

**Boundaries and Barriers: Managing the Tidal Zone**




**Regulating Foreshore Boat Storage**  
**14 August 2012**

Woollahra Municipal Council

**Woollahra at a glance...**

- Population 52,000
- Area 12 km<sup>2</sup>
- 45 ha. of parkland
- 16 km of Sydney Harbour foreshores
- Bound by Sydney Harbour, Waverley Council, Randwick Council and the City of Sydney.
- The harbourside is one of the Municipality's greatest natural assets.
- High interest in recreational boating.
- Our foreshores play an important role in accessing the harbour and moored yachts.



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**The Issue?**

A review of Council's foreshore reserves indicated over 270 various types of craft, stored in public parks and on beaches in Woollahra.



Rose Bay Park, Rose Bay

Woollahra Municipal Council



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Rose Bay Park, Rose Bay

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**Why do people store water craft on public land?**


- Accessing swing moorings
  - Approx. 677 swing moorings
  - Dinghies are used to access the moorings.
- Avoid the need to transport water craft to and from home.
- Avoid costs associated with commercial water craft storage facilities.
- Ease of access into the harbour foreshore.
- Abandoned unwanted water craft.

*We do encourage and support public use of the foreshore by all users.*

*What we do not support are people storing water craft taking up precious public open space for private purpose.*

**Issues associated with hap hazard storage of water craft:**

- Physical and visual clutter of the foreshore.
- Restriction of access to a park, harbour beach or walkway.
- Alienation of public land.
- The collection of rubbish and debris.
- Damage to trees and Council's infrastructure (as a result of craft being chained or secured).
- Adverse public safety or risk/OH&S.
- Disturbance of Council park operations.



**Assessing the conflict / challenge / opportunity.**

- Foreshore public open spaces are limited and under high demand.
- There is no legislative requirement for Councils' to provide water craft storage in public open spaces.
- It was acknowledged that the storage of dinghies in some locations have long contributed to the maritime character of the area.
- We recognised that the absence of a policy or facilities to manage the storage of water craft had contributed to these issues.



Watsons Bay Promenade


**We identified:**

- Conflicts**
  - conflict between Council and boat owners who had stored their water craft on Council land for many years
- Challenges**
  - activating change and modifying the perception of boat owners that the storage facility was of benefit to them, as well as Council and the general public
  - facilitating / providing sufficient storage for the majority of boats stored on the foreshore
  - removal of derelict/abandoned water craft
- Opportunities**
  - increasing access to public space
  - providing improved access to a secure storage space for boat owners
  - providing a detailed procedure and policy

**Management options - the way forward!**

Management processes involved:

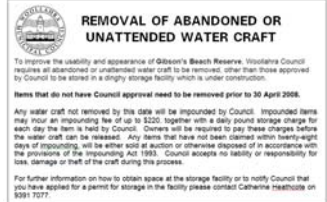
- A review of all foreshore areas
- What are other Councils' and Agencies doing?
- Report to Council
- Development and Adoption of a *Water Craft Storage on Public Land Policy*
- Community consultation
- Engagement with Council staff
- Impounding procedure
- Design and implementation of storage infrastructure
- Administration
- Monitor and review



**Engaging in consultation**

Community Consultation:

- Council adoption
- Local media adverts and media releases
- Notification signage at the various locations
- Stickers on affected water craft
- Liaising with RMS (NSW Maritime)
- Correspondence posted to mooring holders
- Correspondence posted to other interested parties



**Our Management Approach**

- Water craft storage on public land policy.
- Objectives of the policy are:
  - Orderly storage
  - Prevent alienation of public open space
  - Impounding procedure
  - Operation of storage facilities
- Policy relates to Councils' Management Plan
- Identification of sites
  - Rose Bay Park
  - Tingira Memorial Park
  - Gibsons Beach
  - Marine Parade
- Seek Funding
  - Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program (SSHAP)
  - Better Boating Program (BBP)
  - Council Capital Works Program

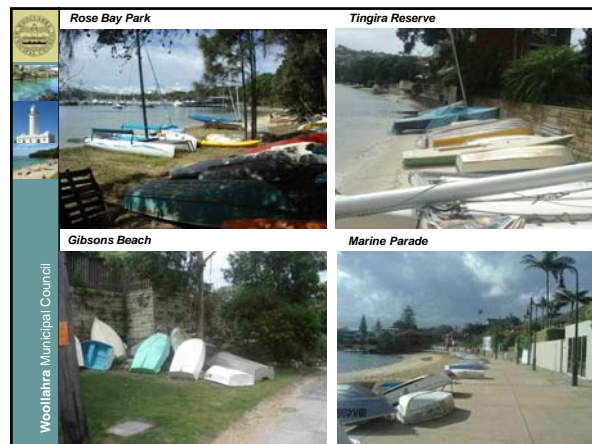
**Water craft Storage**

**Water craft storage on public land policy**

**Our policy**

**Objectives**

**How this policy relates to our Management Plan**



**Our Management Approach cont.**

- Implementing the impounding process
- Design and construction of storage facilities
- Managing allocation of storage bays
  - application form
  - "first in basis"
  - permit issued to be attached to the water craft
  - renewal of permits.

**WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**50 DINGHY STORAGE ROSE BAY PARK EXPIRES 31/07/2008**

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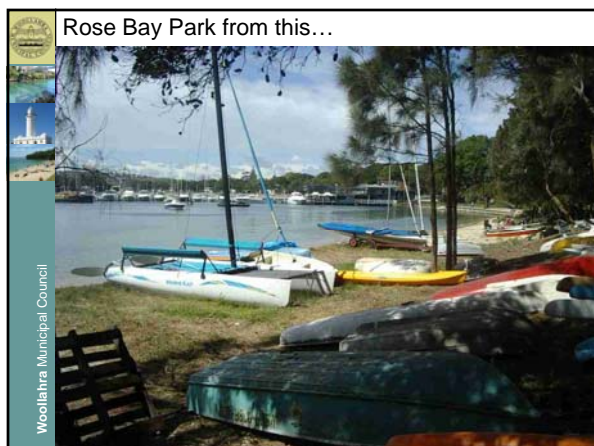
**The outcome!**

- 166 storage bays in 4 locations

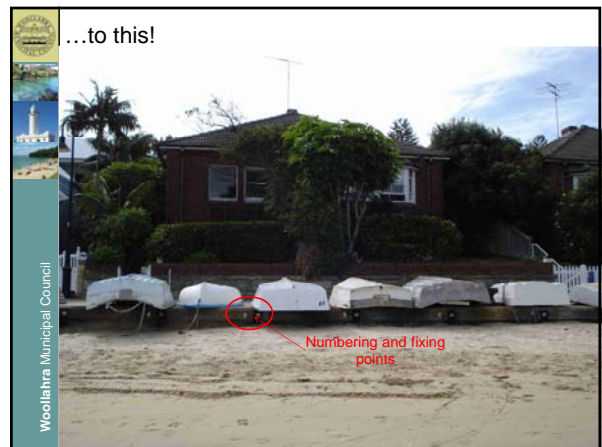
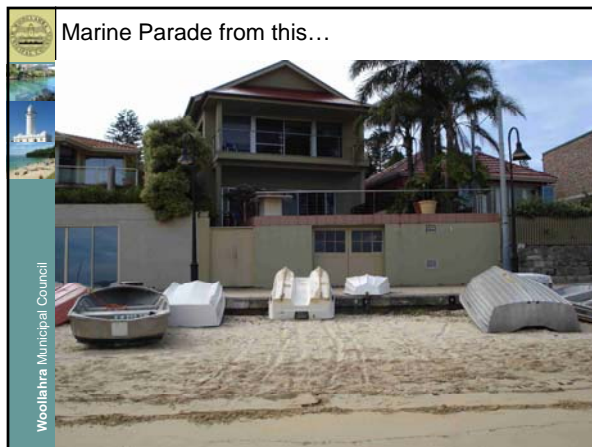
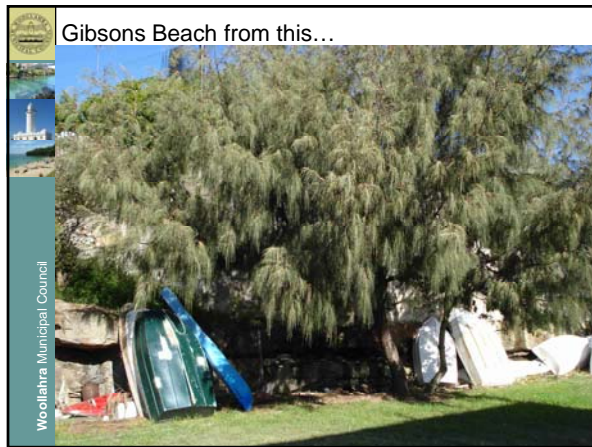
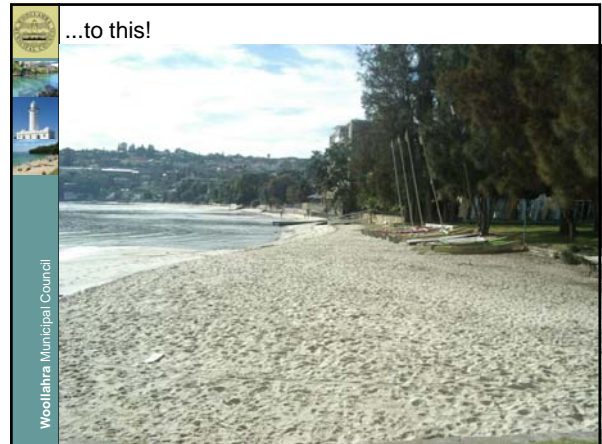
Location	Number of Racks	Storage Type
Rose Bay Park, Rose Bay	50	Vertical racks
Tingira Memorial Park, Rose Bay	30	Vertical racks
Gibsons Beach Reserve, Watsons Bay	21	Vertical racks
Marine Parade, Watsons Bay	65	Stainless steel fixing points attached to the edge of the promenade for horizontally storage

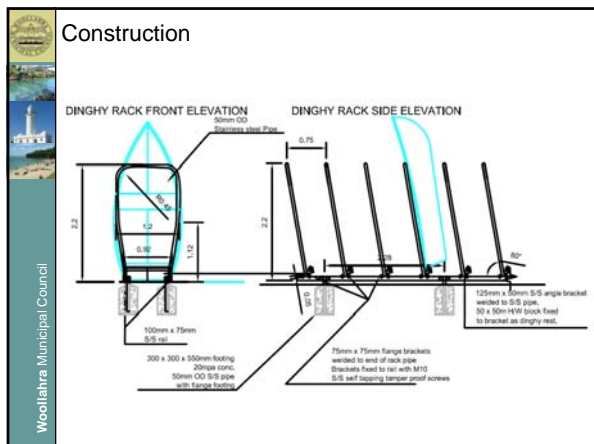
**Fees and charges**

Fee Type	Annual Fee	%
Resident or rate payer	\$105 per year (August – July)	71%
Non-resident	\$195 per year (August – July)	29%









**What were some of the things the public said ?**

**Some negative...**

*"What do you mean we have to pay ? I have had my boat there for 30 years and I have never had to pay... This is ridiculous..."*

*"You have no right to move my boat it's been there for 20 years. I'm going to call my solicitor..."*

*"Good take it! It is not sea worthy anyway!"*

**But the majority positive...**

*"This is a great idea..."*

*"Do residents get preference for storage spaces?"*

*"Since the racks have been built, I can now walk along Rose Bay Beach. It's beautiful..."*

*"Well done Council, you have given the beach back to the general public"*

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**Lessons learnt and future opportunities**

**Important**

- Consultation is very important!
- Successful collaboration of all staff, Councillors and NSW Maritime.
- Very clear correspondence.
- Ability to promote change in the community.
- 1 year permits.
- Regular inspection and enforcement.

**Opportunities**

- Where possible and if the demand requires, put in as many racks as possible.
- Woolahra will be implementing 30 storage bays at Steyne Park, Double Bay.

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