



**Randwick City  
Council**  
a sense of community

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER**

**TUESDAY 8 JULY 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 on Tuesday, 8 July 2014 at 6:00pm.

**Late Environment Report**

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Ray Brownlee  
**GENERAL MANAGER**



## Environment Report No. E10/14



**Subject:** Continuation of food waste collection and processing service to the multi-unit dwellings participated in the trial

**Folder No:** F2013/00423

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

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### Introduction

Council at its Environment Committee of 11 February 2014 resolved (Stavrinos/Neilson), "that Council notes the progress of Randwick's food waste collection and processing trial and endorses its continuation to 30 June 2014". Also Council at its meeting of 27 May 2014 Considered a Mayoral Minute and resolved, that "Council accepts the \$914,519 grant from the NSW Government's Environmental Trust for the three year project to extend food waste collection and processing to Randwick's multi-unit dwellings".

The current trial was to conclude by the end of June.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to continue food waste collection services to the multi-unit dwellings that participated in the food waste trial until implementation of the food waste collection service to all multi-unit dwellings in July 2015.

### Issues

#### Continuation of the trial

Council has received an Environmental Trust Grant funding for implementation of Food Waste Collection service to all multi-unit dwellings in the City. This service will be implemented from 1 July 2015 along with the garbage and recycling collection services for which the tendering process is currently underway. The lead time is required as implementation of this service Citywide requires substantial preparation and service contract. Also, the Environmental Trust Funding conditions require that the project plan is followed. Council is also undertaking a comprehensive community consultation together with a survey of our residents and subject to positive feedback from our community the project could commence in July 2015. Progress report will be provided to Councillors.

Since October 2013 Council undertook the food waste collection and processing trial with 5,000 multi-unit dwellings. The food waste trial has been a great success resulting in high level of enthusiasm in food waste recycling among the participating residents. An online survey conducted found that more than 95% of the residents support food waste recycling. The trial period as approved by Council is now complete; however, termination of the food waste collection service to the households participating in the trial and restarting the service from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2015 may lead to residents' confusion and dissatisfaction. If the service continues until 30 June 2015 this will lead to strengthened community engagement and consistency in Council's messages to the residents. It also will provide Council with more comprehensive information for the proposed future program. Therefore, it is prudent to maintain current food waste collection service to the participating properties. Council has been able to secure funding from the EPA to continue the trial.

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### Collection service

The current collection service was provided by SITA and SoilCo each collecting two days per week, this service arrangement concluded on 30 June 2014. This arrangement cannot continue due to contract obligations and purchasing policy requirements. However Council can negotiate contract variation with Council's waste collection contractor SITA, to include food waste collection in the collection service. Clause 6.1 of the contract for Collection of Waste and Recyclables within the City of Randwick provides for Council to negotiate service variation; the contractor can accept, provided the request is reasonable and the contractor has the necessary resources to comply with such a request.

### **Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

Direction 10d.3: Develop and implement community engagement programs.

### **Financial impact statement**

Estimated cost for food waste collection services to the multi-unit dwellings that participated in the food waste trial including processing and education activities is approximately \$240,000 excl. GST for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 when regular collection services to all the multi-unit dwellings are scheduled for.

Funding of \$240,000 for the continuation of the food waste collection is available through the Better Waste and Recycling Fund, a non-contestable funding allocated to Council by the NSW EPA through the Waste Less, Recycle More Fund.

### **Conclusion**

The food waste collection trial period as endorsed by Council has been completed. The participating residents are highly supportive of food waste recycling. As planning to rollout the food waste collection service is currently underway with grant funding from the NSW Environmental Trust, it is prudent that the food waste recycling services continue to the households currently in the trial. This will avoid confusing messages to the residents and strengthen community engagement.

### **Recommendation**

That Council:

- a) approves continuation of food waste collection and processing services to the multi-unit dwellings participating in the food waste trial until full rollout of the services for multi-unit dwellings in July 2015.
- b) authorises the General Manager to negotiate contract variation with Council's collection contractor SITA to provide food waste collection services to the households participating in the food waste trial as part of the existing waste collection services.

### **Attachment/s:**

Nil