

The Residents of Woolloomooloo (ROW) action group was formed in 1973. Its founding members were Honora Wilkinson, Brenda Humble, Carol Vescia, Lindy and Greg McPhee, Margaret Shields, Len Neary, Mary and Geoff Beeche, Wally Sloss, Mike Conroy, Sandra Lockwood, Elizabeth Reeve and Kendall Lovett. The ROW group has remained politically active for over 30 years.

Woolloomooloo has for over 30 years experienced the ongoing process of one part of the community being dissected off through a process of infrastructure development projects. It started with the Eastern Suburbs Railway construction which cut diagonally across the suburb. Then there was the Eastern Distributor which severed Woolloomooloo into East and West Woolloomooloo. Now it's the CCT and its associated impacts, which again have seen Woolloomooloo's communities at the receiving end of the majority of negative social and environmental impacts.

These infrastructure projects have had less impact on Darlinghurst than Woolloomooloo. It has been pointed out in the past that Woolloomooloo has and still is at the receiving end of the negative impacts. Darlinghurst residents on the one hand have always had more organizational and lobbying capacity than that of its neighbors in Woolloomooloo, which comes back to the difference between the historical social demographics of the two suburbs. In the end this has resulted in one group of residents benefiting at the detriment of those less organized and affluent. These differences in social demographic profile are evident in data from the 2001 ABS census.

The City of Sydney Council ABS profile<sup>1</sup> which provides a population profile for each area points to some interesting differences between the two adjoining suburbs of Darlinghurst and Woolloomooloo. ROW feels that these differences need to be considered in association with the CCT review to address any imbalance where one community is disenfranchised in favor of another.

This is just a small snap shot but we feel that it does give an indication about the different socio - economic position between the two suburbs. The community based profile of the City of Sydney's population, shows that 1.5% of its total population are Indigenous Australians. Woolloomooloo's houses 3.0% while Darlinghurst houses only 0.7. Interestingly Woolloomooloo indigenous population is the same as Redfern which is also 3.0%. In terms of housing demographics while 27% of Darlinghurst residents are owner/occupiers, only 18% are in this situation in Woolloomooloo. Household's incomes<sup>2</sup> by quartile shows that in Sydney City the lowest income group made up 27.5%, while in Darlinghurst it is only 23.0%, in Woolloomooloo it was well above the Sydney City LGA average at 32.9%.

**We request that the parliamentary enquiry into the CCT, establish mitigation measures to alleviate the accumulated and ongoing negative impacts, by opening local roads and putting in place reforms that allow residents to have ease of access into and out of Woolloomooloo and the adjoining neighbourhoods.**

<sup>1</sup>Source: <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/AboutSydney/CityResearch/CommunityProfile.asp>

<sup>2</sup> Household income groups are not comparable over time because of the influences of economic change such as wage level fluctuations and inflation. The income quartile method is used as the most objective method of comparing change in the income profile of a community over time. The income quartile method assumes an even distribution within each income group. The Sydney Statistical Division is used as the benchmark for comparisons.