

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2009

Administrative Centre 30 Frances Street Randwick 2031
Telephone: 02 9399 0999 or
1300 722 542 (for Sydney metropolitan area)
Fax: 02 9319 1510
general.manager@randwick.nsw.gov.au
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au



3 March 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 March 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 - 10 February 2009

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Urgent Business

Greening Randwick Reports

Nil

Environment Reports

E5/09	Early Childhood environmental education workshops in Randwick	1
E6/09	Summer Activities Evaluation	3
E7/09	Home organics waste recycling trial.....	5

Closed Session

Nil

Notices of Rescission Motions

Nil

.....
Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E5/09



Subject: Early Childhood environmental education workshops in Randwick
Folder No: F2005/00872
Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of early childhood environmental workshops being provided in Randwick with the support of the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network.

Issues

Funding provided to the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) is enabling the organisation of environmental training workshops aimed at parents and teachers involved in early childcare centres and lower primary schools in Randwick.

These workshops commencing from March 2009 will provide specialised training and learning covering topics that include reducing chemical use, energy and water conservation and waste reduction within schools and childcare centres.

Advertising and promotion is currently underway advising the availability of these workshops being held at the Randwick Community Centre. Council's Sustainability Education and Waste Education officers will assist in the delivery of some aspects of the training to ensure its relevance and practical application within Randwick City.

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.
- Direction 2(b): Enrich our range of community services that meet our community needs.
- Direction 2(c): Strong partnerships between Council, community groups and government agencies.
- 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

In keeping with Council's Sustainable Schools Initiative, this project extends the reach of our communication and training on environmental management and protection to early childhood, childcare, pre-school and lower primary audiences.

E5/09

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E5/09

Environment Report No. E6/09



Subject: Summer Activities Evaluation
Folder No: F2004/08350
Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Randwick Council's 2009 Summer Activities Program.

Issues

Randwick Council's Summer Activities Program is now in its fifth year and is one of the most extensive summer activity programs in NSW aimed at increasing the level of understanding and protection of our marine and coastal environments. With over 29 kilometres of coastline covering both the Pacific Ocean and south-eastern reaches of Botany Bay, Council has a strong record of increasing opportunities for residents and beachgoers to discover for themselves the unique features of our foreshore reserves, beaches and clifftop vistas.

The 2009 Summer Activities Program ran over a 10 day period in January resulting in a 7 percent increase in participation to 422 individuals. The program included snorkelling, sea-kayaking, learn to surf, learn to sail, sustainable fishing clinics, rockpool discovery walks and coastal walks to learn about native flora and fauna. Most of the activities were free. Fees applied to learn to surf, learn to sail, sea kayaking and snorkelling.

A new activity conducted in 2009 was guided tours of the Malabar Sewage Treatment Plant by Sydney Water and there were repeat activities conducted for Council in 2008 by the National Parks and Wildlife Service at La Perouse.

Eighty two percent of participants were residents while those others from other areas were typically regular visitors of family members or friends of residents. Participants were surveyed following each activity. All participants surveyed responded that their learning and knowledge of coastal and marine issues had increased as a result of the activities they participated in.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 5: Excellence in recreation and lifestyle opportunities.
Direction 5(a): Maximise opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy both active and passive open space uses.

Financial impact statement

The costs of conducting Council's Summer Activities Program are approximately \$10,000 which includes the engagement of specialised instructors and guides and for advertising/promotion.

E6/09

Conclusion

Council's Summer Activities are gaining in popularity each year. Targeting parents and their children to participate in an activity aimed at increasing their learning and appreciation of our marine and coastal environment together is an important focus of the program. Planning for the 2010 program is already underway and is intended to have ready for promotion during Coastcare Week in the first week of December this year.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E6/09

Environment Report No. E7/09



Subject: Home organics waste recycling trial
Folder No: F2008/00385
Author: Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

Introduction

This report informs Council of the home organics waste recycling trial occurring as a major project of the 3 Council Ecological Footprint project between Waverley, Woollahra and Randwick Councils.

Issues

This joint project was established as one of the key activity areas to address within the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project to assist in the reduction of the consumption of natural resources across Sydney's Eastern suburbs.

The project originally established, identified that Randwick and Waverley Councils would work together to develop a commercial organic food waste collection trial to service the high proportion of cafes and restaurants present across the two LGA's. However, more detailed research and costing of this proposal revealed that the environmental benefits of this approach would be slight, primarily due to the high costs of collection and delivery of food waste to the preferred landfill site designated to process such waste into a compostible material.

Greater benefits can be achieved by switching the project focus to reducing residential food waste going to landfill and facilitating household based composting trial specifically targeting suitable organic food wastes occurring within households across Waverley and Randwick local government areas. This project would apply the lessons learned in the 2007 Shoalhaven Council project that successfully engaged 205 households in a home organics food waste reduction and reuse scheme. This scheme was particularly successful in that it reduced by 30% the volume of household garbage going to landfill over the 12 month trial period. Shoalhaven Council is now currently seeking to expand their project to a further 5,000 households.

The Randwick and Waverley trial would look to replicate similar results however the focus includes taking on opportunities within multi-unit dwellings in the metropolitan setting of both Council areas. While this approach has never been trialled within an urban setting there are significant environmental benefits in terms of achieving a decentralised approach to waste minimisation and recycling.

The three year funding enables engagement of a dedicated and experienced Food Waste Reduction Officer for the duration of the trial across Randwick and Waverley to develop and implement the extensive community engagement and education processes required and manage the involvement of approximately 400 households in the scheme. Discussions with Waverley Council have confirmed their willingness to host this position for the duration of the trial.

The NSW Environmental Trust has confirmed their support of adjusting the focus to this joint project proposed and approved in the original business plan and subsequently agreed to and signed off by the General Managers of the 3 Councils in the 3 Council Memorandum of Understanding.

E7/09

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

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

Direction 10d: Sustainable alternative waste technologies and environmentally sound collection systems are identified and implemented.

Direction 10g: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Financial Impact Statement

This project is funded by the New South Wales Government Environmental Trust. Randwick Council is administering project funding totalling \$1.88M, for the three year period with each of the 3 participating Councils contributing \$75,000 per year per Council. Randwick's contribution comprises in-kind support and financial support via the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

This is an important project aimed at reducing the size and scale of the ecological footprint of the residents of the Eastern suburbs. The results of this trial are also likely to usefully inform participating Councils on the potential ongoing viability of continuing or expanding this scheme as a useful way of reducing waste collection and processing costs in the long-term.

Regular reporting will be provided on the outcomes and results of this trial as it proceeds.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E7/09