

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 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, 10 September 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 - 13 August 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. E15/13



Subject: Environmental Levy Program Update including budget and project information for past and proposed future levy programs.

Folder No: F2004/08357

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

Council's environmental levy program is entering the final 12 months of the second 5-year timeframe, expiring on June 30, 2014. While a separate paper has been provided seeking Council approval to undertake community consultation on continuing our environmental levy (CP 67/13 refers), this paper is providing background on current levy projects and monies spent and the range of proposed projects and their budgets if a new 5-year environmental levy program is to continue.

Issues

Randwick Council's original environmental levy ran initially for 5 years from 2004–2009. Following extensive community consultation, a special 6 percent rate variation was agreed to by Council and approved by the then Minister for Local Government.

Prior to the expiry period a new round of community and Council consultation was conducted resulting in approval for a second 5-year special rate variation, from 2009–2014. With this second environmental levy expiring on June 30, 2014, a further continuation is to be considered by Council later this year and subsequently for approval by IPART in place of the Minister for Local Government.

This special rate variation provides the funding for Council's Sustaining our City environmental levy program. Funding is spent on specific environmental improvements and sustainability initiatives. The following table shows average annual totals and totals for each 5-year environmental levy timeframe.

5 year program	Average annual environmental levy funding	Total funding for the 5 year timeframe
2004 - 2009	\$2,434,806	\$12,174,030
2009 – 2014	\$3,273,560	\$16,367,800
2014 – 2019	\$4,073,798	\$20,368,990

The following attachments indicate the monies spent by project category for the current environmental levy program expiring on June 30, 2014 (Attachment 1) and potential projects and budgets for a continuing environmental levy program from 2014 – 2019 (Attachment 2).

Council will be asked to decide and approve the level of funding for projects when the full community consultation results are presented to them at the November 2013 meeting. More details of projects will be prepared ahead of the results of Council's November determination on any continuing environmental levy program.

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Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 1: Leadership in Sustainability.

Direction 1(a): Council has a longterm vision based on sustainability.

Financial impact statement

The current 6 percent environmental levy program for the 5 year period 2009 – 2014 is raising \$16,367,800 slightly up from the original estimate of \$15,725,400. A continuing environmental levy program from 2014 – 2019 is currently estimated to raise \$20,368,990 over the 5 year timeframe.

Conclusion

Further briefings and details of projects and their results will be reported over the remaining period of Council's environmental levy program while a decision on a continuation of the Sustaining our City environmental levy program will be brought to Council for determination at their November 2013 meeting.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Notes the funding spent for project categories under the current 2009-2014 environmental levy program (Attachment 1);
- b) Notes and endorses the potential project categories and budget in a proposed continuation of the environmental levy program, 2014-2019 (Attachment 2);
- c) Notes the results of the community consultation on views regarding a continuation of the environmental levy program will form part of the paper for Council determination on this continuation at the November 2013 Council meeting.

Attachment/s:

1. Projects and Budget spend on Randwick's Sustaining our City Environmental levy program 2009 - 2014
2. Proposed projects and budget for Randwick's Sustaining our City environmental levy program, 2014-2019

ATTACHMENT 1:

**Projects and Budget spend
Randwick's Sustaining our City
Environmental levy program
2009 - 2014**

Proposed Levy Program Activity	Project / Program	Budget / spend 2009 - 2014
Coastal Protection	Coastal walkway – various stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malabar Headland sections • Lurline Bay section • Adjacent to golf courses 	\$3,679,307
Resource Conservation – Energy Savings	Solar panel installs – Council sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration Building • Bowen Library • Des Renford Leisure Centre Solar panel installs – Community sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra Bay House • Kooloora Community Centre • Sth Maroubra Senior Citizens Solar hotwater installs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Des Renford Aquatic Centre • Works Depot Energy efficiency measures – various: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration Building • Works Depot • Community Nursery • Des Renford Aquatic Centre 	\$2,331,553
Resource Conservation – Water Savings	Stormwater harvesting and irrigation works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coogee Plaza • Grant Reserve • Dunningham Reserve • Bardon Park • Coral Sea Park • Yarra Bay Oval • Pioneer Park School and business water audit support materials	\$2,710,310
	Sustainable transport options:	

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Resource Conservation – Reducing greenhouse emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling and walking facilities • Biodiesel installation (Works Depot) • Hybrid and electric vehicles • Sustainable Transport project (with NSW EPA) 	\$1,940,602
Resource Conservation – Materials	Coogee Oval recycled plastic fence project	\$90,000
Biodiversity	<p>'Green corridor program – public and private land habitat planting / workshops and design advice for schools and householders (Native Haven program)</p> <p>Additional street tree and park planting program</p> <p>Native plant and animal monitoring via Bushland programs</p> <p>Demonstration native and permaculture gardens</p> <p>Community and school food gardens</p> <p>Treerrey Reserve wetland rehabilitation project</p>	\$1,988,503
Community Engagement and Education	<p>Sustainable workshops for residents</p> <p>Schools initiatives and programs</p> <p>Staff workshops and programs</p> <p>Marine and Coastal programs</p> <p>Eco Living Fair</p> <p>Council Open Days and events</p> <p>Library resources</p>	\$1,938,731
Administration	Staff salaries and costs	\$1,636,521
Total		16,315,527

ATTACHMENT 2:

**Proposed Projects and Budget
Randwick's Sustaining our City
Environmental levy program
2014 - 2019**

Proposed Levy Program Activity	Project / Program	Proposed Project budget range for 2014 - 2019
Coastal Protection	Coastal walkway – various stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malabar Headland sections • Lurline Bay section • Adjacent to golf courses 	\$5M
Resource Conservation – Energy Savings	Energy efficiency retrofits – various (as per Energy and Greenhouse Management Plan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration • Cogeneration • Air conditioning upgrades Renewable energy installations – various (as per Renewable Energy Master Plan): Energy incentives – residents / businesses	\$3.37M
Resource Conservation – Water Savings	Stormwater harvesting and irrigation projects (as per Integrated Water Savings Plan): Amenities upgrades / water saving projects - various	\$1.2M
Resource Conservation – materials	Roads and footpath recycled materials projects	\$0.4M
Sustainable Transportation and Climate Change	Cycleway and pedestrian upgrades (as per Bike Plan Update)	\$1.8M

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Biodiversity	<p>Dune planting restoration and protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Maroubra • Yarra Bay <p>Expanding 'green corridor' street and park planting program across public and private land habitat planting (including Native Haven advice and support for schools and households)</p> <p>Native plant and animal monitoring via Bushland programs</p>	\$1.3M
Community Engagement and Education	<p>Community education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable workshops for residents • Schools initiatives and programs • Marine and Coastal programs • Eco Living Fair • Council Open Days and events <p>Community engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community gardens • School food gardens 	\$1.8M
Administration	Staff salaries and costs	\$5.5M
Total		\$20.37M

** community consultation being conducted to establish community views on range and extent of levy spending on proposed project areas. Final projects and budget allocation is subject to final decision by Council.*

Environment Report No. E16/13



Subject: Approval to participate in the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government Climate Change Adaptation project

Folder No: F2010/00241

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

An opportunity has been provided by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG), for Randwick Council to participate in their Climate Change Adaptation project. The project currently involves around 8 local Councils from Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia working with ACELG and consultants to develop a guidance manual and electronic materials capable of assisting Councils around the country to work through projects aimed at responding to policy and implementation relevant to Climate Change.

Randwick Council has been invited to participate in this project with project results due to be completed by December 2013.

Issues

ACELG has been commissioned through a project instigated by City of Canada Bay to prepare guidance material for local government to respond to policy and project challenges related to Climate Change. The small level of funding provided is being topped up with contributions by participating Councils for the amount of \$5,000 each with funds going toward preparation and production costs of the electronic and printed materials generated at the end of the project. Appropriate acknowledgment is being provided for these participating Councils.

Council staff have taken part in an preliminary teleconference with other participants and ACELG. The project appears to have clear objectives and outcomes which has a strong relevance to local government. Previous and current projects carried out by Randwick minimize the level of new work involved for staff and the finite timeframe for this project indicates a relatively low level of overall resourcing for the participation requested. The involvement of ACELG in the oversight and delivery objectives of this project also heightens the practical application and take up by Councils of the results produced.

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 behavioural changes and outcomes.

Direction 10(f): Energy conservation and efficiency programs are implemented.

Financial impact statement

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It is proposed to allocate \$5,000 (excl GST) for this partnership project with ACELG to contribute toward the overall project results. Funds are available from the climate change budget of the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

Randwick Council's involvement in and potential contribution to this project appears worthwhile in terms of the finite timeframe and work plan established by ACELG in its oversight of this project; the low number of Council's participating from each State; and the project outcomes identified within the set timeframe.

Recommendation

That Council endorses Randwick Council's participation in the ACELG Climate Change Adaptation project and approves the allocation of \$5,000 to the project from the climate change budget of the environmental levy program.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E17/13



Subject: Seeking approval of a vertical garden installation at rear of Council Administration Building, 30 Frances Street Randwick.

Folder No: F2010/00421

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

Requesting Council's approval to install a vertical food garden on the rear wall of the north west corner of the Administration Building at 30 Frances Street Randwick.

Issues

Locally grown food continues to emerge as an extremely positive response to both environmental and social sustainability outcomes for local communities. Council itself is supporting a range of creative food garden responses across our City including community and school food gardens, local food basket pick up points, community workshops and courses for residents and a trial nature strip food garden attracting great interest adjacent to Barrett House in Frenchmans Road Randwick.

A relatively new approach to establishing food gardens is the development of vertical gardens where gardens are planted out in purpose-built vertical garden racks and installed on walls where grass or garden beds are limited or heavily shaded. Vertical gardens have now been installed at Barrett House and planned for demonstration and workshop purposes in the permaculture interpretive garden at the Randwick Community Centre.

In response to staff interest shown in harvesting and maintaining herbs and vegetables during their own time, it is proposed to install a modular vertical garden system on the rear wall on the north western corner of the Administration Building. The rear north facing wall attracts sufficient sun without obstructing any staff egress in the form of pedestrians or as drivers in Council vehicles. Council's Learning and Development staff have indicated their interest in establishing a small staff group to be involved in lunchtime maintenance, harvesting and nutritional information sessions utilising the edible plants grown in the vertical garden.

The plants in the vertical garden will be properly maintained to ensure it creates an aesthetic addition to the rear of Council's Administration Building.

Financial impact statement

Three slim rack modular vertical gardens can be mounted and planted out with a water reticulation system for \$3,300. This costing includes a number of workshops to be held with interested staff via Council's permaculture landscaper who would install the racks and initial planting of herbs and vegetables. This funding is available from the community gardens budget of the environmental levy program.

Conclusion

Vertical gardens provide a very positive opportunity to install gardens where there is limited garden space or insufficient sunshine for growing areas. There are additional

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social and health benefits through encouraging staff to learn or access locally grown food and there is already a strong interest for a small group of staff to be involved in planting, maintaining and harvesting from the vertical garden.

Recommendation

That Council approves the proposal to install a vertical garden planted with herbs and vegetables for staff access at the rear of the Administration Building, 30 Frances Street Randwick for the amount of \$3,300 to be paid to Council's preferred supplier, Sydney Organic Gardens from the community garden budget of the environmental levy program.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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