



**Randwick City
Council**

a sense of community

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015

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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, 10 November 2015 at 6:00pm

Committee Members: The Mayor D' Souza, Andrews, Belleli, Bowen, Garcia, Matson (Deputy Chairperson), Moore, Nash, Neilson, Roberts, Shurey (Chairperson), Seng, 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 – 14 July 2015

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 69 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Urgent Business

Environment Reports

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Notice of Rescission Motions

Nil

.....
Ray Brownlee
GENERAL MANAGER

Environment Report No. E9/15



Subject: 2014-15 Results and Outcomes of the 3-Council Regional Environment Program between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils

Folder No: F2008/00383

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

The 3-Council Regional Environment Program (previously known as the Ecological Footprint project) has been underway between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils since 2009 following Randwick's successful application for funding at the time from the NSW Government.

Following the expiry of external funding in 2012, the success of the program and the results achieved provided sufficient justification and support for the collaboration to continue on an ongoing basis. The Program Manager, previously located at Randwick, is currently located at Waverley Council with oversight via an Operational Group and a Steering Committee.

This report provides an update to Council on the overall results of the main projects over the 2014 /15 financial year.

Issues

The 3-Council Regional Environment Program continues to implement approximately 4 key projects over each financial year, as well as a number of additional projects implemented over the 2014-15 financial year following direct and in-direct successful funding applications. The in-direct successful funding application relates to funding provided to SSROC member Councils to take on board the 3-Council's very successful Compost Revolution program which was instigated as one of the original collaboration projects between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils.

Brief project and results' overviews on the 3 Council Regional Environment Program include:

Project title and brief description	Randwick relevant data and results (2014/15)	Overall results for the 3-Council collaboration
Barrett House Sustainability Demonstration project – small cottage bequeathed to Randwick and renovated as part of the 3-Council collaboration with affordable sustainability features on display for residents via workshops, presentations and open days at the House.	Located at 6 Barrett Place Randwick – also used to support our own sustainable living workshops. The cottage now includes a small permaculture and demonstration nature strip food garden.	8 local community groups meet on a weekly base in the house plus approx 24 sustainability workshop sessions have been held with over 400 participants attending over weekends and weekdays. 11 e-newsletters sent out to almost 900 local residents and groups each calendar year.

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Project title and brief description	Randwick relevant data and results (2014/15)	Overall results for the 3-Council collaboration
<p>Compost Revolution – Residents receive a discounted compost bin or worm farm following their completion of an on-line tutorial and quiz on composting.</p>	<p>In 2014-15, 535 Randwick householders signed up to Compost Revolution, bringing the total number of participating Randwick households to more than 3,000 since the program commenced.</p> <p>In 2014-15, there were almost 400 tonnes of food waste diverted from landfill.</p>	<p>More than 5,700 residents have participated in Compost Revolution since it began, diverting almost 3,000 tonnes of organic food waste from landfill.</p> <p>In 2014-15, around 800 tonnes was diverted from a total participation level of 1,080 households.</p> <p>Compost Revolution has been taken up by 33 Councils in NSW, Victoria, and Queensland. Last financial year, with support from the 3-Council program, SSROC member Councils received an \$800,000 external grant to extend Compost Revolution to SSROC member Councils.</p>
<p>Business Water Audits – partly funded by Sydney Water, our Sustainable Business Water Program enables local businesses to save water and water charges in their business operations.</p>	<p>68 local Randwick businesses have participated in the business water audit program saving 714,000 litres of water each year and reducing their water bills by almost \$730,000 since the audits began.</p>	<p>Almost 250 local businesses across the eastern suburbs have reduced water use by 1,500,000 litres of water since the audits began and reduced water charges over that time by more than \$1.8 million.</p>
<p>BinTRIM – The 3-Council program received \$93,500 from NSW EPA to engage with local businesses in bin audits and investigations aimed to reduce food waste going to landfill, mainly from local cafes and restaurants across the eastern suburbs</p>	<p>70 local eateries in Randwick engaged with BinTRIM receiving free waste assessments, advice and options on improved services to reduce food waste going to landfill.</p>	<p>Overall, approximately 217 small to medium businesses received free waste assessments, advice and options on improvements to waste services to reduce food waste going to landfill.</p>
<p>10% Energy Challenge - \$40,000 received from NSW Env'al Trust to increase householder participation in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Approx 100 Randwick householders have signed up to the 10% energy challenge, around 70 receiving energy assessments to facilitate energy saving changes around their home.</p>	<p>352 total participants to date, across the eastern suburbs with 150 receiving free energy assessments.</p>

Project title and brief description	Randwick relevant data and results (2014/15)	Overall results for the 3-Council collaboration
Low Carbon Future Plan – coordinated plan aimed at identifying best value project areas to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions over the eastern suburbs.	Supports Randwick’s own <i>Energy and Greenhouse Management</i> and recently completed <i>Renewable Energy Master Plans</i> .	The 3-Council Low Carbon Future Plan identifies key projects across non-Council areas setting a community reduction target of approximately 30% for greenhouse gas emissions by 2031.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 1: Leadership in Sustainability.

Outcome 10: A Healthy Environment.

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

Financial impact statement

Each of the 3 Councils contribute an amount of \$117,000 annually, enabling the payment of the Program Manager and continuation of the key projects agreed by the Councils established via a Memorandum of Understanding.

In 2014-15, the collaboration project was also successful in attracting additional external funding of approximately, \$132,000, used to implement separate waste and energy reduction projects, as well as an additional \$800,000 to enable SSROC member Councils to access the 3-Council Compost Revolution program.

Conclusion

In 2014–15, results of the 3-Council regional environment collaboration included engagement with more than 1,250 local householders and businesses, saving in excess of 800 tonnes of organic food waste, 220,000 litres of drinking water and cumulative costs savings of \$800,000 in water costs alone for participating businesses.

The 3-Council collaboration continues to demonstrate its success in working cooperatively on tackling a range of important environmental issues across Sydney’s eastern suburbs. The Sustainable Business Water Program was a finalist in the NSW Green Globe Awards for 2015.

Recommendation

That Council notes the results of the 3-Council Regional Environment Program for 2014 /15.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E10/15

Subject: Reviewing the impact of sewage leak into Botany Bay from Cronulla wastewater pumping station



Folder No: F2004/08246

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

At August Committee, Council resolved (Matson/Shurey), *that Council's Environment Committee review the impact of the sewage leak into Botany Bay from the Cronulla wastewater pumping station.*

Issues

On August 14, 2015, Sydney Water reported an incident at its Cronulla wastewater pumping station involving an estimated 5 million litres of wastewater being discharged between 1pm and 3pm into the waters of Botany Bay.

At 4.52pm that same day, Sydney Water advised Randwick Council by email of the incident and that the overflow had been stopped and that Sydney Water was working with the NSW EPA and NSW Health on clean-up and testing of the effected waters.

At the time, media messages were circulated advising swimmers to avoid entering the water until further monitoring data was collected.

The sewage overflow at the Cronulla pumping station was attributed to a power outage occurring at the same time, affecting approximately 40,000 homes in the area. While the pumping station has two separate underground power supplies from different areas of the electricity grid, the power outage occurred at the same time as a planned shutdown by Ausgrid of the alternate power supply area. Sydney Water arranged for portable power generation in time to stop the overflow at approximately 3pm. Power was restored by Ausgrid at approximately 4pm.

Following the spill, authorities commenced monitoring of waters adjacent to the point of discharge to check the extent of impacts on water quality. All of Botany Bay's swimming beaches were included in 19 sites monitored twice daily from August 14 to August 17 and extending into the next day, August 18. All samples taken complied with EPA BeachWatch criteria for safe swimming.

Sydney Water was responsible for clean-up around the pumping station area which involved a combination of flushing freshwater through the system and extracting wastewater via approved tanker vehicles.

A marine ecologist was engaged to assess any aquatic impacts and their report indicated there were no adverse impacts on the natural environment of the Bay. Adjacent oyster beds were tested in conjunction with the NSW Food Authority also enabling oyster farms to receive a clean bill of health and resume operating.

Sydney Water passed on all details to the NSW EPA who are considering the extent of any further action that may be required.

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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 cycle management approach including water conservation, re-use and water quality improvements is adopted.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

The volume of water involved in the overflow from the pumping station was estimated to be in the order of 0.001% of Botany Bay's water volume. While still relatively significant, the shorter duration of the overflow and daily tidal movements are considered to have maximized dilution and dispersal of the wastewater across a wide area of the bay and ocean waters. This appears to have occurred within a period of days which accounts for the water quality monitoring results at the 19 sites within Botany Bay.

The two separate power supplies to this pumping station are aimed at minimizing the likelihood of pump failure. Unfortunately on this occasion, the power outage occurred at the same time as a scheduled shutdown for upgrade and maintenance at the alternative power source. Sydney Water is examining ways to further reduce any future occurrence at its pumping station sites as part of its review of this incident.

Recommendation

That Council notes the results of agency coordination and cooperation following the overflow of sewage from the Cronulla pumping station and from these results the apparent low impact of this spill on the waters of Botany Bay.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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Environment Report No. E11/15



Subject: Seeking Council approval to partner with Origin Energy for the provision of energy saving innovations for Randwick residents, businesses and schools.

Folder No: F2005/00230

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability

Introduction

In July 2015, Origin Energy invited Randwick Council to enter into a partnership arrangement with them to provide a range of energy saving innovations of benefit to residents, businesses and schools.

Following this invitation, a market check was conducted by Council staff to provide transparency of the Origin Energy proposal and ensure compliance with our purchasing procedures.

This report provides the results of this process and makes the appropriate recommendation for Council to consider on the Origin Energy partnership proposal.

Issues

The Origin Energy proposal covered 4 key areas of activity across the City incorporating:

Community and business solar renewables	Group solar buying for households and businesses with options for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wholesale price offering (conditional around new power purchase agreements for customers); - adding solar PV to existing customers; - community 'town hall' information sessions to skill up residents and business owners. (This offer does not necessarily require existing customers to change their energy provider to Origin Energy).
Council or community building installations	Enabling discounted solar installations on Council or community buildings subject to targets being met (only community buildings will be considered).
Solar storage installation and monitoring	Installation and monitoring of a battery storage technology system on an existing Council solar site for the duration of the partnership period (Council will have an opportunity to retain the system after the agreed project period)
Sustainable transportation	Trialing of electric / hybrid vehicles for residents with possible demonstrator discounts on the completion of trial.

Following the initial invitation from Origin Energy to participate in this partnership proposal, a brief Expression of Interest (EoI) was prepared requesting energy

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businesses and utilities to submit their own proposals to Council for the provision of "Energy Saving Innovations for Randwick residents, schools, businesses and Council Operations." This was conducted to market test the elements of the proposal from Origin and although Council was not purchasing specific services, to ensure compliance with our purchasing procedures.

This EoI was distributed on August 21, 2015 for a two week period to 5 energy businesses and utilities. While one business declined to submit a proposal after initially stating it was keen to respond, Council received four responses from different businesses.

In summary, the Origin Energy proposal was confirmed as providing specific potential energy and cost saving benefits to residents, businesses and schools across a diverse range of energy innovations at no cost to Council. Origin has agreed to guarantee the products available and any work carried out under their existing warranties and will provide Council pricing details on a confidential basis to ensure transparency on the discounts on offer.

If the partnership proposal is approved by Council, it is possible that competitor suppliers may advertise and promote similar or matching discounts during the partnership period. On this basis, Council's information to participating residents, businesses and schools would be advising them to check pricing and products on offer to ensure they are receiving the best offer at the time. Origin Energy understands the financial risks of this partnership proposal are very much with them and that Council's role is primarily to maximise information on the availability of the offer to our residents, businesses and schools.

Outcomes of this partnership align well with project deliverables identified within Council's Energy and Greenhouse Management Plan, our recently completed Renewable Energy Master Plan and the Low Carbon Future Plan currently in preparation as part of our 3-Council Regional Environment Program.

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.

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

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact on Council for this matter.

Conclusion

The Origin proposal stands out as a very positive opportunity to explore the provision of energy saving innovations for Randwick residents, businesses and schools at no cost to Council. Origin Energy seems clear in their understanding that they are assuming the risks associated in this proposed partnership and that Council's primary role is to work with them on communicating and promoting the options and opportunities to our residents, businesses and schools.

An apparent risk to Council appears more to be whether the promotion and partnership achieves the type of results which Origin Energy would like to see. This offer from Origin is a first for local government in Australia, with Origin Energy

intending to learn from the relationship and / or success of the range of programs ahead of a possible roll-out to other Councils around the country.

Origin Energy indicates it has a strong willingness to work with media and communications staff to maximise local understanding and potential take up of the range of options identified. This offer would remain available for up to 12 months which with the proper level of marketing should enable it to reach a wider group of residents, businesses and schools.

Recommendation

Following the partnership proposal received by Council from Origin Energy and the result of the market testing of the components of this proposal, it is recommended that:

- a) Council approve the proposal to partner with Origin Energy to provide a range of energy saving innovations for residents, businesses and schools;
- b) Council delegate the General Manager to sign an agreement with Origin Energy for the provision of energy saving innovations identified in the partnership proposal;
- c) An appropriate announcement or launch is organised between Randwick Council and Origin Energy and that Council receive progress reports on the outcomes of this partnership arrangement.

Attachment/s:

1. Origin Energy partnership proposal to Randwick Council

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6 July 2015

Attention:

Cr Ted Seng
 Mayor
 Randwick City Council
 30 Frances Street
 RANDWICK, NSW 2031

Randwick City Council

09 JUL 2015

Records Received

Partnership Proposal with Origin Energy

Dear Cr Seng, Mayor

I am writing to you in regard to a very exciting and positive energy saving and renewable energy proposal between Randwick City Council and Origin Energy. Following some preliminary discussions with your staff we would like to invite Randwick Council to participate in the first trial of our Local Government energy saving program.

For many years, Origin Energy has been at the forefront of energy retailers across Australia working with community and business sectors to save on energy costs by increasing their understanding and implementation of energy saving measures and innovative renewable energy solutions. Origin is keen to extend this proactive relationship and leadership in sustainability by establishing similar energy saving programs with Local Councils across Australia.

Origin has recently launched our innovative solar Power Purchase Agreement, which allows residential and commercial customers to receive the benefits of solar energy without the upfront cost of purchasing a solar system. **Origin Energy owns and operates the solar system, ensuring it's** continued successful operation so the building owner can benefit as their solar system continues to generate electricity.

We have developed a draft model for working with and assisting Local Councils on facilitating and communicating sustainable energy solutions with and on behalf of their communities. With our base in Sydney, we are keen to implement and learn from a small scale trial of our approach before extending it more widely across the Australian local government sector. On this basis, we are keen to extend an invitation for Randwick Council to become our first local government energy saving program partner in Australia.

Having engaged with Randwick previously, particularly in relation to your electric-vehicle trial with **Nissan, and knowing Randwick's successful history of sustainability leadership**, we believe this partnership proposal will not only benefit our two organisations but will also provide sound and positive energy saving leadership outcomes for the Randwick community and the local environment.

We are very happy to meet with the appropriate representatives of your Council to plan for these various measures and ensure a transparent level of outcome and benefit for all parties. A number of the measures established for consideration and application in our trial program includes community and local government solar electricity systems, sustainable transportation and the emerging technology of energy storage as outlined briefly below. Please note, these offers will apply to both Origin and non-Origin retail energy customers.

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Origin Energy
 321 Exhibition St, Melbourne, VIC, 3000 • www.originenergy.com.au

<p>Community and business solar renewables offer</p>	<p>Group solar buying program for households and businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholesale price offering to participants, (some conditions apply as per our newly developed power purchase agreement) • Adding-on solar PV systems to existing customers • 2 or 3 community solar 'town hall' meetings to answer residents questions and provide additional information prior to participation
<p>Council operations</p>	<p>Enabling additional solar installations on Council or community buildings at discounted rates, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discounting for one or more PV installation(s) on a Council or community building or site(s), number and size of systems offered would be based on achieving participation targets. (subject as required to Council's procurement or sponsorship guidelines and procedures)
<p>Solar storage installation and monitoring</p>	<p>Using energy storage to increase the value of solar for an existing Randwick Council solar installation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer to provide an energy storage system at one of the existing Council sites with solar installations. System would be monitored and evaluated by Origin and Randwick to provide feedback on the benefits of storage for Randwick residents and businesses.
<p>Sustainable transportation – electric vehicles trial and take-up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origin has invited Mitsubishi to participate in this partnership by offering a Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV vehicles (Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle) to residents/business owners on a short term basis to provide feedback and assist in evaluations of these new 'hybrid' vehicles. Participants may be able to purchase these Outlander hybrids at a demonstrator price following their evaluation.

This comprehensive program can be adjusted and clarified further to satisfy the necessary probity requirements or current sustainability initiatives underway by Council. We would like to emphasise that none of our current competitors in the energy retail market are offering such an extensive range of existing and emerging sustainability measures. The invitation for Randwick Council to participate in this partnership with Origin Energy is intended to be on a trial basis for a period up to the end of 2015.

Obviously there would be further discussions on the timing and placement of milestone marketing and communication opportunities and we would be happy to assist and work with Randwick's marketing and events staff to establish the required collateral and media material etc. We would also welcome a joint announcement or launch event that would include the Mayor and Randwick General Manager with Origin's General Manager for Solar and Emerging Business, Mr Phil Mackey.

Like Origin Energy, we hope that Randwick Council may be excited by the positive opportunities this offer provides in supporting strong energy savings and environmental outcomes with clearly demonstrated and measurable results for both our organisations, our community stakeholders and the local environment. We hope that Randwick can provide an early response to this invitation and enable the necessary details, arrangements and timeframes to be resolved in time for commencement in the new financial year.

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Please don't hesitate to contact Origin Energy for further information or to arrange a meeting to clarify or finalise the necessary details for this trial to proceed.

Yours sincerely,



JP Ross
Group Manager, Mass Markets

Origin
Level 20, 321 Exhibition Street, Melbourne VIC, 3000
m 04 7594 1684
e jp.ross@originenergy.com.au

cc: General Manager, Mr Ray Brownlee

Environment Report No. E12/15

Subject: Seeking Council endorsement of
Randwick's Biodiversity Strategy

Folder No: F2005/00504

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability; George Bounassif,
Manager Infrastructure Services



Introduction

This report seeks Council endorsement of the Randwick Biodiversity Strategy.

Issues

Randwick's Biodiversity Strategy sets out the high level priorities for the conservation of native flora and fauna across the City.

Biodiversity is made up of a complex variety of plants, animals and ecosystems that provide the essential biological functions of our Planet. From the cycle of enabling photosynthesis in plants that provide us with clean air, the breakdown of atmospheric pollution and climate stabilisation; to the cycling and breakdown of nutrients and carbon absorption in our soils enabling food crops and plants to grow; to the habitats in which the pollination and fertilization occurs of our diverse plant and animal species. With 26 per cent of Randwick providing open space and bushland in such close proximity to Australia's largest city, Council has long recognized its responsibility to the management and conservation of our native and indigenous plant and animal species.

Although Council's 20-year City Plan and the various Bushland Management Plans implemented primarily by our Bushland team, their contractors and volunteer groups, provide both the strategic link and the practical implementation of biodiversity management for Randwick, this strategy formalizes our biodiversity priorities for Council now and into the future.

The six key goals making up Randwick's Biodiversity Strategy include:

- (i) To monitor and maintain baseline information and inventories of biodiversity in Randwick
- (ii) To provide accurate advice and reporting regarding biodiversity to Council, to staff, landholders, developers, Government agencies and the public
- (iii) To protect biodiversity in accordance with Council's strategic land-use roles and responsibilities
- (iv) To undertake on-ground work to protect, restore, maintain and enhance local biodiversity including effective mitigation of threats
- (v) To protect genetic biodiversity via production of local provenance plants at Council's nursery
- (vi) To increase community awareness and appreciation of the importance of conserving biodiversity and to engage our community in biodiversity conservation initiatives.

Annual funding is provided for habitat conservation projects via the Biodiversity Strategy budget of the environmental levy program. Approximately \$91,000 is allocated per year of the environmental levy for a range of initiatives including:

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Projects supported by environmental levy budget	2015-16 funding allocation	2016-17 funding allocation	2017-18 funding allocation	2018-19 funding allocation
Flora and fauna monitoring	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	-
Interpretive signage	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Dune restoration/ protection works	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Native Havens project with residents and schools	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$56,000	\$56,000
Total annual allocation	\$91,000	\$91,000	\$91,000	\$81,000

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 10: A healthy environment

Direction 10(c): Bushland, open spaces and biodiversity are protected and enhanced for future generations.

Financial impact statement

\$91,000 of funding is provided annually (only \$81,000) in 2018-19 for ongoing implementation of Randwick's Biodiversity Strategy from the Biodiversity Strategy budget of Council's environmental levy program.

Conclusion

Randwick has a strong reputation for its demonstrated support and commitment to biodiversity protection over many years. Not only is there a high level of community support through volunteer programs such as Bushcare and Parkcare, Council's Bushland management and Community Nursery teams are highly regarded for the strong expertise they bring to their management of Randwick's natural resources so close to the Sydney CBD.

Additionally Council's efforts recognise the importance of the 26 per cent of bushland and open space still found across Randwick City.

This high level strategic approach to the management of our natural resources formalizes Council's approach to biodiversity conservation and enhancement for future generations of our residents and visitors to the eastern suburbs of the Sydney metropolitan area.

Recommendation

That Council endorse Randwick's Biodiversity Strategy.

Attachment/s:

1. Randwick's Biodiversity Strategy: Protecting the Flora and Fauna of Randwick, Oct 2015

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2015

PROTECTING THE NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA OF RANDWICK

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1. SUMMARY

The first principle of the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* (Commonwealth of Australia, 1996) is that biodiversity is best conserved 'in situ', or where it naturally occurs. This places local government in a unique and important position to properly manage biodiversity. Randwick's Biodiversity Strategy explains the current state of biodiversity in the city, and existing and planned conservation actions. It has been prepared by Randwick Council for use by the community, council departments, other landowners and developers. It complies with various Commonwealth and State legislations.

The biodiversity of Randwick City may be found within and is dependent upon, local terrestrial and aquatic environments. The diversity of these living things can be considered at three levels of ecological organisation: the diversity of species, the genetic diversity

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contained within them; and the variety of ecosystems and ecological processes of which they form a part. Appendix I lists the living things indigenous to Randwick City that have been identified to date.

Threatened, vulnerable species or ecosystems are identified by Commonwealth and State legislation as at risk of extinction. Legislation is in place to respond to these risks and includes mandatory actions to be implemented by local government and other landholders to ensure continued survival of the species at risk. A number of plants, birds, frogs and ecosystems are identified as being at risk in Randwick City. Many other species and ecosystems in Randwick are considered 'rare', as less than 6% of our city's nature-based habitat remains.

This strategy also takes into consideration marine organisms of the adjacent coast and marine waters as many land-based activities can affect marine biodiversity. Knowledge of the health of our local marine ecosystems and species is relatively poor as generally speaking, there is often only a limited collection of data to inform or guide the necessary management or planning decisions. Due to the expanse of off-shore coastal and marine waters involved Council is not the delegated management authority for these areas.

On a global and local scale, biodiversity provides all of our food and the raw materials for a wide range of products including clothing and medicinal goods, as well as the means to control pest plants, animals and diseases.

Biodiversity plays a significant role in important environmental processes which affect human well-being, such as the breakdown of water and atmospheric pollution, halting soil salinity, nutrient cycling and carbon absorption and climate stabilization (Binning and Young, NPWS 1999).

Clean and healthy marine environments also ensure marine flora and fauna are preserved and can continue to contribute to the complex functions of the Planet's oceans and climate.

Bushland and other vegetation in Randwick City provides important habitat for migratory and sedentary birds, frogs, reptiles, insects and other organisms which make up a complex food chain. Approximately 33% of Australian bird species have been recorded in Randwick City within the last 10 years. This is considerably more than the number recorded in city areas further inland, which indicates the coastal corridor is imperative for the movement and survival of migratory and wading bird species.

Some more obvious benefits to human populations from local biodiversity include:

- Improved air and water quality
- Visual amenity
- Recreational space
- Plant pollination
- Temperature modification
- Insect and other pest control
- Catchment protection including flood and erosion control and
- Preservation of cultural identity and sense of place.

In addition, the natural beauty of the coastline and its bushland and open space settings, as well as the cleanliness of our beaches and marine waters, contribute to a broad range of financial benefits for local businesses, attracting local residents, national and international tourists and visitors.

The social benefits of Randwick's biodiversity include aesthetically enhanced parks, educational opportunities for its many schools and the University of New South Wales (UNSW), and opportunities to appreciate the local natural heritage and indigenous culture. Biodiversity is known to contribute to the general well-being and mental health of individuals

particularly within our highly urbanized society and facilitates a sense of national identity and a connection to the Earth for both indigenous and non indigenous Australians (DEST, 1993).

Biodiversity decline is caused by many human-induced processes. These are referred to in State and Commonwealth legislation as 'threatening processes'. Some of these 'listed' threatening processes exist in Randwick City and require Council to act to reduce their impacts. Many other threatening processes are not listed but still have major impacts on the health of local biodiversity.

This strategy identifies actions necessary aimed at halting the decline of local species and ecosystems by:

- treating threatening processes
- undertaking conservation and restoration actions
- encouraging the wider community to take responsibility for and assist in, its recovery where possible
- ensuring all council staff consider the impact of their decisions
- ensuring developments adequately address potentially negative ecological impacts and comply with their statutory responsibilities.

2. THE STRATEGY

2.1 AIM

The purpose of this Biodiversity Strategy is to establish a positive understanding of biodiversity issues and identify processes by which Council will meet its statutory and other responsibilities to identify, protect, restore, maintain, enhance and monitor local biodiversity.

2.2 VISION

The Biodiversity Strategy is responding to our 20-year community strategic plan known as *City Plan*. This plan's vision is to build a 'sense of community' by 'working together to enhance our environment, to celebrate our heritage and to value and serve our diverse community'.

This vision will be achieved through a network of healthy 'natural areas' and green spaces encompassing public and private land. It is anticipated that Council and the community will work together to create and conserve habitat for our local flora and fauna for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations.

2.3 GOALS

Six priority activity areas or goals have been identified and form the focus of our implementation action. They are:

- (i) To monitor and maintain baseline information and inventories of biodiversity in Randwick.
- (ii) To provide accurate advice and reporting regarding biodiversity to Council staff, landholders, developers, Government agencies and the public.
- (iii) To protect biodiversity in accordance with Council's strategic land-use roles and responsibilities.
- (iv) To undertake on-ground work to protect, restore, maintain and enhance local biodiversity, including effective mitigation of threats.

(v) To protect genetic biodiversity via production of local provenance plants at Council's nursery.

(vi) To increase community awareness and appreciation of the importance of conserving biodiversity and to engage our community in biodiversity conservation initiatives.

3. BIODIVERSITY

3.1 WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity represents the variety of all life forms, the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part.

Biodiversity changes occur over short and long term timeframes in response to natural and human influences. Biodiversity is essential to human life. It allows for the continuing operation of natural processes which in turn provide food, medicine, improved air and water quality, climate regulation, soil and catchment protection, nutrient cycling and carbon storage, aesthetic natural landscapes and traditional links of indigenous Australians to the environment. The functioning and maintenance of all ecosystems, landscapes, human settlements, industry and agriculture is very dependant on biodiversity.

Biodiversity can be considered at three levels:

- Species Diversity – The variety of species on earth. It is the most common way people think about biodiversity.
- Genetic Diversity: The variety of genetic information contained in all of the individual plants, animals and micro-organisms that inhabit the Earth. Genetic variation occurs between individuals of the same species, between populations of the same species and between different species. It explains, for example, why some people have brown eyes and others have blue eyes. Maintaining a range of genetic material within a population of individual species enables the population to better adapt to changes in the environment, i.e. genetic diversity enhances species survival through time.
- Ecosystem Diversity - The variety of habitats, biotic communities and ecological processes (Commonwealth of Australia 1996).

There is still much to be learned about biodiversity, particularly the more primitive plants, invertebrate animals, micro-organisms, genetic variation and ecosystem functioning.

4. BIODIVERSITY IN RANDWICK

4.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The current state of our local biodiversity reflects the changes seen across Australia since the arrival of Europeans. The urbanisation of the eastern suburbs commenced in the early 1800s, resulting in the local extinction of many species, both plant and animal, long before any systematic recording of local biodiversity was considered. The undulating landform and soft sands of the eastern suburbs made the clearing of vegetation a simple and relatively easy task. Urbanisation from the north-east of Randwick, following the formation of the colony spread southwards from Coogee in the following decades. However, many large areas of bushland were cleared relatively recently in the 1960s and 1970s.

The more biodiverse areas currently occur as the dozens of small patches of original vegetation that are scattered throughout the urban area. Approximately 240 hectares of remnant bushland remains, representing approximately 6.5% of Randwick's total area. These patches vary in size from 60 hectares to single plants. The remaining local populations of native animals rely on these remnants of bushland, as well as on non-bushland habitats, such as private gardens and public parks.

Although conservation of marine biodiversity is not a local government responsibility, land-based activities can have a significant impact on marine biodiversity and council is mindful of these impacts.

4.2 LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA

Although there are few formal records of the fauna species that were native to this area prior to European occupation, it can be assumed from historical records that the Randwick area was once home to many species of mammals, such as wallabies and kangaroos, many more snake and lizard species, frogs and birds, particularly the smaller birds of scrub and heath vegetation.

The City of Randwick is fortunate that more than 300 species of mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs are still represented in, or regularly visit, our City.

Our City is home to more than 500 species of vascular plants. The areas of remnant vegetation have been thoroughly surveyed for species so this count may increase by only a few species over the next decade.

Plant communities are made up of a range of plant species that prefer particular conditions. The variety and extent of these are a general measure of ecosystem diversity. Our Local Government Area (LGA) contains 16 vegetation communities such as Coastal Sandstone Heath, Coastal Dune Heath, Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub and Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest. Only very small remnants of these communities remain today when compared to those present in 1788.

Council has four marine protected areas within the LGA including two aquatic reserves located within the City Bronte-Coogee Aquatic Reserve, the other being Cape Banks located off Botany Bay National Park, an intertidal protection area at Long Bay and a Grey Nurse shark critical habitat area off Magic Point at the southern end of Maroubra beach.

Information on biodiversity is updated each year in Council's State of the Environment (SoE) Report. Management information appears in some of Council's open space plans of management and in vegetation management plans for non-Council land prepared by other local land managers such as golf courses.

4.3 KNOWLEDGE OF BIODIVERSITY

Base-line data is necessary to understand local biodiversity, that is, what species are currently present. This represents species diversity. Gaps exist in the species lists of local invertebrates such as insects, beetles, butterflies and ants, or more ancient organisms such as fungi, lichens and bacteria. Knowledge of the local marine biodiversity is currently limited to around 362 fauna species and 27 flora species.

4.4 IDENTIFIED THREATENED ITEMS

State and/or Commonwealth legislation determines threatened species, populations and ecological communities. They are classified as extinct, endangered, vulnerable or rare at a local, state or federal level.

In recent years, 23 species of plants and animals that have been recorded in Randwick have been declared threatened under State and/or Commonwealth legislation. Many more are recognized as being locally rare. Of the threatened fauna species, some of these rely on the local area all year round, while others are migratory.

Two ecological communities with 'endangered' status are present in Randwick City; *Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub*, of which only 3% remains, and *Sydney Freshwater Wetlands*, of which only small, highly modified examples remain.

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In the local marine environment, the Grey Nurse Shark, is the most prominent threatened species. However, the Great White Shark, the Black Cod and the Green Sawfish are threatened species which could occur in the ocean off Randwick City and in Botany Bay.

5. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

5.1 OUR STATE AND COMMONWEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

Many actions identified under State and Commonwealth legislation are delegated to local government to implement and monitor. It is critical that Council exercises these responsibilities diligently, and with accuracy, to avoid loss of local biodiversity and possible prosecution.

This strategy has been prepared to be consistent with relevant international, national, state, regional and local laws, strategies, policies, and programs. It is also broadly consistent with the objectives and outcomes of the *National Biodiversity Strategy* and *NSW Biodiversity Strategy*.

Major legislation applies to threatened species; the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act, 1999, (Commonwealth)* (EPBC Act) and the *Threatened Species Conservation Act, 1995 (NSW)* (TSC Act). This legislation protects threatened species, populations and ecological communities. To address impacts and threats on each item listed under these acts, Recovery Plans and Priority Action Statements (PAS) are prepared. The implementation of Recovery Plans and PASs are the responsibility of any landholder with threatened items present, including councils, statutory departments and private landholders.

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* is the principal planning legislation in NSW and is administered by the NSW Department of Planning. The most important sections of this act which affect Randwick's biodiversity are *5A, Significant effect on threatened species, populations and ecological communities* and *79C, Evaluation - Matters for consideration*. These two sections ensure that where developments may negatively affect biodiversity and its conservation, procedures are undertaken to modify the development to protect and conserve biodiversity. This act also makes provision for environmental planning instruments such as local environment plans (LEP's) and State Environmental Planning policies (SEPP's), the preparation and implementation of which, can have direct impacts on biodiversity conservation.

State Environment Planning Policy No. 19 - Bushland in Urban Areas (SEPP 19) is designed to protect and preserve bushland in urban areas that is zoned for public open space purposes. It requires council to prepare plans of management for bushland in open space areas. It must be applied by council in the assessment of developments on adjacent land that may affect local bushland. And its aims must be considered when council prepares local environmental plans (LEPs) and the retention of bushland must be given priority.

The Local Government Act 1993 sets out the charter for local government. The Sections pertinent to biodiversity conservation are *Section 36 to 36N*. These sections detail the management objectives and uses of community land with which council must comply.

The *Noxious Weeds Act, 1993* defines the introduced plant species that pose a human health problem or are at risk to native vegetation conservation. Randwick Council is responsible for the implementation of the Act within the city boundaries on both public and private land.

The *Marine Estate Management Act 2014* provides for the integrated declaration and management of a comprehensive system of marine parks and aquatic reserves in the context of the whole marine estate. Under this Act, if there is development on land that is in the locality of the aquatic reserves and Council is of the opinion the development is likely to have an effect on the plants or animals within the marine park or aquatic reserve and their

habitat, Council is obliged to consult with the relevant Minister(s) before finally determining the application.

5.2 COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO BIODIVERSITY

Council's commitment to biodiversity and sustainability for the next 20 years has been captured in our 20 year strategic community plan. This Plan has been prepared to reflect the community's vision in conjunction with Council's long term goals for the City. A key outcome in this Plan is Outcome 10 - A Healthy Environment which specifies that "bushland, open spaces and biodiversity are protected and enhanced for future generations" (Randwick Council, 2013).

The Randwick Local Environment Plan (2012) is the statutory planning instrument that currently applies to Randwick City. It was gazetted on 1 February 2013 and commenced on 15 February 2013. The LEP designates the zoning, the development objectives and the permissible uses for every parcel of land within the Randwick City Area.

The Randwick Development Control Plan (DCP) 2013 includes provisions to minimize the impacts on local habitat and biodiversity on-site and in adjacent areas, during construction, and promotes inclusion of fauna friendly plant species as part of landscaping plans following construction works.

5.3 RISKS AND THREATS

The biodiversity of Randwick has been greatly reduced over the past 200 years, with an estimated 6.5% of the original remnant vegetation remaining. Many species have become threatened or extinct at the local level, such as kangaroos and wallabies and many small bird species. Species extinctions can occur as a result of numerous, human-related actions and events.

The term 'threatening processes' is self-explanatory and some are so great and widespread that they have been identified in State and Commonwealth Acts as 'key threatening processes'. These require certain actions to be taken by local land managers, including Council. Some threatening processes covered by legislation that are applicable to Randwick are:

- Invasion of native plant communities by *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*,
- Competition and grazing by the feral European Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculu*,
- Clearing of native vegetation,
- Predation by the Feral Cat *Felis catus*.
- Predation by foxes Vulpes vulpes*
- Entanglement in, or ingestion of, anthropogenic debris in marine and estuarine environments

Other major threats to local biodiversity that are not covered by legislation include:

- Spread of exotic weeds and pests
- Altered fire and hydrological regimes
- Stormwater pollution
- Soil erosion
- Dumping garden waste
- Dumping household chemicals etc.
- Irresponsible pet ownership.,
- Riding of bicycles, motor bikes or horses in bushland.

A community which lacks interest, awareness and understanding of the values and importance of biodiversity can cause considerable damage. Council is responsible for

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fostering the understanding and respect of natural environments and encouraging residents to value and protect these precious areas.

Many seemingly benign management actions by Council and private landholders can detrimentally affect existing native flora and fauna species and plant communities. It is the responsibility of Council to ensure that all staff are aware of the impacts of their management decisions and that all environmental protection actions are implemented according to statutory requirements. Council staff should aim to design and implement the highest standard of management actions.

The impacts of land-based activities on coastal waters and organisms are a major consideration in the protection of marine biodiversity. Council has a responsibility to ensure its own management practices do not detrimentally affect the marine environment. A lack of understanding of impacts should not be an impediment to responsible design and management of council infrastructure, or to the enforcement of protective measures on private landholders.

6. WHERE TO AND HOW

The following six measurable goals have been identified in this plan to determine how Council will conserve biodiversity. In most cases, the actions to achieve these goals are already being implemented.

(i) To monitor and maintain baseline information and inventories of biodiversity in Randwick.

(ii) To provide accurate advice and reporting regarding biodiversity to Council staff, landholders, developers, Government agencies and the public.

(iii) To protect biodiversity in accordance with Council's strategic land-use roles and responsibilities.

(iv) To undertake on-ground work to protect, restore, maintain and enhance local biodiversity, including effective mitigation of threats.

(v) To protect genetic biodiversity via production of local provenance plants at Council's nursery.

(vi) To increase community awareness and appreciation of the importance of conserving biodiversity and to engage our community in biodiversity conservation initiatives.

7. IMPLEMENTATION, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The outcomes of this Biodiversity Strategy will be achieved by implementing the Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan. This Action Plan forms the day to day work plan for relevant Council staff and ensures the integration of these goals into Council's annual budgetary and reporting mechanisms. These actions in turn, are reflected in the position description accountabilities and work plans of the responsible staff.

Some of the actions required are already underway and have been in place for a number of years. Others may be updating existing actions or identifying new ways forward in the management and conservation of our biodiversity responsibilities. These goals often involve strong input and involvement of staff from different Council areas and in partnership with the community.

Resourcing is in part from Council's operational budget with support from external grants or the current environmental levy program.

The actions identified within the 6 goals are reflected in the City Plan indicators aimed at measuring success or progress. These will continue to be reported in Council's annual report and mandatory State of the Environment (SoE) report.

This Strategy will be reviewed on a regular basis in accordance with the process for Council's other medium term plans and strategies but generally not exceeding a period of 5 years.

8. CONCLUSION

Our Council is committed to ensuring ongoing protection and management of local biodiversity values within the City and adjacent areas, for the enjoyment of current and future residents and visitors experiencing our parks, foreshore reserves and streetscapes. With this commitment comes the need for greater understanding of biodiversity management and the responsibilities involved of all parties. It is intended that this Biodiversity Strategy forms an important strategic tool for identifying and implementing improved management, protection and restoration of our conservation responsibilities.

As new information, knowledge and science comes to light, there will be further opportunities, challenges and tasks to ensure the ongoing protection of our City's biodiversity. The strategy, if applied in full, has the potential to guide the management and conservation of our City's natural resources and contribute to a 'nature coast' icon for Sydney's eastern suburbs.

9. Glossary

Adaptive management	Flexible management practices that are able to change as more knowledge becomes available
Biodiversity	The variety of all life forms – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystem of which they form a part' (Commonwealth of Australia 1996)
Biotic community	Assemblage of populations living in a particular habitat, i.e. Groups of different species living in the same area
Bushland	
Bushland remnant	An area where the original (pre-1788) bushland still survives. Bushland includes the plants, animals, micro-organisms, bushrock, leaf litter and other organic debris, the seed stored in the soil, and the soil.
Community	All the living parts of an ecosystem. [ANHC]
Ecological community	A vegetation community and its associated fauna organisms, animals, bacteria, fungi etc.
Ecological condition	The levels of biodiversity and functioning of ecological processes in an ecological community. Because of the complexity of measuring condition, an indicator may be used, such as the degree and extent to which a threatening process is operating, e.g. Weed invasion.
Ecological condition	The levels of biodiversity and functioning of ecological processes in an ecological community. Because of the complexity of measuring condition, an indicator may be used, such as the degree and extent to which a threatening process is operating, e.g. Weed invasion.
Ecosystem	The organisms which make up a community and the dynamic interactions between these and their non-living environment and between each other.[ANHC modified]
Educate	To increase awareness of local conservation issues, promote

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	behaviour that has positive effects on the natural environment and alter behaviour that has negative effects.
Habitat	The structural environments where an organism lives for all or part of its life.[ANHC]
Identification	The confirmation of life forms against the work of a definitive higher authority using the Linnaean system of nomenclature. Species: Plants - Harden 1990-1993; Birds - ; Mammals - ; Reptiles - ; Amphibians - ; Fish - ; Invertebrates - . Ecological communities: Benson and Howell; TSC Act. Populations: TSC Act.
Indigenous species	A species that occurs at a place within its historically known natural range and that forms part of the natural biodiversity of a place. [ANHC]
Involve	Provide opportunities for the community to be involved in regeneration and revegetation activities that create a sense of stewardship of the local environment. Education and involvement covers a variety of activities such as the Bushcare Volunteer Program or the provision of talks and guided walks in bushland areas.
Local Significance	Species, populations and ecological communities within Randwick local government area.
Monitor	The ongoing review, evaluation and assessment to detect changes in condition of the natural integrity of a place, with reference to a baseline condition in order to review conservation priorities, activities and resources.
National significance	Species, populations, ecological communities and places identified by the following: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act; Register of the National Estate; Rare or Threatened Australian Plants (ROTAP); JAMBA; CHECK CAMBA. CHECK
Natural significance	The importance of species, populations, communities, ecosystems and places for their own existence value, or for present or future generations in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value. [ANHC modified]
Population	Group of same species, commonly forming a breeding unit, sharing a particular habitat
Precautionary principle	Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation
Protection	Managing active and potential threatening processes to ensure that natural significance is retained.[ANHC modified]
Provenance	Place of origin of seed or other plant propagation material
Regeneration	The recovery of natural integrity following disturbance. (ANHC) Natural regeneration means the recovery of natural integrity by natural processes without human intervention. Assisted regeneration means the recovery of natural integrity by natural processes with human intervention. Within Randwick City regeneration usually occurs where an indigenous plant species seed bank exists in the soil.
Regional Significance	Species, populations and ecological communities within Randwick, Botany, Waverley, Woollahra, Sydney, South Sydney local government areas.
Remnant	Area where original (pre-1788) bushland still survives today

Remnant vegetation	TO BE DEFINED BASED ON BUSHLAND. Remnant vegetation may be restored to bushland. Remnant vegetation may be of high conservation significance, including national significance. (Places where the original native vegetation of an area has survived or spread into adjacent areas by natural processes, i.e. is not derived from a planting)
Revegetation	The reinstatement of various elements of the original community that existed prior to disturbance in a given location.
Self Perpetuating Communities	flowering, fruiting, setting seed, germinating and reaching maturity to again set seed....
State Significance	Species, populations and ecological communities identified by the following: Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.
Threatening processes	As per the Threatened Species Conservation Act

10. FURTHER READING AND REFERENCES

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Hornsby Shire Council (2004) *Hornsby Shire Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*, (from <http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/uploads/documents/BiodiversityConservationStrategyforweb.pdf> accessed 22 February 2005)

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United Nations (1992) *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 3-14 June 1992 (from www.sovereignty.net/p/sd/a21 accessed on 4 May 2005)

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2005) *Agenda 21* Division for Sustainable Development (from <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/index.htm> accessed on 4 May 2005)

United Nations Environment Programme (2005) Convention on Biological Diversity Website (from <http://www.biodiv.org/convention/default.shtml> accessed on 4 May 2005)

11. APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: SUMMARY OF SPECIES FOUND IN RANDWICK

Animal / Plant Group	No. of species recorded in City of Randwick
LAND	
Mammals	7
Birds (including shore birds)	171
Fish (freshwater)	1
Reptiles	29
Frogs	16
Plants (vascular)	510
Mosses	12
Lichens	3
Liverworts	5
Algae (freshwater)	10
Blue-green algae (freshwater)	6
Fungi	4
SEA	
Mammals	4

Birds	51
Turtles	1
Fish (saltwater)	162
Other sea animals	168
Plants	27

This includes all animal species recorded since 1990 and all plant species recorded since 1970. For more information, refer to Council's most recent State of the Environment Report or contact Council's Bushland Management Section, general.manager@randwick.nsw.gov.au or view more detailed information at www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

This Strategy has been prepared so as to be consistent with relevant international, national, state, regional and local laws, strategies, policies, etc. A number of the more relevant of these are identified below.

APPENDIX II: LEGISLATION

This appendix includes all legislation that applies to biodiversity conservation in Randwick City and that has been referred to in the preparation of the BCS.

International

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (ratified by Australia on 18 June, 1993) and Agenda 21.

Japan – Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (JAMBA).

China – Australia Migratory Bird Agreement (CAMBA).

National

National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity (1996).

National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy (1998).

Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (1992) Schedule 6.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

National Weeds Strategy (1997).

National Strategy – Bitou Bush/Boneseed (2001)

State

Strategies relevant to Council's activities:

NSW Biodiversity Strategy.

NSW Bitou Bush Strategy (2001)

Legislation relevant to Council's activities:

Local Government Act 1993.

Local Government Amendment (Ecological Sustainable Development) Act 1997 (section 8).

Threatened Species Legislation Amendment Act 2004.

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.

Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19: Bushland in Urban Areas.

Rural Fires Act 1997.

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974.

Marine Estate Management Act 2014.

Companion Animals Act 1998.

Regional and Local

Greater Sydney Local Land Service Transition Catchment Action Plan 2013-23

Randwick Local Environmental Plan 2012.
Randwick Development Control Plan 2013
Council's Annual Management Plan.
Randwick City Plan
Randwick City Council's annual State of the Environment Report.
Randwick City Council Tree Preservation Order (2001).
Randwick Street Tree Master Plan (2002)
Randwick City Significant Tree Register

A number of Randwick City Council Open Space Plans of Management, including:

Glebe Gully Plan of Management, EBC Consultants, September 1986
Clovelly Bay Plan of Management, Manidis Roberts Consults, 2002
Frenchmans Bay Plan of Management, GHD, May 2002
Heffron Park Draft Plan of Management, Randwick City Council, 1996
Gordons Bay Reserve Plan of Management, Land Systems EBC, October 1994
Restoration of Indigenous Vegetation at Gordon's Bay, National Trust of Australia (NSW), May 1994
Coogee Beach Foreshore Plan of Management, Manidis Roberts Consultants, November 1997
Malabar Beach and Foreshore Plan of Management, Manidis Roberts Consultants, October 1994
Malabar Headland Draft Plan of Management – Volume 1 The Plan, Manidis Roberts Consultants, May 1990
Maroubra Beach Plan of Management Overview, Hassell, September 1996
Trenerry Reserve Regeneration and Revegetation Plan, Seaside Landscapes, July 1991.

Development Control Plan - Prince Henry Hospital
Development Control Plan –Bundock Street Defence Site Randwick (February 2003)

Environment Report No. E13/15



Subject: Update on waste management issues including programs and campaigns aimed at reducing littering and illegal dumping and improving recycling and resource recovery

Folder No: F2004/07259

Author: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability; Talebul Islam, Coordinator Strategic Waste

Introduction

In Motion Pursuant to Notice (Cr Stavrinou, NM 38/15), it was resolved that:

- a) Council bring back a report investigating the possibility of running an education campaign in the Randwick LGA on general litter (in particular cigarette butts) advising residents on how to dispose of their rubbish correctly; and
- b) as part of this report, look at grants offered by various government agencies aimed at funding general litter education campaigns.

Issues

Council's current Waste Management Strategy provides the strategic direction for waste management initiatives underway across Randwick.

While the Waste Management Strategy, developed in 2010, is currently under review, the strategy also provides the platform for a number of additional Council plans and policies including:

- Randwick's Resource Recovery Strategy
- Our Illegal Dumping and Litter Management Plan
- Randwick's Recycling Contamination Management Plan.

One of the drivers for Council's current review of its Waste Management Strategy has been the recent changes to the NSW Government Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy, 2014 – 2021 and the related adjustments to waste reduction targets set by the NSW Government. In addition to the NSW Government waste avoidance strategy, the Premier Mike Baird announced a number of new government priorities in September this year which included an intention to reduce the volume of litter by 40 per cent by 2020.

With regard to litter, Council's more recent focus has been on:

- illegal dumping issues across our community
- improving kerbside collection performance results
- reducing litter issues across our beaches and shopping areas.

In this regard, the Council response to illegal dumping has resulted in the roll-out of CCTV cameras for littering and dumping 'hotspots' and an agreement, funded to a large part by the NSW EPA, to expand the inner west Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squad to incorporate eastern and southern beach areas which include both Waverley and Randwick local government areas.

There has also been a continuing major effort underway to improve kerbside collection programs for residents, student tenants and tenants of public housing areas all aimed at increasing correct resource recovery behaviour and reduce the incidence of kerbside littering whether in the form of poorly presented rubbish bins or unscheduled placement of 'hard-waste' household items on the kerb. This includes face-to-face meetings with tenants and new posters at multi-units using the homeowners images to successfully promote and encourage correct recycling and less dumping around on-site waste enclosures.

Over the past two to three years, Council has also worked with adjoining Councils on a number of combined community education programs aimed at reducing the level of littering particularly along our combined beach areas over the very busy summer months. Council's previous beach litter campaign is to be reinstated for this summer aimed at reinforcing our messages of correct rubbish disposal for those visiting and frequenting our beaches over the summer months. This year's campaign will include additional signage and enhanced infrastructure with additional staff on-site working to increase the understanding of beachgoers on bin and recycling station locations. Keep Australia Beautiful NSW has also agreed to provide staff and volunteers at a number of eastern beaches working with visitors to improve litter and waste.

A key problem for our heavily visited beaches remains the sheer numbers of visitors on continuously hot summer days. This huge load of people and the volume of food, drinks and other materials brought to the beaches on successively hot days and to adjacent park areas can make it virtually impossible for groups and individuals to see signage or even well-placed rubbish and recycling bins locations. The emphasis of the Council services during these peak times is to keep processing the huge volumes of litter material placed correctly in rubbish or recycling bins and to clean public areas before, during and after the waves of visitors presenting themselves on beaches and picnicking on the adjacent grass areas.

This year's community education campaign will aim to incorporate a greater focus on follow up and evaluation so the lessons learned can be incorporated into a wider education campaign for the following holiday periods. A number of successful measures from other local Councils will also be included in the campaign being prepared for our local beaches.

In keeping with the NSW Government's renewed focus and interest in litter as an issue, there are funds available for local Council anti-littering programs. This funding is coming through the Waste Less/Recycle More grants program. Council has not been able to access these funds to date due to the immense pressure of funding applications received and processed by the NSW Government. Strategic Waste are working cooperatively with agencies to test our potential projects against the range of projects applied for across NSW Councils. Although there have been 2 successful funding rounds announced by the NSW Government, Round 3 project funding, its timeline and announcement of successful projects are not likely to be announced in time for the 2015-16 summer period.

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

The existing community education campaign to reduce littering of our beaches over the summer period has a funding allocation of approximately \$60,000 which forms part of the uncontested funding provided to Council from the NSW Government waste grants.

Conclusion

Littering is a significant issue with a strong public response to the unsightliness, clean-up and related environmental and social costs. This is evidenced by the consistent result in Randwick's 'Who Cares About the Environment' community surveys where littering, beach and ocean pollution continues to show the highest concern amongst local residents. There also continues to be a pattern of community behaviour behind littering activity even when Council service levels are high, such as they are in both Randwick and Waverley through the provision of frequently located rubbish bins, recycling stations, regular beach-cleaning machinery in place as well as the attendance of outdoor staff to physically clean up after the huge numbers of visitors and beachgoers to our beach areas.

The NSW Government, SSROC member Councils as well as Randwick and adjoining Councils currently have a number of research and practical projects underway to improve the understanding, motivation and useful deterrents to littering. Results of these projects as well as Council's review of our Waste Management Strategy will be reported further to Council by early next year. This will include the status of funding applications submitted by Council to the NSW Government funding programs.

Recommendation

That Council notes the various strategic and operational approaches aimed at reducing littering in its various forms, from the kerbside, in our parks, town centres and on our beaches.

Attachment/s:

Nil

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