

# **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

## **BUSINESS PAPER**

**TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2014**

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](mailto:general.manager@randwick.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.randwick.nsw.gov.au](http://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, First Floor, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick, 30 Frances Street, Randwick, on Tuesday, 11 February 2014 at 6:00pm.

Committee Members: The Mayor (S Nash), Andrews, Belleli, Bowen, D'Souza, Garcia, Matson (Deputy Chairperson), Moore, Neilson, Roberts, Seng & Shurey (Chairperson), Smith, Stavrinou & Stevenson

Quorum: Eight (8) 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 - 3 December 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

### Environment Reports

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### Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

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Ray Brownlee  
**GENERAL MANAGER**



## Environment Report No. E1/14



**Subject:** Streetlighting Improvement (SLI) update - Rollout of energy efficient streetlighting for specific road areas within the Randwick Local Government Area (LGA)

**Folder No:** F2012/00579

**Author:** Stephen Audet, Coordinator Engineering Services; Choonghan Yeo, Sustainability Projects Officer

### Introduction

This report aims to provide an update on the projected rollout of energy efficient streetlighting upgrades via the adoption of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lighting within the Randwick Local Government Area (LGA) under the streetlighting improvement (SLI) Program.

### Issues

The (SLI) Program is an initiative between Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) and Sydney Councils to work with Ausgrid, who own the streetlights, as a way of addressing sustainability issues including services, technology and pricing. Next Energy is the external consultant engaged by SSROC to facilitate this program.

Streetlighting is a major energy cost for Local Government, representing around 50% of Council's energy footprint with around \$1.5 million spent annually on energy consumption and maintenance costs.

**Improvement Program 1 - Adoption of LED lights for residential roads:** Ausgrid has proposed to Sydney Councils that it will progressively switch its older style street lights in residential areas from the current 42 Watt (W) Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFL) or 80W Mercury Vapour (MV) lighting to energy efficient 29W LED lighting.

Residential road lighting accounts for around 5,500 lights in Randwick so it is projected that this switch will eventually contribute savings of around 20% of total lighting costs for Randwick and around 60% in energy consumption for these residential roads.

**Improvement Program 2 - Adoption of Active Reactor High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights for main roads:** Ausgrid has also been progressively changing over the 250W, 400W, and 700W Mercury Vapour lamps on the designated main roads with energy efficient 150W, 250W and 400W High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights respectively (main roads only). The main road lighting accounts for around 1,300 lights in Randwick. It is projected that this changeover will contribute to a 20% saving in lighting costs for Randwick and around 50% in energy consumption from the previously installed street lamps.

Both of the proposed lighting upgrades have been assessed and supported by SSROC Councils and their consultant.

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## Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome: 10: A healthy environment.  
Direction: 10(f): Energy conservation and efficiency programs are implemented.

## Financial impact statement

An amount of \$400,000 will be invested in the rollout of energy efficient replacement streetlighting as outlined in Improvement Programs above. Improvement programs 1 and 2 will be funded through capital works.

## Conclusion

The adoption of the energy efficient streetlights particularly for both the main and residential roads, which account for 80% of the streetlighting inventory, will help Council save up to 50% of our streetlighting energy consumption and generate an overall cost saving of around 30%. An update on the progressive roll out and savings generated will be reported to Council.

## Recommendation

That Council endorses the above upgrades and replacement of existing streetlighting in the Randwick LGA with energy efficient streetlighting as outlined in Improvement programs 1 and 2 above.

## Attachment/s:

Nil

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## Environment Report No. E2/14



**Subject:** Council involvement in Youth Leading the World sustainability leadership program

**Folder No:** F2005/00872

**Author:** Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

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### Introduction

Late in 2013, the CEO of OzGreen wrote to Council inviting Randwick's participation and support of the Youth Leading the World leadership program which they been running with schools across Australia since 2009.

This report seeks Council's approval for Randwick to participate in Youth Leading the World leadership training for students of our local schools and young people across our community.

### Issues

The environmental not-for-profit organization, OzGreen, has been delivering sustainability education for communities for around 20 years. OzGreen initiated Youth Leading the World in 2009 to provide a forum for youth to come together and work through positive solutions for the range of environmental issues confronting society in Australia. The initiative provides a range of training and skills based opportunities for students and youth from secondary school to university culminating in a Youth Leading the World summit held annually in various locations across Australia.

The program has grown from 7 locations in 2009 when the program began, to 70 regional locations involving collaboration and support from 100 Councils and other organizations in 2013. The program has provided facilitator skills, training and expertise to more than 400 participants since it began.

OzGreen has two packages for collaboration with organizations such as Local Councils involving their local schools and communities. One enables training of facilitators for \$1,500, while the \$5,500 package enables training of facilitators and organizing the local or regional congress of youth from local schools, university, community etc.

It is proposed to adopt the \$5,500 proposal from OzGreen where they will seek local students and youth to be involved in training and to organise the Youth Leading the World Summit for Randwick around World Environment Day in June 2014. OzGreen has their own networks for communicating to local schools and organizations but welcome assistance through Council's own schools and community networks. The opportunity for Council through the Youth Leading the World summit in June is to seek comments and ideas from younger people on the way forward for responding to the wide range of environmental issues facing our community today.

### Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.  
Direction 3(a): The community has increased opportunities to participate in decision-making processes.

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Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

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

### **Financial impact statement**

The \$5,500 cost for involving OzGreen to organise Youth Leading the World in Randwick would be paid from the schools education budget of the environmental levy program.

### **Conclusion**

Young people beyond the primary school level are often difficult to engage with and involve in sustained environmental programs due to a number of reasons related to their study commitments, social and technology factors. The OzGreen initiative has a long and successful experience of engagement with this target group at the school, university and community levels.

### **Recommendation**

That Council approves funding of \$5,500 for Randwick's participation in the Youth Leading the World initiative from the schools program of the environmental levy budget.

### **Attachment/s:**

Nil

**E2/14**

## Environment Report No. E3/14



**Subject:** Update on Randwick's food waste collection and processing trial

**Folder No:** F2013/00423

**Author:** Matshepo Molala, Waste & Sustainability Education Officer

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### Introduction

Council is trialling source separated food waste collection and processing as a means of increasing the amount of resource recovered from householder waste and in doing so, reduce the overall amount of organic waste going to landfill.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of our food waste trial and advise its continuation to June 2014.

### Issues

#### **Background**

Randwick's food waste collection and processing trial commenced around November 2013 through funding to Randwick from the Waste and Sustainability Improvement Program (WaSIP).

A key purpose of the trial is to provide data and information for Council on the viability and best approach for source separation of food waste. The trial takes into account methodologies for collection and processing of food waste material from households, including the operational status of different processing technologies and facilities, as well as the best way to engage with and educate the community on their participation. The trial has focused on a sample size of multi-unit dwellings in Randwick as these types of dwellings tend to pose a more significant range of issues to resolve for a wider program to succeed.

Recently, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) released its revised Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2013-21 which sets the strategic direction and targets for waste and resource recovery in NSW. This strategy and significant new funding opportunities under the NSW Government's Waste Less/Recycle More program has positioned Randwick's food waste collection and processing trial as an important initiative with significant strategic outcomes if Council were to continue along this specific resource recovery path.

#### **Approach taken:**

Approximately 5000 households from 117 multi-unit properties across Randwick have agreed to participate in the current food waste collection and processing trial. All participating households have been provided with kitchen bench-top bins and compostable liners. Each participating property has also been supplied with marked food waste bins and various promotional and educational information to motivate and engage householders in the trial, No new bins were added to properties, with food waste from households going into an existing red-lid bin with appropriate identification showing this new purpose for residents.

External consultants have carried out pre and during-waste audits of participating properties. Results of the pre-trial audit confirmed that approximately 43.5% of the householder red-lid bin is food waste. This presents a significant opportunity for Council to increase residential diversion of organic waste from landfill and so reduce the related waste disposal costs to Council and its community.

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Two different service providers are collecting food waste from participating households and delivering the material to two different food waste processing facilities. This is enabling comparative data and information to be examined by Council staff as part of the evaluation process. Approximately 2 tonnes of food waste is being collected and processed across these facilities each week.

Participating households have been informed of the food waste trial through various information formats including, letters to body corporates and strata managers, community information sessions, letterbox drops and media releases. An online platform has also been established, <http://yoursayrandwick.com.au/foodscraps> to keep householders engaged and makes it straightforward for Council to obtain feedback, share experiences and strengthen community connections and networks around the trial. The majority of responses received to date are very positive and complimentary of this initiative.

While the food waste collection trial has been running since November, a number of adjustments were made in response to the early learning and issues identified. These adjustments included changes by the two different companies carrying out collection and in the communications to participants to minimise contamination. The Christmas period has also influenced data collection so it is proposed to continue the trial via the available WaSIP funding to June 30, 2014. The extension of the trial will enable:

- Greater understanding of seasonal variation with the trial operating over 3 different seasons;
- Better understanding and adjustment of education strategies to maximise successful householder engagement and participation;
- An extended and more stable data gathering period capable of delineating peak time frames around Christmas, Easter and school holidays.

A greater understanding of and how to respond to food waste collection and processing issues is likely to be a factor in its ongoing success, and in Randwick's case, a key element if Council was to be successful in future funding applications to the NSW Government to extend food waste collection across the City. The costs and diversion rates associated with food waste recovery can be substantially lower than landfill disposal or current AWT disposal costs.

### **Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

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

### **Financial impact statement**

It is estimated that \$150,000 will enable the continuation of communication and education, food waste collection and processing costs for this trial. This funding is available from the remaining Waste and Sustainability Improvement Program (WaSIP) budget.

### **Conclusion**

In the recently released draft NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2013-21, food waste and garden organics have been identified as major untapped waste resources with the potential to generate cost savings for local government as well as reduce household waste to landfill by up to 50%. Tackling food and organic

waste provides one of the strongest options for meeting the revised 70% resource recovery target set by the NSW government.

**Recommendation**

That Council notes the progress of Randwick's food waste collection and processing trial and endorses its continuation to 30 June 2014.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

**E3/14**



## Environment Report No. E4/14



**Subject:** Earth Hour 2014, supporting local cafes and restaurants

**Folder No:** F2010/00153

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

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### Introduction

Now in its seventh year, the annual Earth Hour event is being held on Saturday, 29 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 has grown to become the world's largest mass participation event in history and is celebrated and supported by over 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 2014 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 2014, Council will be working with local cafes and restaurants encouraging them to support and spread the Earth Hour message.

The Randwick event will build on the success of Earth Hour 2013, with 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 allows participating businesses to enable businesses to send a strong environmental message to their customers, provides a unique marketing opportunity in support of this high profile international event and for them to save on their energy bills.

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. Participants of the Earth Hour, Dine by Candlelight experience, will have the opportunity to win a number of environmentally friendly giveaways and prizes.

For members of our community that are unable to participate in the Dine by Candlelight Earth Hour experience, Council is supporting a twilight picnic at

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Centennial Park in conjunction with Waverley and Woollahra Council's as part of our 3-Council Ecological Footprint project.

### **Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

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

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

### **Financial impact statement**

It is proposed to allocate up to \$3,500 to support the participation and promotion of local businesses and their involvement in Earth Hour, paid through the Community Education budget of the Environmental Levy program.

### **Conclusion**

Council's support of Earth Hour continues Randwick's commitment to reducing our carbon and ecological footprints and to work with local community organisations, schools and businesses to achieve reduced energy consumption and emissions of greenhouse gases.

### **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

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