

Attachment G



Community Engagement Plan for Environment Levy

Consultation / Engagement Plan

Project: Sustaining Our City

Issue: Council's [Sustaining Our City](#) Program will expire on 30 June 2013 and the community needs to be consulted to apply to extend the special levy to rates which funds the program.

Background:

In 2004, Council approved a 6% environmental levy to fund specific environmental improvements and sustainability initiatives across Randwick City. The 5 year environmental levy program, known as Sustaining our City, was so successful that Council agreed to continue it for a further five years from 2009. The levy program has been funding a wide range of projects including stormwater harvesting and re-use, renewable energy installations on Council and community sites, particularly solar panels, construction and upgrading our coastal walkway, incentives for residents to save energy and water, programs to assist schools become more sustainable and community education aimed at helping residents, businesses and schools reduce their impact on our natural environment, including energy and water conservation and reducing their waste.

Environmental levy funding has enabled Council to successfully apply for approximately \$1 million each year to support our sustainability initiatives and have produced significant reductions in our own consumption of natural resources, reductions in waste and cost savings. Approximately 8,000 to 10,000 residents participate in the range of workshops, events and activities each year and we have developed a significant environmental collaboration with Waverley and Woollahra, funded initially with external funding of \$1.8 million but continuing to assist resource conservation across the Eastern suburbs.

Purpose of consultations:

- To gain demonstrated community support for continuation of the Environment Levy

Key messages:

- Give choices to residents about keeping the Levy compared to discontinuing the Levy
- Demonstration of benefits associated with the Environment Levy so far

Risks:

- Disinterest
- Cynicism

Impact Level:

City wide higher level

Level of consultation:

1. **Consult** - obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions
2. **Involve** - work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered

Consultation period:

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9 September 2013 to 1 November 2013
Council report deadline 27 November 2013

Stakeholder groups:

- General Community
- Various 'green' community organisations, including community gardens
- Groups who use Barrett House etc
- Council staff
- Social media users
- Local schools
- Precinct Groups
- Chambers of Commerce

Council reports / resolutions:

- Council resolution in November
- Council meeting Tuesday 27th August to approve consultation

Consultation activities:

Activity	Dates	Officer	Notes (including funding)	Check /date
All Stops to Randwick	August	Peter	Information provided at Sustainability stall	Complete
Randwick Community News	August – deadline to Bessie by 12 August Go to print 1 st week of September	Peter and Bessie	One page with all details- mainly focused on projects over the last 12 months and how the levy has been spent. How to make comment – link to Your Say Randwick \$22,800 for insert into newsletter	Complete
Randwick e news	9 September Weekly or fortnightly articles		As above - need to set scene Print on Wednesday	Complete
Preparation of key documents and supporting materials 1. Understanding your rates 2. General income/funding 3. Key achievements of the program 4. Future program/budget	30 August <i>Design work from 2 to 7 September</i>	Kerrie	Preparation of documents such as brochures, rating & financial information, surveys, speaker kits and posters for upcoming events, workshops and surveys Need some options with descriptions of outcomes- for example if there was no levy then Council will no longer provide.../ will take 30 years longer to construct these sections of coastal walkway etc	Complete

Activity	Dates	Officer	Notes (including funding)	Check /date
spending 5. Efficiencies			Need sound background material - especially on impact of levy on rates; some descriptions of proposed major projects for new levy program with funding allocations; FAQs - to be on website as additional background information including special rate variations, understanding rates; RCC rates compared to other councils- have to explain clearly why our rates are higher than Waverley Councils and the process	
Your Say Randwick website	9 September	Lauren	Website with all documents and background material, and online survey	Complete
Survey	9 September	Lauren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Your Say Randwick website • Included in letter to ratepayers with reply paid. • Available in libraries etc • Distribute/notify staff <p><i>Note:</i> cost of tallying paper surveys - survey should be very short with ability to tick one of 3-4 options; basic demographic data</p>	11 Sept
Letter to ratepayers with fact sheet and reply paid survey	13 September	Lauren Kerrie Peter	Letter from Mayor addressed to ratepayers which provides an overview of the levy, refers to fact sheet and Your Say Randwick site, and invites people to make comment via survey or attend the forum.	
Fact sheet insert with letter (above)	13 September	Kerrie Peter	Fact sheet providing overview of levy including projects, impacts on rates etc	
Stall at the Eco-living fair	15 September 2013	Peter	<p>Eco-living Fair Sunday 15 September 2013 10.30am-3.30pm Randwick Community Centre</p> <p>Include opportunities to do survey on devices</p> <p>Paper reply paid postcards available to take away</p>	15 Sept

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Activity	Dates	Officer	Notes (including funding)	Check /date
Posters	16 September	Lauren	Posters for libraries, customer service centres Poster for bus shelter timetable (talk to Sharon Plunkett) Book 50 spaces, approx \$1,500 To advertise survey	Complete
Social media	September	Bessie and Katie Lauren	Opportunistic use of Facebook and Twitter <i>Note:</i> Advertising survey	Complete
Engagement workshop	Late September/early October – to be confirmed	Lauren Peter	Deliberative engagement workshop - participants weigh each option to inform their decision To be run by external facilitator (brief to be prepared) Participants recruited through existing Communications Survey database <i>Note:</i> costs of external facilitators and lead time for random selection recruitment and preparation.	Complete
Precinct Coordination Committee	20 November 2013	Peter	Present information to Precinct Committee Provide info packs for individual precincts.	Complete
Combined Chambers	October	Peter	Briefing with speakers kits supplied	Complete
Precincts	October	Peter	Distribute all material to precincts Speakers kit <i>Note:</i> Feedback and support from Precinct committee members.	Complete