, suggestions for Council support, themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of safe cycling paths, • planning permission and incentives for solar power, • improved recycling program (efficacy and education), • EV charging.
SRV (593 submissions)	<p>In response to the Question: <i>Are there any other projects or priorities you wish to be considered?</i>, 39 responses (9%) related to Footpaths and pedestrian safety. A sample of responses relating to footpaths below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response 7: "Please look after the bread and butter activities we are paying rates for. Footpaths are awful. Street lights are very poor. Stop supporting over-development." • Response 31: "Maintaining the basics. Empty my rubbish bins, level footpaths for the elderly and disabled, have a more regular pruning schedule for the trees which cause havoc during storms." • Response 53: "Three issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpaths need improving. Too much construction has meant footpaths are damaged. I would increase the budget further and introduce a levy on construction to raise additional funds. 2. Clean up the verges on the main roads. Heavy rain has meant they are overgrown 3. Increase parking in Rose Bay (Dover Road)" • Response 180: "The priority is the dilapidated infrastructure in the area. What is being done about the broken down roads and footpaths? Why is money wasted on useless signs that say "Racism not welcome here" and on painting signal boxes?"

4. Active Transport: \$7.3m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response 189: “Better pedestrian facilities and support for state public transport” • Response 215: “Concrete pavements on street in Bellevue hill must be addressed- too many roots coming up and it’s a huge hazard when walking on Bellevue road or Victoria road and surrounds. Must be addressed. We have an ageing population in the Woollahra Council and time and time again I’ve seen many accidents due to issues with the pavements” • Response 228: “We need more than partial funding for footpath maintenance. We have been living in Raine Street Woollahra for the past 15 years and the footpaths in this area are very poorly maintained. We are encouraged to walk and use our cars less - yet the footpaths are in dreadful disrepair. Also there was a landslide into Cooper Park from the Fletcher St park at least 5 years ago and it has not been fixed. • Response 251: “Essential footpath repairs and tree maintenance.” • Response 256: “Less SUV’s, less cars, better footpaths and more cycle paths!” • Response 261: “Footpaths on Edgecliff Road” <p>A copy of all submissions received can be accessed here: https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/266597/S-and-C-Agenda-17-Oct-2022-Item-R1-Attachment-5.pdf</p>

5. Community Infrastructure: \$11.6m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
Micromex Community Satisfaction Survey 2021 (402 participants)	<p>Convenience of parking at local shopping villages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82% of people regard as Important or Very Important with only 32% of people are Satisfied or Very Satisfied.
Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2019	<p>General support for planning priorities and actions related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protecting and where possible expanding sport, leisure and other community facilities.
Community Facilities Study (109 submissions)	<p>Council’s adopted Community Facilities Study identifies the need for a new integrated multi-purpose community facility in the Rose Bay catchment and the Wilberforce Avenue site is considered the most suitable location in the catchment for such a facility.</p> <p>Activities the community would like to attend that are not currently happening in Council’s community facilities - themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more performances (e.g. live music), activities (e.g. dancing, aerobics), family-friendly events. <p>A copy of the Woollahra Community Facilities Study can be accessed here: https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/242308/Woollahra-Community-Facilities-Study-2019.pdf</p>
Rose Bay Place Plan 2022 (201 submissions)	<p>What locals love and value about Rose Bay, how they envision the Rose Bay of the future, what they believe can be improved with the assistance of Council - themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> traffic and parking, maintenance of open spaces and Rose Bay Beach, overdevelopment and local character, supporting local businesses and activating the commercial centre.
Wilberforce Avenue, Rose Bay Car Park Redevelopment 2022 (75 participants in live consultation)	<p>A public meeting was held on 22 February 2022 from 5.30 – 7 pm via Zoom and a pop-up event was held on 4 March 2022 from 10am – 1pm in the Rose Bay Centre on the Dover Road footpath near the entrance to the car park. Both consultation sessions were well attended, with approximately 35 people attending the public meeting and about 40 people attending the pop-up, with many in-depth discussions. The recording of the public meeting on Council’s website also attracting viewers. Overall, there is generally strong support for the redevelopment, particularly the proposed additional car parking and public toilets.</p> <p>There were some divergent opinions expressed regarding the proposed new retail floor space and community centre, with some people considering that they should be replaced with additional car parking.</p> <p>However, Council’s adopted Community Facilities Study identifies the need for a new integrated multi-purpose community facility in the Rose Bay catchment and the Wilberforce Avenue site is considered the most suitable location in the catchment for such a facility. Additionally, the retail floor space (of 340m²) is needed to activate the development at street level and to provide a revenue stream to Council to assist defray the cost of the redevelopment.</p>

5. Community Infrastructure: \$11.6m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
SRV (593 submissions)	<p>In response to the Question: <i>Are there any other projects or priorities you wish to be considered?</i>, 27 responses (6%) related to Parking and traffic congestion issues. A sample of responses relating to parking below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response 53: “Three issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Footpaths need improving. Too much construction has meant footpaths are damaged. I would increase the budget further and introduce a levy on construction to raise additional funds. 2. Clean up the verges on the main roads. Heavy rain has meant they are overgrown 3. Increase parking in Rose Bay (Dover Road)” • Response 124: “No it’s important to keep up with inflation and I like the focus on recreational spaces and Rose Bay needs better parking facilities” • Response 147: “Environmental and heritage projects. Create car free zones. Reduce street parking. Increase public transport options to local hubs.” • Response 167: “Rose bay car park and Paddington flood plain mitigation works” • Response 208: “Agree to more parking in Rose bay . • Stormwater channel in Cross lane Double bay needs to be embellished and made user friendly” • Response 236” “Sewer, rose bay carpark” <p>A copy of all submissions received can be accessed here: https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/266597/S-and-C-Agenda-17-Oct-2022-Item-R1-Attachment-5.pdf</p>

6. Improvements to Service: 4.4m over 10 years	
Source	Community feedback
Micromex Community Satisfaction Survey 2021 (402 participants)	Council’s overall responsiveness to the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89% of people regard as Important or Very Important with only 35% of people are Satisfied or Very Satisfied. Optimiser (overall satisfaction score lifts when this is improved) Key Driver (overall satisfaction score lifts when this is improved when consultation is included as a dependent variable)