

Double Bay Residents' Association

Protecting Sydney's Stylish Bayside Village

Wednesday 30th November 2022

Dear Member,

Christmas Party

We hope you will join us at DBRA's Christmas party at Woollahra Library on Tuesday 6th December, starting at 6.00pm. If you haven't accepted yet and would like to join us, please email dbrassoc@gmail.com or leave a message on 0414 932 818. We look forward to celebrating the end of a busy year with as many members as possible.

Seventeen new members have joined the association since July – indicating Double Bay residents' appreciation of a strong voice to advocate for their interests. The more members we have, the greater our influence will be; if you have friends who you think might be interested in joining, we would welcome their coming to our Christmas party to hear more about what we do.

Woollahra Council's Draft Active Transport Plan

This plan is now on public exhibition and can be viewed on the Council's website, with comments invited until Friday 16 December. If implemented, it will have an impact on all residents who walk or cycle around the community. We are preparing a detailed response which we'll circulate shortly. If you enjoy walking or cycling, we recommend that you review our critique when you receive it, together with the plan, and send your comments to the Council.

The plan sets out the Council's priorities for walking and cycling networks in the municipality, although extraordinarily there appears to be little concern about safety. The fact that increases in walking and cycling are likely to result in more accidents seems to be ignored. This issue needs to be dealt with now, not embedded in an unfunded plan for the next 10-15 years. Equally unsatisfactory is that the plan appears to have been prepared without up-to-date traffic and transport studies and does not take into account the increase in traffic which is inevitable as a result of the higher population density being imposed on us by the state government.

Apart from the pedestrianisation of Knox Street (see below), the only high priority project for Double Bay appears to be a cycleway along Ocean Avenue and William Street.

Safety

Regrettably, the Council has abolished the '**community safety committee**' on which we were represented.

We've become aware of an increase in the number of accidents in Woollahra and are concerned that not all of them are reported and recorded, especially when cyclists and pedestrians are involved. Scooters and food delivery bikes on footpaths, and shared cycleway/pedestrian paths such as the one between the Council chambers and the bottom of the William Street hill, are of particular concern. If you are involved in an accident or near miss, please report it to the Council and also let us know so we can keep a record and, if necessary, lobby for changes.

Knox Street Pedestrianisation

At its meeting on 14 November, the Council resolved to postpone progressing the pedestrianisation of Knox Street due mainly to cost escalation and unavailability of funding. However, it reaffirmed its commitment to the street's pedestrianisation in the future so a pedestrian plaza is embedded in the Council's Development Control Plan. A plan to improve the wharf end of Bay Street is now being considered.

Development Applications

294-298 New South Head Road & 2-10 Bay Street: This will be considered by the Woollahra Local Planning Panel (WLPP) on 1 December. The Council is recommending refusal, but we can count on the developer making a strong case for approval. Malcolm Young will represent DBRA and we hope several members will apply to speak.

55 Bay Street: Yet another application – breaching current controls again – has been lodged. Extraordinarily, the developer is asking for an additional floor when it's already been turned down. The deadline for objections has been extended until 8 December; if you will be affected or wish to object, you'll have to make fresh submission. Meanwhile, Malcolm is drafting a submission on behalf of DBRA.

12 Cross Street: We are reviewing this DA and will consider whether to lodge a submission. If you wish to object, the deadline is 23 December.

98 Manning Road: A DA for a new childcare centre was considered by a meeting of the WLPP at which we spoke against approval. A decision was deferred pending a traffic and parking study. We applaud the residents who commissioned their own study which showed a shortfall in parking places.

Residents' Submissions

We have been asked to advise members to address all submissions to records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au, rather than to individuals at the Council. This will ensure your submission is entered into the Council's record keeping system and reaches the right people at the appropriate time.

Special Rate Variation (SRV) Application

On 17 October, the Council voted 10/4 to proceed with an SRV application based on the second of the options presented to ratepayers. This would increase rate income by 13.7% in 2023/4 and 7.5% in 2024/5. We understand that 55% of 585 replies to the ratepayer survey were against any SRV application, but councillors from all three groups (Liberal, Residents First and Greens) clearly were persuaded that rate increases were needed and voted for the application to be made.

Success in Reducing Bay Street Noise

Many residents near Bay Street have been disturbed until recently by excessive noise – primarily loud, thumping music – from a restaurant and bar in Bay Street. At times, particularly Friday and Saturday nights, this extended beyond the DA-approved operating hours. Through a committee member, the DBRA made a submission to the Council in November 2021 pointing out that the 2010

DA conditions under which the establishment was operating were no longer valid and that decibel readings over an extended period showed the noise was more than 5Db over the maximum allowed.

Following discussions with the Council and meetings between council officers and the restaurant's management and owners, noise control steps were taken and noise levels have been reduced. Operating hours now comply with the original DA conditions.

A small success, but a success nevertheless!

New Committee Member

We are delighted to welcome Katie Wood to DBRA's committee. A lawyer, Katie is currently legal counsel of Amnesty International Australia.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining our team, please let us know. We have a lot to do and need all the help we can get.

Greetings to all our members

We wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas season and new year. With the state election due in March, we can look forward to a busy first quarter of 2023 with, no doubt, many of us scrutinising candidates' policies on development and their impact on the Eastern Suburbs.

Best wishes,
Anthony Tregoning
President

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