

# introducing **warringah**

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Warringah is centrally located on Sydney's Northern Beaches, enjoys a temperate climate, is surrounded by spectacular natural bushland, and is home to some 135,000 residents and a diverse range of business and light industry.

In total, the area comprises 5,900 hectares of bushland and reserves, and 185 hectares of coastal foreshores including sand, foreshore dunes, lagoons, and bluffs.

There are also many features of cultural and heritage significance, including Aboriginal sites. Originally the home of the Guringai Aboriginal people and visited by Governor Phillip in 1788, Warringah is now home to people from all around the world.

During the 1900s, construction of a tram link and bridges at Roseville and the Spit between Mosman and Seaforth helped boost growth in the area.

Since that time Warringah has developed from an area of weekenders and holiday homes into an enviable residential area of Sydney where people enjoy a unique bush and beach culture.



# warringah's highlights

**FINANCIAL**

*Council's surplus of \$6 million grew to a surplus of \$17 million throughout 2001/2002, providing extra funding for increased capital expenditure on buildings, parks, and roads infrastructure.*

*Council reduced a large working capital deficit while cutting minimal services and jobs.*

**AWARDS**

**National Case Earth Awards**  
Presented to Council for innovation and excellence in environmental rehabilitation and initiative for the projects undertaken at Greendale Creek and Curl Curl Lagoon.

**Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Awards**  
Highly Commended presented to Council for its Aboriginal walks and talks program.

**Australian Sister City Awards**  
Best Affiliation and Youth Program presented to Council for its relationship with Brewarrina.

**NSW Companion Animal Management Awards**  
Best Innovation in Companion Animal Management Award presented to Council for its Community Watch Dog Project.

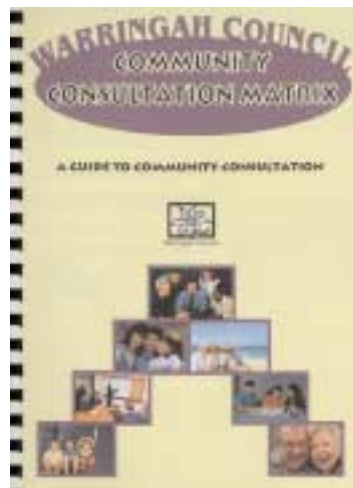
**Case Earth Awards Ceremony**  
State First Prize presented to Council for Environmental Excellence for stage three of the Greendale Creek Improvement Program.

**Keep Australia Beautiful Metro Pride Awards**  
Silver Medal presented to Council for the overall category.

Dee Why/Long Reef Beach was voted the cleanest beach in Sydney.

**Local Government and Shires Association for Excellence in Communication**

Highly commended awarded to Council for its 'Communication Consultation Matrix' and 'Consultation Toolkit'.



**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

**79,048** monetary transactions were handled.

**206,220** calls were received, with 80.3 per cent answered within 30 seconds.



Cr Darren G. Jones with staff members at the Environment Encouragement Awards.

**SAFETY MANAGEMENT**

On weekends and public holidays Council staff work in cooperation with the local surf life saving movement.

Throughout the season: **1.5** million people visited our beaches.

**502** rescues were undertaken without the loss of one life.

**3,068** breaches of regulations were dealt with by Council's lifeguards in regard to litter, dogs, and anti-social behaviour.

**LIBRARIES**

Warringah library membership is at the highest level ever in the history of the service at an amazing 100,998 members, 8400 higher than last year.

There has been almost 100 per cent borrowing of stock from the Warringah Mall Library with nearly all items being borrowed at least once since opening in 2000.

## MEDIATION SERVICE

*Council's Mediation service has continued to improve with 65% of mediated cases resulting in full or partial agreement since the program's start. This is a 5% increase over last year.*

## EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING

The NSW Coastal Management Program provided the following funding for projects along Collaroy/Narrabeen Beach:  
**\$60,000** - Nourishment Program  
**\$20,000** - Dune Maintenance  
**\$10,000** - Beach Scraping

Council matched funding from the Environment and Stormwater Special Rate for each of these projects.

The Department of Local Government under its Companion Animals Community Education Grants Program provided the following funding:  
**\$30,000** - Community Watchdog Project  
**\$7,200** - Protect Your Cat Wildlife Project

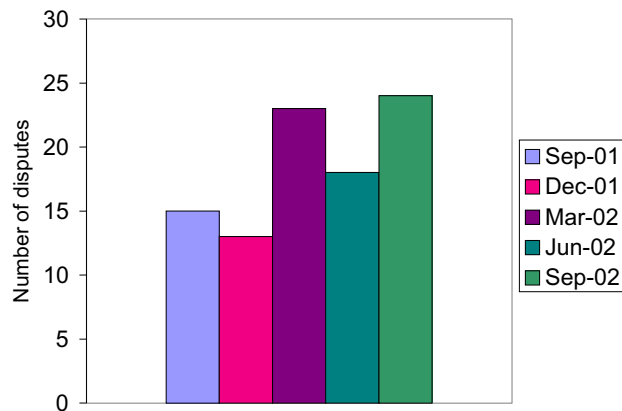
## VACATION CARE PROGRAMS

This year's school holiday vacation care programs averaged 80% utilisation, with 20% new staff being recruited and employed.

## EVENTS

The 2002 Australia Day Breakfasts proved to be the most popular since its inception in the Bicentennial year with up to 25,000 residents and visitors.

The commemorative Mayoral dinner, hosted by the Mayors of Manly and Warringah as part of the Northern Beaches Centenary of Federation 2001 celebrations, was a huge success with Lieutenant General Peter Cosgrove the Guest of Honour. The 2002 Mayoral Golf Day was also an outstanding success, raising over \$25,000 for charity.



Number of disputes referred to mediation



Participants in the 2002 Mayoral Charity Golf Day.



From left to right: Melinda Gainsford-Taylor, Cr Darren G. Jones, Youcef Abdi, Lachlan Chisholm, Daniel Lancaster, Cr Kevin Smith, Cr Peter Forrest and Alyssa Jane- Cook at the Australia Day Mile.

*Warringah is a community which values its quality of life and strives to care for its special bush and beach environment.*

## our values & guiding principles

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### **Openness**

- We communicate what services are available
- We value community and staff participation

### **Equity**

- We provide equity of opportunity to community members and staff
- We provide a right of review, where possible, with regard to our decisions and practices

### **Integrity**

- We value consistency in decision making
- We promote ethical practice
- We are mindful of our role of acting in the public interest

### **Efficiency**

- We value innovation and creativity
- We aim for value for money, recognising the full costs of providing services

### **Service**

- We are customer focussed
- We are flexible and receptive to change
- We anticipate needs and future trends
- We provide services in partnership with other organisations and the community

### **Respect**

- We welcome the opinions of all
- We conduct all our dealings in an atmosphere of mutual respect



Dee Why Rock Pool.



Council's Aboriginal Heritage Officer, David Watts shows local Aboriginal markings.

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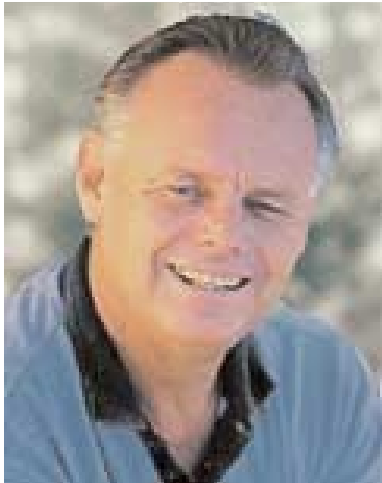
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*We are interested in your feedback. If you would like to comment on Warringah Council's Annual Report 2001-2002 or any of the activities mentioned please address your comments to:*

**General Manager**  
**Warringah Council**  
**Civic Centre**  
**725 Pittwater Road**  
**Dee Why NSW 2099**

# year in review 2001-2002



Cr Darren G. Jones

Warringah Council has had an outstanding year and achieved many positive outcomes to the benefit of residents and ratepayers.

Protecting and preserving our unique environment while providing first-class facilities and services is our key focus and responsibility.

We have achieved recognition from around Australia, and from our peers, for the commitment and dedication to our citizens, our community innovations and initiatives, and the protection of our natural environment, to name a few.

We have been acknowledged for our contribution to the Sister City movement, particularly with Brewarrina in western New South Wales. This wonderful and groundbreaking association has seen groups of young people from the two council areas visit each other and learn some important lessons about each other's lifestyle, culture, and needs.

In line with our venerated beach and bush culture, Council has worked intimately with the surf lifesaving movement, providing them with support and assistance in the fantastic job they do in keeping our beaches safe.

Particularly pleasing has been how well regarded Warringah is in its environmental management, especially in its involvement with local schools, where the students of today are tomorrow's leaders. It is vital we embrace the talents and positive can-do attitude of our young citizens.

Keep Australia Beautiful named Dee Why/Long Reef Beach Sydney's Cleanest Beach. This is testament to the community's love of, and dedication to, its natural assets.

We are in a sound financial position, have surplus funds, and are almost totally debt free. This has been achieved with a small reduction of services.

Concept designs for the new Dee Why Town Square were presented to the community late in the year and the project is now well on its way.

Many civic functions were conducted and included the Australia Day breakfast, attracting some 25,000 people, Symphony on the Sand, and the Anzac Ceremony, which had Lieutenant General Peter Cosgrove AC, MC and Normie Rowe AM as Guests of Honour. Our Mayoral Golf Day and Mayoral Ball were outstanding successes, raising close to \$70,000 for charity.

This great result was due to the generosity of businesses and the community, who recognise Council's commitment to all, including the under-privileged and marginalised.

Warringah Council staff, under the leadership of General Manager Denis Smith and since February 2002, Stephen Blackadder, have provided me with first-rate advice, and I thank them for their advice together with the support of the dedicated staff at Warringah.

The loyal support and sound counsel from my Deputy Mayor Cr Julie Sutton was greatly appreciated. The commitment of the committee chairmen, Cr Peter Moxham Chairman of the Services Committee, Cr David Stephens Chairman of the Governance Committee and Cr John Caputo OAM Chairman of the Strategy Committee ensured that Council continued to function effectively.

Warringah Council will continue to serve all residents with equity. It has been an eventful and challenging year, and one in which Council has remained focussed on our key objectives. The Councillors and staff of Warringah Council look forward to continuing to provide the first-class service rightly expected by our wonderfully committed and diverse community in the year ahead.

**Cr Darren G. Jones**  
**Mayor of Warringah**



The Warringah delegation in Brewarrina for the Brewarrina Shire Council/Warringah Council Challenge Sports Exchange Shield.



Left to right: Jenny Foote, Normie Rowe AM, Lt Gen Peter Cosgrove AC, MC, Lynne Cosgrove and Cr Darren G. Jones.

## the organisation

*Our employees are the most important resource Council possesses. Warringah Council introduced paid maternity leave and salary sacrifice in November. These new employment conditions will help attract and maintain quality staff.*

An improved financial position resulting from a surplus of \$17 million, the adoption of innovative strategies, policies, and programs as well as the successful completion of major environmental works underpin Warringah Council's successful 2001/02 year.

The surplus of \$17 million provided funding for increased capital expenditure on buildings, parks, and roads infrastructure. Moreover, Council staff have implemented changes that will help ensure improvements to Council's financial position. For example, we now make use of a 10-year budget model developed in-house to look at the long-term effects of decisions.

Council staff have coordinated a raft of successful projects - many of which are mentioned by the Mayor in his foreword to this Annual Report. Some of our achievements this year include, but are no means limited by:

- The adoption of the Warringah Urban Design Guidelines to assist in the understanding of planning controls in Warringah.

The Design Guidelines are aimed at both architects and "mum & dad" developers. This makes it easier for the public to gain development approval for complying designs.

- Support for Council's library services continues to grow with Warringah library membership at the highest level ever in the history of the service - an amazing 100,998 members.

- Opening of the Harbord Community Library in November. The Library is being operated by a group of committed volunteers.

- Warringah Aquatic Centre patronage was also higher than last year.

- Council has spent more than \$750,000 on the centre's outdoor children's wading and lap pools, together with other amenities.

- Distribution of over \$68,000 in Community Development Grants as an important part of the 'Rewarding the Community' Civic Reception. These grants help worthy community groups to continue to provide essential services to the Warringah community.

- Comprehensive audit of all of Council's 240 buildings to determine the condition of the buildings and any needed maintenance.

This enables Council to better budget for maintenance allowing funds to be redirected to areas most in need and ensuring that top rate facilities are provided for the community and staff.

- Our employees are the most important resource Council possesses. Warringah Council introduced paid maternity leave and salary sacrifice in November. These new employment conditions will help attract and maintain quality staff.

- Out of a total of 507 staff, 778 individual training courses were completed during the year and 50 separate corporate training courses covering 25 different types of programs were delivered.

- Detailed planning on an efficient electronic documents management system called DataWorks, which is currently used by more than 100 councils in Australia.



Stephen Blackadder

The system means the retrieval of records will be simpler and faster. This has great benefits for staff, and more significantly, the community.

It is a great honour and privilege to serve Warringah as General Manager.

If any resident would like to contact me to suggest improvements to our area, you can reach me on 9942 2430 or email at: Michele.Willis@warringah.nsw.gov.au

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Blackadder'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Stephen Blackadder  
General Manager



# councillors **full term** (1999-2003)

## A WARD



**Cr John Caputo OAM**

First elected to Council in 1987  
Shire President 1989-1991  
Mayor 1999  
Knight of the Republic of Italy 1989  
Qualified Valuer  
Justice of the Peace



**Cr Phil Colman**

Sydney Coastal Councils Group  
Executive Member  
Beachwatch Advisory Committee - EPA  
Honorary Associate Australian Museum  
Zoologist



**Cr Ruth Sutton**

First elected to Council in 1999  
Bachelor of Arts, University of New England  
Retired school teacher and Deputy Principal  
Environmental Educator

## B WARD



**Cr Peter Forrest**

First elected to Council in 1999  
Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies)  
Australian National University  
Former Australian Trade Commissioner  
Manufacturer/Exporter



**Cr Darren G. Jones, Mayor**

First elected to Council in 1977  
Shire President 1983-1985  
Elected Member of the Executive of the  
NSW Local Government Association  
Life member, Parents and Citizens  
Association of NSW (Harbord School)  
Life member, Queenscliff Amateur Swimming  
Club  
Carpenter, Joiner and Master Builder  
Justice of the Peace



**Cr Kevin Smith**

First elected to Council in 1999  
Gardener (Salvation Army)  
Accredited Manly, Warringah and  
Pittwater Lifeline Councillor  
Former TAFE Teacher

## C WARD



**Cr Julie Sutton, Deputy Mayor**

First elected to Council in 1980  
Six terms as Deputy Mayor  
First woman Mayor 1995  
Master of Arts with Honours, Diploma  
of Education  
Civil Marriage Celebrant  
Justice of the Peace



**Cr David Stephens**

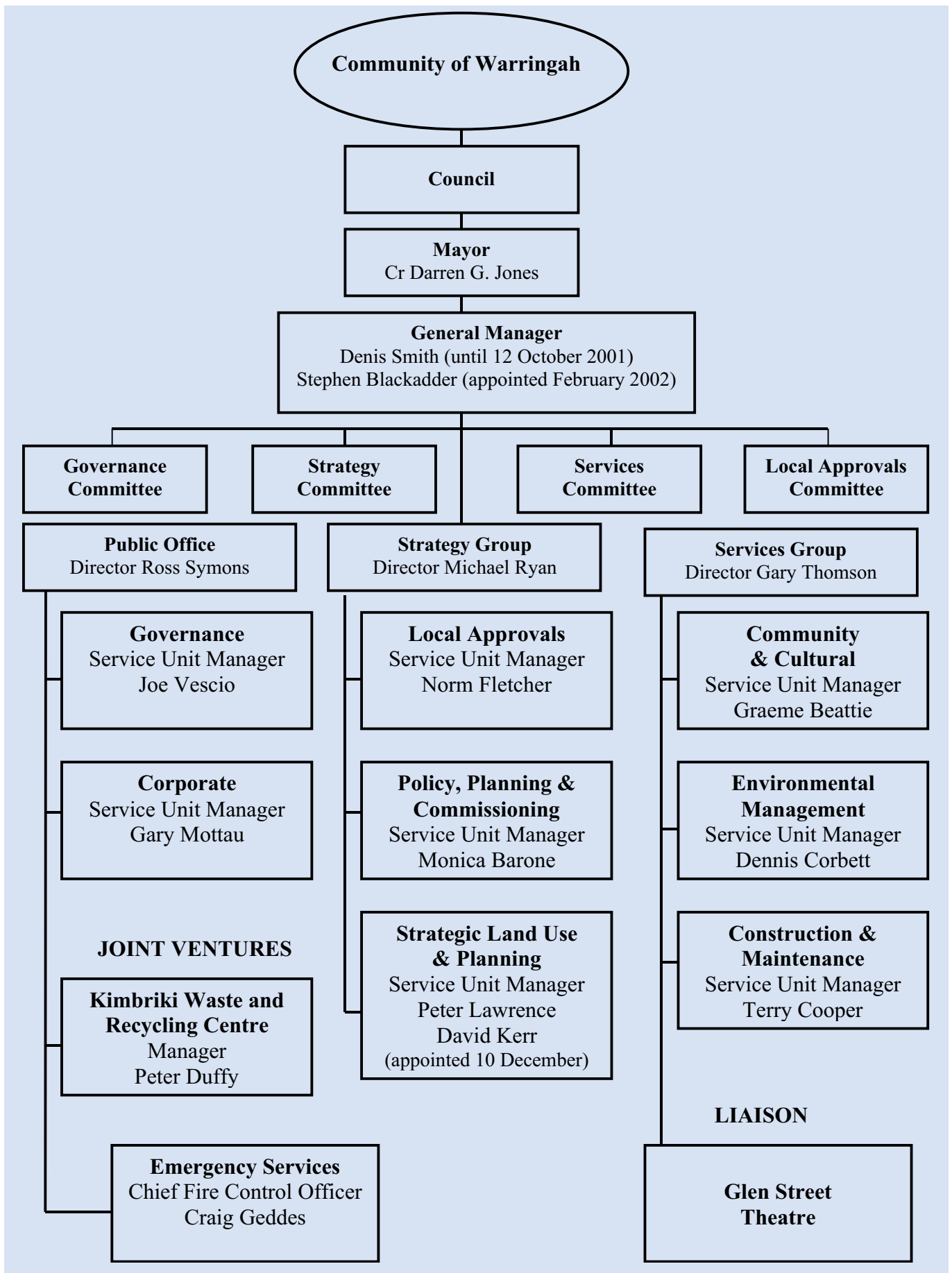
First elected to Council in 1999  
Deputy Mayor  
President and Life Member, Bridge to  
Bush Life Education  
Active and Life Member,  
Belrose/Davidson Apex Club  
Treasurer, Cottage Point Rural Fire  
Service  
Justice of the Peace



**Cr Peter Moxham**

First elected to Council in 1995  
Mayor 2000-2001  
Deputy Mayor 1997  
Small business partner, advertising and  
photography

# organisational structure



# council's standing committees

*All members of Council are members of the Standing Committees that meet on regular monthly cycles at the same time as Council, enabling Committee recommendations to be dealt with immediately, within the Council session.*

## Governance Committee

Chaired by Cr David Stephens, this Committee considers matters relating to the Governance and Corporate Units of the Council's Public Office Group.

It deals with matters relating to the elected Council and Councillors, financial, asset and property matters, statutory reporting, internal and external audits, risk management, due diligence and compliance, Sister Cities and inter-Council emergency and cooperative arrangements.

## Services Committee

Chaired by Cr Peter Moxham, the Services Committee considers matters relating to three Units from the Council's Service Group: Community and Cultural, Environmental Management, and Construction and Maintenance.

## Local Approvals Committee

Chaired by Cr Julie Sutton, the Committee considers matters relating to the Local Approvals Service Unit including applications for rezoning, development, building and subdivision of land.

## Strategy Committee

Chaired by Cr John Caputo OAM, the Strategy Committee considers matters relating to the Policy, Planning & Commissioning Unit, and Strategic Land Use Planning Unit of the Council's Strategy Group, and deals with matters relating to Council policies and strategic direction.

# the executive team



**Stephen Blackadder**  
**General Manager**  
**(Commenced 11 February 2002)**

- Joined Warringah Council in February 2002.
- Worked in management positions at Rockdale, Canterbury, North Sydney, Wyong and Woollahra Councils.
- Holds a Bachelor of Business from Charles Sturt University.
- A Fellow of Local Government Managers Australia and International City Managers Association.



**Denis Smith**  
**General Manager**  
**(May 1998-October 2001)**

- Joined Warringah Council in February 1998
- Has held senior executive positions with Coffs Harbour, Baulkham Hills and Campbelltown Councils.
- Holds formal qualifications in Town Planning, Environmental Studies and Business management
- An accredited Mediator



**Gary Thomson**  
**Director Services Group**

- Joined Warringah Council in 1979.
- Has qualifications in Management, Health, Development and Environmental Management.
- Member of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health.



**Michael Ryan**  
**Director Strategy Group**

- Joined Warringah Council in 1998.
- Previously Principal Planner with Devine Erby Mazlin Planning and Urban Design Division, working on projects including a technology park, residential estates, schools, corporate, industry and retail developments.
- Has also worked with both Hornsby and Sutherland Councils in the areas of development control assessment and planning.
- Holds degrees in Urban and Regional Planning.
- Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management.



**Ross Symons**  
**Director Public Office**

- Joined Warringah Council in 1987.
- Holds a Bachelor of Business and CPA.
- Member of the Fellow Australian Institute of Company Directors.
- Fellow Local Government Managers Australia.
- Justice of Peace.