

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2010

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



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, 12 October 2010 at 6:00pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor (M Matson), Belleli, Hughes (Chairperson), Matthews, Smith, Tracey, White and Woodsmith (Deputy Chairperson).

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 September 2010

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Urgent Business

Greening Randwick Reports

Nil

Environment Reports

E21/10	Strategic Waste Management - Status of current and future waste management issues for Randwick City	1
E22/10	Corporate volunteers assisting Council's sustainability efforts at Yarra Bay	5
E23/10	Extending Council's Best Gift in the World initiative across the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project.....	7
E24/10	Sustainable Leadership course completed in Randwick	9

Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

.....
Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E21/10



Subject: Strategic Waste Management - Status of current and future waste management issues for Randwick City

Folder No: F2007/00474

Author: Talebul Islam, Coordinator Strategic Waste

Introduction

This report provides an overview of current and future waste management issues facing Randwick City.

Issues

All NSW Councils subject to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) legislation are required to meet a 66% waste reduction target by 2014. Monitoring and reporting of Randwick City Council's current waste avoidance results indicates the following:

1. Volumes of waste and recycling

Total waste to landfill from Randwick is approximately based around 33,000 tonnes per annum.

Randwick's waste diversion from landfill is around 38% (representing a current volume of just over 20,000 tonnes) made up of:

Dry recycling (yellow lid bins) diverting approx.	14,000 tonnes annually
Green waste (green lid bins) diverting approx.	6,000 tonnes annually
Other sources diverting approx.	1,000 tonnes annually

In order to meet the NSW Government waste reduction target an additional 14,000 tonnes of waste will be required to be diverted through programs at Randwick within four (4) years, equivalent to an increased waste diversion rate of around 28%.

2. Costs of waste disposal

Council's current waste disposal costs are in the order of \$5M annually comprising a \$150 per tonne disposal cost with an anticipated projection to \$180 per tonne by 2012. The current non-contract disposal cost is \$229.65 per tonne, anticipated to increase to more than \$300 per tonne in 2012.

By 2012, when Council's current waste disposal contract expires it is expected Council will be required to fund an additional \$5M per annum to cover projected additional disposal costs (based on current tonnages). The total waste disposal cost by 2012 is expected to be in the order of \$10M.

3. Availability of landfill space

Over past years, the NSW Government has completed a number of analyses and reports establishing a gradual but definite decline in landfill capacity due to the high volumes of waste material going to landfill and no new landfill approval granted in the Sydney Region. This decline in landfill capacity is being reflected in the projected increased cost for local government to dispose at these available landfill sites.

E21/10

4. Imminent sale of WSN Environmental Solutions

Both the transfer station and the landfill currently utilised by Randwick City Council are owned by WSN Environmental Solutions. Sales of WSN and these assets is likely to result in control by a new waste industry organisation with no guarantee of existing fee structures, management of wastes at current agreement levels, or access by Randwick City Council into the future without substantial re-negotiation. This uncertainty is likely to amplify a number of the potential issues raised above as a new business plan of a new owner will have implications for all local Council users of the waste disposal service.

5. Response options and opportunities

Council's waste disposal costs are expected to almost double by the time our current waste disposal contract expires in 2 years. Increased funding to meet these increased disposal costs may also need to reflect additional investment in waste management programs to ensure Council achieves the required waste reduction target of 66% from its existing diversion rate of 38%.

At the same time, landfill capacity at currently available sites is set to expire within approximately five (5) years placing additional pressures on costs and options for Council.

All Councils in NSW are considering new technologies and ways forward to satisfy compliance with legislative requirements, community expectations and additional waste disposal costs over the next few years. Randwick City Council is already investigating options and opportunities to plan for these substantial waste management challenges. Solutions are likely to include major collaborations between Councils.

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(b): Environmental risks and impacts are strategically managed.

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

Financial impact statement

The financial implications of future options will be reported to Council on a regular basis.

Conclusion

A strategic approach to waste management requires a long term and short term understanding and resolution of waste issues. The future challenges for Randwick are almost certainly similar to issues faced by most NSW Councils and by local government around Australia. Long term planning, budgeting and investment are likely to form the basis for addressing these issues into the future. Council will be kept informed of solutions and responses considered for Randwick and its community.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E21/10

Environment Report No. E22/10



Subject: Corporate volunteers assisting Council's sustainability efforts at Yarra Bay

Folder No: F2004/08268

Author: Bettina Digby, Supervisor Bushland and Nursery; Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report seeks to inform Council of corporate volunteers from ACE Insurance in North Sydney assisting our sustainability and bushland efforts at Bicentennial Park, Yarra Bay in October 2010.

Issues

Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB NSW) has contacted Council about an offer to link with a corporate volunteerism project with ACE Insurance based in North Sydney. ACE Insurance is a Fortune 500 company formed in 1985 with 15,000 staff working across 50 countries globally. They have a corporate volunteer scheme allowing staff to assist in community projects each year.

The offer, via KAB NSW, is for 75 staff from ACE Insurance to come along to a site at Bicentennial Park, Yarra Bay to assist in weed control, site preparation and planting of native plants from our Community Nursery. Their efforts will be coordinated and supervised by Council's Bushland team. The volunteers will be on site on Friday, 22 October 2010. All insurances, costs and staff time are covered by ACE Insurance themselves.

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.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter and, in fact, based on a conservative volunteer's rate of \$20 per hour, this level of corporate involvement will contribute more than \$10,000 for the benefit of Randwick and its community.

Conclusion

Accessing and coordinating volunteers is often difficult due to the time involved in creating, coordinating and managing projects for volunteers to be involved. However, once organised, the additional input can substantially boost progress on unfunded projects or programs. This is a generous contribution from ACE Insurance.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

E22/10

Attachment/s:

Nil

E22/10

Environment Report No. E23/10



Subject: Extending Council's Best Gift in the World initiative across the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project

Folder No: F2008/00579

Author: Richard Wilson, Ecological Footprint Project Officer

Introduction

This report outlines the continuation of Council's "Best Gift in the World" initiative across the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project in the lead up to Christmas 2010.

Issues

In 2008, Randwick City Council conducted a campaign in the lead up to Christmas as a means of encouraging Randwick householders to consider a range of 'green' gift ideas that helped protect the environment. This "Best Gift in the World" campaign promoted free energy audits, compost bins and worm farms, solar products and water saving devices, as well as gifts out of the Christmas catalogues for World Vision, Care and Oxfam Australia. The campaign worked in conjunction with a number of companies that also offered special discounts to residents in the lead up to Christmas.

As part of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils, the Best Gift in the World Christmas campaign is being extended to residents across the Eastern suburbs in the lead up to Christmas 2010. This year's campaign will build on existing initiatives including compost bins and worm farms for residents, and the Go Solar campaign encouraging solar hotwater and solar panel systems for householders but will also include car share membership, access to food cooperative vegie boxes and continue with the promotion of catalogue items assisting developing countries.

The campaign is planned to be launched in an event at Dunningham Reserve with Councillors from each of the 3 Councils on Wednesday, 27 October 2010. The event will be a special "environmental sculptures by the sea" utilising the items available to eastern suburban householders.

The purpose of the campaign is, primarily, to encourage householders to consider making 'greener' purchasing decisions in the Christmas period, with a focus on considering gifts that last and contribute to longterm environmental outcomes. This is particularly relevant to easing each householders 'ecological footprint' as the 3 Council Ecological Footprint project draws to a close early next year.

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(e): Our community is encouraged to implement waste minimisation strategies.
- Direction 10(f): A total water cycle management approach is adopted.
- Direction 10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

E23/10

Financial impact statement

Campaign and promotional costs of approximately \$15,000 are funded through the communications budget of the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project.

Conclusion

The Best Gift in the World Christmas campaign provides a good opportunity for a combined initiative across the 3 Council areas to encourage householders to consider the purchase of items that contribute to stronger and potentially positive environmental outcomes that extend beyond the festive season.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E23/10

Environment Report No. E24/10



Subject: Sustainable Leadership course completed in Randwick
Folder No: F2010/00241
Author: Fiona Campbell, Sustainability Education Officer

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the very successful Sustainable Leadership course completed in Randwick

Issues

Randwick Council's various courses on sustainability over the past few years have been increasing the capacity and confidence of residents and community members not only in how they make their own individual changes to be more sustainable but in how they are willing to contribute to increasing sustainability outcomes around the homes, with neighbours, in their workplace, schools etc.

The level of interest in new programs such as the community "Sustainability Street" programs is an example of how residents are branching out themselves to become advocates for sustainability in their own neighbourhoods.

This, in turn, has led to an increasing interest in a new level of training and mentorship on sustainable leadership and engaging more widely with other areas of the community. In response to this increasing demand, Council's sustainability education efforts have included a Sustainability Leadership course focusing on developing community participation and "futures" thinking on sustainability.

More than 20 people representing climate change community organisations, sustainability street members, individuals from community garden and permaculture groups as well as participants from previous sustainable living courses attended this inaugural sustainable leadership course held over 4 weekends during September. The course was facilitated by external experts who contributed to the development and expansion of ideas and skills with the course participants.

Feedback and evaluations indicated a strong appreciation and value from this new form of training course. An additional course is expected to be presented during 2011 building on the results of this inaugural leadership program.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.
Outcome 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 course was provided free to residents with costs of approximately \$3,000 (primarily for the involvement of expert and specialist presenters and facilitators) borne through the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project.

E24/10

Conclusion

The increasing willingness, capacity and confidence of community members to take important sustainability messages and behavioural changes into their own networks and communities is an indication that Council's sustainability courses and workshops are creating beneficial multiplier effects that are showing wider positive results across the Randwick community. This has been particularly borne out in the formal evaluation carried out of our "Living Smart" sustainable living courses.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

E24/10