

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 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, 9 September 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 - 12 August 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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Sima Truuvert
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E19/14



Subject: Follow up to Green Money resolution

Folder No: F2012/00133

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

At the August Environment Committee meeting, it was resolved " (*Andrews/Roberts*) that Council:

- a) *receive and note this [Green Money] report;*
- b) *endorses the approach outlined in the report for the request for quotation/tendering of a resource recovery rewards or incentivisation program for residents;*
- c) *defer the termination of the current agreement pending consideration of a report at the next Environment Committee meeting; and*
- d) *authorise the General Manager to negotiate the extension of the Green Money scheme for three months at no cost to Council."*

Issues

Early in 2012, Council agreed to trial the Green Money Recycling Rewards scheme for a period of 12 months on a no-cost basis but providing the equivalent of \$10,000 of in-kind support (staff time, internal printing, promotion and distribution). This was a 'first of its kind' recycling rewards program for Australia, negotiated and delivered for the intended benefit of Randwick residents, local businesses and the environment.

The importance of the Green Money initiative for Council's resource recovery objectives was the scheme aimed to:

- increase recycling volumes in the yellow-lid recycling bins; and
- encouraged residents to divert recycled material placed incorrectly into the re-lid rubbish bins.

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' points 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. Results to date indicate participating householders are earning on average around \$242 'green money' points going up to around \$400 for higher recycling households.

With Green Money themselves benefitting from the partnership with Council, they agreed to a continuing trial period with Randwick for a second 12 month timeframe to April 2014, again at no further cost to Randwick. Following this combined 24 month period of working together on the Green Money Recycling Rewards, Green Money advised they would need to enter into a commercial arrangement with Randwick from early 2014. On this basis, Council agreed to extend the partnership for a six month period from April 2014 until September 30, 2014 at a cost of \$20,000.

Over this period Green Money had negotiated successfully for external funding which was to be used for an independent evaluation of the program which was then

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intended to inform any ongoing utilization of Green Money by Randwick (and other Councils considering involvement with the Green Money program). Due to delays in receiving the funding and engagement of the external consultant, completion of this evaluation is not expected before the end of September.

With the current extension period set to expire on September 30, 2014, the options under consideration by Council include:

- discontinuing the Green Money Recycling Rewards program at the end of the current extension period and ending the program that has been operating for residents since the scheme began early in 2012; or
- seeking an additional extension from Green Money for a set period to enable development and completion of a tender process to test the availability of suppliers and costs associated with providing a rewards / incentive program for Randwick residents.

If the existing rewards scheme is discontinued without adequate notice to current householders and businesses it is likely that many would have insufficient time to redeem their remaining 'green money' points earned under the program. To avoid the likely disappointment and disadvantage of this outcome Council agreed to the above resolution at the August Environment Committee.

In regard to this resolution Green Money has advised:

- they are unable to extend at no cost to Council for a period of 3 months;
- they indicated some concern that in their experience with tendering processes, 3 months may be insufficient timing for the full tendering process to be completed; and
- a 3 month timeframe or decision via such a tendering process would result in a potential changeover or decision around the Christmas period when Green Money participants may actively seek to redeem their 'green money' points.

On this basis, Green Money has submitted a proposal to allow sufficient timing for a tendering process to be conducted from tender document preparation to signing of approved contracts, that is, 6 months from October 2014 over the Christmas period to the end of March 2015. Green Money have proposed this continuation would be at the same cost as the previous period, that is, \$20,000 (excl GST).

In their proposal, Green Money have included a number of additional items they will provide over this 6 month extension period, including:

- preparation of a digital marketing and promotion strategy (in conjunction with Council staff)
- additional messaging to participants on the full range of sustainability issues, not just recycling (agreed to and developed with Council staff)
- recruitment of an additional 20 local businesses to the program
- Green Money promotion campaign to local schools to increase their recycling participation within their schools and homes.

Council staff have prepared a tendering plan and commenced the process of developing the necessary tender documentation for a rewards / incentivisation program for residents. This planning timeframe takes into account the requirements to be met from both the compliance and practical experience of previous tendering processes. This timeframe is set out below:

Preparation of tendering documentation to comply with tendering and purchasing requirements	3 - 4 weeks
Tender advertisement	Minimum 3 weeks

Evaluation of proposals	3 weeks
Consideration by Council	Minimum 4 weeks (subject to reporting deadlines to Council)
Approval and signing of contracts	2 weeks

On this basis, and particularly with the uncertainty of timing deadlines being met for Council reports and approvals ahead of the Christmas and New Year periods, it is appropriate to consider a 6 month continuation of Green Money to ensure no further disruptions would occur before and if Council may approve a preferred supplier of this or a similar rewards / incentivisation service.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 1: Leadership in sustainability.
- Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.
- Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

Financial impact statement

The proposal from Green Money Recycling Rewards is to extend their program for Randwick residents for a final six months from 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015 at the same cost as the previous extension of \$20,000.

Conclusion

Green Money is an innovative program to both educate and motivate residents to better understand and improve their recycling behaviour. It is an Australian first which is incrementally being considered and taken up by a number of other Local Councils. With this in mind, it remains important that Council's purchasing procedures and processes are adhered to.

While the necessary purchasing processes are underway, the proposal from Green Money enables Council to continue with the program on a temporary, short-term basis to the advantage of participating businesses and residents.

Recommendation

That:

- a) Council agrees to extend the Green Money Recycling Rewards Scheme for a final period of six months, from 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015 for an amount of \$20,000 (excl GST) as provided in their proposal; and
- b) Notes the commencement of the tendering process and preparation for a rewards/incentivisation service with a report and appropriate recommendations to come back to Council as soon as practicable from the completion of this tender process.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E20/14



Subject: Overseas travel award provided for staff following Randwick's win in the LGNSW 2013 Excellence in the Environment Awards

Folder No: F2010/00241

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

In December last year, Council's sustainability achievements were recognised in the LGNSW's 2013 Excellence in the Environment Awards for overall sustainability. A major part of the prize provided by LGNSW is a \$10,000 travel award for staff development around sustainability related issues.

This report is to provide details of the proposed travel arrangements for relevant staff undertaking travel in relation to this award from LGNSW.

Issues

The Excellence in Environment Awards are held each year by LGNSW to recognize the various achievements and outcomes by NSW Councils across the range of environmental and sustainability issues. The overall Local Council award for 2013 was provided to Randwick for the range of actions delivered as part of its Sustaining our City initiative funded by Council's environmental levy program.

A key component of the recognition provided by LGNSW for its major award is a \$10,000 travel scholarship for relevant staff.

During early 2014, the various staff contributing to the sustainability programs and outcomes for Council were invited to submit travel proposals for funding consideration from the LGNSW travel award. Key conditions included the relevance of the travel purpose to Council's existing sustainability programs, willingness to report on learnings and the travel experience back to staff and some willingness to contribute to parts of the travel where applicable.

Travel proposals are required to be approved by LGNSW and a final report is required to be made by staff at the 2014 Excellence in Environment Award in Sydney in December this year.

The travel details and relevant staff proposed to be part or fully funded from the LGNSW travel scholarship include:

Officer	Travel purpose	Approx cost	Main benefit / relevance to Council
Talebul Islam Coordinator, Strategic Waste	Visiting 3 AWT energy from waste facilities in Nagoya and Miyakonojo City in Japan	Airfare / accom / interpreter costs to approx. \$2,800	To visit and bring back information on working technologies and increase Council understanding of energy from waste (AWT) technologies
Zaman	Visiting 3 water	Airfare /	Singapore's water utility includes

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Shamsuz Environmental Compliance Engineer	conservation and re-use sites run by Singapore's water utility in early October (with option for side trip to Orange County at own expense)	accom / costs to maximum contribution of \$2,000	'black' water (sewer mining) which is consumed by neighbouring countries. Orange County in California has similar reputation for high grade water re-use. This travel would provide additional information on a range of water conservation approaches under consideration in Randwick / Sydney
Choonghan Yeo Sustainability Projects and Monitoring Officer	Attending the NCCARF Climate Change conference in Qld	Conference registration, airfare / accom to approx. \$2,000	NCCARF is Australia's primary scientific organization examining climate change impacts. This conference brings delegates up to date on current national and international understanding on the relevant issues which will assist in focusing Randwick's priorities in this area of concern as part of our current review of our Climate Change Roadmap
Tony Lehmann Manager Integrated Transport	Attending the Sister Cities conference in Hangzhou province	Airfare only to approx. \$1,400 (other costs covered by Hangzhou govt)	The theme of this year's sister city conference is public transport, providing the opportunity to both contribute and gain experience from the participants at the conference on public transport issues relevant to Randwick and Sydney's Eastern suburbs
Peter Maganov Manager Sustainability & Strategic Waste	Visiting Parliamentary Commission for the Environment in Wellington New Zealand	Airfare / accom / costs to approx. \$1,400	New Zealand is currently undertaking legislative changes to its environmental reporting requirements. This visit would seek to gain some useful experience and learning for Council's ongoing environmental reporting requirements
Alternative 1: Peter Maganov Manager Sustainability & Strategic Waste	Travel to Arundel Norway, base of international State of the Environment reporting (time to be advised)	Contribution to airfare / accom to approx. \$2,400	This travel option is within intent of travel scholarship subject to approval by LGNSW that details of other trips taken is sufficient for purposes of award presentation at the Dec 2014 awards. This alternative option would be considered if the Manager's trip to NZ was not taken and funds were available within the \$10,000 provided.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 1: Leadership in sustainability
 Direction 1(a): Council has a long term vision based on sustainability.

Financial impact statement

There is \$10,000 available from LGNSW to meet these travel arrangements. The approximate costs outlined above will be limited to this total.

Conclusion

The LGNSW 2013 Excellence in Environment Awards provided important recognition for Randwick Council and its overall sustainability achievements for the year. The travel award scholarship is an important opportunity enabling Council staff to further develop their knowledge and understanding of relevant sustainability issues and bring that new information back for the benefit of Council.

Recommendation

That Council endorses the travel scholarships for staff as outlined in this report, following LGNSW's approval to provide \$10,000 as part of its 2013 Excellence in the Environment Overall Sustainability award to Randwick.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E21/14



Subject: Randwick Council's 2014
Sustainability Schools exchange

Folder No: F2007/00484

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

Over the past five years, Council has supported a sustainability schools exchange involving local Randwick schools, primarily with schools situated within the Riverina region of NSW.

This report outlines the 2014 sustainability schools exchange between Chifley Public School and Temora West Public School.

Issues

As part of Council's ongoing Sustaining our City initiative, a sustainability schools exchange has been organized between a local Randwick school and schools in the Riverina region of NSW. The purpose of the schools exchange is to enable local students to visit a food growing region of the State and learn about sustainability issues of relevance within regional farming communities. Randwick students' understanding of urban sustainability in a coastal environment are passed on to their counterparts within the regional setting.

Over the 5 years or so that the schools exchange has been running, the visits by our local schools have been supported by Temora Council under our sister city relationship. Both the participating school in Temora and Temora Council contribute to a number of the hosting arrangements of our local school's visit to their area.

This year students from Chifley Public School will travel to Temora in mid October for the sustainability schools exchange. They will visit Temora West Public School and tour the school's extensive and varied sustainability features as well as take part in a community planting and learning experience at the local wetland which the school has adopted as part of a wider environmental initiative with community groups and Temora Council. At this stage, the reciprocal visit from Temora West students to Randwick is being planned for mid 2015.

On previous occasions, Randwick's Mayor and Councillors have used the timing of the schools exchange to visit Temora and strengthen our sister city relationship with the local Council. Alternatively, students from Chifley Public School could provide a brief photographic or video report to Council on the outcomes of their visit and what they have learned from their visit.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 1: Leadership in sustainability.
- Outcome 2: A vibrant and diverse community.
- Outcome 3: An informed and engaged community.
- Outcome 10: A healthy environment.

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Financial impact statement

\$6,000.00 is allocated from the community education budget of the environmental levy program to cover costs associated with the sustainability schools exchange between a Randwick school and the reciprocal visit from Temora West students.

Conclusion

This is an innovative program that enables local school students to learn firsthand, increase and exchange their understanding of sustainability issues with students in regional NSW. The visit and exchange also strengthens Randwick's sister city relationship with Temora Council and provides an opportunity for Councillors and staff to be a part of the visit to Temora.

Recommendation

That:

- a) Council notes and endorses the 2014 sustainability schools exchange involving students from Chifley Public School, learning and sharing on sustainability issues with their counterparts from Temora West Public School;
- b) Advice be provided from the Mayor or Council representatives on visiting Temora at the same time as the schools exchange as part of our sister city relationship with Temora Council;
- c) Council hosts a brief presentation from students of Malabar Public School at a date to be advised following their return and participation in the 2014 sustainability schools exchange.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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