

Darling Point Society Inc.

Protecting heritage, amenity and green space

The Darling Point Society is publicly seeking your official answers to the following questions which are selected from a number of issues of concern to residents of Darling Point:

Questions for candidates up for election to Woollahra Council, 2021

Development		Yes	No
1. Are you for or against the Edgecliff Commercial Centre Zoning Proposals.		<input type="checkbox"/>	N
2. Are you for or against the Edgecliff corridor		<input type="checkbox"/>	O
3. Are you for or against development applications over 30M by-passing WMC?			N O N O
<i>Comment:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woollahra net additional dwellings target 2016 to 2036 is 1,200. We have already delivered 889. We only need to deliver 311 in the next 15 years, which will happen organically. We don't have a housing problem. We have an overdevelopment problem. We don't need another 1,250 dwellings in Edgecliff. • I voted to put the Edgecliff corridor on exhibition so that the community could have their say. I voted to extend the exhibition period (but lost). I am waiting for the results of the community consultation so I can understand residents' opinions and advocate and vote accordingly. • Personally, I think the design and façade of New South Head Road, Edgecliff and New Maclean Street could be improved, but I am not in favour of high-rise; I am strongly opposed to 26 storey buildings. • I believe Woollahra Council and the elected Councillors should be responsible for development in our municipality and I am extremely concerned about the growing influence of unelected planning panels. 		
Skatebowl in Rushcutters Bay Park		Yes	No
1. Are you for or against the planned skateboard facility planned for Rushcutters Bay?		<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
2. Did you know that all 15 Woollahra Councillors voted YES to go ahead with building the facility:		<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
3. Did you know that funds of \$1.4m have been allocated already for this project?		<input type="checkbox"/>	

<p>4. Are you for or against a rescission motion being passed to cancel the planned facility in a State Heritage listed park?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>See below</p> <p>See below</p>
<p><i>Comment:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 15 Councillors did not vote to go ahead with building this facility. This proposal was reviewed by the FC&S Committee. I, like six other Councillors, were not on this committee, so we never actually voted on it at all. • The allocated funds were a grant from the State Government. • Due to the heritage listing of the park, a heritage impact assessment will have to come back before Council. If and when that happens (it may prove all too hard), and if the assessment proposes moving forward with the planned facility, then, in light of the heritage listing and the fact that most local residents now seem to oppose it, I will not be supporting it. • I also oppose cutting a hole in the Yarranabbe heritage listed wall and always have opposed this. 	
<p>Parking in Woollahra</p>		
<p>1. Are you for or against a review of parking regulations in Woollahra?</p> <p>2. Are you for or against new studio or 1 bedroom apartments not being allocated a parking space inside the building?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>YES</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO</p>
<p><i>Comment:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council seems to think that if you build apartments without cars people won't get a car. • I like this thinking, but I believe it is idealistic and unrealistic. • Much as I'd love to reduce cars on our roads, we are at least 2 or more decades away from cars being considered relics of a bygone era. • In the meantime, people will keep buying cars and if they don't have a garage, they will have to try to find parking on our streets, leading to even more congestion and frustration. 	
<p>Signs</p>	<p>Are you for or against RACISM signs going up all over Woollahra?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>See below</p> <p>See below</p> <p>No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

- I actually supported this motion because I'm appalled that in 2021 we still do have so much racism, whether it's violent and overt or subliminal and unconscious.
- I think the signs could be more aesthetic; I'm not sure about the red or the NOT in capitals.
- But we really need to eradicate this blight upon our society and we in the Eastern Suburbs need to do our bit.
- Only last week in Bondi a prominent rugby league player was allegedly accused by the NRL of a racial slur against a lady of Vietnamese heritage.
- Luise Elsing put forward this motion, which was unanimously supported by Councillors, and has written brilliantly on the topic:

"This initiative is in response to a situation I witnessed in the LGA consistent with an increase in anti-Asian, anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiment in NSW since COVID (and more recently the change of relationship with China). And I have had feedback that the experience was not a one off. It is refreshing that people in the area feel there is no racism in the LGA but this is not every one in the LGAs experience, which the research supports (links below to just a few).

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/law/news-and-events/news/2020/05/07/covid-19-and-hate-crime-in-australia.html>
<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/what-it-s-like-to-be-asian-in-australia-since-covid-came-knocking>
<https://theconversation.com/i-dont-think-the-police-would-do-much-new-research-shows-racism-during-covid-is-rarely-reported>

This programme of signage has been effective in other LGAs and the resolution reflects that Woollahra Councillors unanimously want to do something and not stand by and be inactive in the face of a rising trend around racism. I totally understand concerns about too much signage and bold signage but note that there are handful of signs throughout the LGA and their point is to attract attention to the issue. If the signs constrain perpetrators and empower bystanders, then the signs would have been worth it.

Please see link to Agenda item advocating for the signage (page 103)
https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/240553/Council-Agenda-26-Apr-2021-v2.pdf

And a link to Council Meeting where the motion was adopted without opposition (page 36)
https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/241021/Council-Minutes-26-Apr-2021.pdf "

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Please insert your answers and any comments you feel are relevant to the above and email to darlingpointsoc@hotmail.com . Thank you for replying before 28 November 2021. Your answers will be published on our website.