

Residents First

Our Record - Last Council term

Residents First (RF) Councillors don't always vote as a bloc and are happy to work across the aisle to achieve the best results for their constituents. Many of the RF Notices of Motion (NoMs) listed below were carried unanimously because RF Councillors demonstrated to their fellow Councillors that the initiatives were important and genuinely informed by pressing community concerns.

As this document highlights, over the past four years, RF Councillors have consistently responded to community concerns and led the fight against state government policies designed to undermine local planning controls and facilitate overdevelopment. They have also not been afraid to ask tough questions in order to ensure transparency of Council processes.

Fighting back against overdevelopment

- NoM requesting that the Local Housing Strategy be revised in order to reflect that Woollahra's 800 net additional dwellings target for the 10 year period beginning 2016 has already been achieved (889 additional dwellings have so far been approved or constructed¹), and that an uplift in density in Edgecliff is not required to meet housing targets. (*Vote Lost 7 to 8 - with all Liberal Councillors voting against it, 25 October 2021*)
- NoM to extend the public exhibition of the draft Edgecliff Commercial Centre Planning & Urban Design Strategy (draft Edgecliff Planning Strategy) to allow the community extra time to make submissions in light of Covid-19 lockdown. (*Vote lost - with all Liberal Councillors voting against it, 27 September 2021*)
- NoM to revise the draft Double Bay Planning and Urban Design Strategy in order to reflect Council's commitment to the current desired future character of the Double Bay commercial centre and development controls, which limit the maximum height limit to 4 storeys for most of the centre. (*Carried, 26 April 2021, but only supported by one Liberal Councillor.*)
- Majority of RF Councillors voted against the Liberal Councillors NoM to place on public exhibition the draft Edgecliff Planning Strategy, which proposes adding up to 1,250 net new dwellings to an already heavily populated area. (*All Liberal Councils voted for its public exhibition. Carried, 26 April 2021*)
- NoM requesting that the Council writes to relevant government agencies asking for the withdrawal of the 2021 - 2026 target of 500-600 net new dwellings in Woollahra Local Government Area on the grounds that it has already been exceeded. (*Carried, 26 April 2021*)

¹ Updated information provided on 22 November 2021 in response to a Question on Notice by Residents First Councillor Luise Elsing.

- NoM requesting that Council writes to the Minister for Planning requesting he provide assurance that: A. no further changes will be made to the NSW planning laws that facilitate the removal from councils of strategic planning decisions, including number of dwellings in a Local Government Area; and B. further planning powers will not be taken from Woollahra Council in the event that Council does not comply with housing targets set by state government bodies. (*Motion was lost. All Liberal Councillors voted against it, 26 October 2020*)
- NoM requesting that Council undertakes a hydrogeological and geotechnical study for the Rose Bay/lower Bellevue Hill region, similar to the study recently undertaken for the Double Bay region, to assess the potential cumulative impact of future development on long term groundwater change and to inform Council of any amendments required to existing planning controls. (*Carried, 29 September 2020.*²)
- NoM requesting that Council writes to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) seeking an exemption from the Housing for Seniors SEPP for R2 Low Density Residential. (*Carried, 22 February 2021*)
- NoM to rezone properties in Riddell Street, Bellevue Hill from R3 medium density to R2 low density residential in order to alleviate density pressures. (*Carried, 12 August 2019*)
- Supported NoM for a hydrogeological report on Double Bay dewatering (*Carried, 25 February 2019*)
- NoM to place a moratorium on any development applications or planning proposals in relation to residential development on Council owned land until an assessment has been undertaken to determine the capacity of current infrastructure to support such development including roads, public transport, outdoor and indoor recreation facilities, bike cycle pathways and public schools; consideration is given to the impact of over development on the character and heritage of the Woollahra municipality; and an analysis is done on Woollahra Council's current compliance with the 2016 - 2021 additional dwellings target of 300 set by the Greater Sydney Commission. (*Motion lost with all Liberal and Green Councillors voting against it, 26 November 2018*)
- Voted against Council proceeding with planning proposals that will incorporate residential dwellings in the redevelopment of the Ian Street and Wilberforce Avenue car parks in the Rose Bay Centre (*Motion was approved with all Liberal and Greens Councillors voting for it, 21 May 2018*)
- NoM requesting a freeze on the approval of any further medium density development in the municipality under the new Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code until a proper independent assessment has been undertaken to assess community impact. (*Carried, 21 May 2018*)

Protecting local character, heritage and residential amenity

- NoM requesting that Council write to the Premier and Minister for Planning raising community concerns about the implications of the draft Greater Sydney Parklands Trust Bill 2021. (*Carried, 25 October 2021*)

² NoM initiated by Councillor Regan and co-authored by Councillor Shapiro. Residents First Councillors often ask Liberal or Greens Councillors to support NoMs they initiate to improve their chances of being carried.

- NoM to establish a heritage advisory committee to provide Council with strategic advice. (*Carried, 27 September 2021, but only supported by one Liberal Councillor*)
- NoM to investigate the potential heritage significance of identified buildings in the Double Bay Centre and relevant instruments of protection. (*Carried, 26 April 2021³*)
- NoM to investigate heritage listings for 58 – 88-90 Oxford Street, Woollahra including the theatre at 78 – 80 Oxford Street in the West Woollahra Heritage Conservation Area, noting that those buildings have a positive contribution to the streetscape and architectural character of the area and must be retained and conserved. (*Carried, 11 August 2021⁴*)
- NoM to improve pedestrianisation and traffic calming measures in the Rose Bay area and to report on traffic movement and density, particularly in the heavily utilised roads of Dover Road and Newcastle Street. (*Carried, 29 September 2020⁵*)
- NoM to identify areas that are important to the local character and the natural and visual environment of the municipality with a view to retaining the dominance of landscape over built form in order to enhance the local character and amenity of the area. (*Carried, 11 November 2019*)
- NoM to increase the minimum lot size for dual occupancy attached developments to preserve green space and local character. (*Carried, 12 August 2019*)
- NoM to prepare a report on installing rainwater gardens in the streetscape in Rose Bay, and signage to improve public awareness of stormwater pollution (*Carried, 24 February 2020*)
- NoM to review current planning controls in the Neighbourhood Heritage Conservation Areas of Darling Point, Bellevue Hill, Rose Bay and Vaucluse to establish more stringent conservation controls in order to maintain the cultural and heritage value of these areas. (*Carried, 10 December 2018.⁶*)
- NoMs to heritage list Uniting Church in Dover Rd, St Andrews Scots Presbyterian Church, Old School Hall Rose Bay Public School and McAuley Catholic School and outbuildings, Rose Bay Scout Hall, Percival Park Pumping Station, Sydney Croquet Club Building, Greens Woollahra Golf Club Clubhouse, George Grimley Pavilion and Dunara Reserve. (*All carried*)
- NoM to review the heritage value of Places of Worship in the municipality. (*Carried, 25 March 2019.⁷*)
- NoM to heritage list the Four in Hand Hotel and to expedite the Paddington Pub Project. (*Carried, 21 May 2018.*)
- NoM to strengthen outdoor light controls in order to mitigate light nuisance and light pollution in residential zones within the Municipality. (*Carried, 10 December 2018*)
- NOM requesting that the Council develops a formal policy in regard to the night time economy of Double Bay and other smaller commercial hubs to assist in setting regulations, monitoring, policing and enforcing compliance, imposing penalties and to provide consistency for traders and certainty for local residents. (*Carried, 26 November 2018⁸*)

³ NoM initiated by Councillor Regan and co-authored by Councillors Marano, Price, Elsing, Cullen, Wynne, Jarvis, Shapiro, Cavanagh, Robertson, McEwin and Zeltzer.

⁴ NoM initiated by Councillor Regan and co-authored Councillor Marano and McEwin.

⁵ NoM co-authored by Councillor Regan and Jarvis.

⁶ NoM initiated by Councillor Regan. Co-authors Councillors Marano and Robertson.

⁷ NoM initiated by Councillor Regan. Co-authors Councillors Marano, Robertson and Jarvis.

⁸ NoM initiated by Councillor Silcocks. Co-authors Councillors Zeltzer, Shields, Marano and McEwin.

- NoM to investigate changing the Development Control Plan so that it sets a minimum onsite parking requirement instead of a maximum rate for residential development. *(NoM was lost with only one Liberal Councillor voting for it, 20 August 2018)*
- NoM to review and update the Local Area Traffic Management Strategy *(Carried, 12 March 2018)*

Increasing and enhancing community infrastructure

- NoM requesting that Council writes to the Independent Planning Commission to include a condition of consent requiring Sydney Grammar School to support the Paddington Greenway. *(Carried, 25 October 2021)*
- NoM requesting that Council seeks advice about the inclusion of a popup multi-use court and other recreational facilities in the rooftop design for the proposed Wilberforce Car Park redevelopment. *(Carried, 27 October 2021 - but only one Liberal Councillor supported the Motion)*
- Voted against discussing the shortlisting of proponents for the redevelopment of the Cross Street car park in a closed session. RF Councillors argued that future development plans for the Cross Street car park should be opened for public consultation. *(Lost, 24 May 2021. All Liberal Councillors voted for the Motion)*
- NoM to urgently investigate acquiring the heritage-listed Charles Wentworth Memorial Church for community use. *(Carried, 11 October 2021, but only one Liberal Councillor supported the NoM)*
- Advocated for a 'Shared Zone' to be implemented in Gurner Lane, Paddington to improve pedestrian safety. *(Carried, Finance, Community & Services Committee, 12 April 2021, but Cr Cavanagh and Cr Robertson spoke against the shared zone.)*
- NoM to rezone from R3 Medium Density Residential to RE2 Private Recreation the bowling greens and clubhouse of the Double Bay Bowling Club in order to preserve this land for private recreational use.⁹ *(Carried, 20 October 2020)*
- NoM to review the adequacy of lighting in the Royal Hospital for Women's Park and funding for any recommended work. *(Carried, 29 September 2020)*
- NoM to prepare a report identifying suitable sites in the municipality that can be purchased for community purposes. *(Carried, 25 November 2019)*
- Advocated for Council to take over the lease of the Paddington Bowling Club so it can be returned for community use.
- Advocated for community access to the White City redevelopment and for the protection of residential amenity in surrounding streets from any adverse impacts of the sports complex's expanded operations.
- NoM that Council staff provides a report outlining options and recommendations for the proposed use of St Brigid's which addresses concerns that the building be reserved for public use.¹⁰ *(Carried, 20 August 2018)*
- NoM to open the Paddington Library on Sundays. *(Carried, 2 August 2018)*
- NoM to create multi-purpose courts at Christison Park. *(Carried, 13 November 2017)*

⁹ NoM Initiated by Councillor Regan. Co-authors Councillors Cullen, Elsing, Marano, McEwin, Robertson, Silcocks, Shapiro, Wynne and Zeltzer

¹⁰ NoM initiated by Councillor Elsing and Councillor Silcocks. Co-authors Councillor Marano and Councillor Wynne.

Promoting transparency and confidence in Council processes

- NoM requesting that the Council writes to the NSW Planning Minister outlining concerns regarding recent changes to the operation of the Local Planning Panels, which tip the pendulum too far in favour of the developers and limit community input. (*Carried, 27 July 2021*)
- NoM requesting that the Council prepares a costings report for an independent review of Land and Environment Court proceedings over the past Council term where the outcome of those proceedings is inconsistent with Council's recommendations and/or the decisions of the planning panels. (*Carried, 11 August 2021*)
- Voted against Liberal Councillors' NoM to limit the pool of community representatives on the local planning panels from 9 to 4 with no alternates. (*All Liberal Councillors voted for this arrangement. Carried, 27 July 2021. Three of the 4 community representatives are former Woollahra Councillors*)
- NoM requesting that the Council prepares a report to consider options to permanently live stream all Council meetings; options to permanently extend the right of residents to speak remotely by audio-visual link at all Council meetings; the introduction of live minute taking (including cost implications); and any other measures or initiatives to enhance and facilitate transparent, inclusive and open decision making. (*Carried, 26 October 2020*)
- Voted against the Liberal Councillors' NoM to apply for funding from the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program on the grounds that the Council would have to commit to accelerating DA processing times and increasing development capacity in the municipality. (*Carried, 24 August 2020 with all Liberal Councillors voting to apply for funding.*¹¹)
- Voted against Liberal Councillors' NoM to approve the draft Woollahra Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) Policy 2019 on the grounds that it would undermine existing planning controls. (*Carried, 10 February 2020, with all the Liberal Councillors supporting the use of VPAs.*)
- NoM requesting Council draft a Naming Policy to document, guide and inform Council's decision making when suggesting, endorsing and approving the naming of roads, open spaces, buildings and all other assets owned, operated or managed by Council. (*Carried, 20 August 2020*¹²)
- NoM to prepare and publish an information guide/ 'question and answer' booklet on Council's role in relation to building works and development sites. (*Carried, 18 December 2017*)

Community Services and Social Justice

- NoM that the Mayor writes to the Prime Minister requesting action on gendered violence, including the implementation of the 55 recommendations of the Australian Human Rights Commission's Respect@Work 2023. (*Carried unanimously, 22 March*)

¹¹ Council was subsequently informed by staff on 27 September 2021 that the progression of the draft Edgecliff Planning Strategy through the NSW planning system is one of the conditions of the \$4.75 million in funding received for the pedestrianisation of Knox Street.

¹² NoM initiated by Councillor Price. Co-author Councillor Robertson.

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- NoM that the Council prepares a report on how best to plan for cultural and economic opportunities associated with WorldPride 2023. (*Carried unanimously, 22 February 2021*)
- NoM to permanently fly the Aboriginal Flag at Council Chambers (*Carried unanimously, 24 September 2018*)
- Co-authored NoM to expand the provision of childcare spaces at the Hugh Latimer Centre. (*Carried, 20 August 2018¹³*)
- NoM that the Council recommends a budget allocation for the prevention of domestic and family violence and the support and protection of its victims in the 2019/20 Council budget and subsequent years. (*Carried, 23 April 2018*)
- Recommended that Woollahra Council funds Holdsworth Centre's HomeShare to the amount of \$50,000 effective immediately at the Finance, Community & Services Committee meeting of 15 October 2018. (*Adopted and carried at the Council meeting of 29 October 2018*)

¹³ Co-authors Councillors Price, McEwin and Robertson.

Authorised by Geoff Rundle, 52 Wunulla Road, Point Piper 2027