

# **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

## **BUSINESS PAPER**

**TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 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, First Floor, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick, 30 Frances Street, Randwick, on Tuesday, 13 August 2013 at 6:00 pm.

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 – 14 May 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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| E12/13 | Sustaining our Food Future community event, Saturday, 24 August, 2013 ..... | 1 |
| E13/13 | Randwick Council's EcoLiving Fair, Sunday 15 September 2013 .....           | 3 |
| E14/13 | Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment Program update .....           | 5 |

### Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

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Ray Brownlee  
**GENERAL MANAGER**



## Environment Report No. E12/13



**Subject:** Sustaining our Food Future community event, Saturday, 24 August, 2013

**Folder No:** F2010/00241

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

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### Introduction

Advising Council of the Sustaining our Food Future community event being organised at the Randwick Community Centre on Saturday, 24 August 2013.

### Issues

Food sustainability is emerging as an important issue at the local, regional and national levels of government due to its wide implications in energy and water use, reducing waste and wider social issues related to health and nutrition.

Council is targeting this issue through policies and financial support for community and school food gardens, organizing workshops on reducing food waste, and facilitating fresh organic food pick up locations at Randwick Community Centre and Barrett House through our 3-Council Ecological Footprint project.

As part of the inaugural Fair Food Week being organised in August, a Sustaining our Food Future workshop is being held on Saturday, 24 August 2013 at the Randwick Community Centre. Costa Georgiadis from ABC's Gardening Australia has agreed to open and close the workshop which will facilitate a wide range of discussions around food sustainability, accessing local food produce, nutrition etc.

The program commences at 2pm with a number of hands on activities in Council's permaculture interpretive garden, facilitated discussions and concludes with a screening of a documentary on food sustainability around 7.30pm.

### Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 2: A vibrant and diverse community.
- Direction 2(a): Maintain a current understanding of our community's needs.
- 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's programs and partnerships foster sustainable behavioural changes and outcomes.

### Financial impact statement

An allocation of \$6,000 is being provided to cover the costs associated with the Sustaining our Food Future event at Randwick Community Centre payable from the Community Education program of the environmental levy budget.

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**Conclusion**

Food sustainability crosses over the environmental, economic and social issues related to sustainability and is emerging as an important focus for Council's sustainability program.

**Recommendation**

That Council endorses the Sustaining our Food Future workshop and community event being organised at the Randwick Community Centre on Saturday, 24 August 2013.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

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## Environment Report No. E13/13



**Subject:** Randwick Council's EcoLiving Fair,  
Sunday 15 September 2013

**Folder No:** F2013/00029

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

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### Introduction

Randwick Council's annual Eco Living Fair, now in its ninth year is a major fixture in Randwick's calendar of environmental events. It continues to be one of the largest and amongst the most successful environmental festival held across the Sydney metropolitan area attracting up to 6,000 residents and visitors.

The Eco Living Fair is being held at Randwick's sustainability education 'hub' at the Randwick Community Centre in Munda Street from 10.30am to 3.30pm on Sunday, 15 September 2013.

### Issues

This years Eco Living Fair includes a range of new and popular activities for local residents and their families. As well as outdoor stalls promising eco products from across the Eastern suburbs and wider Sydney region, there will be a range of family and children's entertainment, wildlife on display for youngsters to learn about the importance of biodiversity and sessions on how to save on householders' energy and water bills.

Following the success of last years event, there will be food demonstrations and discussion around sustainable food, and how to buy, store, grow and cook local produce and food and avoid the volumes of food waste going to landfill.

This year's Eco Living Fair includes walk-through rooms of a demonstration sustainability house with special tips and tours on saving energy by well known environmental educator and presenter Ms Lish Feyer. Residents will also be able to sign up on the day to initiatives supported by Council including the Compost Revolution and Green Money Recycling Rewards.

Other popular events on the day include Council's Garden Awards, cycling activities and free bicycle maintenance workshops, tours of the Randwick Environment Park and "ask the experts" sessions on attracting birds and lizards to backyards, keeping bees and chickens and sustainable composting.

### 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 meets our community 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 1(a): Council is a leader in fostering environmentally sustainable practices.

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**Financial impact statement**

An amount of \$50,000 has been allocated in the 2013-14 Budget for the annual Eco Living Fair, funded through the community education budget of the environmental levy program.

**Conclusion**

While there continues to be opportunities for local residents and their families to find out about actions they can take to help protect the environment, at the same time as saving money around the home, school and workplace, Randwick's Eco Living Fair aims to ensure a maximum level of fun and entertainment for the whole family.

**Recommendation**

Council endorses the program for Randwick's 2013 Eco Living Fair.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

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## Environment Report No. E14/13



**Subject:** Waste and Sustainability  
Improvement Payment Program  
update

**Folder No:** F2009/00496

**Author:** Talebul Islam, Coordinator Strategic Waste

### Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on NSW Government funding to Council under the State Government's Waste and Sustainability Improvement Program (WaSIP).

### Issues

Randwick Council has received \$856,800 in new WaSIP funding this year to undertake approved projects aimed at tackling recycling and resource recovery issues across the City. Approval has also been included for the completion and carry-over of \$229,000 of previous WaSIP projects.

The NSW Government has advised this is the final year of WaSIP funding, announcing it is being replaced with a new Waste Less, Recycle More (WLRM) initiative. This new initiative enables Local Councils to receive some guaranteed level of funding as well as apply for additional grants. There is a renewed focus on infrastructure and education tackling key waste avoidance and resource recovery issues e.g. recycling, illegal dumping, litter etc.

Council's current list of approved WaSIP projects for completion over 2013 – 2014 include (see attached for additional information):

| <b>Project area</b>   | <b>Budget (\$)</b> |
|---|--------------------|
| Food waste collection and processing trial                                | 180,000            |
| Recycling improvements (household and public place)                       | 270,000            |
| Plastic bag and plastic 'film' recycling trial                            | 25,000             |
| Resource recovery strategy and alternative waste treatment investigations | 199,000            |
| Illegal dumping and litter management                                     | 94,000             |
| Resource-wise outdoor classroom   | 211,000            |
| Energy, water, fleet, event and procurement                               | 106,000            |

The EPA requires these final WaSIP projects to be completed by June 2014 with an early transition to the new Waste Less, Recycle More (WLRM) funding program. Council's completion of WaSIP projects are aimed at building a strong foundation and business case for Council to apply for the new round of Waste Less, Recycle More funding when funding dates are announced.

### Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

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Direction 10(d): Our community is encouraged to implement waste minimisation strategies.

### **Financial impact statement**

Council has received \$856,800 as a final payment under WaSIP Program for 2013-14 financial year supplemented with \$229,000 of approved carry over projects.

### **Conclusion**

NSW Government funding is provided to Councils as part of metropolitan waste disposal fees paid by Local Government. While the WaSIP program is in its final year, the reforms announced by the NSW Government have replaced WaSIP with the new Waste Less, Recycle funding with a stronger focus on resource recovery and related infrastructure.

These final WaSIP projects being undertaken by Randwick are aimed at establishing a strong base for future applications to the new NSW Government resource recovery program.

### **Recommendation**

That Council endorses the project areas for the final year of Waste and Sustainability Improvement Program funding received from the NSW Government.

### **Attachment/s:**

1. Additional information - 2013-2014 WaSIP Project

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### Additional information – 2013-14 WaSIP projects – Randwick City Council

| Project   | Description of project  | Budget allocated |
|---|---|------------------|
| Food waste collection and processing trial  | A small food waste collection trial of approx 5,000 residents living in flats and units is to be conducted including communications messaging and collection and processing of food waste collected. Results will be utilised for further funding to be obtained as part of a roll out to Randwick residents.   | \$180,000        |
| Increasing recycling across the City with an emphasis on reducing 'contamination' in both the household and public place recycling bins | Almost 20% of material in red-lid rubbish bins is recyclable and in some cases plastic bag contamination in yellow-lid recycling bins is resulting in this material being taken to landfill. This project will draw on the latest successful approaches and research to educate our community on increasing the volume of recycling placed in domestic yellow-lid and public place recycling bins. Results will be used to apply for future NSW Govt funding. | \$270,000        |
| Plastic bag and thin plastic film recycling trial   | This project will enable residents to recycle both their plastic bags and thin plastic film used for wrapping foods.  | \$25,000         |
| Resource recovery strategy investigation of alternative waste treatment options   | Council's current waste diversion from landfill is just over 50% with the NSW Govt requirement to reach 66% by end of 2014. This project is continuing to investigate, cost and design potential solutions to enable Council to reach this 66% target and to go beyond it to meet Council's own 2020 target.  | \$199,000        |
| Illegal dumping and litter management   | Council has completed an Illegal Dumping and Litter Management Plan as required by NSW Govt. This project aims to identify, cost and implement the various elements of our Illegal Dumping and Litter Management Plan. Results will be used to apply for further NSW Govt funding.  | \$94,000         |
| Resource-wise outdoor classroom   | DA approval has been provided for an outdoor classroom as part of   | \$211,000        |

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| Project   | Description of project  | Budget allocated |
|---|---|------------------|
|   | Council's approval for our sustainability education 'hub' at the Randwick Community Centre. This funding enables the outdoor classroom to be constructed which will widen and diversify sustainability education opportunities for local schools and residents at the Community Centre.   |                  |
| Energy and water saving, green 'fleet' and 'green' procurement strategy development | Previous WaSIP projects and NSW Govt standards for WaSIP funding have required each Council to develop and implement strategies to increase the level of 'green' purchasing and fleet operations as well as contribute to energy and water saving projects. These various projects complete WaSIP projects commenced previously and carried over to this final 2013 – 2014 WaSIP funding timeframe. Results of these projects will be reported separately to Council. | \$106,000        |
| Total   | Final WaSIP funding including carryover (approved by EPA).  | \$1,085,000      |