



**Randwick City
Council**
a sense of community

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 12 AUGUST 2014

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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 on Tuesday, 12 August 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 - 8 July 2014

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. E16/14



Subject: Supporting Walk to Work Day on Friday 14 November 2014

Folder No: F2009/00506

Author: Choonghan Yeo, Sustainability Projects Officer

Introduction

At its November 2013 meeting, Council resolved (Garcia/Stavrinos) that:

- a) *note that developed nations have a special responsibility to ensure global fuel security and address global climate change;*
- b) *note that our communities have become car dependent and many of our streets, formerly places of human interaction, have become dominated by cars;*
- c) *note that while cars have benefited society in many different ways, they have also had an impact on air quality, noise, levels of obesity, energy security, congestion and, for those who do not possess or enjoy the benefits of cars, a level of isolation and dislocation;*
- d) *note that car free days can provide opportunities for residents to take a step back and reconsider the possibilities of their urban environment and alternative transport options; and*
- e) *consider and report back on the possibilities and benefits of car free days in parts of Randwick.*

Issues

For more than a decade now the Pedestrian Council of Australia (PCA) has been organizing a regular Walk to Work Day to encourage commuters to consider leaving their car at home and where practicable, to walk to and from their workplace.

Council has supported this event on a number of occasions hosting a breakfast for staff and encouraging small teams to walk to various Council buildings, including the Administration Building, Bowen Library or Works Depot. While the daily choice for commuters in their mode of travel to work (car, public transport, walking) is often governed by personal responsibilities and commitments on the day, as well as travel distance requirements from their work location, Walk to Work Day, is organized to remind and motivate would-be motorists that more frequent walking can contribute to potentially healthier outcomes especially around fitness, weight loss, reduced stress and work/life balance.

Council has in the past supported further initiatives to encourage less motor vehicle transport by staff, including:

- salary sacrificing for staff purchase of annual travel cards on public transport
- purchase of bicycles and safety equipment for commuter use
- upgrading bike parking and shower facilities at Council sites to encourage cycling and walking and;
- enhancing and expanding the cycling network and walking paths across Randwick City, (as well as producing maps highlighting these paths), including our popular coastal walkway.

With the commencement of the next 5 year environmental levy program, a new Sustainable Transport officer is to be recruited to work in the Integrated Transport

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Management team. The officer's role will focus on examining the best options and new initiatives to progress how Council can facilitate these other 'active transport' modes for residents and staff across Randwick including more frequent opportunities to promote car free occasions across the LGA.

In the interim, Council's support and promotion of the 2014 Walk to Work Day on Friday, November 14, will be aimed at increasing the community's involvement and opportunity for leaving the car behind and walking to and from work. This will include advertisements in local media and use of the Mayor's column to promote the initiative.

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.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact from this matter.

Conclusion

While the research around previous walk to work and similar campaigns indicates the choice for commuters is influenced strongly by work and family commitments and responsibilities, the benefits of even partially reduced car travel and increased walking, cycling or use of public transport are worth the effort in terms of personal health and community well-being.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the support of the 2014 Walk to Work Day to staff and the wider community.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E17/14



Subject: Investigating options for wider resource recovery reward and incentivisation programs for Randwick residents

Folder No: F2012/00133

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

At its July Committee meeting, Council received updates on how Council is currently tackling issues related to illegal dumping, reducing contamination in household recycling bins and increasing recovery of organic and recycling material being placed into red-lid rubbish bins.

A key expectation in resolving these matters is the potential for adopting a comprehensive community-wide education program which would include options for incentivizing or rewarding correct resource recovery behaviour by our residents.

This paper aims to inform Council on the way forward for establishing this reward or incentive program to achieve effective resource recovery behavioural change by our residents, particularly within the context of the existing rewards trial with Green Money Recycling Rewards.

Issues

Council's reputation as an early adopter of innovative sustainability programs was a key reason for the approach made by the Green Money Recycling Rewards platform when early in 2012, it invited Randwick to partner with its Green Money program in a 'first of its kind' recycling rewards trial program for Randwick residents.

This initial trial saw Council promoting the Green Money Recycling Rewards to its residents, which once registered directly with the Green Money website enabled a limited supply of recycling data to be forwarded on to Green Money. This recycling data for each participating household was then converted into 'green money' for participating residents to redeem as discounts at a number of local businesses. The program has had a very positive response with participation currently exceeding 5,000 householders and more than 60 local businesses.

With the expiry of the initial trial between Green Money and Council earlier this year and advice from Green Money that Council would be required to enter into a commercial arrangement for its continuation, Council agreed to a temporary extension until September 30, 2014 at an agreed cost of \$20,000. At that time it was anticipated that an evaluation of Green Money, funded and carried out externally from Green Money and Council, would be completed in time to guide Council on a possible future service arrangement with the Green Money recycling rewards platform. Due to delays in the external funding approval for this evaluation and in the engagement of an independent contractor to carry out the work necessary, the results remain some weeks away. Council's consideration of the evaluation results will be incorporated in the proposed tendering out of a future community education service for Randwick residents.

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Green Money understands that Council's purchasing requirements for any future involvement is subject to an accountable purchasing and approval process. While this process is conducted it will be necessary to consider the cessation of the Green Money Recycling Rewards program with participating residents. Appropriate messaging and communications will be discussed with Green Money to properly explain the basis of this termination and provide sufficient time for participating households to redeem 'green money' points they have with local businesses.

Council has little option in terminating the existing arrangements with Green Money and proceeding with the tender process to re-establish a similar program for residents. The results of quotations sought and future options for a rewards or incentivisation program will be reported to Council for approval.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 1: Leadership in sustainability.
Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

The recent Environmental Committee reports to Council have indicated the ongoing challenges and the importance of regular engagement with residents to increase their correct and positive contribution to increasing resource recovery from the red and yellow-lid bins as well as other kerbside collection services provided by Council. Council's involvement with the Green Money Recycling Rewards program was a first of its kind in Australia when it commenced and the program continues to be a trail blazer for incentivizing behavioural change by residents.

There has always been an expectation that such a service would be required to be advertised and sought externally. It will of course be disappointing for existing Green Money households to have their involvement with Green Money discontinued but it is anticipated to have the replacement program in place by the end of 2014.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) endorses the approach outlined above for the request for quotation/tendering of a resource recovery rewards or incentivisation program for residents; and
- b) notes the termination of arrangements with Green Money Recycling Rewards until completion and approval by Council of such a resource recovery rewards or incentivisation program for Randwick residents.

Attachment/s:

Nil

Environment Report No. E18/14



Subject: Updating Council's energy and water consumption and costs for 2013-14 financial year

Folder No: F2009/00448

Author: Choonghan Yeo, Sustainability Projects Officer

Introduction

Council engages an external data provider, Planet Footprint, to report Council's energy and water consumption data directly from the water and energy utilities. This paper provides an overview of our energy and water consumption for the 2013–14 financial year with a focus on our four top consuming sites. These top four sites consume on average more than 80% of total energy and water for Council buildings and parks. These four main sites comprise Des Renford Leisure Centre (DRLC), the Frances Street Administration Building, Bowen Library and to a lesser extent, Council's Works Depot at Maroubra.

Issues

In the 2013–14 financial year, Council's total spend on energy costs (electricity and gas but excluding street lighting and transport) was reported as \$1,077,917, up approximately 2% from the previous financial year (Table 1 refers).

In regards to town water consumption for Council sites, the total water costs which include a number of service charges, was \$342,151, an increase of approximately 15% from the previous financial year (Table 1 refers).

Table 1: Total energy and water consumption, 2013 – 2014

Council's energy / water, 2013-14	Totals for financial year 2013-14	% change from previous financial year
Energy usage	3,394,562 kWh	5% increase
Energy charges	\$1,077,917	2% increase
Water usage	113,926 kL	19% increase
Water charges	\$342,151	15% increase

There have been small but significant decreases in energy usage and energy costs at Bowen Library, Administration Building and Works Depot (see Figure 1 below). However, these small decreases have been offset in the total energy consumption by the increased energy usage, as was expected, following the opening of the new gymnasium at the Des Renford Leisure Centre (up by 29%).

Similarly, Council's overall water usage and costs show a 19% increase in water usage and 15% increase in water charges for the financial year (see Figure 2 below). This follows a period of water saving measures which were offline at Des Renford Leisure Centre. Subsequent years reporting should show a marked difference in usage.

Figures 1 and 2 below summarise specific changes in energy and water costs and consumption at our top four consuming sites based on comparisons with the previous financial year.

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The water and energy decreases at the Works Depot appear to reflect the positive impacts of the wastewater re-use and rooftop solar panel projects completed at the Depot. A decrease in energy use at Bowen Library appears to reflect in part the net benefits of the 30 kilowatt solar panel installation on the library roof. The Administration Building's reductions need more analysis but the rainwater re-use for air conditioning and upgraded operation of the Building Management System appear to be contributing to the on-site savings showing for the Administration Building.

Figure 1: % change in energy usage and costs at our top 4 sites, 2013-14

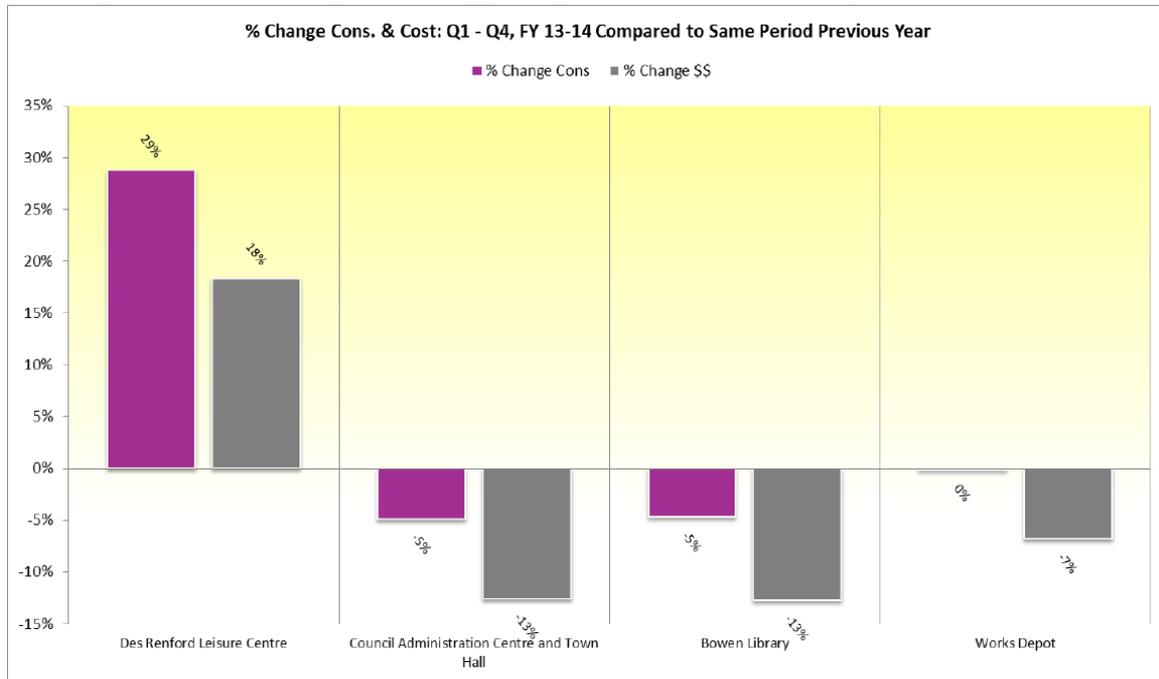
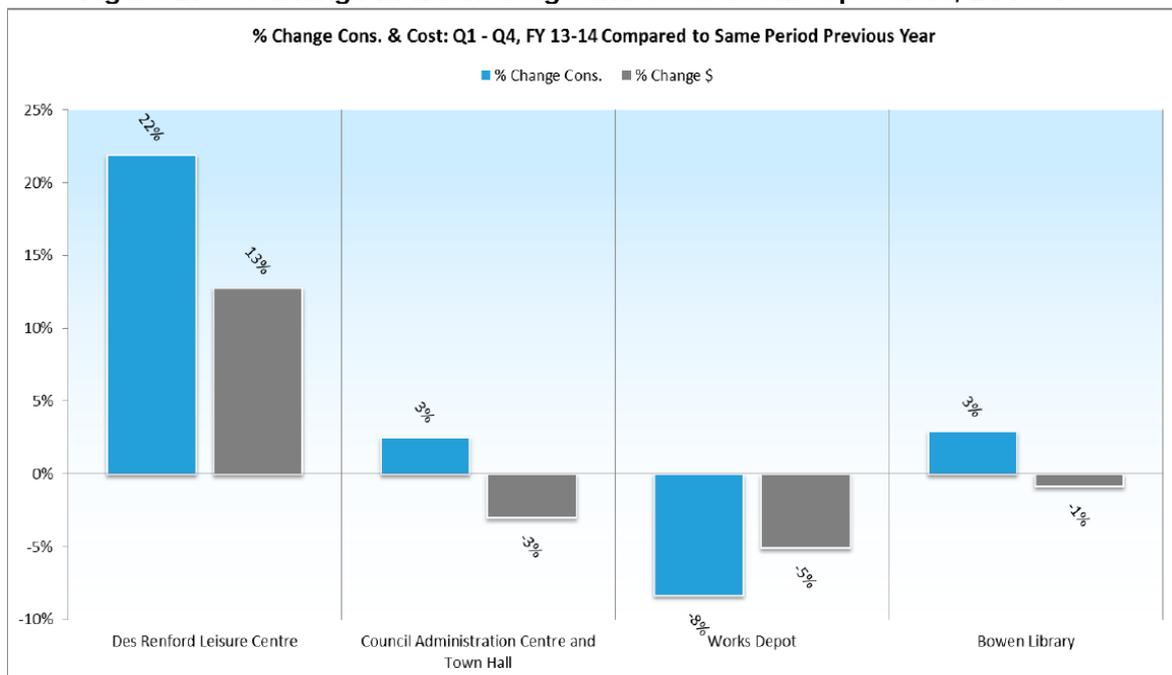


Figure 2: % change in water usage and costs at our top 4 sites, 2013-14



More detailed information on the top four energy and water consuming sites will be presented by the end of 2014 with the update on Council's Energy and Greenhouse Management Plan.

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Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

Direction 10(e): A total water management cycle approach including water conservation, re-use and water quality improvements is adopted.

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

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

A number of small but significant decreases in energy and water usage and costs are beginning to emerge for a number of Council's highest energy and water consuming sites. They are currently being impacted by the increase in energy usage in particular following the opening of the Des Renford Leisure Centre gymnasium and a number of previously off-line water saving measures, also at the Leisure Centre. These issues are projected to be addressed in the updated Energy and Greenhouse Management Plan to be reported to Council by the end of 2014.

Recommendation

That Council notes the changes reflected in energy and water consumption for the top consuming sites for the 2013-14 financial year.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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