

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 14 MAY 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, 14 May 2013 at 6:00 p.m..

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 - 9 April 2013

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Privacy warning:

In respect to Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act, members of the public are advised that the proceedings of this meeting will be recorded for the purposes of clause 66 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

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. E9/13



Subject: Community carshare update and requirement for parking permits for these vehicles

Folder No: F2009/00508

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This report is updating the use, by residents, of the community car share vehicles in Randwick and proposing that car share vehicles be required to pay a one-off charge for each new vehicle installed across the City from July 1, 2013 (Notice of Motion 51/13, Cr Smith refers).

Issues

Background

Randwick Council was an early supporter of community carshare vehicles for residents providing support for four vehicles for local residents late in 2006 (MM 75 / 2006 refers). The main advantage for residents in choosing to join a community car share scheme is the opportunity to reduce household vehicle ownership and reduce the pressure on the available on-street parking spaces.

Regular surveys of car share members have established that:

- 51 percent do not own a vehicle at all
- 74 percent would purchase a vehicle if they did not have access to, or were not using the car share vehicles
- 63 percent would need to park a vehicle on their street if they owned a vehicle
- 85 percent of car share vehicles in Randwick are used for short distance trips.

Current numbers

On the basis of the current membership numbers, the physical reduction of private vehicles in Randwick as of February 2013 is equivalent to:

- 933 fewer vehicles owned by Randwick residents; and
- 844 fewer vehicles parked on Randwick streets.

Current trends in car share usage in Randwick are reflected below:

	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb 2013
Total number of car share vehicles	55	65	66
No. of trips under 50 kilometres	1,135	1,140	1,165
Corporate members:	130	140	140
Residential members:	953	1082	1121
Total membership	1083	1222	1261

New charge for community car share vehicles

In line with the increased utilisation of available parking spaces across the City, a new charge will become applicable for community car share vehicles installed across Randwick from July 1, 2013. This charge will see car share operators pay a one-off

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fee of \$750 for each new car share vehicle located within the City. The charge reflects the cost of consultation and installing the parking space for the car share vehicle.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 9: Integrated and accessible transport.

Direction 9(b): The community is informed, educated and encouraged to use sustainable transport.

Direction 9(e): Parking is managed to balance convenience against reduced car reliance.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

Community car share has become an important choice for Randwick residents and has a substantial benefit for contributing to reduced parking and on road use by private vehicles. However, in light of the number of years car share has been supported and encouraged in Randwick it is also appropriate that the relevant car share vehicles operate consistently in regulated parking areas of the City.

Recommendation

That this report is received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E10/13



Subject: Seeking Council support for an initiative to encourage local cafes and restaurants to use environmentally sound, takeaway coffee cups

Folder No: F2004/07259

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

This purpose of this report is in response to part (c) of Council's resolution (Mayor, Cr Bowen) in relation to *"Reducing Street and Beach Litter in Randwick"* (MM 6/13 refers), that is, that Council agrees:

- a) agrees that Communications, Sustainability and Waste staff develop an ongoing and hard-hitting beach litter campaign to ensure our current education campaign is not just a one-off event and that the existing campaign is strengthened ahead of the next Summer season;
- b) agrees that Recycling and illegal dumping data is reported at least annually, with corresponding actions taken and their results identified, to inform Council of the progress in implementing our Litter and Illegal Dumping Management Plan;
- c) **that an initiative be developed that encourages our local cafes and restaurants to consider the use of environmentally sound, takeaway coffee cups that minimize long term impacts on our dwindling landfill space in NSW.**
- d) reiterates its previous resolutions supporting container deposit legislation.

Issues

Background

Estimates of takeaway coffee cups contribution to the waste and litter stream indicate more than 1 billion coffee cups are sent to landfill each year. Well over 90 percent of these takeaway coffee cups have a plastic lining which results in breakdown rates in landfills of many hundreds of years.

A more environmentally- responsible takeaway coffee cup made from completely renewable sources is available which includes an organic lining made from fermented cornstarch (PLA) with an accredited breakdown rate in landfill of around 90 days. The energy savings available for converting the current cup to the environmentally friendly renewable takeaway cup is equivalent to 41,800 barrels of oil annually or the electricity consumed by 85,000 householders per month.

Proposal

This initiative aims to work within a local precinct of Randwick to encourage smaller cafes and restaurants to consider making a change to the more environmentally friendly takeaway coffee cup. The area targeted for this campaign that combines a potentially high litter area and good number of cafes to work with is Coogee.

From discussions with a number of café owners and coffee suppliers, this campaign will compete with a regular discount or subsidy provided by suppliers and distributors

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to cafes when they buy both coffee and cups from the distributor. In almost all cases this discount gives the supplier or distributor the recognition of their coffee brand. It was initially considered to offer a local rebate to cafes equivalent to the changeover cost from the plastic lined coffee cup to the organic (PLA) lined takeaway cup (approximately 30 percent). However, Council's subsidy would be competing with those ongoing discounts and subsidies from suppliers and distributors. Discussions indicated a higher take-up is likely if there were a temporary distribution of free PLA lined takeaway coffee cups to cafes or restaurants for a set timeframe with appropriate environmental and Council messaging. This would be provided as an incentive to transitioning or changing over to these types of environmentally friendly takeaway coffee cups.

Methodology

The methodology and approach for this campaign would include:

- Seeking registration from interested cafes and restaurants and applying a criteria for their participation;
- Targeting those with a high turnover of takeaway coffees for customers and willing to transition to the environmentally friendly cups at their own cost;
- Focussing the distribution of these free cups to local cafes and restaurants around Spring and Summer or specific Council events when messages would be seen by a higher number of beach visitors and beachgoers;
- Limits to be placed on the number of environmentally friendly takeaway cups provided to the participating cafes and restaurants and the duration of the giveaway period;
- Evaluation of the campaign would be carried out to report on its effectiveness;
- There would be a strong communications element to the campaign to ensure a high level of understanding and education of café's participating and the community making the coffee purchases in the precinct.

This approach and communications will be converted into an overall marketing plan with Communications staff.

Cost

It is proposed to purchase the equivalent of 100,000 small and large sized coffee cups for distribution during Council's designated program at a cost of approximately \$18,000. A further \$4,500 will be allowed for marketing and communications.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

Direction 10(a): Council's programs and partnerships foster sustainable changes and outcomes.

Direction 10(b): Policies and programs are developed and implemented in response to environmental risks and their potential impacts.

Direction 10(c): Waste is managed sustainably to ensure the highest level of resource recovery.

Financial impact statement

The cost of this campaign is \$22,500 to be allocated from the community education budget of the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

Working with local businesses in Randwick on sustainability issues is a relatively new area for Council's environmental levy program and Sustaining our City initiative. Previous involvement has primarily been with medium to large businesses with the Business Water Audit program and through the Earth Hour event over the last two to three years. This campaign has a targeted approach with useful measures to monitor over its duration and results which are also likely to benefit a reduction in our litter and waste stream particularly in areas such as our beaches and parks.

Recommendation

That Council approves \$22,500 from the community education budget of the environmental levy program for the development and implementation of a campaign aimed at encouraging the use of environmentally friendly, takeaway coffee cups made from renewable materials and so reduce the impacts these cups have on the litter and waste stream.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E11/13



Subject: Randwick's 'Think, Act, Save' community environment campaign to coincide with World Environment Day, June 5, 2013.

Folder No: F2010/00241

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

To inform Council of Randwick's 'Think, Act, Save', community education campaign to coincide with World Environment Day, June 5, 2013.

Issues

World Environment Day is held each year on June 5, to raise awareness and invite community action on a range of important environmental issues. Although an international event, the Australian, State and Local levels of Government are encouraged to flexibly apply the theme to their own range of activities.

Council's message and campaign for this World Environment Day is, 'Think, Act, Save – Reduce your Footprint'. The idea behind this is to link the key messages of finding out and taking action or actions that contribute to saving money, helping protect the environment and conserve the natural resources we consume on a day to day basis.

The value in our 'Think, Act, Save' campaign is to keep this easy to remember message in the public eye on and around World Environment Day. Links and updates relevant to the events and actions individuals can be involved will be provided on Randwick Council's and the 3-Council's Ecological Footprint websites and social media platforms.

Events and activities promoted to the community as part of this campaign include:

May 11 – June 8 11am – 2pm	Free mulch for residents Randwick's Works Depot, Storey St Maroubra	Each Saturday between National Composting Week and World Environment Day, Randwick residents will be able to access free mulch from Randwick Works Depot in Maroubra
June 1 9am – 11.30am	Green Thumbs network meeting and workshop, Waverley Community Garden	Workshop to help community members build their own planter boxes (part of our 3-Council project)
June 5 7.30am – 9.00am (TBC)	Randwick TAFE World Environment Day Breakfast presentation – TAFE Auditorium via King Street Randwick	Guest presentation and discussion with tour of water saving measures at Randwick TAFE (Mayor invited)
June 5 6.30pm – 8.00pm	UNSW Great debate and discussion – Ritchie Hall, Scientia Building UNSW	Panel of expert presentations and Q & A at UNSW (Mayor invited)

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June 5 9.30am – 12.30pm	Seed savers workshop at Barrett House Randwick	Community workshop on how to collect seeds and propagate your own vegetables from seed collected (part of our 3-Council project)
June 11 3.30pm – 4.30pm	Best GRIN (Best Green Innovation) afternoon tea presentation with Mayor (Randwick Room)	Afternoon tea with the Mayor for Council's Best GRIN (Green Innovation) winners
June 12 6.30pm – 9.00pm	Interfaith and Cultural Community RESPECT Forum, Randwick Community Centre 27 Munda St Randwick	Community forum and launch of 'Golden Rule' resource, hosted by Council with Columban Mission Institutes, Peace, Ecology and Justice Centre
Month of June	La Perouse reCYCLES project	Council pick up of unwanted / unloved bicycles for recycling and repairing at Yarra Bay House, La Perouse

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

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's programs and partnerships foster sustainable behavioural changes and outcomes

Financial impact statement

Approximately \$4,500 has been allocated to publicize and promote the Council related events as listed above. These costs are being paid from the community education budget of our environmental levy program.

Conclusion

The comprehensive range of activities and events continue to demonstrate Council's commitment to informing and assisting our community take action to improve and protect our environment and conserve natural resources

Recommendation

That Council notes the range of events and activities brought together for World Environment Day, 2013 under Randwick's 'Think, Act, Save' community campaign.

Attachment/s:

Nil