

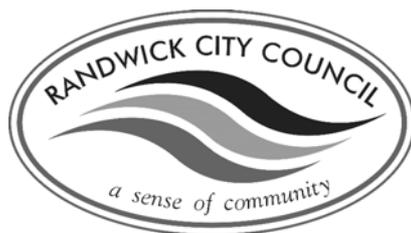
# **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

## **BUSINESS PAPER**

**TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009**

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3 February 2009

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Environment Committee Meeting of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick, on Tuesday, 10 February 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members: The Mayor, B Notley-Smith, Andrews, Belleli, Hughes (Deputy Chairperson), Matson (Chairperson), Nash (Deputy Chairperson), White & Woodsmith.

Quorum: Five (5) members.

NOTE: At the extraordinary meeting held on 22 May 2007, the Council resolved that the Environment Committee be constituted as a committee with full delegation to determine matters on the agenda.

### Apologies/Granting of Leave of Absences

### Confirmation of the Minutes

Environment Committee Meeting - 2 December 2008

### Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

### Address of Committee by Members of the Public

### Urgent Business

### Greening Randwick Reports

Nil

### Environment Reports

E1/09	Home Energy Assessments and the Fridge Buyback Program update .....	1
E2/09	GoGet CarShare Sustaining our City Project Update.....	3
E3/09	Randwick Community Centre's Sustainability Makeover - Public Facilities grant DECC .....	5
E4/09	Summary of Randwick's Who Cares About the Environment 2008 survey of residents .....	7

**Closed Session**

Nil

**Notices of Rescission Motions**

Nil

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Ray Brownlee  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

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## Environment Report No. E1/09



**Subject:** Home Energy Assessments and the Fridge Buyback Program update

**Folder No:** F2008/00383

**Author:** Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

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### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on both the free Home Energy Assessments & Action plan, a project under the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Project between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils, and the Fridge Buyback program.

### Issues

The basis for the collaboration between the 3-Councils above is a three year Urban Sustainability Grant from the NSW Environmental Trust totalling \$1.875 million dollars.

This 3-Council project is an extension of 'Randwick's Home Energy Makeover Campaign' the largest residential energy conservation campaign at the time. In 2006/07 this campaign successfully engaged 1040 residents in pledging to reduce their energy use, 650 free home energy assessments were conducted and a total of 65 rebates issued to residents to assist financially with the implementation of energy saving measures for their home. This campaign resulted in a saving in excess of 4,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and \$600,000 off resident's household energy bills.

As part of the 3-Council project residents living in Sydney's Eastern suburbs are eligible for a free home energy assessment and action plan to help households identify actions and behaviours that reduce household energy consumption across the 3-Council areas of Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick. These assessments began in September 2008.

Steplight Pty Ltd was selected from the tender process to run the campaign. Their teams of energy assessors all have in-depth knowledge and understanding of home energy use, many of which are recent graduates from the UNSW School of Photovoltaic Engineering.

The results, provided in the form of a written action plan, provide the householder with a profile of their energy use and behaviour together with advice on appropriate measures to reduce energy consumption and costs including appropriate state and federal rebates that may be applicable.

To date 203 households have received a free home energy assessment across the 3-Councils. Up to a further 800 home energy assessments are planned to be completed in the coming months.

From February all participating households will be contacted by phone and asked about any new energy saving actions to the dwelling, appliances (eg: new solar hot water system or energy efficient white goods) since the assessment, together with the latest energy use information from their energy bills.

The 3-Council home energy assessment project has been designed to link into the third phase of the NSW Governments Fridge Buyback Program administered by Next

E1/09

Energy. Fridge Buyback collects working 2<sup>nd</sup> fridges from residents' homes and takes them away to be degassed and recycled.

Residents receive:

- A \$35 rebate (if eligible)
- FREE in-home collection by experienced removalists
- \$190 / year avg electricity savings (expected to double in next 5 years)
- Assurances about environmentally responsible disposal

Fridge collection results and savings across the 3-Council areas are as follows:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Number of fridges collected</b> (Phases I-III)	<b>Estimated resident savings</b> (\$)	<b>Total Greenhouse Gas savings - CO<sub>2</sub></b> (tonnes)
Randwick	142	\$193,000	1234
Waverley	83	\$116,000	708
Woollahra	35	\$51,000	291

The Australian Bureau of Statistics state that 26% of households have 2 or more fridges, the Fridge Buyback program estimate that 6,332 second fridges remain in operation in Randwick.

The 3-Councils are currently working with Steplight Pty Ltd to develop an energy assessment for local businesses.

### **Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment

Direction 10(a): Council is leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

Direction 10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

### **Financial impact statement**

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

### **Conclusion**

The Project Officer will continue to provide regular reports on the progress of these residential energy saving projects carried out as part of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint Project.

### **Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

### **Attachment/s:**

Nil

## Environment Report No. E2/09



**Subject:** GoGet CarShare Sustaining our City Project Update

**Folder No:** F2005/00230

**Author:** Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

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### Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to update the progress of the community carshare arrangement between GoGet Carshare and Randwick City Council.

### Issues

Council's support of community carshare arrangements with GoGet CarShare (MM 75/2006 refers) commenced late in 2006. Based originally in Newtown, GoGet Carshare currently provides over 100 car share vehicles for community use throughout Sydney.

The number of community carshare vehicles in Randwick has increased from 2.5 in 2007 to 7 in 2009. The 7 vehicles are located at popular locations at Coogee, Maroubra, Kensington and Randwick and provide residents access to a network of locally parked carshare vehicles.

Members pay a joining fee and an hourly rate for use of the vehicles subject to availability and booking through the GoGet Carshare website. Running, maintenance and insurance costs are borne by GoGet Carshare.

There are now 126 Randwick residents who have joined GoGet's community carshare program representing a 40% increase over the past 12 months. The physical car reduction net effect was 45 vehicles, equating to a total Co2 saving of 280 tonnes per year.

The Randwick car share vehicles have made approximately 3000 trips showing a 43% increase and travelled a total 105,500 kilometres since the commencement of the scheme.

### Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 9: Integrated and Accessible Transport.

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

Direction 9(b): The community is informed, educated and encouraged to use sustainable transport options.

Direction 10(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

Direction 10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

### Financial impact statement

Council's support of the carshare vehicles was for \$7,500 per year for a 2 year period with Maroubra Junction Uniting Church providing \$2,500 per year.

GoGet Carshare remains responsible for all vehicle running costs, maintenance, insurance, booking and other related costs.

E2/09

**Conclusion**

This is an important initiative that supports a number of City Plan actions and continues to showcase Randwick's approach to developing and implementing sustainable transport options for its residents.

**Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

**E2/09**

## Environment Report No. E3/09



**Subject:** Randwick Community Centre's Sustainability Makeover - Public Facilities grant DECC

**Folder No:** F2004/08350

**Author:** Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of our successful funding application for \$211,700 for the sustainability retrofit of the Randwick Community Centre over the next three years. This funding is provided under the Public Facilities Program managed by the NSW Department of Conservation and Climate Change (DECC).

### Issues

The Randwick Community Centre's Sustainability Makeover project will establish the Centre as a local 'sustainability hub'.

The works and educational program to be carried out at the Community Centre over the three years of the funding include:

- Installation of energy and water saving devices, including solar panels and further improvements in rainwater collection systems
- Educational signage around the Community Centre; and
- Sustainability education activities including:
  - community workshops and volunteer outreach
  - school visits
  - early childhood and lower Primary training for teachers and families.

The educational program is designed to encourage community and school groups to learn from the demonstration works at the site. Council's grant application highlighted and formed the basis for how this grant can supplement and enhance Council's existing educational initiatives at the Community Centre including:

- Sustainable Living courses for residents;
- Sustainable Gardening and Native Haven courses for residents;
- Council's annual EcoLiving Fair;
- Linkages to the 13 hectare Environmental Park underway by the Department of Defence.

The project will be developed in four stages over three years:

Stages	Timing	Tasks
1. Consultation and Planning	March - May 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a management plan including a Master Plan for project elements;</li> <li>• Develop and carry out community consultation to assess adjacent user needs and retrofitting design solutions.</li> </ul>
2. Design and implement	Aug-Sept 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise design of Randwick Community Centre retrofit;</li> <li>• Finalise design of Sustainable Permaculture Interpretive Garden;</li> <li>• Obtain quotes for water and energy efficient technologies;</li> <li>• Submit DA as required;</li> </ul>

E3/09

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement design.</li> </ul>
3. Educational elements	Aug 2009- Sept 2011	Develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood teachers' training;</li> <li>• Program for school visits;</li> <li>• 'Living Smart' courses for residents;</li> <li>• Volunteer outreach program;</li> <li>• Interpretative signage and brochures.</li> </ul> Continue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EcoLiving Fair;</li> <li>• 'Sustainable Living' courses.</li> </ul>
4. Evaluation and reporting	Sept 2011- Nov 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting document compiled;</li> <li>• Evaluations of educational programs compiled.</li> </ul>

**Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 3: An Informed and Engaged Community.
- Direction 3(a): Effective communication methods and technology are used to share information and provide services.
- Direction 3(c): A community involved in shaping and enhancing our City.
- Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.
- Direction 10(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.
- Direction 10(f): A total water cycle management approach including water conservation, re-use and water quality improvements is adopted.
- Direction 10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

**Financial impact statement**

Funding for the project comprise of the following:

Items	Contributions
DECC Public Facilities Grant contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• energy and water retrofit and signage</li> <li>• sustainability education</li> </ul>	\$108,800 \$102,900
Council Environmental Levy contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EcoLiving Fair (x 3) over 3 years</li> <li>• sustainability permaculture interpretive garden</li> </ul>	\$180,000 \$75,000

**Conclusion**

In its sustainability leadership role and with the potential for increasing access and patronage of the Community Centre for public events, it will be beneficial for Council to showcase and communicate the site's sustainability elements to the broader community, creating the Centre as a local 'sustainability hub'.

The development and handover to Council of the Environmental Park adjacent to the Community Centre provides a significant linkage to the sustainability features to be implemented at the Community Centre through the funding provided.

**Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

E3/09

## Environment Report No. E4/09



**Subject:** Summary of Randwick's Who Cares About the Environment 2008 survey of residents

**Folder No:** F2006/00012

**Author:** Karen Purser, Coordinator - Research & Knowledge Management

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### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of results of the "Who Cares about the Environment 2008" Randwick Community Survey, conducted by Taverner Research.

### Issues

In 2008 Taverner Research were commissioned to conduct a community attitudes survey exploring Randwick residents' knowledge, skills, behaviour and attitude towards environmental protection.

The report findings include a comparison with the 2005 "Who Cares about the Environment 2005" Randwick Community Survey and the 2006 NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change's "Who Cares about the Environment" state-wide survey (copy attached).

The survey was conducted by telephone in June 2008, with a representative sample of 609 Randwick residents.

A summary of results shows roads and traffic were the most important issue of concern (29%), with the environment coming in as the second most important issue (14%) and public transport ranked as the third most important issue overall (8%).

Litter and dumping of rubbish (16%) and pollution of beaches/oceans (13%) were nominated as the most important environmental issues facing Randwick Council at present.

Interestingly, 23% of Randwick residents were unable to think of an environmental issue that is important in the Randwick City Council area.

More than eight out of every ten residents (84%) said that they were concerned about environmental problems a great deal or a fair amount.

Recycling (93%) and reduction of electricity consumption (77%) are the two environmental behaviours Randwick residents are most likely to carry out "often".

The majority of residents rated Council's performance at providing them with information on the steps to take to help protect the environment as excellent or good (60%); with 71% of residents getting their environmental information from Council's Community Newsletters.

Just over three out of five residents rated Council's care for the environment as either very good or good (64%).

Without prompting, residents believed that recycling issues / household rubbish or garbage (12%) was the number one environmental issue Council should be focusing

on in the next 12 months. However, when prompted with a list, one third of residents (32%) indicated the pollution of beaches and/or the ocean as the number one issue for Council to focus on in the next 12 months.

More generally, 94% of residents strongly agree or agree that the Randwick City Council area is a good place to live; 69% strongly agree or agree that they feel part of their local community; and 85% strongly agree or agree that they generally prefer to shop in their local neighbourhood.

### **Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 2: A Vibrant and Diverse Community.
- Direction 2(a): Maintain a current understanding of our community's needs.
- Outcome 3: An Informed and Engaged Community.
- Direction 3(c): A community involved in shaping and enhancing our City.
- Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.
- Direction 10(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

### **Financial impact statement**

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

### **Conclusion**

Understanding community views and attitudes on the environment is crucial in testing and aligning community perspectives with the environmental programs and priorities underway through Council.

### **Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

### **Attachment/s:**

Nil

E4/09