

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2009

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28 May 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, 9 June 2009 at 6:00pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor, B Notley-Smith, Andrews, Belleli, Hughes (Deputy Chairperson), Matson (Chairperson), Nash, 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 – 14 April 2009

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Urgent Business

Greening Randwick Reports

Nil

Environment Reports

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Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

Closed Session

Nil

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Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E13/09



Subject: Creating a Sustainability Education Hub at the Randwick Community Centre

Folder No: F2004/08350

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The report outline details of the works to be carried out using the external grants funding provided to create a sustainability education hub at the Randwick Community Centre.

Issues

In 2008 Council was advised it was successful in Public Facilities Grants funding from the NSW Government. The purpose of the 3 year funding is to assist Council in creating a sustainability education hub at the Randwick Community Centre. The funding has been provided to:

- Enable Council to create a showcase site for water and energy savings;
- Develop a showcase permaculture interpretive display garden for residents and visitors; and
- Create a focus for community education at the Randwick Community Centre.

Water and energy saving projects:

Water and energy saving projects include upgrades and improvements to kitchen and toilet amenities within and outside the Community Centre, water harvesting and irrigation adjacent to the Community Centre, passive energy features as well as new solar panels and investigation of small scale wind turbine technology. To cope with additional out of hours visitation, particularly with the permaculture display garden, it is proposed to install an external environmentally friendly toilet for those using and visiting the site.

Permaculture interpretive display garden:

A permaculture interpretive garden display will be created for residents and visitors to experience and learn firsthand on issues related to sustainable gardening, composting and growing local food around their homes. The garden will also provide a linkage to the community education aspects of the project including school visits and Council's "Living Smart" sustainability courses.

Community education:

Community education at the site will feature Council's annual Eco Living Fair, Living Smart (sustainability) workshops, new courses developed in conjunction with the Early Childhood Environmental Network for pre-school and lower primary teachers and parents, a volunteer outreach training, school visit program, as well as supporting activities of the seniors and younger children using the site already.

The community education components provide a natural linkage between the Community Centre and the new 13 hectare environmental park adjacent to the centre.

E13/09

Consultation plan

Planning for the consultation and communication around the various aspects of this 3 year project include:

- A briefing opportunity for Councillors;
- On-site information sessions for local residents and community groups;
- Information provided to local precinct and interest groups; and
- Council-wide communication through the Mayor's column, news releases, Council's website and Community Newsletter.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 2: A Vibrant and Diverse Community.

Direction 2(b): Enrich our range of community services that meet 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

The NSW Government has provided \$211,700 for this 3-year project. Council's contribution is provided through Randwick's environmental levy budgeted programs including Council's annual Eco Living Fair, Sustainable Living Courses and Community Gardens budget.

Conclusion

This long term externally funded project enables the further development of the Randwick Community Centre as a well used community facility and provides a strong link between the Centre and the soon to be completed environmental park.

The project provides a positive opportunity for Council to strengthen and showcase it's leadership in sustainability through the application of state of the art sustainability programs and projects within and external to the Community Centre buildings.

Recommendation

That:

- a) the report be received and noted; and
- b) a presentation on the elements of the project be provided during the June briefings to Councillors.

Attachment/s:

Nil

Environment Report No. E14/09



Subject: Randwick's Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Planning

Folder No: F2009/00068

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report provides an update on the Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Plan being prepared for Randwick by GHD Consultants through an externally funded grants program.

Issues

Over the past 2 months Council staff have been participating in workshops to assist in the preparation of Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Plans for Randwick.

Just over 30 such plans have been funded by the Commonwealth Government around Australia.

The risk analysis to date indicates priority issues for Randwick revolve around possible impacts on service delivery and infrastructure damage primarily from increased frequencies of heatwave conditions and storm events, combined with storm surges and influenced by rising sea levels. The potential risks and possible responses to the circumstances which might arise from climate change in Randwick over the next 20 to 30 years indicate drainage infrastructure and planning controls are likely to be priority areas for decision over coming decades.

While planning decisions and controls should be led by the NSW Government, Council will be required to take into account added risks and responsibilities likely from the impacts of climate change over the years in its strategic planning and asset planning management. Consideration of potential flooding issues and infrastructure preparation or replacement are already featuring in City Service planning but are likely to require new investment or decision priorities over the short and longer term. These responses will also need to be considered and / or incorporated in strategic planning and related decision-making processes of Council.

With the risk and adaptation plans still being finalised it may be appropriate for the consultants from GHD to provide Council with a brief overview of the findings and possible responses that may be required for the Randwick into the future.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

Direction 10(a): Council is a leader in fostering sustainability behaviours.

Financial impact statement

The Commonwealth Department of Climate Change provided \$50,000 for the completion of these two plans for Council as part of the Local Pathways and Adaptation funding program.

E14/09

Conclusion

A number of studies have been completed recently on possible climate change impacts across the Sydney Metropolitan Region, but this is the first specific examination of climate change risks and possible responses for Randwick City itself. Although the full range of expected climate change impacts will not necessarily manifest themselves specifically across the City, it would seem probably that more frequent or more intense storm events may represent the most likely climate change impacts for consideration by Council.

Recommendation

That:

- a) the report be received and noted; and
- b) a presentation on the main findings of the two Plans be provided at a Councillors' briefing.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E14/09

Environment Report No. E15/09



Subject: Council's continuing participation in the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program

Folder No: F2005/00324

Author: Bronwyn Englaro, Senior Sustainability Officer and Peter Maganov, Manager, Sustainability

Introduction

This report seeks Council's endorsement to continue with ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program.

Issues

On 18 May, 2009, ICLEI's Chief Executive Officer wrote to all Councils advising them that Commonwealth funding for the local Government Cities for Climate Protection Program has been discontinued.

The CCP Program has been going since 1997 and has led the process by which local Councils accounted for and to some extent implemented programs to reduce energy usage and emissions of greenhouse gases from Council operations.

Through a strong set of progress milestones Councils were able to follow the model developed by ICLEI, learn from information and tools provided by the organisation's experience across local government and highlight successes achieved with their local communities.

ICLEI has reviewed its CCP Program and is requesting local Councils agree to join its new Cities for Climate Protection Partners Program for an annual fee of \$3,500. The new charge will give Councils access to a new website developed specifically for CCP Councils. A range of other support activities and materials will also be provided to subscribing Councils.

It is proposed that Council subscribe to the new service on a one year basis and report back on the benefits from Council's involvement prior to continuing with the annual charge

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

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

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

Financial impact statement

The \$3,500 cost of subscribing to the CCP Partners Program will be funded from the Climate Change budget of the environmental levy program.

E15/09

Conclusion

Council has gained some benefit from its participation in the CCP Program and is about to complete the final milestone (M5) of the program. It would be unfortunate after the investment made in completing milestones 1 – 4 to miss out on completing the CCP program.

Recommendation

That Council agree to join the Cities for Climate Protection Partners Program for an initial 12 month period.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E15/09