

Council Ref: 897.G
Your Ref:

17 August, 2004



Kevin Greene MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Works
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Redleaf Council Chambers
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Dear Mr Greene,

Submission - Joint Use and Co-Location of Public Buildings

In response to the call for submissions in relation to the joint use and co-location of public buildings, I would like to submit the following.

Woollahra Council has been involved in partnerships with the State in relation to the development and management of public facilities. The two that I would like to raise with the Committee is the provision of buildings by Council for the operation of Early Childhood Health Centres by the NSW Department of Health and the operation of the Sir David Martin Drill Hall and Cottage by Council.

Early Childhood Health Centres show how Councils work with State Government Departments. These can be problematic, as the Department of Health does not sufficiently fund maintenance on the buildings. As these buildings are provided free of charge this is a financial burden on Council, especially in areas with aging infrastructure.

The State/Council partnership in relation to the Sir David Martin Drill Hall has provided an excellent outcome for both parties. On 1 July 2001, the management of Sir David Martin Reserve (the Reserve) was handed over to Woollahra Council from the Rushcutters Bay Maritime Reserve Trust (the Trust). Woollahra Council is committed to meeting the goals and set future directions for the Reserve as a valued site for public recreation and public maritime purposes, and the marina and hardstand as valued facilities for community purposes. Council called for expressions of interest for the use of the facilities located on the Reserve. The final outcome has been the provision of facilities for high priority community needs in the form of a dementia day care centre, a performance development space and use by a group of people with disabilities. This partnership will assist Council in meeting the needs of their local community, and provides the State with a well-managed facility that also meets wider needs. The outcome and usage is required to meet all legislation in relation to Crown Land and Council's planning controls, ensuring the result meets the objectives of both Council and the State. There have been some difficulties with this arrangement though. The buildings were passed on to Council in a dilapidated state with no funding. The gazettal is the only formal document for the transfer and Council has not been informed of its responsibilities as Trust Manager. Council has had to spend a large amount of money to bring these facilities up to an acceptable standard so that they can be usable. Also since a State

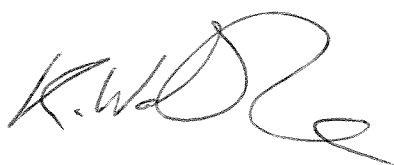


Department still controls the marina and berths, it has been difficult for Council to try and negotiate the best use for these facilities with potential users.

Based on this experience Council will only consider future partnerships with the State in the provision of facilities for the Woollahra community as long as clear setup and long-term management responsibilities are agreed upfront.

Should you require additional information in relation to these partnerships, please contact myself on 9391 7908.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Walshe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kylie Walshe
Director Community Services