

INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN/WATERLOO

Organisation:

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Theme:

Summary

12 April 2004

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[REDACTED]
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The Director
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN/WATERLOO

People may well ask why anyone in Queensland would bother to make a submission to this Inquiry. Herewith therefore are my credentials to put this Submission into its proper context. I have retired to the Whitsundays after nearly 65 years in NSW. Much of that time was spent as a Servant of the Public. For example, for about five very interesting years I worked for The Hon. Kathleen Anderson AM when she was the Chairman of the Local Government Boundaries Commission. I subsequently became a Senior Policy and Research Officer with the Department of Local Government for about ten years. Work included many aspects of the development of the Local Government Act 1993, social and environmental affecting all people throughout NSW, and I am proud to have also Supervised while there a group of Aboriginal Programme Officers whose role it was to sensitise Local Government across the State about their "new" Aboriginal responsibilities.

Academically I am a Social Geographer and hold a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering. A PhD programme, "*Engineering Solutions to Flooding in the Urban Environment : Public Policy : Political Expediency Commercial Benefit & Marginalised Ethics*", commenced at the University of New South Wales in the 90s is in abeyance. I was recently also a Consultant to South Sydney City Council assisting in a futile defense against its amalgamation.

When I reflected on the advertisement in the Weekend Australian on 6 March 2004, and was saddened by the need for a State Government to have to call this *Inquiry*. I recalled some of the successes in which I had a work interest in Aboriginal programmes over the years, some of them in this geographical area the focus of this Inquiry. I believe recent impacts there prompting the State Government's concern has resulted from actions that were foretold.

There is therefore the issue of Government sincerity and credibility. Others relate to equality, security and stability within the human environment. I wish to address the stability aspect under Terms of Reference "*(b) other existing government program(me)s in the Redfern/Waterloo areas, including (L)ocal, (S)tate and (F)ederal program(me)s,*

Attachment "A" illustrates the seriousness I placed on these issues in 1992-94. While supervising Aboriginal programmes that were part funded by the Federal Government I arranged for the NSW Government, by way of a "Dorothy Dixier", to further emphasise to Local Government the changing responsibilities towards Aboriginal people.

At the same time I represented the Department of Local Government on various working groups to further promote contemporary Aboriginal/Social policies that should be implemented at local level. One of these working groups happened to be with the then South Sydney City Council.

This Council at that time was at the forefront of "Reconciliation", and to its great credit, it seriously adopted these programme initiatives and responsibilities.

Another group on which I served as a member helped develop a Paper for publication and distribution to Councils, viz., *Information for the Aboriginal Community In NSW - NSW Local Government Act 1993*. That Paper is at Attachment "B".

More recently when the then Lord Mayor of Sydney pursued the redesign of political boundaries in Inner Sydney, South Sydney Council in its submissions warned that a proposed change would destabilise programme delivery to the Aboriginal communities for which it was responsible.

There were indicators that sensitive and carefully tuned programmes developed within South Sydney City Council over many years would be tossed aside (temporarily deferred, reviewed, ceased... or whatever the current fashionable excuse may be) by a commercially focussed Sydney City establishment. The disjunction in structure, staffing and service, however short-term they might be, would result in frustrating service delivery people there. This of course included also Aboriginal people with continuing real problems.

Service delivery, networks, trust, and hope would have had to be renegotiated. A trust that took years to establish was dismembered. See full Submissions from South Sydney City Council to the Sproats Inquiry, and to the then Minister, and a specific extract is at Attachment "C" below.

Ignorance that delivery disjunction from a council amalgamation may have contributed to the erosion of trust and sentiment in Redfern/Waterloo is an unsustainable argument. The implications involved in the rearrangements of political boundaries and service delivery of well recognised programmes to the Aboriginal people in the Redfern/Waterloo area provided by the then South Sydney City Council seems to have been too subtle for the State Government to have understood.

I feel sorry for all of those people who for years worked toward the "Reconciliation" so many now talk about. I hope my Aboriginal friends do not walk away from the ideals of "Reconciliation". It will be most regrettable that a new generation (including politicians) will have to reinvent what has already been learned....I hope..... for I fear other alternative pathways to bring matters to attention are too terrible to think about.

I believe none can deny there is a linkage between political boundary changes (council amalgamation in this particular instance) and a social unrest. It should also be noted that just because the Sproats Report failed to address properly the terms of reference as per the legislation regarding social consequences, does not mean that an adverse impact was not to be expected. This aspect should be fully explored by the Inquiry. I also believe that this Inquiry should call for and review all of the advisories and publications issued to Local Government on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters since the commencement of the Local Government Act 1993 (As Amended) and then audit those against delivery. To do less will be inadequate.

This Submission is NOT to be treated as confidential.

I trust the Inquiry is not a "White-wash" if you will pardon that pun.

Yours sincerely

Des Lambley

ATTACHMENT A

ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

Q: Can the Minister for Local Government and Co-operatives advise the House what specific strategies has the Government initiated to improve the relationship between councils and Aboriginal Communities and to encourage councils to adopt programmes and practices consistent with the various Reports on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.

A: IN RECENT YEARS ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE PAID GREATER ATTENTION TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES. THAT CHANGE IS COMMENDABLE. WHILE SOME OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS ARE THE RESULT OF LOCAL INITIATIVES, IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY FOR CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS TO BE IMPOSED UPON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO HELP ACCELERATE THIS TREND.

MANY REPORTS ON ABORIGINAL ISSUES HAVE IDENTIFIED A WIDE RANGE OF PROBLEMS AND MAKE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW PRACTICES MIGHT BE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. THEY TARGET MATTERS OF SOCIAL CONCERN THAT ARE QUITE TYPICAL FOR THE WHOLE OF AUSTRALIA.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE MAINLY URBAN REPORT BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AND TORRES

STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS 1992, SAID THAT WHILE REMOTE COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN SO GLARINGLY LACKING IN MANY BASIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES, ABORIGINAL PEOPLE LIVING IN METROPOLITAN AREAS HAD PROBLEMS QUITE PECULIAR TO THEIR WAY OF LIFE TOO. IT CALLS FOR CLOSER SCRUTINY OF HOW SERVICES ARE DELIVERED TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE, AND WHETHER THEY ARE DELIVERED IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY ARE TO NON-ABORIGINAL PEOPLE.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY AND THE COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT TASKFORCE SINGLED OUT EMPLOYMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE AS SOME OF THE MAIN ISSUES OF CONCERN. QUESTIONS OF ACCESS AND EQUITABILITY WERE ALSO RAISED.

THE GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THESE ISSUES HAS BOUND THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CO-OPERATIVES TO THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED OUTCOMES IN THE DELIVERY OF PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS 1992. THIS TRIPARTITE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ADVOCATES CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THE PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES SO AS TO ENSURE ACCESS AND EQUITY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, IN A CIRCULAR TO ALL COUNCILS ON THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT, URGED COUNCILS TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AS TO HOW THEY MIGHT

BEST IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVES AT A LOCAL LEVEL.

THE UNIQUENESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLACES IT CENTRAL TO THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF MANY OF THESE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS. ELECTED MEMBERS AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS OF COUNCILS CANNOT ESCAPE FROM THESE RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993, HAS BUILT IN REQUIREMENTS THAT OBLIGE COUNCILS TO PAY CLOSER ATTENTION TO ABORIGINAL MATTERS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS A REQUIREMENT FOR AN ANNUAL DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND FOR 3 YEAR PLANS OF MANAGEMENT TO BE PREPARED. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE COUNCILS TO THINK STRATEGICALLY, INTEGRATING THEIR LOCAL PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION, REGULATORY PROCESS AND REVENUE RAISING TO MEET THE STRATEGIC GOALS OF ALL SECTORS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 428(1) AND (2) (J) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT COMPELS COUNCILS TO PREPARE A REPORT DETAILING THE PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR TO "PROMOTE SERVICES AND ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS". THE SPIRIT OF THIS PORTION OF THE LEGISLATION UNDOUBTEDLY INCLUDES ABORIGINAL PEOPLE.

THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CO-OPERATIVES JOINTLY WITH THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SHIRES ASSOCIATIONS OF NSW, AND OTHER PEAK LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, RECENTLY PRODUCED AN ANTI-DISCRIMINATION GUIDELINE FOR COUNCILS. THIS GUIDELINE CONTAINS A NUMBER OF REFERENCES ABOUT RESOLVING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ABORIGINAL PEOPLE. IT RECOMMENDS CROSS-CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING FOR STAFF, AND DISCUSSES FOR EXAMPLE, LAWS REGARDING RACIAL VILIFICATION AND THE PROVISION OF EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SPORTING FACILITIES, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.

DEPARTMENTAL POLICY ENCOURAGES ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH LOCAL GOVERNMENT. INCREASING NUMBERS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSISTING CHANGE IN THIS WAY. ABORIGINAL PEOPLE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE VITALITY OF AN AREA. THE SOLUTION TO MANY OF THE DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS CONFRONTING ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ALIKE IS IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CO-OPERATIVES IS KEEN TO FACILITATE CHANGE AND TO ASSIST COUNCILS AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES TOWARD THIS END WHERE POSSIBLE.

MY DEPARTMENT HAS INTRODUCED THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROGRAMME WHICH ENCOURAGES COUNCILS TO ESTABLISH FORMAL COMMITTEES WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES. THEY ARE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION, UNDERSTANDING AND TRUST BETWEEN ABORIGINAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PEOPLE. A COMMITTEE PROVIDES A COMMON GROUND WHERE KEY NEEDS, CONTENTIOUS CULTURALLY DISTINCTIVE ISSUES, AND COUNCIL'S ABILITY TO SATISFY A COMMUNITY'S REQUIREMENTS WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES CAN BE DISCUSSED AND EXPLAINED. OUTCOMES CAN ENGENDER POSITIVE RELATIONS AND PROVIDE A MORE COHESIVE LOCAL COMMUNITY. EMOTIVE MATTERS CAN OFTEN BE RESOLVED THROUGH DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESSES BEFORE THEY BECOME COMPLEX POLITICAL ISSUES.

I AM PLEASED TO SAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ARMIDALE, BREWARRINA, COONAMBLE, COWRA, EUROBODALLA, GILGANDRA, GREATER TAREE, KEMPSEY, LEICHHARDT, MARRICKVILLE, MOREE PLAINS, NAMBUCCA, ORANGE, SOUTH SYDNEY TUMUT AND WOLLONGONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNCILS HAVE ACTION UNDERWAY TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES.

I AM ADVISED THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS PRESENTLY DEVELOPING A DRAFT PRACTICE NOTE TO ASSIST COUNCILS IN CARRYING OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

COMMUNITIES IN THEIR AREA. THE PRACTICE NOTE IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED LATE IN 1994.

ACTION IS IN TRAIN TO PRODUCE 4 NEWSLETTERS FOR WIDE DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES IN 1995.

ACTION IS ALSO IN TRAIN TO PREPARE A HANDBOOK FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WHO ARE CONSIDERING STANDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION IN SEPTEMBER 1995. MEMBERS MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT TODAY THERE ARE ONLY 8 ABORIGINAL COUNCILLORS OUT OF THE 1800 OR SO AVAILABLE POSITIONS THROUGHOUT NEW SOUTH WALES. THAT SEEMS TO BE A POOR REPRESENTATION WHEN CONSIDERED THAT ABOUT 2% OF THE POPULATION OF THE STATE ARE ABORIGINAL.

IN CONCLUSION, IT IS MY INTENTION ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE IMPROVED OUTCOMES ARE PURSUED TO ENSURE THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUES THESE IMPORTANT PROGRAMMES AND BUILD UPON THE RESULTS THEY HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED. THERE WILL ALSO BE A CONSTANT REVIEW OF INITIATIVES AFFECTING THIS IMPORTANT AREA.

ATTACHMENT B

Information Paper No

NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993

**INFORMATION FOR
THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY
IN NSW**

Department of Local Government & Co-operatives

May 1994

INTRODUCTION

Local government affects all our daily lives in direct and important ways.

Without the local council there would be no early childhood centres, no local football fields, no local libraries; and yet many people, including Aboriginal people, know little about how councils operate.

This Information Paper has been prepared by the Department of Local Government & Co-Operatives to provide the Aboriginal community of New South Wales with information about the role of local government and to encourage Aboriginal communities to seek greater communication with their local council and to become actively involved in council operations.

It is divided into 9 parts.

Part 1 shows how local government, which is represented by the local council, fits into the overall scheme of government in Australia.

Part 2 gives examples of the services provided by councils.

Part 3 talks about how councils get the money to provide services.

Part 4 covers the specific issue of rates, particularly as it applies to Aboriginal land.

Part 5 looks at how you can contribute to the development of policies and services by your council.

Part 6 looks at what is required to do building work.

Part 7 highlights special services for Aboriginal people.

Part 8 talks about Aboriginal sacred sites.

Part 9 talks about the role of the Department of Local Government & Co-operatives.

Part 1: WHERE DOES LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIT WITH OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT?

There are three levels of government in Australia: Federal (sometimes known as Commonwealth) Government, State Government and Local Government. Your local council is part of the branch of government called Local Government.

There are elected representatives in each of the three levels of government. The elected representatives in local councils are called **Councillors**. The chief councillor is called the **Mayor**. A Mayor can be directly elected by the people or by the councillors from amongst themselves. The policies the councillors decide on are put into action by the council staff, who are paid employees. The head of the council staff is the **General Manager**.

Your local council works from council chambers, in the same way as Federal Government is run from the Federal Parliament in Canberra and State Government is run from the State Parliament in Sydney.

The Federal Government looks after issues which involve the whole country such as the Defence Forces, trade with other countries and pensions.

The State Government looks after state-wide services such as schools, hospitals and police.

In NSW, councils are created by the Local Government Act 1993, and they are responsible for carrying out the requirements of that Act and other relevant Acts.

Part 2: WHAT SERVICES DO COUNCILS PROVIDE?

Councils provide day to day services needed by the community and take responsibility for issues which are closer to home and which affect our daily lives more directly.

These functions are quite different from your local Land Councils and the Regional Councils of A.T.S.I.C.

It is up to each council to decide what services are needed in the community and how these should be paid for. Councils can be involved in providing a wide variety of services, as long as they are for the good of the community.

Some of the services provided by councils are:

- ! Collection of household garbage and paper/aluminium/plastic for recycling
- ! Roads, footpaths and gutters
- ! Council housing
- ! Immunisation programmes and baby care at early childhood centres
- ! Childcare centres, kindergartens and play centres
- ! Youth activities
- ! Meals on Wheels
- ! Activities for the aged
- ! Libraries
- ! Public halls
- ! Swimming pools, tennis courts, golf courses and other sporting facilities
- ! Public toilets and community rubbish bins
- ! Health inspection for restaurants and shops
- ! Councils either own or have responsibility for public land which includes public buildings, parks and other types of recreation areas.

PART 3: HOW DO COUNCILS GET THE MONEY TO PAY FOR SERVICES?

Obviously, it costs a lot of money to run the sorts of services which are provided by councils. This money must be collected by council from the members of the community, that is, those who use the services.

Councils collect money in six main ways:

- ! Rates
- ! Charges
- ! Fees
- ! Grants
- ! Borrowings
- ! Investments.

Rates and charges

Rates are councils' basic source of income and rate funds are used to maintain and improve services and facilities for the community. If you are renting a house or flat, you do not have to pay rates. The owner of the house or flat will receive a bill from council for rates or charges on your rented property. Rates and charges are discussed in more detail in the next part of this paper.

Fees

Councils may charge fees for any service it provides other than those services provided on an annual basis, such as water or sewerage.

Examples of fees which council can charge include:

- ! Fees for entering swimming pools
- ! Fees for use of council owned halls
- ! Fees for use of council owned car parks
- ! Fees for providing approval for building applications.

Grants

Each council is given a financial assistance grant every year.

The grant is paid to the State Government each financial year by the Federal Government, under the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1986.

The NSW Local Government Grants Commission advises the State Minister for Local Government & Co-operatives about how this financial assistance grant should be divided up between councils. The Grants Commission consists of four people, one of whom is an officer of the Department of Local Government & Co-operatives. Of the other three (all of whom are nominated by the Minister), two must have had experience in local government.

Because of their special needs, country councils often get higher financial assistance grants than city councils. For example, the 1992/93 Grants Commission Annual Report shows that Hurstville City Council with a population of 67,500 received \$1,252,420 while Kempsey with a population of only 25,380 received \$2,635,248.

Because the grant is **untied**, it is not earmarked for any particular purpose. It is up to council to decide how it will be spent.

The fact that this financial assistance grant to councils is untied should encourage groups to approach council with proposals, suggestions and submissions on the special needs of their groups. When council comes to allocate its financial assistance grant, it needs to be aware of those projects which are seen by the community as being important or urgent.

There are also other grants which are sometimes given to councils for specific projects. For example, the State Roads and Traffic Authority may make a grant for work to be carried out on a particular road. It is worth keeping an eye on council's Management Plan (it must be on public display for at least 28 days prior to 30 June each year) and Annual Report to see what projects council is undertaking. There is more about getting involved in council planning elsewhere in this paper.

Borrowings

Councils can also subsidise their income by borrowing money. However, this can only be done with the approval of the Minister for Local Government & Co-operatives.

Borrowings make up only a small proportion of councils' total income.

Investments

Council may invest money which is not currently needed for any other purpose. However, this can only be done within strict guidelines (in any security authorised by the Trustee Act 1925 or in a term of investment notified by order of the Minister published in the Government Gazette).

Part 4: RATES and CHARGES

How are rates calculated?

Categories of Land

Rates vary according to the **category** council gives to the land. There are 4 main categories:

- ! Residential
- ! Farmland
- ! Business
- ! Mining.

Most of us are charged ordinary rates under the residential category.

If ratepayers are not satisfied with the category council has given their property, they may apply to council for a review of the category.

Council must notify you of its decision and the reasons for that decision, if you have applied for a review.

If, after a review you are still not happy with the category given to your property, you may appeal to the **Land and Environment Court**. You must do so within 30 days of council's decision on the category of your land.

Value of land

Something else which can affect the amount of ordinary rates we pay is the **value** of the land.

Land is valued under the Valuation of Land Act 1916 by the State Government's Valuer General. These valuations are carried out approximately every 4 years and you should get a valuation notice after it is done.

It may be that you feel your land has been valued too highly and therefore your rates are higher than they should be.

If you are not happy with the valuation of your land, you can get the valuation checked by lodging an objection with the Valuer-General. You must do so within 42 days of receiving your general valuation notice.

The Valuer-General's office will provide you with an objection form free of charge.

However, even if you lodge an objection you must still pay rates while your objection is being considered. If the Valuer-General's office agree with your objection they will authorise a refund of part of the rates.

Whatever the Valuer-General's office decide about your objection they must notify you in writing.

If you are still not happy with the valuation after your objection is considered, you may appeal to the Land and Environment Court. You have a limited time to do so.

The time by which you must appeal will be shown on the Valuer-General's response to your objection.

To find out how to go about lodging an appeal with the Land and Environment Court, you should contact the Court direct as procedures change from time to time.

What if rates are charged on land which falls into a rate free category?

If you wish to appeal on the basis that you think your land should be rate free, then you must lodge an appeal with the Land and Environment Court.

You must lodge your appeal with the Registrar of the Land and Environment Court and also with the General Manager of your local council within 30 days of the time you get your rate notice.

You can get 'Notice of Appeal' forms from your local council.

How often do rates have to be paid?

From 1 July, 1994, ratepayers will receive a bill which can either be paid in four equal quarterly instalments or as one amount covering the whole year.

If you choose to pay the whole year's rates up front, council may offer you a discount.

If you choose to pay four quarterly instalments, payments will be due on the following dates each year: August 31, November 30, February 28, and May 31.

What happens if rates are not paid on time?

If you do not pay your rates or charges by the due date councils are entitled under the Local Government Act 1993 to charge interest at a daily rate.

To avoid this extra cost, it is always wise to discuss with council any difficulties you may have in paying the rates or charges. Make a note when you contacted council, the name of the person you spoke to and what was agreed.

Many councils are willing to come to an agreement with a person about how their rates will be paid. There may be an Aboriginal Liaison Officer employed by your local council who could help work out a payment plan.

If a person then pays rates or charges in accordance with such an agreement, council may choose to write-off or reduce interest owing on the previously outstanding amount.

Resumption of property

Council has the power under s.713(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 to sell any land on which rates are overdue.

They cannot do this until the rates are 5 years overdue. However, talk it over before it gets to this stage. There may be answers which will solve your problem and also satisfy councils' need to have income to pay for services.

Section 44 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act prevents councils from selling land which is owned by Aboriginal Land Councils to recover unpaid rates.

Are there any reductions available for pensioners or other groups?

Yes. Eligible pensioners responsible for rates or charges are entitled to a reduction in the amount they pay for those rates and charges.

Your council will not automatically know that you are entitled to such a reduction, so when you become a pensioner, or start to receive other social security benefits, let council know.

If you are entitled to a reduction, you must apply to council with proof that you are eligible.

Is there any land which does not attract rates?

Yes, the Local Government Act 1993 provides for certain types of land to be free of all rate payments. They include:

- ! Land that is vested in the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council or a Local Aboriginal Land Council and is declared under Division 5 of Part 6 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 to be exempt from payment of rates
- ! Land within a national park, historic site, native reserve, state game reserve
- ! Land occupied by a church or another building used or occupied for public worship
- ! A building used or occupied for the purpose of religious teaching or training
- ! Land that belongs to and is occupied and used in connection with a school
- ! Land owned by the Crown.

Does one rate payment cover all services provided by council?

NO. In some areas council may charge separately for services such as water supply and sewerage on a yearly basis.

In Water Board areas (Sydney, Illawarra, Blue Mountains) or areas where there is a water authority, they will bill you for those services, not your council.

What about charges for garbage collection?

Council will bill you separately every three months for garbage collection (If you are in an area which receives such a service).

This may appear on your bill as "domestic waste management".

Again, if you are renting, the owner of your rented property will receive the bill, not you.

If you are responsible for paying rates and charges and you have paid your garbage collection charge, you are then entitled to have your garbage collected from outside your house or block of flats.

Part 5: HOW TO HAVE A SAY IN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

One of the main aims of the Local Government Act 1993 is to provide all the community with greater opportunity to have a say in the development of council policies and activities.

There are 4 main ways in which the local community can participate in council affairs.

1. Vote in elections, referendums and polls

Elections

On the second Saturday in September, 1995, there will be elections held to elect representatives (councillors) to all local councils in New South Wales.

From 1995 on, elections will be held every 4 years, on the second Saturday in September.

If you are a resident, you must vote in local government elections.

To do so, you must put your name on the electoral roll (enquire at your local Post Office about enrolling to vote).

You also need to be on the electoral roll if you want to run for election to your local council.

Once your name is registered on the electoral roll you must vote unless you have a very good reason why you can't. Otherwise, you may be fined \$100.

It is very important for Aboriginal people to both stand for election to their local council and to vote. This is a way in which you can have a real influence on the provision of services at the council level. You don't have to own a house or be a ratepayer to vote.

There are areas in country NSW where a large proportion of the population is Aboriginal - your vote is one way of seeing that the Aboriginal population gets councillors who will understand the needs of Aboriginal people.

Referendums

Councils may hold constitutional referendums on a set list of issues, specified in the Act. These referendums are binding.

There are also certain things which council cannot do without first conducting a referendum to seek the approval of the community. For example, council cannot change the way in which a Mayor is elected or change the number of councillors elected to office without first getting the approval of the people.

Polls

Councils may take a poll of the people who are on the electoral roll at any time. Polls, like referendums, are elections where people vote on an issue, not for a person.

A poll can be taken on any issue about which council feels it needs information and guidance. For example, council may be planning to spend funds on a new library, but people may be saying that a new swimming pool is needed more urgently.

Council may decide to take a poll of the electors in its area to find out what the residents see as the most urgent need - a library or a swimming pool.

Unlike a referendum, a poll is not binding under the Local Government Act, so if council knows good reasons why the library should go ahead first, they may still decide to build it, even if the poll showed most people preferred the swimming pool.

2. Attend council meetings

Anyone can attend council meetings, whether it is a meeting of the whole council or of one of council's committees.

Council must give public notice of the time and place of council and committee meetings. Keep an eye on your local newspaper, the notice board at council chambers or the local library.

Business papers which set out what will be discussed at a meeting must be made available to people before the time of the meeting.

If people want to take copies of the business papers away, they are entitled under the Act to do so.

There are times when parts of a meeting may be closed to the public. There are limited to the reasons set out in section 10 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Reasons which the Act allows include:

- ! If a meeting is going to discuss the personal hardship of any resident (obviously such discussions would be an invasion of privacy if conducted in public)
- ! Employment matters involving a particular member of council staff.
- ! Proposals for the sale or purchase of land or the rezoning of land IF prior knowledge of those proposals would give a member of the public unfair financial advantage.

There are other reasons set out in section 10, but the spirit of the Act is to make sure that council meetings are as open as possible.

3. Look at council documents

Since July 1, 1993, the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act has been expanded to give the community access to council documents they couldn't previously see.

There is a large list of documents which can be viewed free of charge and most of them can be copied for you to take away if you wish. Depending on the policy of your council, there may be a copying charge. The Local Government Act specifies that the following documents must be made available free of charge for people to inspect at the council chambers. Council may also allow access to other documents - it will be a matter for each council to decide:

- ! council's code of conduct
- ! council's code of meeting practice
- ! annual report
- ! annual financial reports
- ! auditor's report
- ! management plan
- ! EEO management plan
- ! council's policy concerning payment of expenses and provision of facilities to councillors
- ! council's land register
- ! register of investments
- ! returns of financial interests of councillors
- ! designated persons and delegates
- ! returns of campaign donations
- ! business papers for council and committee meetings
- ! minutes of council and committee meetings
- ! register of delegations
- ! annual reports of bodies exercising delegated council functions
- ! local policies adopted by the council concerning approvals and orders
- ! records of approvals granted and decisions made on appeal
- ! records of building certificates
- ! plans of land proposed to be compulsorily acquired by council
- ! leases and licences for public land classified as community land
- ! plans of management for community land
- ! environmental planning instruments
- ! development control plans and plans made under section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 applying to land within the council's area
- ! statement of affairs
- ! summary of affairs and the register of policy documents.

4. Make submissions about council plans and policies

Under the Act, councils must prepare a draft management plan each year for the activities and policies which they propose for at least the coming 3 years.

In the case of councils' financial policy, they must prepare a draft management plan for the next year.

These draft plans must be put on public exhibition for at least 28 days. This would probably be around April/May each year, since the council must adopt its management plan by the end of June, after considering submissions from the public.

So if there are any issues you are not happy about or think should be brought to council's attention, get a submission together. Council needs to know what the community thinks.

In addition, the Act requires that councils give details in their Annual Reports on '... progress undertaken by the council during that year to promote services and access to services for people with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds'.

So, Aboriginal people should keep an eye on their council's Annual Report to see which programmes have been set up for the benefit of the Aboriginal community in their council's area and to make suggestions about what those programmes could be.

PART 6: BUILDING WORK

Is approval needed for building work?

Yes. If you are putting up a building or altering or adding to a building, you must first get council approval.

This applies to building on all land, whether it is Aboriginal owned or not.

Either you, or someone who has your written authority, may apply to council for approval.

The reason council approval is necessary is because it is the responsibility of council to ensure that buildings are safe and meet health requirements.

Councils can supply you with an approval application form to complete. When this form is submitted to council, it must be accompanied by a fee.

The fees vary, depending on the cost of the proposed building work.

What happens after the application is lodged?

Council must notify adjoining neighbours of your intention to build/modify and those neighbours have the opportunity to lodge objection to the proposed work. Those objections must be taken into account by council when they consider your application.

What happens if the application is not approved?

If your building application is not approved, you may lodge an objection with council, setting out the reasons why you think certain provisions do not apply in your case.

If your objections are not supported by council, you can appeal to the Land and Environment Court.

What happens after council has decided to approve the building application?

Council must notify you that approval has been given and advise how long the approval will last before you need to apply again. (It must be at least 1 year from the date the approval starts).

When you complete the building work, contact council - you usually need their final OK before you can move in or use the building.

What happens if building work is done without council approval?

Councils have the authority to ask you to re-do certain parts of the building work or even to demolish the unapproved work.

PART 7: SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

There are special groups which have been set up by local government which deal with Aboriginal concerns:

Local Government Aboriginal Network

The Local Government Aboriginal Network was formed in 1987 as a forum for discussion of Local Government issues related to Aboriginal communities. The Network consists of Aboriginal liaison officers working in Local Government and Aboriginal people who have been elected as Local Government councillors. It provides support and information for Network members.

Network meetings are held 3 times a year in different parts of New South Wales.

You don't have to be an Aboriginal liaison officer or councillor to attend meetings. If you are interested in local government issues, you are welcome to attend.

Local Government Aboriginal Advisory Committees

Local Government Aboriginal Advisory Committees have been set up in the following councils:

- ! Armidale
- ! Cobar
- ! Coonabarabran
- ! Eurobodalla
- ! Gilgandra
- ! Greater Taree
- ! Hay
- ! Kempsey
- ! Marrickville
- ! Moree Plains
- ! Nambucca
- ! Penrith
- ! Richmond River
- ! South Sydney
- ! Tumut
- ! Wollongong.

The establishment of these Committees is encouraged by the State Department of Local Government & Co-operatives as a means of improving communication between councils and Aboriginal communities.

If you live in one of the council areas which has an Advisory Committee, you can raise any concerns you may have about Local Government with them.

If you live in an area which doesn't have an Advisory Committee and you would like one established, you could point out to your council that such a group would benefit the whole community.

If your council does not agree, you should write to or phone the NSW Department of Local Government & Co-operatives.

Other groups representing Aboriginal interests

In addition to government involvement, there are industry groups, such as the Local Government & Shires Associations and the Australian Local Government Association, which meet to discuss policies and procedures for member councils. They also lobby government agencies on behalf of those local councils.

They develop their own community policies for dealing with the needs of Aboriginal people, separate to any policies or services developed by State or Federal governments.

National Commitment

In December 1992, the National Commitment to Improved Outcomes in the Delivery of Programmes and Services for Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islanders was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments.

The Council includes representatives of the Australian Local Government Association.

The Commitment states that the role and responsibility of Local Government is:

- ! To ensure the provision of a full range of Local Government services to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in accordance with appropriate planning, co-ordination and funding mechanisms; and
- ! To recognise the need for local area planning integrated with ATSIC (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission) and State and Territory planning processes.

The NSW Department of Local Government and Co-operatives issued a copy of the Commitment to all councils in August 1993 and advised councils to give careful consideration to the principles set out in the National Commitment and the stated role of Local Government.

NSW Local Government Aboriginal Employment Strategy

The NSW Local Government Aboriginal Employment Strategy was introduced by the State and Commonwealth Governments in 1990.

The first 2 years of the Employment Strategy were funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments and the third year was funded by Local Government.

It is overseen by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy Advisory Committee.

The programme is considered to have been very successful. Since 1990, there have been 111 Aboriginal people employed in councils throughout NSW under this Strategy.

Although the programme does not guarantee permanent employment, it provides 3 years' employment with formal training for the full period.

Not all councils participated in the Employment Strategy, but any interested Aboriginal people should make inquiries at their local council to let council know there is a demand in their area.

Although the budget for the first 3 year Strategy has been spent, talks are now under way to try to find the money for another round.

Part 8: DOES LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABORIGINAL SACRED SITES?

No, not directly.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is responsible for the care, control and management of all Aboriginal relics and Aboriginal places in NSW. 'Aboriginal Places' include sites of significance and sacred sites.

Under s.90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, it is illegal to destroy a known sacred or significant site.

If you are aware of a site which may be in danger of being destroyed or damaged you should discuss protection of the site with National Parks and Wildlife.

Although your council does not have direct responsibility for sacred sites, as matters of historical importance for their local area, councils generally encourage notification and protection of such sites.

In addition, the Local Government Act requires that all public land in a council's area must be classified as either community land or operational land.

This can be done by using sections of the Local Government Act OR by preparing a draft local environment plan. A local environment plan must include an environmental study.

If public land is classified using a local environment plan, clause 56(e) of the Regulation attached to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 states that consideration must be given to '... a locality, place or building having aesthetic, anthropological, archaeological, cultural, historical, scientific or social significance or other special value for present or future generations'.

Many Aboriginal sites of significance are situated on private property and you do need the owner's permission before you can enter the property.

Many owners have an agreed arrangement with the local Aboriginal community in relation to sites on their property.

If you would like access from time to time and the owner has not agreed, you could ask your council or the National Parks and Wildlife Service to approach the owner on your behalf. An Aboriginal liaison officer may be very helpful in such negotiations.

If you want to find out whether a particular area of land contains known sites, you could ask council for a '149 Certificate' (after section 149 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act). There is a fee (\$40 in March 1994) for the certificate.

The 149 Certificate describes areas of land in terms of cultural heritage etc. and many councils, including Bega, Coffs Harbour and Kempsey, actually state in their certificates if there are any known Aboriginal sites on a particular property.

Part 9: THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & CO-OPERATIVES

The performance of all councils is monitored by the NSW Department of Local Government & Co-operatives.

The Department of Local Government & Co-operatives provides advice to councils on the most efficient ways of carrying out their various functions and makes sure that councils are operating within the Act.

The Department reports to the Minister for Local Government & Co-Operatives.

One of the Department's other functions is to provide information to local councils, the public and industry in relation to policy affecting local government matters.

ATTACHMENT C

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

7.1 Introduction

The main reason Aboriginal people move to the South Sydney area was a desire to be close to family, friends and community support networks. The Redfern area has a long history of being the epicentre of the Aboriginal community in Sydney. It provides a reference point for those moving into the city from the country and the area has strong cultural and historical significance.

This aspect is very relevant in these considerations.

7.2 Staff Awareness of Indigenous Issues

Council invited indigenous speakers to address staff on significant issues during the year. Linda Burney, Chairperson of the NSW Reconciliation Council, spoke to senior staff about the Reconciliation process. Another speaker, who was removed from her family as a child, provided staff with an understanding of the issues around the Stolen Generation.

7.3 Olympics 2000 – Information Session

An information session was held for the indigenous community in May 2000, to present changes to services during the Olympics. Council's sensible handling of the 'Tent Embassy' at Victoria Park earned respect within the community.

7.4 NAIDOC Week

Council worked with the NAIDOC Committee to provide community information stalls for the Aboriginal community in Redfern, Alexandria and Woolloomooloo during NAIDOC Week each year.

7.5 Community Liaison

Our Aboriginal Development Officer promoted Council services through direct contact with individuals and over 40 Aboriginal organisations. The position also liaises with Agencies of State and Federal Governments.

7.6 The Eastern Region Aboriginal Local Government Forum

South Sydney City Council has continued to support this joint initiative of South Sydney, Botany, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils. The Forum coordinates activities to assist the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander community, promote information and resource sharing and increase the participation of indigenous people in local government.

7.7 Council's Aboriginal Community Grants Programme

In 1999/2000 Council provided \$12,150 to fund community programmes including:

- *furniture and equipment for a safe place for Aboriginal women to enjoy respite and engage in health, leisure and educational activities;*
- *neighbourhood reconciliation activities;*
- *a safe, out of hours, bus service for young Aboriginal people.*

7.8 1999/2000 Annual Community Grants Programme

Under Section 428 (2) (1) of the Local Government Act, Council is required to furnish "the total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356". This listing demonstrates the diversity of the community and the sensitivity with which Council provides services to them.

Beneficiary	Contribution (\$)
<i>Aboriginal Women's Healing House</i>	<i>5,197.00</i>
<i>Alexandria Erskineville Bowling Club (Donation of mulch and plants for the bowling club's Memorial Garden)</i>	<i>1,200.00</i>
<i>Angel St Permaculture Garden</i>	<i>9,000.00</i>
<i>Annual Betty Makin Memorial (Presented as part of South Sydney Council's Youth Awards. The Scholarships are also presented in honour of the enormous commitment of the late Betty Makin to the community of South Sydney, particularly to your people)</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Aunties & Uncles (The Cooperative Family Project provides children with a mentor, friend and extended family for ongoing support and encouragement)</i>	<i>2,500.00</i>
<i>Aust. Day Botany Bay Regatta (Contribution towards the Australia Day/Week Botany Bay Regatta, along with other SSROC Council Members)</i>	<i>500.00</i>
<i>Aust. AIDS Memorial Quilt Project</i>	<i>2,200.00</i>
<i>Australian Chinese Association NSW (Located in Surry Hills and provides a range of programmes to support the Chinese community in Australia)</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Baptist Inner City Ministries</i>	<i>6,000.00</i>
<i>Bluey Day (fundraise for children with cancer)</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
<i>Botany Bay Mayoral Golf Day (To raise funds for the Sydney Children's Hospital)</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Botany Migrant Resource Centre</i>	<i>300.00</i>
<i>Canberra Communities Incorporated</i>	<i>2,178.00</i>
<i>Children & Nutrition Project</i>	<i>1,500.00</i>
<i>City Women's Hostel</i>	<i>3,470.00</i>

<i>Community Bus Scheme</i>	<i>24,264.55</i>
<i>Connect Redfern (Established in 1995 to provide support services to families in highly disadvantaged areas)</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Darlinghurst Theatre Company</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Darlo Play Centre</i>	<i>1,950.00</i>
<i>Donations – 2000 Paralympic Games</i>	<i>4,785.00</i>
<i>Eastern Region Aboriginal – Employment</i>	<i>2,500.00</i>
<i>Erskineville Chamber of Commerce (A community based committee established for the specific purpose of organising an Erskineville Village Music Festival)</i>	<i>5,400.00</i>
<i>Erskineville Youth Housing</i>	<i>4,050.00</i>
<i>Factory Community Centre</i>	<i>7,268.24</i>
<i>Gardeners Road Out of School Hours</i>	<i>3,000.00</i>
<i>Hope Australia</i>	<i>500.00</i>
<i>Inner City Home Modification Service</i>	<i>13,500.00</i>
<i>Junction House (Provides social, educational and recreational services for adults with mild intellectual disabilities in the Eastern Area of Sydney)</i>	<i>2,800.00</i>
<i>KU Children's Services</i>	<i>57,799.00</i>
<i>Kids Activities Newtown Community</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>Kings Cross Community Centre</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Kings Cross Events Group (A community based group established to organise a Kings Cross Art Festival which involved different activities held at various venues)</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>Lone Parent Family Support</i>	<i>1,102.00</i>
<i>Luncheon Club AIDS Support Group</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>Metro Television Ltd (Funding provided to conduct a Video Production Camp for youth from South Sydney as part of Council's Youth Week Activities)</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>NSW Sports Council for the Disabled</i>	<i>1,050.00</i>
<i>Old Time Dances</i>	<i>1,060.00</i>
<i>Peter McIntosh – cancer hair shave</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
<i>Petrol Vouchers M O W Kepos Street</i>	<i>5,462.85</i>
<i>Petrol Vouchers M O W Moore Park</i>	<i>15,721.85</i>
<i>Portuguese Welfare Centre</i>	<i>2,940.00</i>
<i>Public Works and Services Donation (This is a summary of the total amount of money that Council provided to community organisations that requested supply of garden plants and mulch)</i>	<i>1,485.32</i>
<i>Randwick City Council (Contribution to the employment of an Administrative Officer for the Eastern Region Local Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum)</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>Redfern Occasional Child Care</i>	<i>10,000.00</i>
<i>Redfern Police Bicycle Squad</i>	<i>4,000.00</i>
<i>Redfern Residents for Reconciliation</i>	<i>2,950.00</i>
<i>Reimburse – Fares Volunteer Workers Moore Park</i>	<i>419.00</i>
<i>Rosebery Child Care Centre Steering Committee</i>	<i>400.00</i>
<i>Serenity NSW Inc. (A self-help support group for people</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>

<i>with Anxiety Disorders)</i>	
<i>Solidarity Choir</i>	<i>3,000.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Blind Community & Friends</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Aboriginal Corporation</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Amateur Swimming Club</i>	<i>800.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Callisthenic Club</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Community Aid</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Community Transport</i>	<i>1,463.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Domestic Violence Comm.</i>	<i>4,000.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Police Citizens Youth</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Touch Football (Council's participation in the Annual Local Government Touch Football Competition held at Parkes)</i>	<i>2,500.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Youth Services Committee</i>	<i>715.24</i>
<i>St Mary's Primary School</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>St Saviours Anglican Church</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>St Vincent de Paul Society</i>	<i>500.00</i>
<i>South Sydney Community Aid – mail out</i>	<i>650.00</i>
<i>Streetwise Comics</i>	<i>1,500.00</i>
<i>Subsidies S 356(1993 Act) – General</i>	<i>694.15</i>
<i>Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>Sydney Bangla Cultural Centre</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
<i>Sydney Day Nursery</i>	<i>1,919.00</i>
<i>Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras</i>	<i>32,017.83</i>
<i>Sydney University Settlement (Is a neighbourhood centre in the Redfern/Chippendale community. Established 107 years ago by the Sydney University)</i>	<i>4,336.00</i>
<i>TAP Gallery (artwork show of youth in area)</i>	<i>2,500.00</i>
<i>The Settlement Neighbour Centre</i>	<i>300.00</i>
<i>The Shop Family & Childrens Centre</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>The Wayside Chapel</i>	<i>3,000.00</i>
<i>Tropicana 98 Film Festival</i>	<i>1,500.00</i>
<i>Uniting Church – Community Garden</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Waterloo Community Development Project</i>	<i>2,480.00</i>
<i>Waterloo Girls Centre</i>	<i>2,650.00</i>
<i>We Help Ourselves</i>	<i>3,784.00</i>
<i>Wesley St Smart Youth Services</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>Woolloomooloo Community Project Inc</i>	<i>5,000.00</i>
<i>Woolloomooloo Festival – costs</i>	<i>4,536.00</i>
<i>Woolloomooloo Warriors F.C.</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
<i>Wrap with Love</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
<i>S356 Donations Total</i>	<i>364,298.03</i>

In addition to the above, the following Council charges/costs were waived:

Beneficiary	Contribution (\$)
Rental Rebates	
Hall hire	51,725.00
Legal Services	
Assistance to Redfern Legal Centre	43,025.00
Rental Subsidy	
Australian AIDS Memorial Quilt	13,400.00
Beehive Industries	84,825.00
D4 (A community based organisation which provides a range of services to residents in Darlinghurst, Kings Cross and Woolloomooloo including a Children's Programme – Purchase of new resources)	37,772.00
Darlinghurst Area Rental Tenancy Cooperative (DART)	37,900.00
East Sydney High School ('last chance' school for youth at risk)	64,405.00
Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby	36,500.00
Inner City Legal Centre	23,520.00
Inner City Regional Council for Social Development	31,000.00
Kings Cross Community and Information Centre	8,999.00
Metro TV Limited	20,000.00
Metropolitan Community Church	52,212.00
Out FM Sydney Limited	15,720.00
PACT Youth Theatre	51,226.00
People living with HIV/AIDS	20,500.00
Radio Eastern Sydney Co-Op	12,000.00
Redfern Legal Centre	23,439.00
South Sydney Youth Services	8,500.00
Sydney 2002 Gay Games	13,200.00
The Assoc. to Resource Co-op Housing (ARCH)	8,179.00
Tom Bass Sculpture School (alternative school for workshops and classes)	14,720.00
Women's Library	16,708.00
Rental Subsidy Total	594,725.00
Grand Total	\$1,053,773.03

South Sydney City Council is a functioning efficient local government. Its staff is respected for its professionalism and innovation, its governance is responsive to a diversified and dynamic communities. It's many parts, dismembered will not guarantee those values.

....It is noted that the Director General of the Premier's Department, Dr Col Gellatly in 1994 said, "...if government is to respond effectively to the challenges confronting it, it must concentrate on doing what it does best, namely the provision of social rather than commercial services. We in government need to ask ourselves a number of questions, such as what business are we in? What are we trying to achieve? Who are our customers? And how do they feel about the services we provide?"

...A NSW Social Justice Direction Statement issued in 1996 established an expectation that social justice is to be delivered on the principles of equity, access, participation and rights. This Statement acknowledges that social and economic policies should reinforce each other. Social justice principles are essential to ensure that human resources, infrastructure and community cohesion necessary for economic development are achieved. Economic development is essential to produce resources and jobs necessary for social justice.

"The Statement recognises National Competition Policy as a key element of economic development but emphasises that it must not place at risk people's access to basic services. Social Justice strategies to guard against this include consumer protection principles, community service obligations and the public interest test"... "Competitive neutrality principles need not be applied where the benefits of implementation are outweighed by the costs.

The Policy states that competition policy principles apply only to local council business activities and not to non-business activities or non-profit activities. It must not place at risk people's access to basic services." (Department of Local Government 1997).