

# **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

## **BUSINESS PAPER**

**TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2013**

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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, 12 February 2013 at 6:00.

Committee Members: The Mayor (T Bowen), D'Souza, Matson (Deputy Chairperson), Moore, Nash, Neilson, Roberts, Seng & Shurey (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 - 4 December 2012

### 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

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Ray Brownlee  
**GENERAL MANAGER**



## Environment Report No. E1/13



**Subject:** Randwick's Coastal and Marine Adventure Program 2013

**Folder No:** F2012/00568

**Author:** Helen Morrison, Sustainability Project Officer

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### Introduction

Randwick's Coastal and Marine Adventure Program, formerly Randwick's Summer Activities Program, is now in its eighth year. The 2013 program was held over two weeks, from 10 to 12 January and 14 to 17 January.

The program included a range of free and affordable activities aimed at helping families and children of all ages discover for themselves Randwick's unique marine and coastal environment, helping to develop awareness and understanding of our shared responsibility of protecting our fragile coast.

In the process of learning, participants are able to enjoy the recreational opportunities that our local coastal environment affords. The program is open to people of all ages and levels of fitness. Families with children ranging from 8 to 16 years attended the 2013 Coastal and Marine Adventure Program. A total of 459 participants attended fifteen activities with thirty three different sessions on offer.

### Issues

Council's summer program has become extremely popular and successful as it provides participants with a unique opportunity to discover our marine and coastal environment with marine specialists and experts. The range of activities included snorkelling, coastal walks and talks, learning to surf, learning about tides and rips, sustainable fishing clinics, sea kayaking and visits to Cooks Landing at Kamay beach via boat trips from La Perouse.

The 2013 program focused on five of Randwick's unique beach precincts: Clovelly, Coogee, Maroubra, Malabar/ Little Bay and La Perouse. Each activity is tailored to the particular coastal environment and is reinforced with the local conservation messages delivered by the various marine and coastal experts and contractors engaged. A small cost per person was charged where equipment was required; otherwise activities were generally free of charge. Bookings are required due to the popularity of the program. One day of the 2013 program was cancelled due to unfavourable weather conditions.

Additional benefits were available to residents who participated in the summer program including:

- a visit to the La Perouse Museum on any weekend during January 2012 free of charge; and
- a visit to the Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi for a discounted family entrance fee of \$10 instead of \$25.

As well as Council's own promotion, our program was supported by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group.

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## 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 communities needs.

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

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

## Financial impact statement

The cost to conduct our January Marine and Coastal Adventure Program is approximately \$20,000 and is paid from the Community Education budget of Council's environmental levy program.

## Conclusion

The Marine and Coastal Adventure program continues to gain in popularity. Additional benefits of the program include the fostering of stronger relationships between the community and the Council, local organisations who are involved and our specialist and expert contractor's e.g. marine experts from UNSW, local surf life saving clubs, National Parks and Wildlife Services and local businesses.

## Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

## Attachment/s:

1. Short video presentation and overview on Council's Marine and Coastal adventure Program - at the commencement of the Committee Meeting

## Environment Report No. E2/13



**Subject:** Supporting Sea Week 2013 in  
Randwick for residents and students  
of Randwick schools

**Folder No:** F2011/00497

**Author:** Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

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### Introduction

As part of Council's comprehensive sustainability education program, a range of educational activities focus on increasing our community's understanding and appreciation of our marine and coastal environment.

It is proposed to provide additional educational opportunities for our residents and students of our local schools during National Sea Week, being held from March 3 to March 9, 2013.

### Issues

National Sea Week is held each year in the first week of March to increase community conservation efforts for our marine environment and the creatures living within our oceans and seas. This year's Sea Week is being held from March 3 to March 9 with a theme of "Sustainable Seas".

Following the success of Council's Marine and Coastal Adventure Program in January, it is proposed to provide additional learning activities and opportunities for students of Randwick schools, their families and residents to support marine and coastal conservation as schools return in Term 1.

#### **Marine Discovery Centre, Bondi**

One of the prime marine and coastal learning centres for metropolitan Sydney is the Marine Discovery Centre at Bondi Pavilion. Marine biologists located at the Marine Discovery Centre run a number of Randwick's summer program activities as well as those for other Councils. They have a small but very effective learning centre at Bondi visited by many individuals and school groups throughout the year.

It is proposed to provide a capped subsidy for students of local schools and for Randwick residents to visit the Centre, enabling them to access the facilities and learning opportunities provided at the Marine Discovery Centre. For a capped amount of \$3,000 for 2013, the Centre would provide a 50% discount to Randwick residents (proof required). This offer has already been provided for Waverley and Woollahra residents. As part of this contribution, local schools would also get 30% off the per student cost of visiting the Marine Discovery Centre with their school.

The Marine Discovery Centre would keep a record of local schools and residents taking up this offer for the purposes of evaluating the result of this special offer. This offer would be promoted as part of the Sea Week celebrations but remain open to Randwick families and schools throughout the year.

#### **Science of the Surf presentations, UNSW**

Dr Rob Brander from the University of NSW is one of Australia's leading experts on rips, tides and surf conditions and for many years now has provided very popular

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presentations as part of our summer program at a number of the local surf lifesaving clubs and Bowen Library.

Although he has teaching commitments at UNSW during Sea Week, Dr Brander has agreed to take his science of the surf presentation and video into a number of our local schools as part of our Sea Week initiative.

It is proposed to promote and book his presentations into a number of local schools during Sea Week at a total cost of approximately \$1,500 (excl GST)

### **Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.

Direction 3(a): 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 cost of this initiative to strengthen our marine and coastal conservation message during Sea Week 2013 is \$4,500. This would be payable through the community education budget of the environmental levy program.

### **Conclusion**

Randwick City enjoys a unique coastal and marine environment which features in the minds of most of our residents and visitors to the City. Our Sea Week 2013 initiative continues to support a more comprehensive understanding and appreciation of this environment for different sections of our diverse community.

### **Recommendation**

That Council supports the allocation of \$4,500 from the community education budget of the environmental levy program, including \$3,000 to facilitate school and residents' visits to the Marine Discovery Centre Bondi and \$1,500 for schools to have the popular Science of the Surf presentation during Sea Week 2013.

### **Attachment/s:**

Nil

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## Environment Report No. E3/13



**Subject:** Supporting Earth Hour 2013 with local cafes and restaurants

**Folder No:** F2010/00153

**Author:** Helen Morrison, Sustainability Project Officer

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### Introduction

Now in its sixth year, the annual Earth Hour event is being held on Saturday, 23 March. The purpose of Earth Hour is to encourage communities, businesses and governments to reduce their energy use and their environmental impact on the Planet.

Earth Hour is now an international event, celebrated and supported by almost 7,000 cities and towns in 152 countries and territories. Much more than just its original campaign of switching off lights for an hour, Earth Hour now campaigns for individuals and organisations to commit themselves to specific environmental initiatives with measurable outcomes which may commence on Earth Hour but extend well beyond the event.

This paper outlines Randwick Council's initiative in 2013 to support this worthwhile environmental event.

### Issues

Council has actively supported each Earth Hour event since it commenced, originally by hosting the Earth Hour Ambassador at a specially convened Earth Hour forum at the University of NSW and since then by showcasing environmental initiatives at Council sites, particularly our Works Depot where a number of major energy and water saving projects have been completed.

Council's efforts for Earth Hour have always supported the approach that every hour is Earth Hour in Randwick with initiatives aimed to extend well beyond the original concept of an organisation turning its lights off for an hour. In 2013, Council will be working with local cafes and restaurants encouraging them to support and spread the Earth Hour message.

The Randwick event will see Council writing to all 700 cafés and restaurants across the City inviting them where practicable to provide a unique, low-energy, candlelit dining experience for their patrons on the night. This Earth Hour initiative will allow participating businesses to benefit by sending a strong environmental message to their customers and provide them a unique marketing opportunity in support of this high profile international event. Participating businesses who register their support and involvement will be listed in a Council paid advertisement in the Southern Courier newspaper, as well as published on Council's website and social media platforms ahead of the Earth Hour evening.

An added benefit provided by Council for 5 of the participating cafés and restaurants will be an opportunity to win an environmental audit for their business valued at \$500. This will be supported by our existing Sustainable Business Audit Program through the 3-Council Ecological Footprint project which assists businesses take action to reduce their water and energy consumption.

## 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(f): Implement projects to conserve potable water.

Direction 10(g): Implement projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy.

## Financial impact statement

It is proposed to allocate \$6,000 for this program of supporting local business involvement and participation in Earth Hour, paid through the Community Education budget of the Environmental Levy program.

## Conclusion

Council's support of Earth Hour confirms Randwick's existing commitment to reducing both our carbon and ecological footprints and to work with local community organisations, schools and businesses as well as demonstrating sustainability leadership amongst local Councils in Australia.

## Recommendation

That Council endorses the initiative to support Earth Hour with the program of inviting participation from our local cafes and restaurants.

## Attachment/s:

Nil

## Environment Report No. E4/13



**Subject:** Update on Council's Solar Energy Projects  
**Folder No:** F2012/00581  
**Author:** Choonghan Yeo, Sustainability Projects Officer

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### Introduction

This report seek to provide an update of solar energy projects proposed as part of Council's plan to increase it's renewable energy generation and efforts aimed at reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

### Issues

As part of Council's plan to progressively increase its renewable energy generation, two solar photovoltaic (PV) projects have been approved for installation at Bowen Library and the Des Renford Leisure Centre. These two solar PV systems have a combined capacity of 60 kilowatts (kW), almost doubling Council's current renewable energy capacity, from 73 kilowatts to 133 kilowatts.

The systems are estimated to generate around 92,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy, providing cost savings in the order of \$21,000 per annum and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by around 101 tonnes each year. The estimated payback period for each system is approximately 7 years.

In addition, as part of the upgrade of amenities in the Des Renford Leisure Centre, a new solar hotwater system will be installed. The solar hotwater system is expected to provide approximately 1,600 litres of hotwater a day with an annual gas saving of 81,693 megajoules (MJ) or cost savings of around \$1,700 per year. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 7 tonnes per year. The payback period for this system is approximately 6 years.

### Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.  
Direction 10(g): Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

### Financial impact statement

The cost of the two solar photovoltaic systems at Des Renford Aquatic Centre and Bowen Library are in the order of \$171,000 (excl GST). The cost of the solar hotwater system is approximately \$40,000 (excl GST). A funding application has been submitted for the solar hotwater system to the Commonwealth's Local Government Energy Efficiency grants program. If successful, funds would be able to provide up to 60 percent of our project cost. The funds for these systems are being paid from the Climate Change budget of the Environmental Levy program.

### Conclusion

The installation of these two new solar PV systems and the solar hotwater system will help Council save approximately \$22,000 per year and reduce greenhouse gas

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emissions by around 108 tonnes annually. Expanding renewable energy generation at Council sites demonstrates Council's commitment to reducing energy consumption and our greenhouse gas emissions. Promotion of these initiatives will also raise awareness amongst local residents of the benefits and savings which can still be made in our ongoing implementation of renewable energy programs and initiatives.

**Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

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## Environment Report No. E5/13



**Subject:** Term 1 Sustainability courses, workshops and opportunities for residents

**Folder No:** F2010/00241

**Author:** Fiona Campbell, Sustainability Education Officer

### Introduction

As part of Randwick's environmental levy program, Council is required to deliver a range of environmental education activities aimed at facilitating sustainability behavioural change across different sectors of our community. As our community education program later in the year includes a wide range of sustainability events and activities, there is an emphasis in the first half of the year on training courses and workshops for our residents to attend. These workshops and courses are provided free-of-charge through the environmental levy program.

This paper aims to provide an overview of Council's sustainability education courses, workshops and learning opportunities for residents in Term 1, 2013.

### Issues

Randwick's sustainability education program continues to attract widespread enthusiasm and involvement of its residents. Courses are run primarily at Randwick Community Centre and Barrett House with a number of specific sessions at the Community Nursery and Bowen Library. The Term 1 program includes:

Workshop / course / activity	Duration	Starting from
Organic gardening	6 sessions	Mon, 4 Feb
Creating habitat	1 session	Wed, 6 Feb
Reinvigorating your community group	1 session	Sat, 9 Feb
Bicycle maintenance	1 session	Sat, 9 Feb
Sustainable Living (Living Smart)	6 sessions	Sat, 9 Feb
Eco Schools course for parents and teachers	6 sessions	Wed, 27 Feb
Introduction to Permaculture	2 sessions	Wed, 6 March
Save energy	2 sessions	Wed, 27 March
'Permabee' volunteers working bee at Randwick Community Centre	Monthly	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month
Barrett House Open morning	Monthly	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of month

### 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): A leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

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**Financial impact statement**

Workshop materials and additional presenters for Council's sustainable education program for Term 1 is approximately \$11,000, funded from the community education budget of the environmental levy program.

**Conclusion**

Randwick's sustainability education program reaches more than 500 residents directly each year, but importantly builds confidence, understanding and behavioural change that extends well beyond this number to the families, friends, community networks and work colleagues of these participants. Evaluations completed after each course and annually of these programs continue to show a very positive response and value for the community.

**Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

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