

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2009

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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, 1 December 2009 at 6:00pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor, J Procopiadis, Andrews, Belleli, Hughes (Deputy Chairperson), Matson (Chairperson), Notley-Smith, 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 November 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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E27/09	Proposal to establish list of water and energy suppliers for use by Randwick residents as the follow up to Randwick's residential rebates	1

Closed Session

Nil

Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

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Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E26/09



Subject: Extending GoGet Community Carshare vehicles in Randwick via Council's Sustainable Transport project

Folder No: F2005/00230

Author: Tony Lehmann, Manager Integrated Transport

Introduction

This report provides an update on the usage of Go Get car share vehicles in Randwick and advice on the extension of community car share arrangements for Randwick residents through Council's Sustainable Transport project funded by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Issues

In 2006, Council approved the commencement of a community car share operation in Randwick with GoGet Carshare (Mayor's Minute 75/2006 refers). Randwick's support was initially for a two-year period, covering 1.5 vehicles. Since then, GoGet has expanded its network in the Randwick LGA and now has seven vehicles across the city. Since the last update to Council, there has been an increase from 105 members to 213 members in Randwick, 96 percent are residents.

The recent update from GoGet shows the vehicles are well utilised by residents, having travelled almost 98,000 kilometres over the past 12 months. Estimates show car share usage has contributed to CO₂ reductions of 56 tonnes over the 12 months and have freed up approximately 42 car parking spaces (one car share vehicle takes 7 single owner vehicles off the road).

Community members pay a joining fee and an hourly rate for use of the vehicles which they book on-line through the GoGet website. Running costs, maintenance and insurance are paid by GoGet Carshare. Council supports usage and access to the car share vehicles through promotion and communication to residents.

Through Randwick's Sustainable Transport project funded by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), the number of community car share vehicles will be extended across Randwick by 4 vehicles, 2 funded by Randwick and 2 funded by GoGet. As with the previous arrangements, the vehicles funded by Council will enable credits to be available to the value of \$10,800 per vehicle for staff to use during the 12 month period.

GoGet Carshare will be holding a special community event for its members at The Ritz Cinema on Wednesday December 9 and will be announcing the new arrangements with Randwick Council at this event. Councillors will be invited to attend which will include a special showing of the locally made documentary, "The Futuremakers".

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 9: Integrated and Accessible Transport.
Direction 9b: The community is informed, educated and encouraged to use sustainable transport.

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Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

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

Direction 10g: Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

Financial impact statement

The cost of supporting 2 out of the 4 additional community car share vehicles is \$14,400. This will be funded from the DECCW grant paid to Council for the implementation of sustainable transportation projects. Driving credits will be provided back to Council to the value of \$21,600 over the 12 month period.

Conclusion

Go Get Carshare has an extensive range of community car share vehicles now available across more than 20 local government areas in Sydney and Melbourne. This current proposal enables funding from the DECCW project to provide an additional 4 car share vehicles for residents at the same time as providing Council staff access to the car share vehicles for a 12 month period at no additional cost.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E27/09



Subject: Proposal to establish list of water and energy suppliers for use by Randwick residents as the follow up to Randwick's residential rebates

Folder No: F2005/00230

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report seeks Council's approval for a range of measures to follow up the previous energy and water saving rebate program provided by Council for Randwick residents.

Issues

Council's previous experience in conducting householder rebate programs identified a continuing gaps for residents contemplating the installation of new energy and water saving measures around the home. These gaps included:

- ready access to suitably qualified and experienced installers of various energy and water saving devices;
- ensuring these businesses or installers were able to assist residents in accessing the various energy and water saving rebates available for householders; and
- ensuring businesses or installers were able to sufficiently inform householders on the environmental benefits and options available to achieve energy and water savings around the home.

To respond to these gaps, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra staff have been investigating opportunities aimed at facilitating an increased take up of energy and water saving measures around the home by connecting interested householders directly to experienced suppliers of these systems.

In the first instance, it is proposed that this joint initiative will focus on increasing the installation and take up of solar hotwater systems since such changeovers attract substantial financial savings for the householder (up to 30 percent of their overall energy bill) and attract significant financial incentives (particularly changing over from existing electric hotwater systems).

It is intended to widen this initiative to cover other energy and water saving measures including rainwater and greywater systems, energy efficient downlights, energy saving appliances etc using solar hotwater installations as the first stage. A target of 1000 new solar hotwater systems is proposed across the 3 Council areas.

To deliver this outcome as part of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project an expression of interest process will be established enabling suitably experienced and qualified suppliers or tradespeople who, subject to satisfying specific criteria and conditions, will be promoted to residents of the 3 Councils, in the first instance, for the supply of solar hotwater systems, but extended to other energy and water saving systems at a later date.

Successful businesses will have to sign agreements to abide by the conditions and criteria set by the Councils and will be subject to ongoing scrutiny to ensure ongoing compliance and completion of works to the satisfaction of residents. Failure to adhere

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to the standards set will result in the business being removed from the Councils' list promoted to residents.

The marketing and promotion to residents would include appropriate disclaimers to indemnify Council against any claims and all work carried out would be required to have the necessary warranties and insurances by the qualified tradespeople. The primary purpose of this initiative is to assist householders more readily access businesses capable of carrying out the installation of solar hotwater and can provide assistance and expertise in receiving rebates or other discounts.

Feedback will be sought from residents on the installation carried out to ensure work was completed to their satisfaction. A temporary project officer to develop and coordinate this initiative will be established within the budget available through the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project. Special discounts and offers will be provided during peak events such as World Environment Day or Council's Eco Living Fair.

It is expected to commence this initiative by April 2010 and complete it prior to May 2011 when the 3-Council project concludes. Update reports will be provided to Council on a quarterly basis.

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 environmentally sustainable practices.

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

Financial impact statement

Approximately \$110,000 will be sought for this initiative through the budget provided in the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project. The breakdown of this budget includes:

- Temporary project officer (approx. \$70,000);
- Developing the Expression of Interest process for suppliers and website tool (approx. \$25,000);
- Advertising and promotion (approx \$15,000).

A further \$15,000 will be provided from Council's environmental levy program for specific incentives, special offers or discounts to Randwick residents during major events such as Earth Hour, Earth Day or World Environment Day.

Conclusion

A key gap found in the provision of rebates was the research required as householders sought quotes from reputable, qualified and experienced tradespeople who were also able to explain and assist the householder with rebates, compliance with building or regulatory requirements and advice on the environmental benefits of the options available to residents. Rather than Council undertake this role it is more appropriate for Council to establish processes enabling direct contact between experienced suppliers and interested householders

Once this system has been tested and refined around the installation of solar hotwater systems this program will be extended to other energy and water saving measures where rebates apply.

Recommendation

That Council approves:

- a) development of an appropriate expression of interest process across Randwick for residents to access experienced, reputable and qualified providers of energy and water saving devices around the home starting with solar hotwater providers;
- b) signing of appropriate agreements with suppliers and installers meeting Council's criteria and conditions with Randwick City Council as authorised by the General Manager;
- c) on completion of the EOI process and signing of agreements with suitable providers, approval to display suitably qualified and experienced suppliers and installers via Council's website and www.reduceyourfootprint.com.au; and
- d) regular updates on the progress of this initiative be provided to Council.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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