

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 6 February 2024

Seating Plan for Council meetings



Public gallery

Statement of ethical obligations

Obligations	
Oath [Affirmation] of Office by Councillors	I swear [solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm] that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Randwick City and the Randwick City Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.
Code of Conduct conflict of interests	
Pecuniary interests	<p>A Councillor who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting.</p> <p>The Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed, or b) at any time during which the council is voting on any question in relation to the matter.
Non-pecuniary conflict of interests	A Councillor who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter, must disclose the relevant private interest in relation to the matter fully and on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to the matter.
Significant non-pecuniary interests	A Councillor who has a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in relation to a matter under consideration at a council meeting, must manage the conflict of interest as if they had a pecuniary interest in the matter.
Non-significant non-pecuniary interests	A Councillor who determines that they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is not significant and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest must also explain why conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.



Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Council meeting of Randwick City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, 1st Floor Randwick Town Hall, 90 Avoca St Randwick on Tuesday, 6 February 2024 at 7pm

Acknowledgement of the local indigenous people and prayer

Acknowledgement of Country

“I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the land of the Bidjigal and the Gadigal peoples who occupied the Sydney Coast, being the traditional owners. On behalf of Randwick City Council, I acknowledge and pay my respects to the Elders past and present, and to Aboriginal people in attendance today.”

Prayer

*“Almighty God,
We humbly beseech you to bestow your blessings upon this Council and to direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of your glory and the true welfare of the people of Randwick and Australia.
Amen”*

Apologies/Granting of Leave of Absences

Request to attend the meeting by audio-visual link

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Council 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 5.20-5.23 of Council’s Code of Meeting Practice.*

*Audio/video recording of meetings prohibited without permission;
A person may be expelled from a meeting for using, or having used, an audio/video recorder without the express authority of the Council.*

Director City Planning Report

CP1/24	Results of community consultation on continuing Randwick's Environmental Levy (Special Rate Variation) on a permanent basis and adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2023-2033	1
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Ray Brownlee, PSM
GENERAL MANAGER

Director City Planning Report No. CP1/24

Subject: Results of community consultation on continuing Randwick's Environmental Levy (Special Rate Variation) on a permanent basis and adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2023-2033

Executive Summary

- Randwick's current 5-year Environmental Levy program, funded through a Special Rate Variation (SRV) approved by Council and NSW Government, expires on June 30, 2024.
- This SRV which funds almost all of our Environmental Levy programs and sustainability initiatives, has now been approved on 4 previous occasions, starting in 2004, that is, 2004-2009; 2009-2014; 2014-2019; and 2019-2024.
- In September 2023, Council approved advising IPART it was intending to apply for Randwick's Environmental Levy SRV to continue on a permanent basis and to carry out community consultation on this proposal.
- Extensive consultation with the Randwick community was conducted from November 7 to December 19, 2023. Key results summarised within this report include:
 - Random and representative telephone survey of 750 Randwick residents;
 - A comprehensive survey sent to all ratepayers and completed by 7,639 respondents; and
 - Individualised submissions provided by 194 residents across the City.
- The following report provides the overview of this extensive consultation with the Randwick community. Additional results are included from the 2021 "Who Cares About the Environment" attitudes and action survey of residents as well as the 2023 results for Randwick participants in the Australian Liveability Census.
- The Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 (LTFP) adopted on 19 September was updated with a scenario where the Environmental Levy was discontinued, with all other financial assumptions and figures remaining the same. It was placed on public exhibition for consultation from 29 November 2023 to 19 January 2024.
- A total of eleven submissions were received during the LTFP exhibition period. All these submissions and requests were logged, considered and responded to (refer to attachment 5).
- Following the public exhibition and consultation period there were no changes to the updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) notes the extensive consultation carried out with the Randwick community on the proposal to continue Randwick's Environmental Levy Special Rate Variation (SRV);
- b) applies to IPART for a single-year increase under section 508(2) to incorporate the Environmental Levy into the rating structure on a permanent basis resulting in Special Rate Variation application for an increase of 11.67% including the rate peg at 4.90%;

- c) notes that IPART will also place Randwick's application on exhibition for public comment from March to April 2024, before providing its determination on Randwick's proposal for the permanent Environmental Levy; and
- d) adopt the updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33.

Attachment/s:

1.  Community Consultation Report Environmental Levy
 2.  Environmental Levy Community Consultation Report – Submissions Verbatim
 3. [LINK TO VIEW](#) Environmental Levy Community Consultation Report
 4. [LINK TO VIEW](#) Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33
-
5.  Updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 - Submissions Responses

Purpose

This report responds to the following Council resolutions.

At the 24 October 2023 Ordinary Council meeting, it was resolved unanimously (**Olive/Neilson**) that Council:

- a) *approve a consultation process with our community seeking their views on making permanent, Randwick's special rate variation (SRV). This SRV currently provides dedicated funding for our innovative environmental levy program;*
- b) *approve notification to IPART (Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal) of Randwick Council's intention to apply for a permanent SRV for its environmental levy program;*
- c) *approve the allocation of up to \$160,000 of environmental levy funding for preparation of community consultation, communication, financial and project documentation to meet IPART requirements in relation to our special rate variation application;*
- d) *note that a report will be brought back to Council by February 2024, on the results of this community consultation for a Council decision on whether to apply to IPART for a permanent environmental levy;*
- e) *include the additional environmental levy priority and program areas of:*
 - *Additional urban greening and maintenance/upkeep including growing tree canopy, underplanting, native and indigenous garden planting, and rain beds following best-practice principles of water-sensitive design and urban heat-island effect across coastal, town-centre and residential areas;*
 - *Climate mitigation for council and community assets;*
- f) *that the consultation materials are updated to reflect (e); and*
- g) *subject to Council resolving to apply for and being granted a Special Rate Variation to make the Environment Levy permanent, that consequential amendments are made to relevant informing strategies, the Randwick Delivery Program, resourcing strategies, and Operational Plan.*

At the Ordinary Council meeting held on 28 November 2023, it was resolved (Burst/D'Souza):

"that Council considers and resolves the revised Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 for a 28 day public exhibition and consultation."

Discussion

Community consultation results on the continuation of Randwick's Environmental Levy (Special Rate Variation) on a permanent basis.

From November 7 to December 19, 6 weeks of extensive community consultation was conducted with the Randwick community to determine their views on Council's proposal to apply to NSW Government's IPART to continue our Environmental Levy Special Rate Variation on a permanent basis.

Summary of these consultation results includes:

- Information booklet and reply paid survey with the online option, sent to every ratepayer (46,414)
- 13,873 visits to the dedicated Have Your Say Randwick website
- 12,766 documents were downloaded
- Approximately 3,000 downloads of each booklet, translated into four other languages - Greek, simplified Chinese, Indonesian and Spanish
- Full-page advertisements in two local newspapers
- Feature story in Council's SCENE magazine distributed to 62,000 households
- 21 hours of face-to-face information sessions attended by 178 residents
- Information was publicly exhibited in Council's Customer Service Centre and three libraries
- Outdoor advertising on telephone booths at 11 locations
- Weekly email to Randwick eNews letter subscribers (51,000) every week for 6 weeks
- 25 posts on Council's social media reaching 46,000 users
- Two-minute Environment Levy video produced and promoted on Council's website and other social media platforms, digital displays at all three libraries and Customer Service Centre and at showings at Randwick Ritz Cinema over a four-week period.

Consultation carried out followed IPART's and Council's own Community Engagement Policy guidelines. Residents and ratepayers were given multiple opportunities to learn about the SRV proposal and then have their say on the proposal.

Responses provided to Council's community consultation activities on continuing the Environmental Levy on a permanent basis

Consultation activity	Participants	Supportive (%)	Unsupportive (%)
Telephone survey (randomly chosen and representative)	750	48%, very supportive 29%, supportive 16%, somewhat supportive	2%, not very supportive 6%, not at all supportive
Ratepayer survey	7,639	55%	43%
Submissions	194	46%	49%
Supplementary information provided via:	2021 "Who Cares About the Environment" residents survey	n/a	n/a
	2023 Australian Liveability Census results for Randwick	n/a	n/a

The summaries below of the three main approaches to gaining community understanding of the Environmental Levy are extracted from the Community Consultation Report provided as an attachment to this Council report.

Random telephone survey of residents

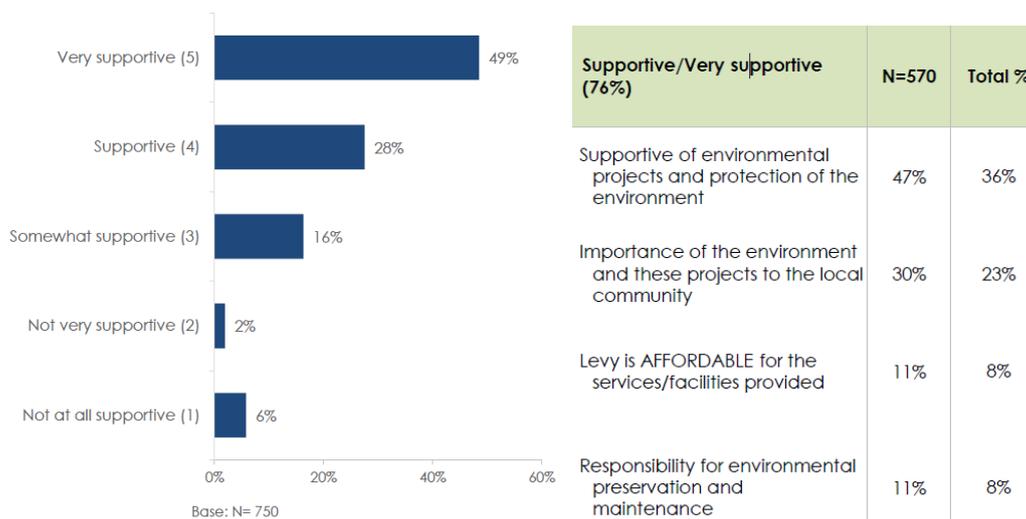
In October and November 2023, Randwick Council engaged independent research agency Micromex Research to conduct a random telephone survey with residents living in the Randwick LGA.

A total of 750 resident interviews were completed. 713 of the 750 respondents were chosen by means of a computer based random selection process with the remaining 37 respondents 'number harvested' via face-to-face engagement at several locations around the Randwick LGA

(Woolworths Matraville, Pacific Square Maroubra, UNSW/UNSW Anzac Pde Light Rail station Randwick, and Corner of Perouse Road and St Pauls St near the restaurants Randwick).

From a statistical reliability perspective, a sample size of 750 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 3.6% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=750 residents, 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 3.6%.

The graph below shows that of the 750 people interviewed in the telephone survey, 92% were either supportive, very supportive or somewhat supportive of the proposal to continue the Environmental Levy.



Somewhat supportive (16%)	N=122	Total %	Not at all supportive/not very supportive (8%)	N=58	Total %
Lack of knowledge or details about the levy	25%	4%	Opposition to the levy due to cost	34%	3%
Supportive of environmental projects and protection of the environment	16%	3%	Council/the Government should pay for environmental initiatives	20%	2%
Opposition to the levy due to cost	15%	2%	Some environmental projects are not needed/disagree with some projects	15%	1%
Affordability and cost of the levy	11%	2%	Council needs to be more transparent about where funding is used	14%	1%
			Need improvements to other services/facilities outside of the environmental projects	12%	1%

From the results of the random telephone survey, 92% of residents were supportive, very supportive, or somewhat supportive of the proposal. The main reasons for being supportive reflected survey participants views of: the importance of protecting the environment; affordability of the levy; their feeling of responsibility for environmental preservation.

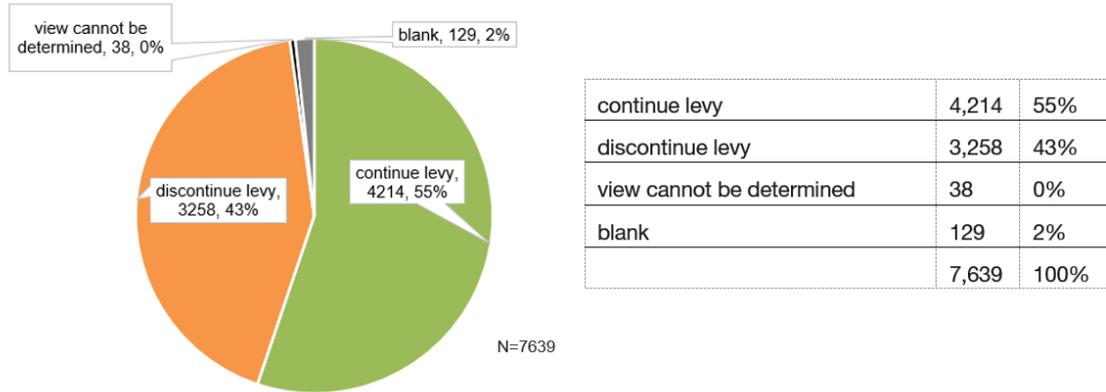
Only 8% of respondents were not supportive of the proposal. The main reasons given by survey participants reflected: the cost of the levy; the view that Council or Govt should pay for these initiatives; and/or a disregard for some of the projects and that other services or improvements of facilities should be dealt with first.

Survey of Randwick ratepayers

Randwick Council mailed a letter, information booklet, survey and reply paid envelope to every ratepayer (46,414 total including 31,571 printed notices and 14,843 emails) in mid-November

2023. The purpose of the mailout was to inform ratepayers of the SRV proposal and to obtain the views of the community on the levy and levy projects.

There was a total of 7,639 survey responses received with 55% supportive of the Environmental Levy continuing on a permanent basis, 43% generally unsupportive and 2% were unclear or didn't answer.



Graph: Overall results for continuing Environmental Levy

Those indicating an unsupportive response explained that their lack of support was due primarily to:

- cost of living pressures
- feeling Environmental Levy projects should be funded using existing budget or on a more 'user pays' basis
- lack of support for certain projects or facilities that respondents indicated they don't use.

The following table indicates the level of support or lack of support for continuing the Environmental Levy from this ratepayer survey, shown by ward and postcode of Randwick City.

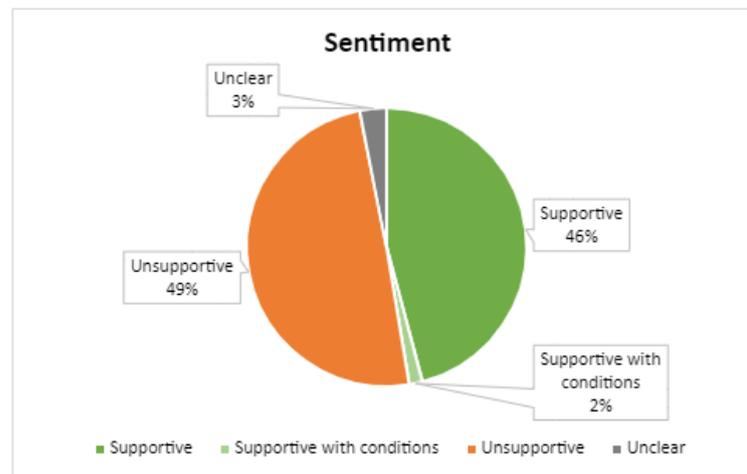
Support for the levy is strongest in East Ward (62%) and the suburbs of Randwick and Clovelly (59%) and Coogee and South Coogee (59%). Support is relatively less in West Ward (47%) and the suburbs of Kingsford (47%) and Kensington (48%).

	All	By Ward					By postcode					
		North	South	East	West	Central	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
continue levy	55%	58%	56%	62%▲	47%▼	52%	59%▲	47%▼	48%▼	59%▲	53%	55%
discontinue levy	43%	40%	41%	35%▼	52%▲	46%	39%	52%▲	51%▲	38%▼	45%	42%

Submissions

Overall, 194 submissions were received from residents either via letter, email or Council's Your Say Randwick website. This link was also used in the pop-up information stalls provided for residents at various locations.

Of these submissions, 49% were unsupportive, 3% were unclear, 46% were supportive with a further 2% supportive with conditions.



There does seem to be some replication in responses amongst those making submissions against the continuation of the Environmental Levy from those responding to the ratepayer survey covered above.

A number of comments provided amongst submissions received stated they had also completed the survey but were so incensed they wished to reiterate their views.

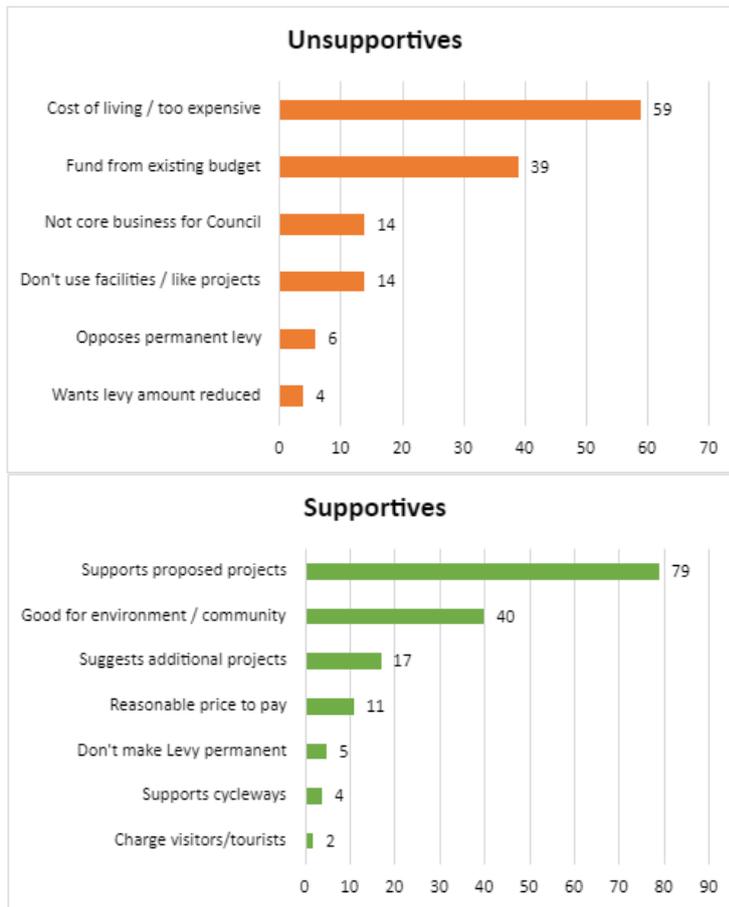
Their 'sentiment' as referred to in the summary, is broken down further as per the graph below for those against the Special Rate Variation. As can be seen, the main reasons for this unsupportive sentiment is based on their concerns regarding:

- current cost of living pressures
- wanting environmental projects to be paid via existing budget
- were not necessarily supportive or didn't like potential projects or indicated they didn't use facilities reflected in environmental projects
- indicated a stronger 'user pays' preference rather than funding via Environmental Levy budget i.e. especially relevant to beaches and beach facilities.

Of the 46% in support of continuing the Environmental Levy on a permanent basis, the key reasons centred on:

- support for projects identified
- expressed importance that the Environmental Levy was good for the community and the environment
- indicated the Environmental Levy was a reasonable price to pay.

A smaller number supported the levy continuing on a five-year basis as well as expressing their preference against a range of additional projects or ideas for the levy to fund (see below for comments).



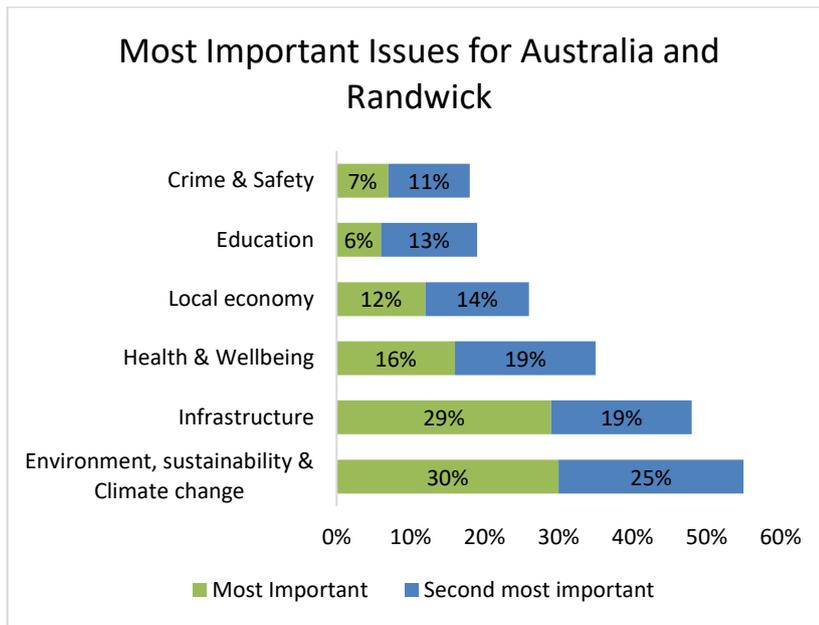
“Who Cares About the Environment” Survey 2021

In 2021, IRIS Research conducted Randwick’s sixth, Who Cares About the Environment survey that focused on the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours of the local community in respect to protection of the environment. This survey has previously been conducted in 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014 and 2017 providing a sound longitudinal study of the environmental concerns and relevant actions taken by Randwick residents. It also covered the full period of the implementation of the Environment Levy at Randwick.

Conducted as a telephone survey around April 2021, 603 residents were interviewed utilising census data to establish even distribution of responses by age, gender and suburbs across Randwick City.

Key Findings:

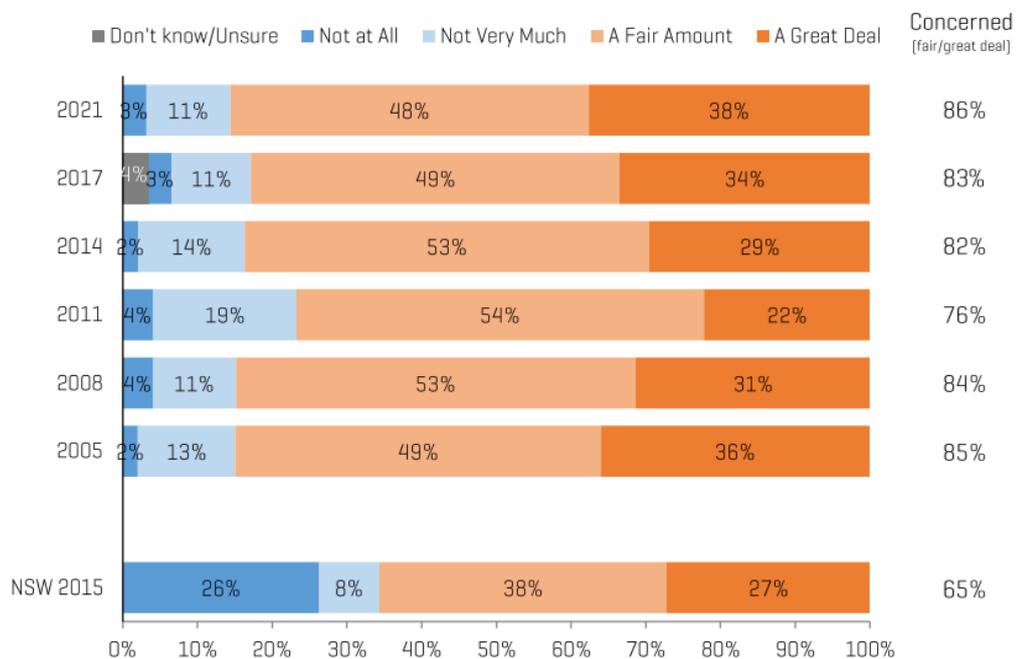
Randwick residents rated Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change as the most important issue facing Australia and Randwick. This was followed by Infrastructure. See figure below:



Waste related issues such as recycling (18%), and waste disposal and management (16%) were nominated as the most important environmental issues for Randwick alone.

86% of residents were concerned a great deal/fair amount about the environment. The level of concern continued to increase incrementally and was at its highest since 2005.

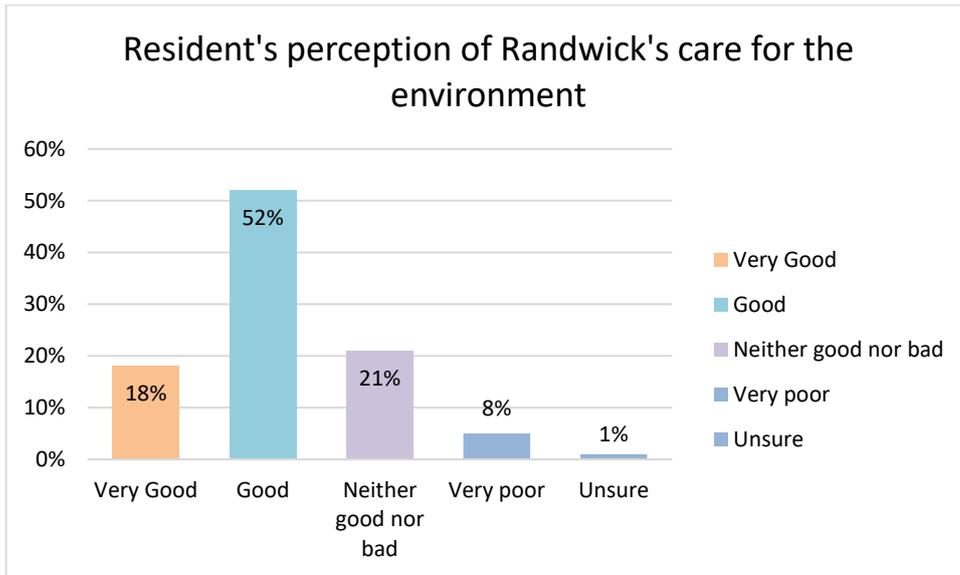
Figure 3.1 Level of concern about environmental problems – comparison to previous years



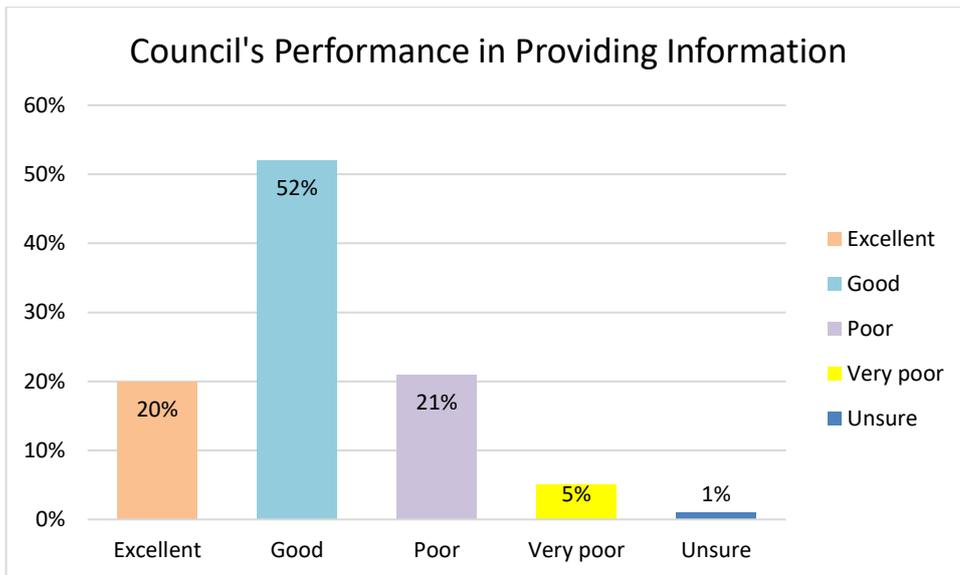
Q: In general how concerned are you about environmental problems? Would you say you are concerned.....

Base: n=603

70% of residents rated Randwick Council's care for the environment as good or very good. The proportion rating it as very good increased from 13% to 18%, compared to the 2017 survey.

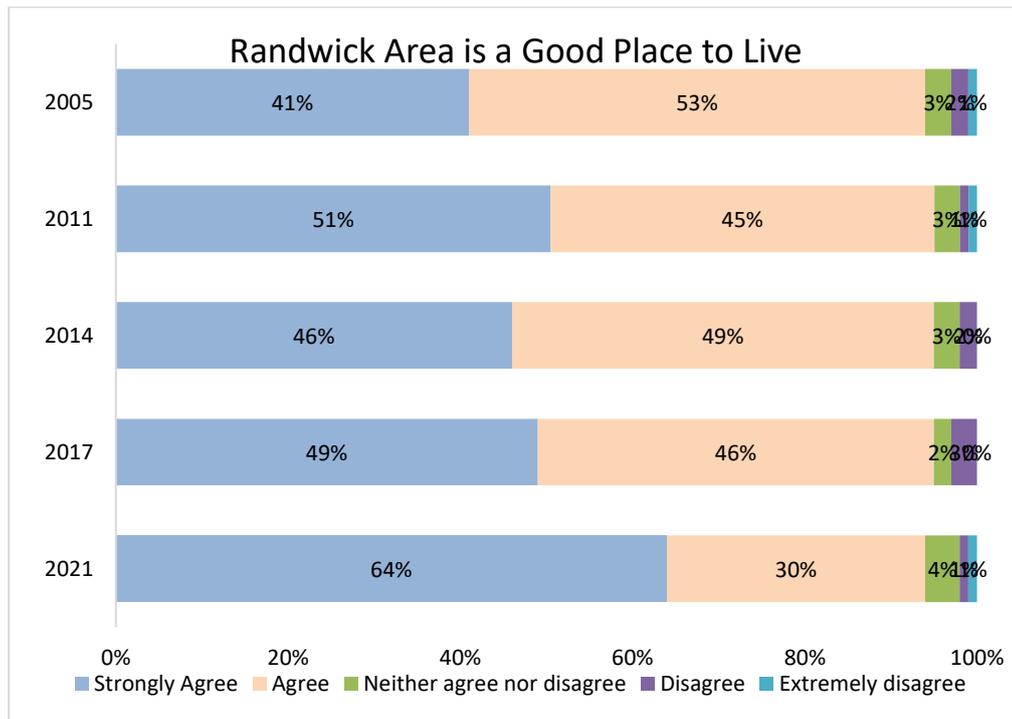


72% of residents rated Randwick Council as good or excellent in providing information to help protect the environment. There was a significant increase in the excellent rating compared to the 2017 survey from 9% to 20%.



50% of residents rated protecting and conserving our coastal and marine environment as the most important environmental goal for Council to focus on in the next five years.

94% of residents agree/strongly agree that Randwick a good place to live. This is the best result since the surveys commenced in 2005.



CP1/24

88% of residents rated their quality of life as good/excellent with 43% rating it as excellent.

In summary, the Who Cares About the Environment Survey clearly showed Randwick’s residents strength of concern for the environment and their satisfaction with Randwick’s care for the environment and its performance in providing information to help protect the environment. 94% of residents see Randwick as a good place to live.

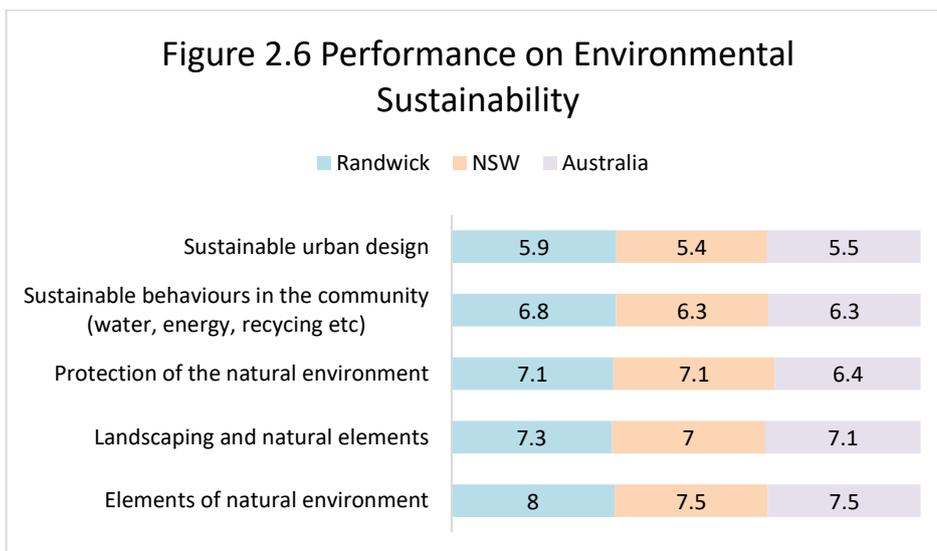
2023 Australian Liveability Census results for Randwick

The Australian Liveability Census was conducted between March and June 2023. Liveability is defined as ‘an assessment of what it is like to live in a place.’ The results showed what really matters to local communities and their priorities and ideas for making their neighbourhood better. It strongly challenges the traditional expectations of local government as responsible only for rates, roads, and rubbish. These days residents have much greater expectations of their councils, and reflects Council’s responsibility and role in improving neighbourhood amenity for their residents and wider community.

There were 51,700 responses received nationally with 1,280 responses from residents of Randwick. The reported results have a margin in their error of +/-3.9% at the 95% confidence level. Placescore carried out the nationwide survey and provided specific results for the Randwick LGA.

Key Findings:

- 86% of residents are satisfied with liveability in their local neighbourhoods.
- Liveability in Randwick is higher than all States and the National levels
- Elements of natural environment (natural features, views, vegetation, topography, water, wildlife etc.) is the most important liveability community value (73%) for residents and exceeded the benchmark scores.
- Protection of the natural environment (54%) was the 5th most important liveability community value.
- Randwick exceeded the State and National benchmarks on performance on both the working themes of Environmental Sustainability and Open Space (see figure below).



Updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33

On 28 November 2023, Council resolved:

(Burst/D’Souza) that Council considers and resolves the revised Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 for a 28-day public exhibition and consultation.

The Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 was placed on public exhibition and consultation, from 29 November 2023 to 19 January 2024, through Council's Online "Have Your Say", at [Updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 | Your Say Randwick \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-say-randwick)

During the exhibition period, the site had 291 visits, 59 documents downloaded, and eleven submissions received.

All formal submissions were logged, reviewed, and responded to. Attachment 2 provides a full list of the submissions and responses.

Following the public exhibition and consultation period, there were no changes to the Plan.

Council was advised by IPART that the LTFP must include a scenario analysis of its financials where the Environmental Levy was discontinued. To meet this requirement, the revised LTFP tabled at this meeting for adoption now includes the required scenario analysis. Note that all financial assumptions and figures within the LTFP remain the same. The only change to the revised LTFP is the addition of the scenario analysis for the financial impact of the discontinuation of the Environmental Levy.

Council’s projected financial outlook for the period of 2023-33 remains sound and sustainable on the assumption of the continuation of the Environmental Levy. For the 2023-33 period, Council is expected to continue with a strong balance sheet demonstrated through the robustness of working capital and sound liquidity through healthy cash flow generation. Council’s anticipated cash reserves and financial performance means that Council is in a good financial position.

Strategic alignment

The relationship with our 2022-26 Delivery Program is as follows:

Delivering the Outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan:	
Strategy	Environment
Outcome	A city with diverse ecosystems that are restored and protected

Objective	Increase by at least 60% the number of native and indigenous plantings across Randwick City by 2030 from a 2018 baseline
Delivery program commitment	Improve the connectivity of key bushland areas by planting and maintaining 14,000m ² of native and indigenous ground covers, shrubs and trees starting in areas between Kamay National Park, Bunnerong Rd Chifley Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, Yarra Bay Bushland areas and Malabar Headland National Park by 2026 and extending into additional areas of the City.
Outcome	A community more knowledgeable, proactive and responsive to climate change impacts
Objective	Achieve a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (CO ₂ -equivalent) across Randwick City by 2030 from a 2018 baseline, while acknowledging the significance and importance of aspiring to a 100% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the same timeframe
Delivery program commitment	Increase residential and school participation in food waste avoidance and food growing initiatives such as, Love Food Hate Waste and Grow it Local, by 20% by 2025 from a 2020 baseline.
Outcome	A city that protects and conserves our limited natural resources
Objective	Reduce the consumption of energy and water across Randwick City per capita by 30% by 2030, from a 2017 baseline
Delivery program commitment	Implement the principles of a circular economy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals into Council strategies and operational plans by 2025.
Outcome	A city with coastal and marine environments that are protected and conserved
Objective	100% of Randwick's beaches achieve a "Good" or "Very Good" result as monitored and reported in the NSW Government's Beachwatch water quality program
Delivery program commitment	Increase the volume of gross pollutants captured from the stormwater system by expanding the Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) network by 2027 through the installation of one new GPT each year on major drainage lines across Randwick City.

Resourcing Strategy implications

In November 2023 IPART set a rate peg of 4.9% for Randwick City Council.

This Environmental Levy Special Rate Variation is fundamentally the same as it has been for ratepayers over the previous 20 years. The average cost of this Environmental Levy is proposed to be in the order of \$101 per year. It is important to note that approximately 60% of ratepayers are paying substantially less than this average due in part to the number of ratepayers residing in units and apartments. The 11.67% increase will apply to the full rating structure including minimum rates.

It should be noted that projects funded via the Environmental Levy SRV are detailed and accountable on a yearly basis in Council's Annual Report. To ensure transparency and accountability, it is proposed that a major review of Environmental Levy spending on projects be conducted every 5 years to retain the level of understanding by the community on projects and spends attributed to Council's Environmental Levy program on a permanent basis.

Should IPART approve the continuation of the Environmental Levy on a permanent basis, Council could still decide not to use the full Rate Peg allocated by IPART in future years. This would have to be considered alongside Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

The table below reflects the level of resource allocation proposed over the next 10-year timeframe by project within specific environmental themes.

10 year Project Plan for a permanent Environmental Levy SRV	
Environmental Theme / Project Outcome (with highlights)	Estimated 5 year plan
<p>Community Education</p> <p><i>Key project highlights include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability workshops and courses • Eco Living Festival • Marine & Coastal Discovery program • Sustainability education ‘hub’ improvements • Environmental school grants • First Nations stewardship collaboration • Community resilience hubs 	\$4.5 M
<p>Water Savings</p> <p><i>Key project highlights include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater re-use at Randwick Community Centre • Blackwater re-use investigation • Reedbed Irrigation facilities at Randwick Environment Park 	\$2M
<p>Climate & Resilience</p> <p><i>Key project highlights include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding & upgrade solar PV on Council bldgs. • Solar storage batteries • Sustainability rebates for residents and businesses • Fast / ultrafast public EV chargers • Microgrid investigations • Installation of community batteries • Power Purchasing Agreement for residents • Climate Change Heatwave Plan 	\$5.5M
<p>Coastal</p> <p><i>Key project highlights include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal walkway upgrades • GPT installations • Whale watching platform 	\$5M
<p>Biodiversity & Habitat Protection</p> <p><i>Key project highlights include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native and indigenous plantings • Verge tree planting • Revitalise Bunnerong Creek 	\$2.5M

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green roofs and walls on new developments Heffron Park wetland 	
Waste Avoidance	\$1M
<i>Key project highlights include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food waste avoidance (cafes and restaurants) Circular Economy Procurement Plan Construction and demolition waste recovery Single-use plastics 	
Food	\$2M
<i>Key project highlights include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community gardens Edible garden support in schools 	
Active Transport	\$4M
<i>Key project highlights include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North-south cycleway completion First Nations walking trail (La Perouse) Sydney Great Coastal Walk (Randwick connection) EV infrastructure partnerships Green grid walking and cycling connections 	
Other	\$2M
<i>Key project highlights include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landfill monitoring First Nations art trail Sustainable markets Green Living Plan for Social Housing Environmental sculptures (Coastal walkway) 	

Policy and legislative requirements

IPART Special Rate Variations
Community Strategic Plan
Environment Informing Strategy
Integrated Transport Informing Strategy
Community Consultation Guidelines.

Conclusion

There is no denying the legitimate concerns of members of the Randwick community regarding the increasing cost of living being felt by so many households across the country. Almost on a par with these concerns are those extremely worried about society's measurable impacts and pressures being placed on our dwindling natural resources. This has been a recurring pattern in almost each of the three previous SRV consultations as well as the original application almost two decades ago. However, environmental protection and restoration requires an investment for both current and future generations from both the financial and social perspective.

A permanent Environmental Levy provides that level of investment for the residents of Randwick, now and into the future and enables Randwick Council to continue to lead by example when it comes to driving creative and innovative solutions to the huge array of environmental issues facing communities across Australia, and in reality, on a global basis.

The Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 was updated to include a scenario where the Environmental Levy was discontinued (Scenario 2) with all assumptions and figures remaining the same, including the continuation of environmental and sustainability initiatives. Scenario 2 financial modelling indicates that Council's financials will not be sustainable without the Environmental Levy.

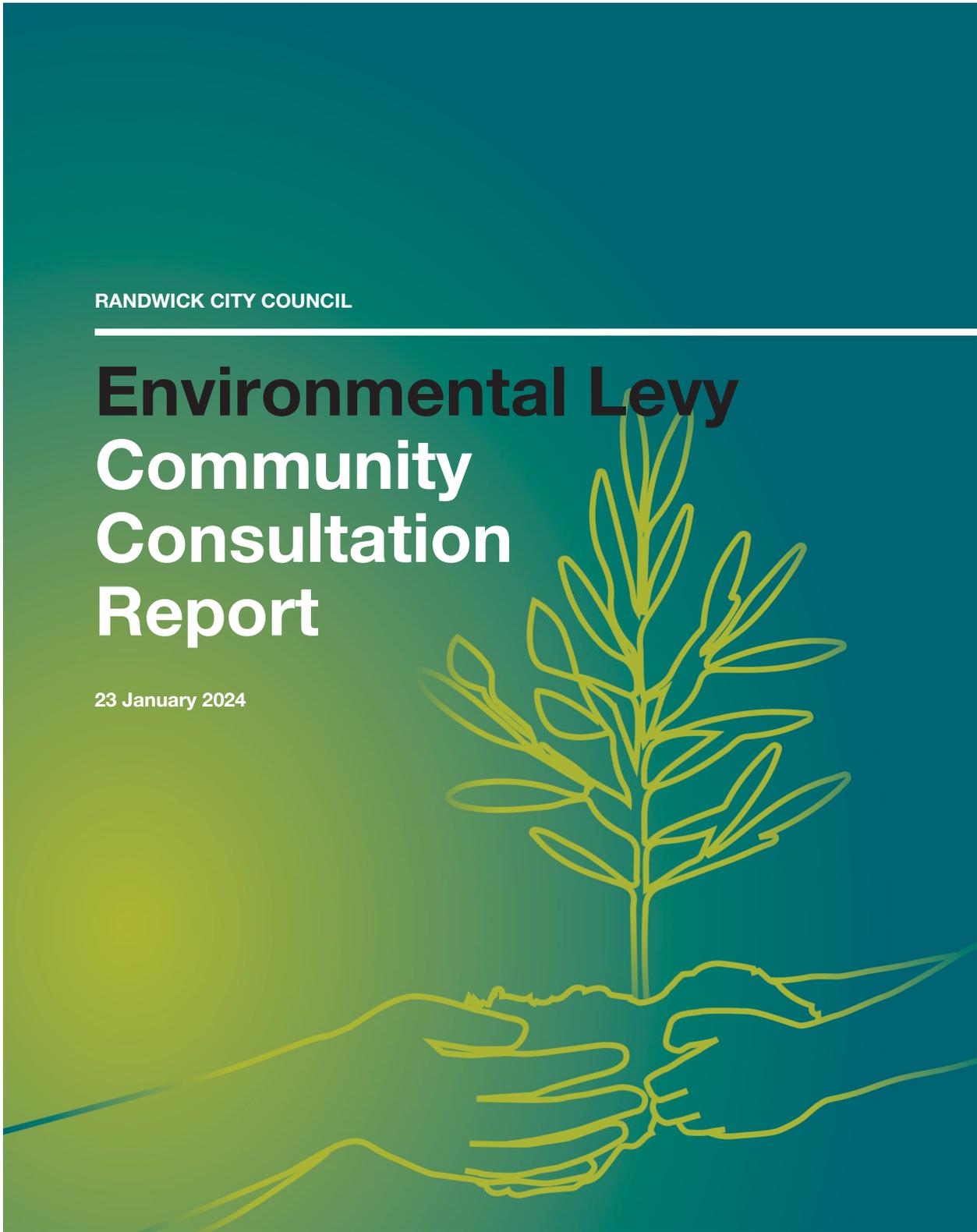
Responsible officer: Peter Maganov, Manager Sustainability; Stephen Wong, Chief Financial Officer

File Reference: F2019/00323

RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL

Environmental Levy Community Consultation Report

23 January 2024



1300 722 542
randwick.nsw.gov.au

Contents

1. Summary	3
2. Community engagement strategy	4
2.1. Background and objectives	4
2.2. Consultation period	4
3. Community engagement activities	5
3.1. Ratepayer mailout	6
3.2. Translated materials – letter and information booklet	6
3.3. Dedicated consultation website	7
3.4. Advertising	9
3.5. Drop-in sessions and exhibition of documents	10
3.6. Outdoor advertising	11
3.7. Digital communications	12
3.8. Social Media	12
3.9. Videos and cinema advertising	13
4. Consultation outcomes summary	14
5. Telephone survey	15
5.1. Background	15
5.2. Methodology	15
5.3. Sample Profile	15
5.4. Results – overall	16
5.5. Reasons for support level	16
6. Ratepayer survey	18
6.1. Background	18
6.2. Results – overall	18
6.3. Support for continuing levy – free text analysis	19
6.4. Support for discontinuing levy – free text analysis	21
6.5. Support for Environmental Levy projects	23
7. Submissions summary	24
A. Attachment – Ratepayer survey, letter and information booklet	27
B. Attachment – Submissions verbatim	32
C. Attachment – Ratepayer survey free text	32

1. Summary

This section provides a summary of the community consultation outcomes of Council's ratepayer survey, telephone survey, information sessions and submissions received.

Consultation activity	Level of support	Participants	Summary and notes	Conducted by
Telephone survey	92%	750	A random and representative survey of Randwick City residents with +- 3.6% error margin. Surveys of this type are statistically considered a reliable indicator of community sentiment.	Micromex Research
Ratepayer survey	55%	7,639	Opt-in survey open to Randwick City ratepayers	WebSurvey
Submissions	46%	194	Submissions provide the opportunity for interested community members, groups and businesses to provide feedback.	Randwick Council
Drop-in sessions	NA	178	Nine drop-in sessions totalling 21 hours, attended by 178 attendees.	Randwick Council

Table: Executive summary of main consultation outcomes.

Key findings from the consultation:

- An extensive engagement program was undertaken using a wide range of channels including direct mail, outdoor advertising, social media, cinema advertising, electronic direct mail, media, print advertising, telephone survey, community survey, information packs and translated material.
- Based on the engagement program and high level of engagement and response, there is a good level of awareness of the proposal to continue and make permanent the Environmental Levy.
- Respondents show a good level of understanding of the proposed projects, costs and impact to rates.
- There is general community support for continuing and making permanent the Levy.
- Support for continuing the levy varies with slightly higher levels of support in the eastern part of the City including East Ward and Coogee and South Coogee, while there is slightly less

support in the western part of the City including West Ward and Kensington and Kingsford.

- While all proposed projects received some support from respondents, the most important projects for the community are:
 - tree planting
 - water management
 - food waste
 - Coastal Walkway and
 - sustainability rebates

2. Community engagement strategy

2.1. Background and objectives

Randwick City Council is proposing to continue Council's Environmental Levy and make it permanent. The levy funds a range of sustainability initiatives across our City. The Levy has been in place since 2004 and was extended in 2009, 2014 and 2019. It is currently due to expire on 30 June 2024.

Randwick City Council conducted a comprehensive engagement program on the proposed continuation and permanency of the Environmental Levy. The goal was to engage openly and constructively with the Randwick City community about the levy, in line with Council's Community Engagement Strategy and meeting IPART's requirements for consulting with the community regarding a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

The objectives of the consultation were:

- To ensure the Randwick City community, residents and ratepayers are comprehensively informed about Council's proposal to continue and make permanent the Environmental Levy.
- To obtain a measure of community attitudes towards continuing to pay the Environmental Levy.
- To provide an opportunity for the community to input into their preferred programs and projects to be delivered as part of the Environmental Levy, should it continue.
- To communicate to the Randwick City community, residents and ratepayers what impact the Levy has had in its 20-year history.
- To determine levels of support and priorities for the proposed projects under the Environmental Levy.
- To ensure IPART's requirements for local councils applying for SRVs are met to a high standard, primarily around the requirements to deliver sufficient information and consultation with its community.

2.2. Consultation period

The consultation was open for 42 days from 7 November to 19 December 2023.

The community was asked to specify whether or not they supported the continuation of the Environmental Levy to make it permanent, and to identify the projects they felt were the most important. They were also given the opportunity to comment in general.

The information booklet and information sheets on key projects were available in hard copy at all Randwick City Council Libraries, at the Customer Service Centre and online at www.yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au/envirolevy2024

Using Randwick City Council's adopted Community Engagement Strategy which is modelled on the IAP2 Engagement Spectrum, this project is assessed as having a higher level, City Wide impact.

3. Community engagement activities

The engagement strategy included opportunities for public participation and employed targeted communications, using the following activities to facilitate community engagement.



3.1. Ratepayer mailout



Image: Letter, information booklet and survey sent to every ratepayer in Randwick City

Letter from The Mayor, information booklet and reply paid survey (with online option) posted or emailed to every ratepayer in Randwick City (46,414).

3.2. Translated materials – letter and information booklet



Image: Simplified Chinese translation

Image: Greek translation

Image: Spanish translation

Image: Indonesian translation

Translated versions of the Mayor’s Letter and Information Booklet were available in Simplified Chinese, Greek, Spanish and Indonesian by scanning the QR code on the ratepayers letter or downloading from the Your Say Randwick website.

3.3. Dedicated consultation website

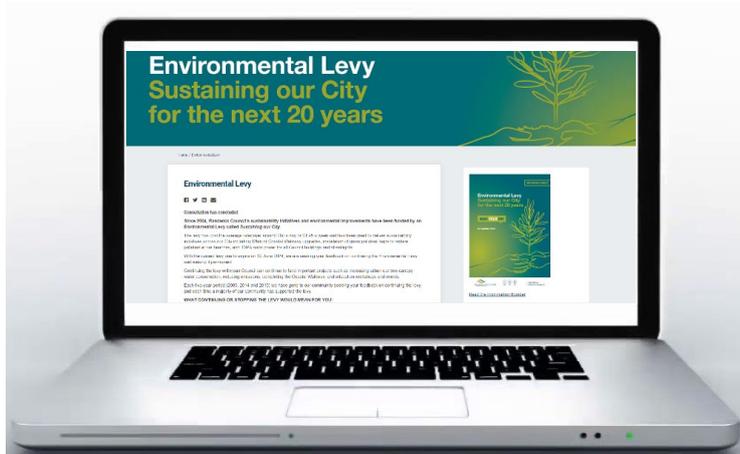


Image: Your Say Randwick website

A dedicated Your Say Randwick website was created to help inform residents of the consultation, all the ways they could be involved, and/or to make a submission:
www.yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au/envirolevy2024

A number of documents were available to download, including the information booklet sent to all ratepayers translated into Simplified Chinese, Greek, Spanish and Indonesian and project information sheets.

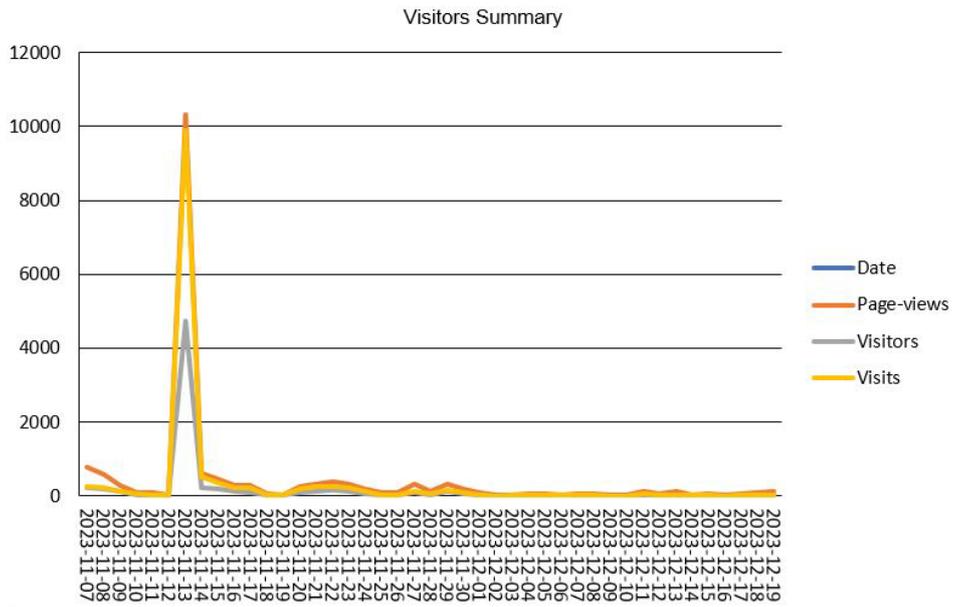
The website was launched on 7 November 2023 and was open for 42 days, closing 19 December 2023.

During this time, the site experienced the following:

- 13,873 visits to the Your Say Randwick webpage
- 12,766 document downloads

Document	Downloads
Information Booklet	226
Project information sheets (14 projects)	294
Impact on rates information sheet “What the levy will cost you”	65
Greek translation – Mayor’s Letter and Booklet	3,085
Indonesian translation – Mayor’s Letter and Booklet	3,076
Simplified Chinese translation – Mayor’s Letter and Booklet	3,023
Spanish translation – Mayor’s Letter and Booklet	2,997

Table: Documents downloaded via consultation website.



Graph: Visitation to the Your Say Randwick website.

There was very high visitation to the website that primarily occurred on 13 November 2023 and subsequent days.

This correlates with the emailing of the digital version of the survey and Mayor’s letter to approximately 14,000 ratepayers who elect to receive their rates digitally. The Mayor’s letter included QR codes to directly view the translated material.

3.4. Advertising

Environmental Levy Sustaining our City for the next 20 years

ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY
 Since 2004, Randwick Council's sustainability initiatives and environmental improvements have been funded by an Environmental Levy. The levy has five priority areas:

- Controlling our costs
- Tackling climate change
- Protecting biodiversity
- Reducing consumption of resources
- Community engagement and education

WHAT CONTINUING OR STOPPING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY WOULD MEAN FOR YOU

Category	Option 1: Continue Levy	Option 2: Discontinue Levy
Operating costs	\$1.1M	\$1.1M
Climate change	\$1.1M	\$1.1M
Biodiversity	\$1.1M	\$1.1M
Resource consumption	\$1.1M	\$1.1M
Community engagement	\$1.1M	\$1.1M
Total	\$5.5M	\$5.5M

ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2024

- 12km² of bushland protected
- 38% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- \$1.1M in savings from energy efficiency
- 7,800 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill
- 6.5 tonnes of plastic waste recycled

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YOUR FREE MONDAY LOCAL NEWS PAPER
EASTERN SUBURBS Life

Shop direct from local Jewellery-Makers & save well over 40%.

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INSIDE: HERITAGE LISTING FOR TWENTY-ONE ON THE TABLE #4 • WHAT'S ON BAYSIDE #7 • BONDWICK COASTAL DRIVES NOT TO BE PALESTINIAN FLAG #11 • WHAT'S ON IN BONDWICK #12 • BONDWICK PAULSON WONG HONG KONG GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL #14 • WHAT'S ON IN BONDWICK #19 • COUNCIL'S NEWS #21 • EIL COLLINS-KRATZ DIRECTORY #23

Image: Full page advertisement in Eastern Suburbs Life November 2023 edition, p15

Environmental Levy Sustaining our City for the next 20 years

PROPOSED PROJECTS

- Community engagement
- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Resource consumption
- Controlling our costs

WHAT CONTINUING OR STOPPING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY WOULD MEAN FOR YOU

Category	Option 1: Continue Levy	Option 2: Discontinue Levy
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Total	\$5.5M	\$5.5M

Randwick City Council | **HAVE YOUR SAY** | 1300 722 542 | yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au



Image: Double page advertisement in The Beast December 2023 edition, pps 4-5

CP1/24



Image: Feature story in Randwick Council's SCENE magazine summer 2023/24 edition

Full page advertisement in local newspaper *Eastern Suburbs Life* November 2023 edition and Double page advertisement in local magazine *The Beast* December 2023 edition.

Feature story in Randwick City Council's SCENE magazine summer 2023/24 edition distributed to 62,000 households.

3.5. Drop-in sessions and exhibition of documents



Image: Drop-in session and information display at Margaret Martin Library

Drop-in sessions

Council held **nine** drop-in sessions, totalling **21 hours** talking with 178 residents at locations across Randwick City:

- 14-16 Nov, 12-2pm daily, Margaret Martin Library, Royal Randwick Shopping Centre
- 21-22 Nov, 12-2pm daily, Pacific Square, Anzac Parade, Maroubra Junction
- 23 Nov, 5-8pm, Pacific Square, Anzac Parade, Maroubra Junction
- 2 Dec, 9-11am Kensington Community Centre
- 3 December, 10am - 2pm, Best Gift Market, Coogee Beach

Approximately 178 residents attended the sessions, the most popular drop-in being the Best Gift Market at Coogee.

The drop-ins were designed to inform residents about the Environmental Levy; what it has funded over the past 20 years, proposed future projects, and how the levy will impact on their rates.

The sessions were facilitated by Council's Sustainability, Rates and Communications teams.

Exhibition of documents

Council publicly exhibited printed versions of the Environmental Levy and Updated Long Term Financial Plan at the following locations:

- Randwick Council Administration Building, Randwick
- Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra
- Margaret Martin Library, Randwick
- Malabar Community Library, Matraville

3.6. Outdoor advertising



Image: Outdoor signage, Avoca Street Randwick

Outdoor advertising on telephone booths at 11 locations in Randwick City.

3.7. Digital communications



Image: Randwick eNews 8 November 2023



Image: Randwick eNews 15 November 2023

Weekly content in Council's Randwick eNews email to 51,000 subscribers throughout the consultation period (8, 15, 22, 29 Nov and 6, 13 December 2023), content in Council's Sustainability Newsletter December 2023 edition, and media release issued 7 November 2023 and published on [Council's website](#)

3.8. Social Media



Topic: Coastal Walkway
 Channel: Facebook
 Reach: 6.4K
 Engagement: 50 reactions, 46 comments



Topic: Communal gardens
 Channel: Facebook
 Reach: 6.1K
 Engagement: 76 reactions, 72 comments

Comprehensive social media campaign across Facebook and Instagram with 25 posts reaching 46,000 users and posts on Council's Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter) accounts.

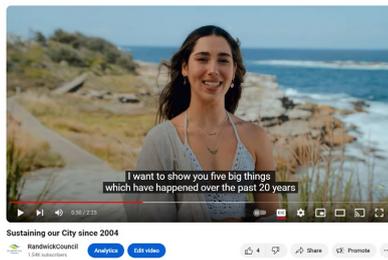
This content included videos, images and animated GIFs aimed at informing the broader Randwick City community about the levy, proposed projects and encouraging feedback.

3.9. Videos and cinema advertising



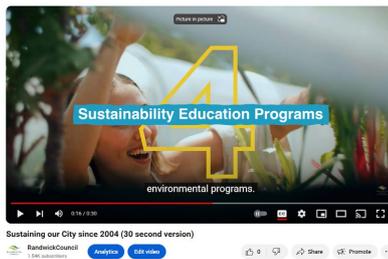
Video

Name: Environmental Levy explainer
 Purpose: Clearly communicate the financial impact of continuing or discontinuing the levy.
 Length: 2:20
 Views: 449
[Watch on Youtube](#)



Video

Name: Sustaining Our City since 2004
 Purpose: Communicating the Environmental Levy's achievements since 2004.
 Length: 2:25
 Views: 462
[Watch on Youtube](#)



Cinema advertisement

Name: Sustaining Our City since 2004
 Purpose: Communicating the Environmental Levy's achievements since 2004.
 Length: 30s
 Views: Played at every movie screening at Randwick Ritz 24 Nov – 19 Dec 2023.
[Watch on Youtube](#)

Council produced a [2-minute Explainer Video](#) promoted on Council's website, Your Say Randwick, digital display screens at all libraries and customer service centre, and on social media communicating the financial impact and options of the levy, as well as a cinema advertising campaign at Randwick Ritz Cinema from November 24 to December 19.

4. Consultation outcomes summary



5. Telephone survey

5.1. Background

In October and November 2023, Randwick Council engaged independent research agency Micromex Research to conduct a random telephone survey with residents living in the Randwick LGA.

The survey aimed to:

- Identify the community’s overall level of satisfaction with Council performance and quality of life living in Randwick
- Assess and establish the community’s priorities, level of agreement with statements and satisfaction in relation to Council activities, services, and facilities
- Explore resident experiences contacting Council, and accessing information about Council services and facilities
- Identify the residents’ awareness and support of the Environmental Levy in the Randwick area

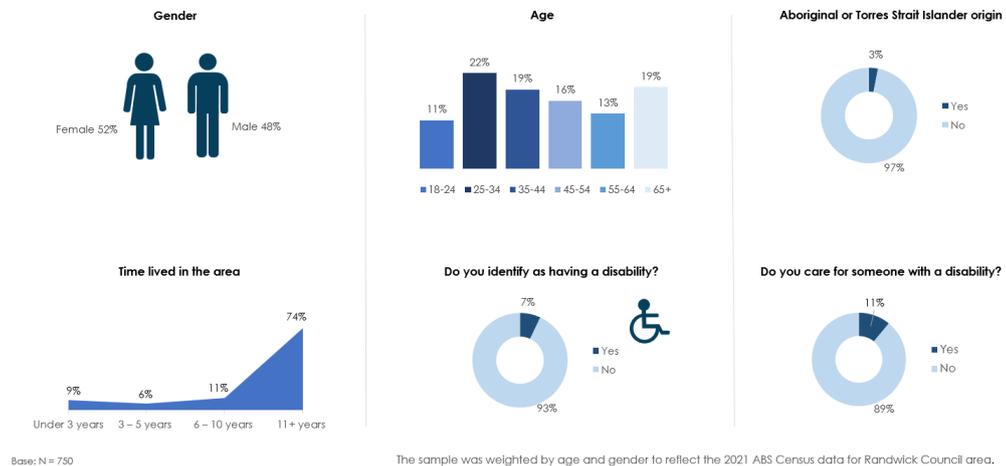
5.2. Methodology

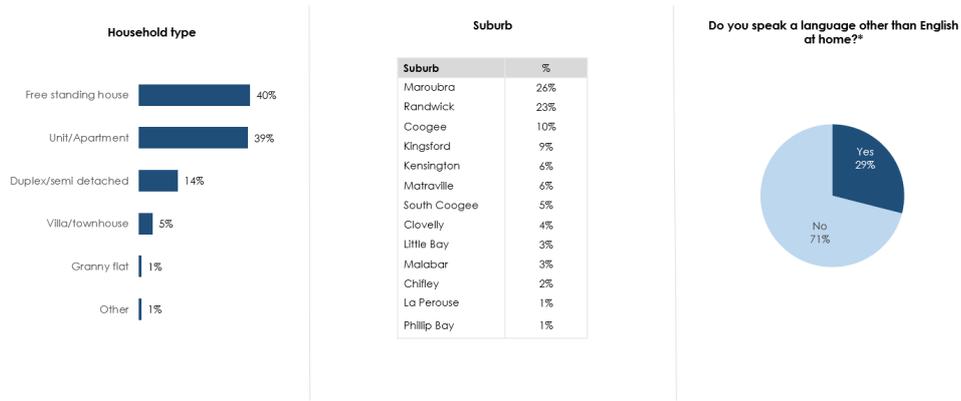
A total of 750 resident interviews were completed. 713 of the 750 respondents were chosen by means of a computer based random selection process using the Australian marketing lists, Sample Pages, List Brokers and Lead Lists. The remaining 37 respondents were ‘number harvested’ via face-to-face intercept at several locations around the Randwick LGA; Woolworths Matraville, Pacific Square Maroubra, UNSW/UNSW Anzac Pde Light rail station Randwick, and Corner of Perouse Road and St Pauls St near the restaurants Randwick.

A sample size of 750 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 3.6% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=750 residents, 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 3.6%.

For the ratepayer survey the greatest margin of error is 3.6%. This means, for example, that an answer such as ‘yes’ (50%) to a question could vary from 46.4% to 53.6%.

5.3. Sample Profile

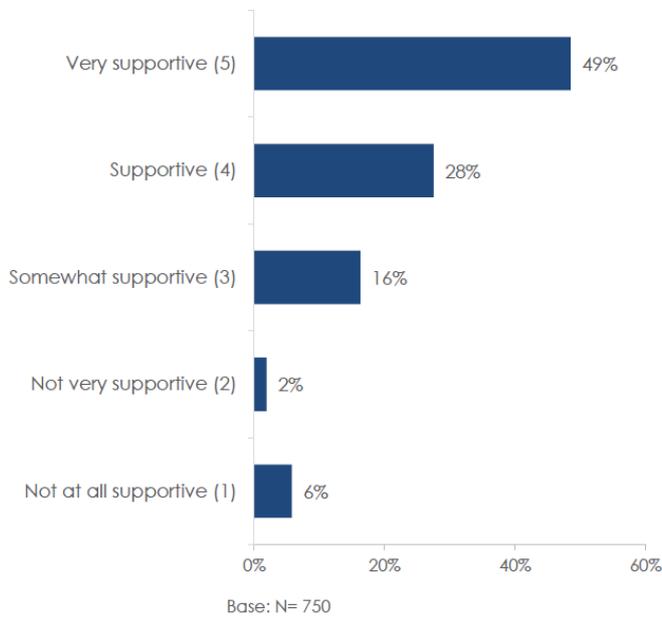




Base: N = 750

The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2021 ABS Census data for Randwick Council area.

5.4. Results – overall



Graph: Summary of results for telephone survey. Source: Micromex Research

The above graph shows that of the 750 people interviewed in the telephone survey, 92% were at least somewhat supportive of the proposal to continue the Environmental Levy.

5.5. Reasons for support level

76% of residents were supportive/very supportive of the proposal. The main reasons for being supportive were about the importance of the protection of the environment, affordable Levy, and responsibility for environmental preservation.

Only 8% of respondents were not supportive of the proposal, which are mainly owed to the cost of the levy and/or other necessary improvement outside of environmental projects.

Supportive/Very supportive (76%)	N=570	Total %	Somewhat supportive (16%)	N=122	Total %
Supportive of environmental projects and protection of the environment	47%	36%	Lack of knowledge or details about the levy	25%	4%
Importance of the environment and these projects to the local community	30%	23%	Supportive of environmental projects and protection of the environment	16%	3%
Levy is AFFORDABLE for the services/facilities provided	11%	8%	Opposition to the levy due to cost	15%	2%
Responsibility for environmental preservation and maintenance	11%	8%	Affordability and cost of the levy	11%	2%

Not at all supportive/not very supportive (8%)	N=58	Total %
Opposition to the levy due to cost	34%	3%
Council/the Government should pay for environmental initiatives	20%	2%
Some environmental projects are not needed/disagree with some projects	15%	1%
Council needs to be more transparent about where funding is used	14%	1%
Need improvements to other services/facilities outside of the environmental projects	12%	1%

Tables: Reasons for support level. Source: Micromex Research

6. Ratepayer survey

6.1. Background

Randwick City Council mailed a letter, information booklet, survey and reply paid envelope to every ratepayer (46,414 total including 31,571 printed notices and 14,843 emails) in mid-November 2023. The purpose of the mailout was to inform ratepayers of the SRV proposal and to obtain the views of the community on the levy and levy projects.

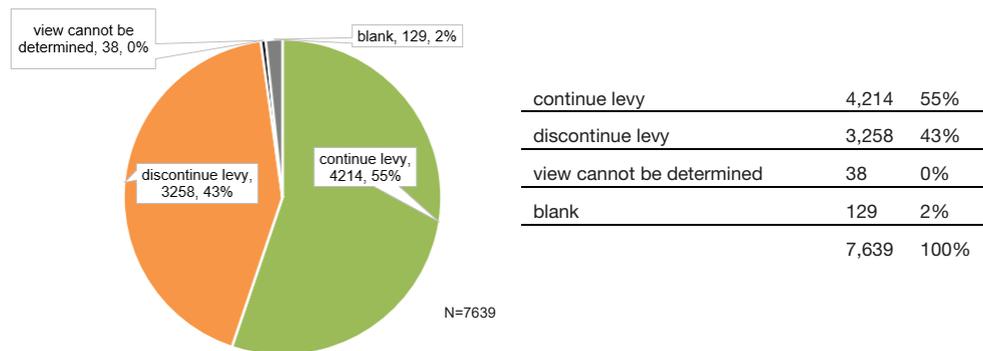
Ratepayers could elect to return the completed survey via the free reply paid envelope or complete the survey online using a supplied QR code and unique login details.

Randwick Council engaged WebSurvey – a specialist Australian research firm – to scan and data enter returned postal surveys as well as host the online survey.

Survey responses were accepted up until close of business 19 December 2023.

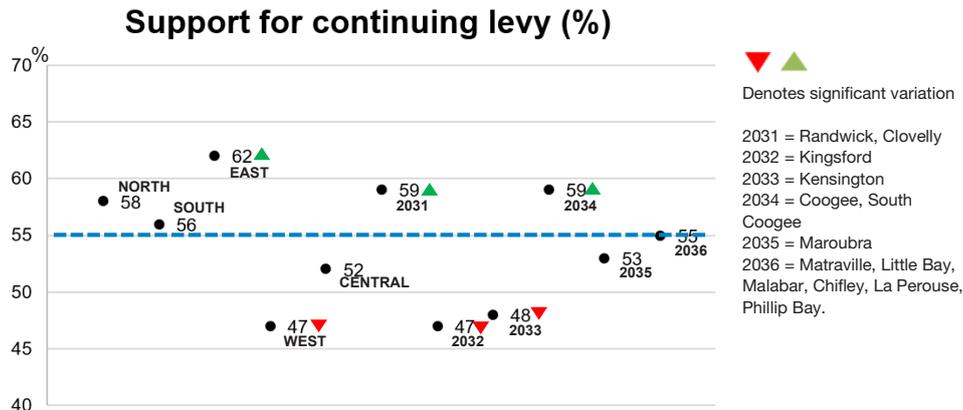
6.2. Results – overall

In total 7,639 completed surveys were returned by ratepayers. There was a fairly even split between surveys being completed online (51%) and via reply paid mail (49%).



Graph: Overall results for continuing Environmental Levy

There was a majority support (55%) for the levy to continue, while 43% of respondents opposed the levy continuing. Two per cent (2%) of responses could be not categorised as they were either blank or the text response was not sufficient to determine the respondent's view.

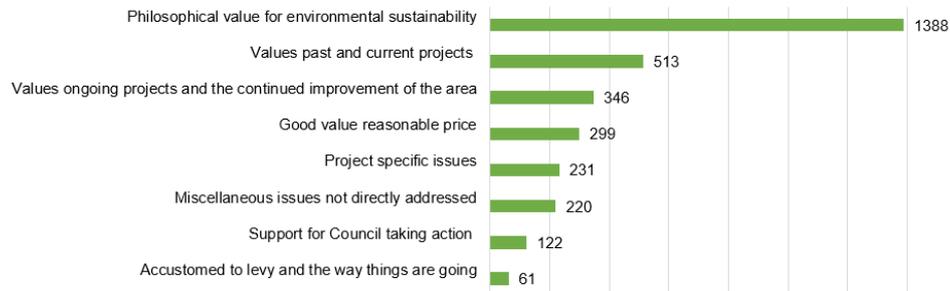


Graph: Level of support by Ward and suburb

	All	By Ward					By postcode					
		North	South	East	West	Central	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
continue levy	55%	58%	56%	62%▲	47%▼	52%	59%▲	47%▼	48%▼	59%▲	53%	55%
discontinue levy	43%	40%	41%	35%▼	52%▲	46%	39%▼	52%▲	51%▲	38%▼	45%	42%

Support for the levy is strongest in East Ward (62%) and the suburbs of Randwick and Clovelly (59%) and Coogee and South Coogee (59%). Support is relatively less in West Ward (47%) and the suburbs of Kingsford (47%) and Kensington (48%).

6.3. Support for continuing levy – free text analysis



Graph: Ratepayer survey – Categorisation of free text comments of those supportive of levy

Philosophical value for environmental sustainability (1388 mentions)

Respondents who have been categorised under this reason code generally refer to the importance of the environment for both current and future generations often citing that they feel it's everyone's responsibility to chip in to ensure a sustainable future for the greater Randwick area.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Environment is important"
- "Everyone's responsibility to look after environment"
- "Improve the environment"
- "Happy to support the environment"

Quotes that typify this reason code:

"Must preserve environment for future generations."

2. Values past and current projects (513 mentions)

Respondents who have been categorised under this reason code generally refer to the current or past projects undertaken by Randwick Council they've seen come to fruition, and the benefits of aforementioned projects to both them personally and the community as a whole.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Council has done a good job"
- "Noticed the improvements"
- "Don't want these projects to be delayed"

Quotes that typify this reason code are:

- "Believe in the work being done"
- "I have seen progress in these projects and don't want them to stop"

3. Values ongoing projects and the continued improvement of the area (346 mentions)

Respondents who have been categorised under this reason code generally refer to philosophically believing that constantly improving the local environment through a variety of projects and initiatives holds great value to them personally and the community as a whole.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Believe in improving my community"
- "Support environmental causes being funded by Levy"
- "Levy making positive difference"

4. Good value reasonable price (299 mentions)

Respondents categorised under this reason code tend to refer to feeling the cost of the levy is reasonable and inexpensive.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Environment is worth the cost"
- "Not much to pay"
- "Low cost if we all contribute"

5. Project specific issues (231 mentions)

Respondents categorised under this reason code support the levy, but generally refer to issues they have with specific projects.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Cycleway is unnecessary"
- "Cutting down trees for cycleway is wasteful and unwanted"
- "Support the coastal walkway"
- "Keep our beaches and water clean"

6. Miscellaneous issues not directly addressed (220 mentions)

Respondents categorised under this reason code are supportive but refer to various issues they have with local government and the community but don't refer to a specific project or a reason that does not align with any other theme.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Sceptical about council's use of funds"
- "Council's support of developers runs adverse to environmental projects."
- "No more high rise developments"

7. Support for Council taking action (122 mentions)

Respondents categorised under this reason code refer to feeling other levels of government don't do enough for the environment and appreciate Council taking responsibility for local environment and reducing emissions and pollutants.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Appreciate local council taking responsibility"
- "Local Council does a good job"
- "Federal and state government dropping the ball"

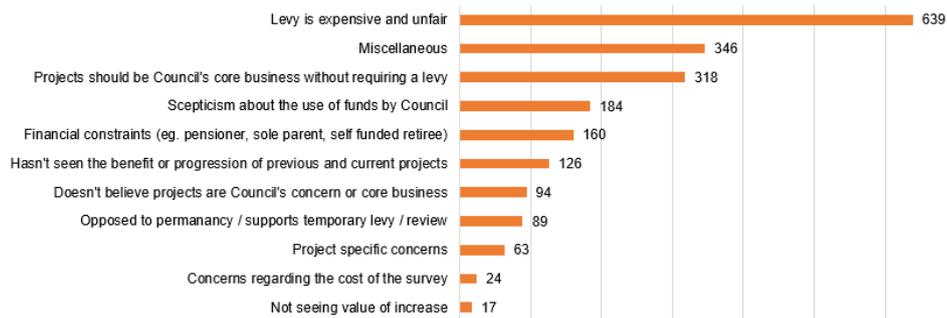
8. Accustomed to levy and the way things are going (61 mentions)

Respondents classified with this reason code generally refer to being accustomed or content with the levy and subsequent projects.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Satisfied with works"
- "Used to paying the levy"
- "Good for community"
- "Levy is worthwhile"

6.4. Support for discontinuing levy – free text analysis



Graph: Ratepayer survey – Categorisation of free text comments of those not supportive of levy

1. Levy is expensive and unfair (639 mentions)

Respondents classified with this reason code generally refer to non-specific financial restraints or claim the levy is unfair for a wide variety of reasons.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Financial reasons"
- "Need a break"
- "Rate reduction"

Quotes that typify this reason code are:

- "Can't have SRV and this levy at the same time."

2. Miscellaneous (346 mentions)

Respondents classified under this reason code has miscellaneous issues or comments.

Quotes that typify this reason code are:

- "I choose not to."
- "You are too far to the left."
- "Climate change not real."

3. Projects should be Council's core business without requiring a levy (318 mentions)

Respondents classified with this reason code generally refer to feeling the council should be providing these projects and services within the core budget, not with a levy.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Pay enough rates"
- "Fund from normal rates"
- "reduce administration costs"

Quotes that typify this reason code are:

- "This service should be something that the council does and pays for, without a levy."
- "Increased dwellings and high rises approved by council can afford to continue the same direction without the levy."

4. Scepticism about the use of funds by Council (184 mentions)

Respondents classified with this reason code exhibit a general suspicion of the use of funds by Council or government in general.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Waste of money"
- "Rates are too high" (noticeably frequently used phrase)
- "We pay enough"
- "No transparency"

5. Financial constraints (eg. pensioner, sole parent, self funded retiree) (160 mentions)

Respondents classified with this reason code generally refer to specific financial constraints such as being a pensioner, sole parent or self funded retiree etc.

Commonly used phrases:

- "Only income is the pension." (noticeably frequently used phrase)
- "Single parent"
- "Struggling to make ends meet"

6. Hasn't seen the benefit or progression of previous and current projects (126 mentions)

Respondents classified under this reason code claim to not see the progression or benefit of the undertaken projects.

Quotes that typify this reason code are:

- "We never asked for it in the first place and Coogee beach still a sewer"
- "Honestly never seen any of those environmental programs been implemented"
- "Overpaid yet underperforming"

7. Doesn't believe projects are Council's concern or part of their core business (94 mentions)

Respondents classified with this reason code generally refer to feeling the council has more pressing concerns and these matters are better left to higher jurisdictions of government (state or federal).

Commonly used phrases:

- "Just pick up my rubbish"
- "Just stick to core business"

8. Opposed to permanency / supports temporary levy / review (89 mentions)

These respondents expressed concern about the proposal to make the levy permanent. Some cited the lack of accountability and others mentioned they would have supported the levy if it was for a set

period rather permanent. A further 20 respondents who supported the levy also raised concern about its permanency.

Quotes that typify this reason code are:

- "Would have opted for option 1 except that the proposed levy is permanent."
- "Cost of living crisis! Don't want it permanent at this stage."
- "I want to continue the environmental levy but not make it permanent. I want the levy reviewed every five years."

9. Project specific concerns (63 mentions)

Respondents classified under this reason code have projects specific concerns.

Commonly used phrases:

- "I do not agree with removing the trees along Bundock St."
- "Cycleway a waste of money."
- "Coastal walkway is good enough."

10. Concerns regarding the cost of the survey (24 mentions)

Respondents classified under this reason code generally had concerns regarding the cost of the survey.

Quotes that typify this reason code are:

- "If council cut back on colourful multi page self promoting booklets they could use this to do all their "feel good" projects."
- "The cost to the ratepayers or the paperwork is also environmentally irresponsible and costly."

11. Not seeing value of increase (17 mentions)

Respondents classified under this reason code refer to not seeing the value of the increase to them personally or for the community as a whole

Commonly used phrases:

- "Do not see value"
- "No benefit"

Quotes that typify this reason code are:

- "Happy with current environment"
- "These programmes will not make any difference"

6.5. Support for Environmental Levy projects

Survey respondents who supported the Levy continuing were asked to nominate the most important projects to them from a list of 11 proposed projects. Participants were encouraged to select three or more projects.

Rank	Project	Selections
1	Increase urban greening and tree canopy to reduce urban heat island effect	3278
2	Installing more Gross Pollutant Traps to reduce water pollution	2618
3	Conserving and reusing water	2569
4	Urban greening and upkeep of coastal, town centres and residential areas	2520
5	Reducing food waste and promote the circular economy	2329
6	Completing the Coastal Walkway and whale watching platforms	2231
7	Community renewables and sustainability rebates for households	2111

Rank	Project	Selections
8	Community gardens	1435
9	EV charging	1390
10	Cycling infrastructure	1252
11	Community workshops, programs and events such as the Eco-Living Festival	645

Table: Results from Ratepayer Survey question about most important projects, ranked by total number of selections.

While all proposed projects received some support from respondents, the most important projects for the majority of the community focus on tree planting, water management, food waste, Coastal Walkway and sustainability rebates.

7. Submissions summary

Randwick Council actively encouraged the community throughout November and December 2023 to tell Council what they thought about continuing the levy.

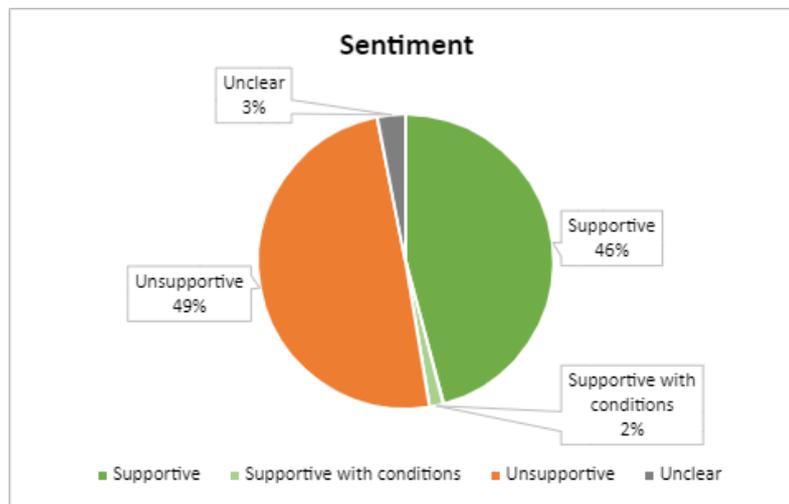
In addition to specific engagement activities such as the ratepayer survey and telephone survey, Council welcomed submissions via its consultation website and via letter and email.

In total 194 submissions were received. Of these submissions, 81% were received through Council’s Your Say Randwick consultation website and 19% were via email.

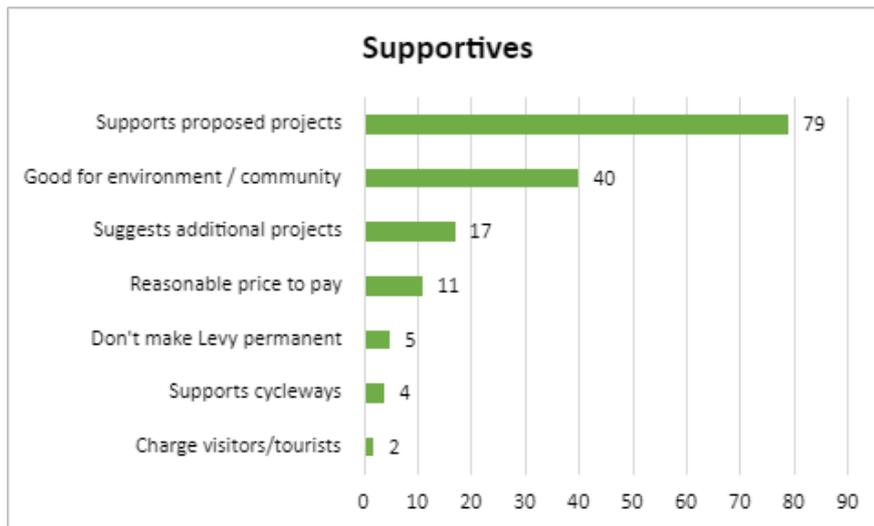
Submissions may have come from ratepayers, businesses, community groups and renters.

Some people may have lodged a submission as well as completing the ratepayer survey.

Of the 194 submissions received 89 were in favour of continuing the levy, 3 were supportive with conditions, 96 did not want to continue the levy, and 6 were unclear.



Graph: Sentiment of submission



Graph: Reasons for supporting the levy

Examples of submissions supportive of continuing levy

I strongly support the proposed permanent continuation of the Environmental Levy. What has been achieved so far with such a small weekly contribution by ratepayers proves its value.

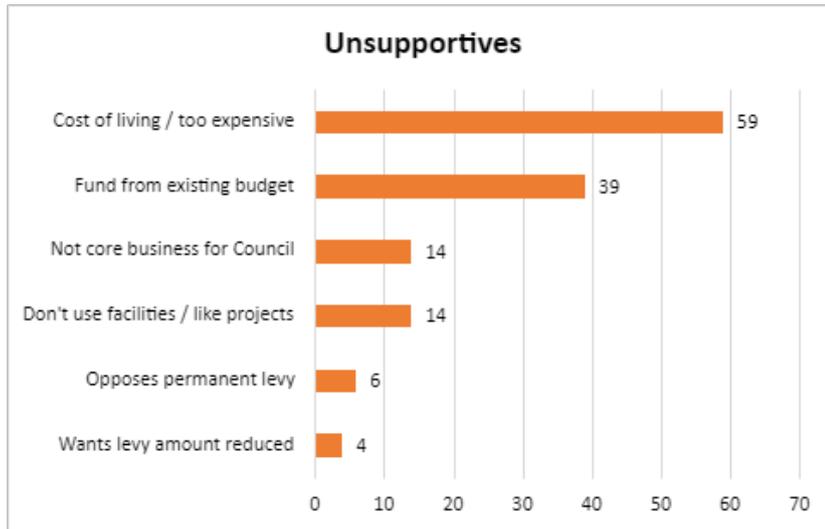
This is the kind of initiative that is an essential first step in ensuring livability, sustainability, and quality of life for generations to come. Randwick needs to continue its position as a leader in taking our environmental needs and challenges seriously.

Very much in favour of keeping the environmental levy! We need to do everything we can to help conserve our environment!

The environmental levy has been fantastic and funded a range of initiatives that we are very proud to have in our local area, making a practical difference for our communities. I hope the levy will be made permanent (I thought it already was!).

Its a very small amount for the long lasting benefits to the community and accessible to the majority

I think the Environmental Levy is an excellent Council initiative. It enables Council to fund and support a range of initiatives to make life...more sustainable...healthier and happier for all its residents.



Graph: Reasons for not supporting the levy

Examples of submissions opposed to continuing levy

Please consider the current economic situation and the cost of living crisis residents are experiencing. The Levy should be discontinued for the time being. If you stick to core business you may still be able to spend on environmental issues from rates.

If I have to choose between paying the environmental levy forever or not at all, I say not at all, given the cost of living crisis. Which is a shame, as I can see that RCC has done a lot of good things with the Enviro Levy

Why a separate levy? Just factor the 'levy' amount into annual council rates and allocate that amount to the 'Environment Levy' budget.

I don't believe environment should be a special charge but something already covered by the high rates and taxes we pay. It's up to the Council to reallocate funds and reduce funding in another area if necessary to take care of environmental needs.

I can barely afford to pay my rates now. Unless you introduce a reduction in rates for pensioners and those on low incomes I'd vote no. I'm for the levy in principle.

Sustainability projects should be central to the Council's daily business. It should not be an optional add on.

See Attachment for all submissions.

A. Attachment – Ratepayer survey, letter and information booklet

Environmental Levy Ratepayer survey

RE: Your property – [insert location address]

To have your say, please consider one of the following two survey options below:

	<p>Complete the survey online Scan this QR code or visit http://begin.ws/cf3d14a1-c55f-43e4-afb6-e130fa4d5bd8 Note this is a unique code and link just for you.</p>	<p>OR</p>	<p>Return the paper survey Complete this paper survey and return it to Council using the Reply Paid envelope (no stamp required).</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

If you complete the survey online using the above link or QR code DO NOT complete the survey below. If you complete both the online and paper versions, we may not be able to accept your survey response. Please take the time to review the information booklet about the Environmental Levy included in this pack to help you provide your feedback.

Q1. Which option do you prefer?

Option 1: Continue Levy

Under this option, ratepayers continue paying an Environmental Levy of approximately \$101p.a. for the average ratepayer and it is made permanent. The levy will fund important sustainability improvements and projects.

Option 2: Discontinue Levy

Under this option the Environmental Levy would be discontinued and the average residential ratepayer would receive a reduction on their rates of approximately \$101p.a. Without the levy, Council will have to cancel, reduce or delay many sustainability projects.

Q2. Why have you chosen this option?

Q3. If you support the Levy continuing, please tick the projects that are most important to you (select 3 or more).

- Increase urban greening and tree canopy to reduce urban heat island effect
- Community renewables and sustainability rebates for households
- Installing more Gross Pollutant Traps to reduce water pollution
- Completing the Coastal Walkway and whale watching platforms
- Community gardens
- Cycling infrastructure
- EV charging
- Community workshops, programs and events such as the Eco-Living Festival
- Reducing food waste and promote the circular economy
- Conserving and reusing water
- Urban greening and upkeep of coastal, town centres and residential areas

How to return this form

If you've completed the paper survey above, please mail it to us using the enclosed reply paid envelope. No stamp is required. If you do not have a reply paid envelope, please address it to: Randwick Council Community Feedback, Reply Paid 89388, Randwick NSW 2031. No stamp is required. Your completed survey needs to be received by **5pm Tuesday 19 December 2023.**





Randwick City Council
30 Frances Street
Randwick NSW 2031
Phone 1300 722 542
ABN: 77 362 844 121

council@randwick.nsw.gov.au
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

Follow us



[ratepayer address 1]
[ratepayer address 2]
[ratepayer address 3]

Monday 6 November 2023

Dear [insert name]

RE: Your property – [insert location address]

Randwick, leading the way on sustainability and the environment

Twenty years ago, Randwick Council introduced one of the most innovative and progressive initiatives ever seen in local government.

We called it Sustaining our City – a small environmental levy paid by ratepayers as part of annual rates for sustainability improvements in Randwick City.

Because of the levy we have been able to save households \$1M annually on your energy bills through sustainability rebates, use 100% solar for Council buildings and streetlights and build 12km of Coastal Walkway including the Malabar Headland Western Escarpment.

Each five-year period (2009, 2014 and 2019) we have gone back to our community seeking your feedback on continuing the levy. Given the positive impact and popularity of the program, we are now proposing to make the Environmental Levy permanent.

While the levy has achieved a lot to date, more work is needed to protect our beaches, complete the Coastal Walkway and take meaningful action to address climate change by switching to renewables, conserving water and increasing our urban tree canopy coverage.

With the current levy due to expire on 30 June 2024, I'm writing to seek your feedback on continuing the Environmental Levy into the future.

I know that the cost of living is putting pressure on households. But the cost of not taking action on avoiding waste, protecting our beaches and addressing climate change will cost us and our children more in the future.

For around 28c a day or \$1.95 a week, I believe continuing our Environmental Levy is the right thing to do for our residents and families, now and into the future.

Included with this letter is a detailed booklet explaining the pros and cons of continuing and stopping the levy. Please read this carefully.

I thank you for taking the time to read this information and welcome your feedback to help us decide the best way forward for our community.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Philippa Veitch
Mayor of Randwick

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Environmental Levy Sustaining our City for the next 20 years

HAVE YOUR SAY

November 2023



1300 722 542
randwick.nsw.gov.au



Sustaining our City for the next 20 years

It's sometimes easy to forget how far we've come as a City in 20 years.

2004 is etched in my mind as it was about this time that my husband and I made the decision to settle in Maroubra in Randwick City and raise our family here. Like many people, we loved the location, the coastal environment and the sense of community.

Coincidentally, it was also the same year that Randwick Council – long before I was elected to Council – embarked on its ambitious Sustaining our City program.

At the time sustainability was still seen as 'optional' – something nice to have. But our community embraced it and agreed that paying a little extra to improve water quality at our beaches, reduce energy consumption and avoid waste was worth it.

Every five years we've gone back to you and asked for your feedback on continuing the levy and each time a majority of our community has supported the levy.

For around 20c a day or \$1.9c a week, the Sustaining our City Environmental Levy represents excellent value for what we've been able to deliver for our community.

All Council buildings and streetlights are now powered by 100% solar from NSW solar farms and we've built 12km of Coastal Walkway – including reinstating public access to Malabar Headland for the first time in over 100 years, both of which have been made possible due to the levy.

With the levy due to expire on 30 June 2024, we have a choice to make – continue paying what you've always paid for 20 years and keep delivering for our environment, or advise the levy meeting Council will have to delay, reduce in scope or cancel many sustainability projects.

I know many households are suffering from rising cost of living pressures. However I fear that not investing in our environment will cost us and our children more in the future.

Please take a few minutes to read this booklet – it will give you some important information about what the levy means for you. It is important for you to have your say so that we make the right decision for our community's future.

Philippa Welch
Councillor Philippa Welch
Mayor of Randwick



About the Environmental Levy
Since 2004, Randwick Council's sustainability initiatives and environmental improvements have been funded by an Environmental Levy. The levy has five key priority areas:

- Tackling climate change
- Protecting biodiversity
- Reducing consumption of resources
- Community engagement and education

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT WASTEWATER REUSE

After the drought conditions of 2000, Council commenced an extensive investment in water re-use encompassing rainwater, stormwater, borewater and other wastewater. There are currently 25 parks and playing fields across Randwick irrigated with treated stormwater, borewater and wastewater systems.

These capture, treatment and re-use systems are conservatively saving Council in the order of 350 million to 450 million litres of potable water each year. They also provide upwards of 60 percent of all of Council's operational water use – not just for irrigation but toilet flushing in public toilets.

This provides financial savings of about \$1.1M each year in water costs.

Over approximately 15 years of Environmental Levy investment in stormwater and wastewater re-use, Council has saved in the order of 6,000M, and \$15 million in water costs. That's more than the equivalent water in 1,900 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

Recognition for Environmental Levy

Randwick Council's Sustaining our City Environmental Levy program has won **74 awards since 2004**.

These include the Local Government NSW Excellence Awards, Excellence in the Environment Awards, Greater Sydney Planning Awards, Local Government Professionals Awards, Local Government NSW Awards, Green Globe Awards, Barinas Awards, World Environment Day Awards and more.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY HIGHLIGHTS 2004-2024

- 12km** Coastal Walkway upgrades completed including Malabar Headland, Cape Banks and Randwick Environment Park boardwalk.
- 38** Gross Pollutant Traps installed preventing more than 300 tonnes of rubbish entering our oceans each year.
- \$1.1M** The amount householders are saving on annual energy costs through Council's Sustainability Rebates program.
- Moree, Hillston & Nevertire** The NSW towns where our solar power is collected to power Council buildings and streetlights with 100% renewable energy.
- 16** Public EV charging stations installed.
- 7,800** Compost bins and worm farms provided to householders since 2004.
- 6.5 tonnes** The amount of food waste diverted from landfill through Council's Compost Revolution program.
- 7** Community gardens opened.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

SUSTAINABILITY REBATES

Helping households save energy and water



Since 2020 Randwick Council has been helping households implement energy and water saving improvements in their own homes by offering up to \$5,000 per household in rebates.

FUNDING AREA	SUSTAINABILITY REBATE	PROVIDED TO DATE
Climate and resilience	Roofing solar installations	601
	Solar battery storage	85
BUDGET \$5.5M	Electric vehicle chargers	72
	LED lighting upgrades	65
TIMEFRAME 2024-29	Insulation installs	69
	Hotwater heater replacement	47
LOCATION LGA-wide	Energy assessments	28
	Roofwater tank installations	22
TOTAL Commenced 2020; ongoing	Water audits	22
	Handover tank installations	22
DID YOU KNOW? In September 2023 Randwick Council received \$100M Sustainability Rebate for a trial in Maroubra	Health checks	18
	Energy efficient LED lighting	15
The City's leading water recycling program has been awarded a national award for best water recycling program	Waste audits	8
	Waste audits	8

MEETING OUR CLIMATE CHANGE TARGETS

The Environmental Levy is critical to help meet Council's commitments on climate change.

EMISSIONS

60% Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across Randwick City by 2030 - but requiring a 100% reduction in some premises.

HOW WE'RE TRACKING
Achieving a 60% reduction in emissions across the entire Randwick LGA is a challenging target and requires a variety of community approach. Council's programs such as our Sustainability Rebates program, Solar my School, Solar my Club, Compost Revolution and Public EV chargers are aimed at positively influencing and encouraging Randwick homes and businesses to reduce emissions by using renewable energy and making more sustainable transport decisions whether in cars or 'active' transport such as walking, cycling or taking public transport.

LGA-wide greenhouse gas emissions are down about 12% over the past few years and Council's own emissions have been slashed by 42% over the same timeframe. 100% of Council's electricity needs have been supplied by renewable solar energy since 2022.

WATER

30% Reduction in the consumption of water across Randwick City per capita by 2030.

HOW WE'RE TRACKING
Randwick Council is leading by example when it comes to water conservation with 350 to 450 million litres of drinking water saved every year through stormwater re-use and treatment systems installed as part of our environmental levy across 25 of our parks and playing fields. The parkland locations of Google Beach and Maroubra Beach are now irrigated by 100% recycled water.

TREES

40% Council's target tree canopy coverage for Council managed land by 2040.

HOW WE'RE TRACKING
Council is accelerating its tree planting through a variety of programs including Plant With Us which saw 4,400 established trees and 25,000 undercover shrubs, grasses and groundcovers planted in 2022 and 2023. An additional 2,000 advanced trees are being planted in 2023 and 2024 as part of a State Government grant. New Council planning controls require development on private property to include more trees. As an inner-city council with limited land area, increasing our canopy from 17% to 40% represents a challenge that we are continuing to tackle.

What continuing or stopping the Environmental Levy would mean for you

OPTION 1 CONTINUE LEVY				OPTION 2 DISCONTINUE LEVY			
Under this option, ratepayers continue paying the Environmental Levy and it is made permanent. The levy will fund important sustainability improvements, maintenance and projects.				This option proposes discontinuing the Environmental Levy. Ratepayers would receive a small reduction in their rates, but Council will have to cancel, reduce or delay many sustainability projects.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conserving water and reducing our carbon footprint	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public renewable heat & EV charging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replacing coastal walkways including street-walking pathways	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replacing climate change and related urban heat island effect mitigation projects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conserving water and reducing our carbon footprint	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public renewable heat & EV charging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Replacing climate change and related urban heat island effect mitigation projects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community workshops and programs
What continuing/discontinuing the levy will cost you	Residential ratepayers	\$101 per week	\$195 per week	\$0.20 per day	Residential ratepayers	-\$101 per week	-\$195 per week
	Business ratepayers	\$2,608 per week	\$0.30 per day	\$0.20 per day	Business ratepayers	-\$2,608 per week	-\$0.30 per day
Overall net increase (including/excluding Environmental Levy) over one year	11.67%		5.00%		Overall net decrease (including/excluding Environmental Levy) over one year		
	Total ratepayers increase by 10% (2024) including 4% (2025) (assumed at 5% discount) - Levy		Total ratepayers increase by 10% (2024) including 4% (2025) (assumed at 5% discount) - Levy		Total ratepayers decrease by 10% (2024) including 4% (2025) (assumed at 5% discount) - Levy		
	For residential ratepayers - retaining levy		For residential ratepayers - retaining levy		For residential ratepayers - ceasing levy		
	Current year 2023-24	Year 1 2024-25	Year 1 2024-25	Year 1 2024-25	Current year 2023-24	Year 1 2024-25	Year 1 2024-25
Average residential rate	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449
Annual rate increase (incl. levy)	\$72	\$72	\$72	\$72	\$72	\$72	\$72
Total average residential rate	\$1,449	\$1,521	\$1,521	\$1,521	\$1,449	\$1,521	\$1,521
Environmental Levy	\$87	\$87	\$87	\$87	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ratepayers' net rate and Environmental Levy rate (incl. levy)	\$1,536	\$1,608	\$1,608	\$1,608	\$1,449	\$1,521	\$1,521
	For business ratepayers - retaining levy		For business ratepayers - retaining levy		For business ratepayers - ceasing levy		
	Current year 2023-24	Year 1 2024-25	Year 1 2024-25	Year 1 2024-25	Current year 2023-24	Year 1 2024-25	Year 1 2024-25
Average business rate	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449	\$1,449
Annual rate increase (incl. levy)	\$108	\$108	\$108	\$108	\$108	\$108	\$108
Total average business rate	\$1,557	\$1,557	\$1,557	\$1,557	\$1,557	\$1,557	\$1,557
Environmental Levy	\$133	\$133	\$133	\$133	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ratepayers' net rate and Environmental Levy rate (incl. levy)	\$1,690	\$1,690	\$1,690	\$1,690	\$1,557	\$1,557	\$1,557

*Annual rate increase (incl. levy) is based on the Council's financial forecast, say, on the assumptions outlined in the Long-Term Financial Plan 2023-29, adopted by Council in September 2023. The ratepayers by IPART has not been determined at the time of this consultation. Any variation between the assumptions in the Long-Term Financial Plan and the Council's financial forecast will directly affect the financial outcomes.

** Includes Post-Budget business (IP) prepared

Frequently asked questions

What is the Environmental Levy?

Since 2024 ratepayers in Randwick City have paid a little bit more on their rates each year to go towards sustainability initiatives. This levy has delivered important improvements across our City and Council is seeking to continue it.

What is the rate peg?

The rate peg is the percentage that councils in NSW are permitted to increase their overall rates revenue by each year. The rate peg amount varies each year and is determined by an independent organisation called IPART - The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

Who is responsible for deciding whether the Levy continues?

As the Environmental Levy is an increase to your rates over and above the set rate peg, councils must apply to IPART for approval to vary rates income above the set rate peg. This process is known as a Special Rate Variation. IPART conducts a thorough assessment of applications from councils taking into consideration the need for the extra revenue, how it will be spent, council financial efficiency and community feedback. IPART may approve proposals completely, in part or reject them.

Will my rates go up by 11.67% in real terms?

Not this figure shows how much Council's total rates income is proposed to increase in 2024/25 from a baseline of no Environmental Levy and no rate peg increase. As you're already paying the Environmental Levy, in real terms, your increase will be the mandatory rate peg (estimated to be 5%).

How do I work out how much Environmental Levy I will pay?

Your levy amount is based on your July rates notice. Each property owner pays a slightly different amount depending on the value of your property. The figures on the table on the opposite page show how much the average residential or business ratepayer will pay. Most residential ratepayers will actually pay less than the average.

When will the Environmental Levy end?

We are proposing to retain the Environmental Levy permanently in the rates base, rather than seeking approval for another 5-year timeframe (as we have done previously).

What is Council's view?

We support continuing the levy and believe this is the best financial, social and sustainable outcome.

What happens if the levy doesn't continue?

Council will be worse off by about \$8M in annual funding. This means that the projects proposed in this information booklet either won't happen, be reduced in scale or delayed.



Have your say

We are seeking your feedback on the Environmental Levy for 42 days from 7 November to 19 December 2023. You can obtain information about the Environmental Levy in the following ways:

- Electronically on Council's 'Your Say Randwick' website: www.yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au

- In hard copy at the following locations:
 - Randwick Council Administration Building, 30 Francis Street, Randwick.
 - Lionel Bowen Library, 688-673 Anzac Parade, Maroubra
 - Margaret Martin Library, Level 1, Royal Randwick Shopping Centre, Randwick.
 - Maslin Community Library, 203 Anzac Parade, Murrumbidgee

- Survey**
Every Randwick City ratepayer will receive a letter and survey in the mail. Follow the instructions to complete the survey online using the supplied unique URL and QR code, or complete the paper survey and mail it back to Council. Note you only need to complete one survey option.

- Telephone survey**
We'll be phoning 750 randomly selected Randwick City residents in November 2023 to seek your views. If we phone you, please consider taking part.

- Submissions**
If you wish to provide a submission to Council, you may do so through the following means:
 - Online at Council's 'Your Say Randwick' website: www.yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au
 - Via email to council@randwick.nsw.gov.au marked "Submission: Environmental Levy"
 - In writing to Randwick City Council, "Submission: Environmental Levy", 30 Francis Street, Randwick NSW 2031.



Pop-up sessions
Council staff will be at various locations during November and December to talk about the Environmental Levy.

14-16 November
Margaret Martin Library, Level 1, Royal Randwick Shopping Centre, Randwick

21-23 November
Pacific Square, Anzac Parade, Maroubra Junction
Scan the QR code or phone 9008 6002 for more dates and locations to drop by and see us. No appointment is required.

Our plan for the future 2024-2029

What continuing the Environmental Levy will achieve

COASTAL

Budget: \$6M

- Coastal Walkway upgrades and enhancements, South Coogee, Lurline Bay and Little Bay to Kurney Botany Bay National Park
- New Green Pollutant Traps (GPTs) and rain gardens to minimise pollution entering our oceans
- Crayweed and positional citizen science restoration

CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE

Budget: \$6.5M

- Legato solar on Council buildings
- Solar storage batteries
- Sustainability rebates for residents and businesses
- New fast public EV charging points
- Microgrid investigations
- Installation of community batteries
- Power purchasing agreement
- Solar farm at DRFC
- Urban greening and maintenance for cooler town centres and residential areas

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Budget: \$4.5M

- Sustainability workshops & courses
- Eco Living Festival
- Marine & Coastal Discovery program
- Sustainability education 'hub' improvements
- Environmental school grants
- First Nations stewardship collaborations
- Sustainability Street community program
- Community resilience hubs

WATER SAVING

Budget: \$2M

- Stormwater re-use and recycling at Randwick Community Centre
- Rainwater tank re-use at Council sites
- Blackwater recycling and re-use (Heffron Park and Ffronchons Bay)
- Reused irrigation amenities at Randwick Environment Park

FOOD

Budget: \$2M

- Community gardens
- Edible garden support in schools

BIODIVERSITY & HABITAT

Budget: \$2.5M

- Native and Indigenous planting and upkeep for town centres and residential areas
- WVRS's Wildlife Rescue re-location & Interpretive facilities
- Whale watching platforms
- Tree planting on every road
- Revegetate Burnerong Creek
- Green roofs and walls on new developments
- Heffron Park wetland
- Expanded ClimateWatch citizen science trails

WASTE AVOIDANCE

Budget: \$1M

- Food waste avoidance, schools, cafes and restaurants
- Circular Economy
- Construction and demolition waste recovery initiative
- Randwick Collaboration Precinct

ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Budget: \$4M

- North-south cycleway completion
- First Nations walking trail, La Perouse
- Sydney Great Coastal Walk - partnership with Walking Volunteers
- EV infrastructure partnerships and incentives
- End of trip facilities for cyclists and walkers
- 'Green grid' walking and cycling connections

OTHER

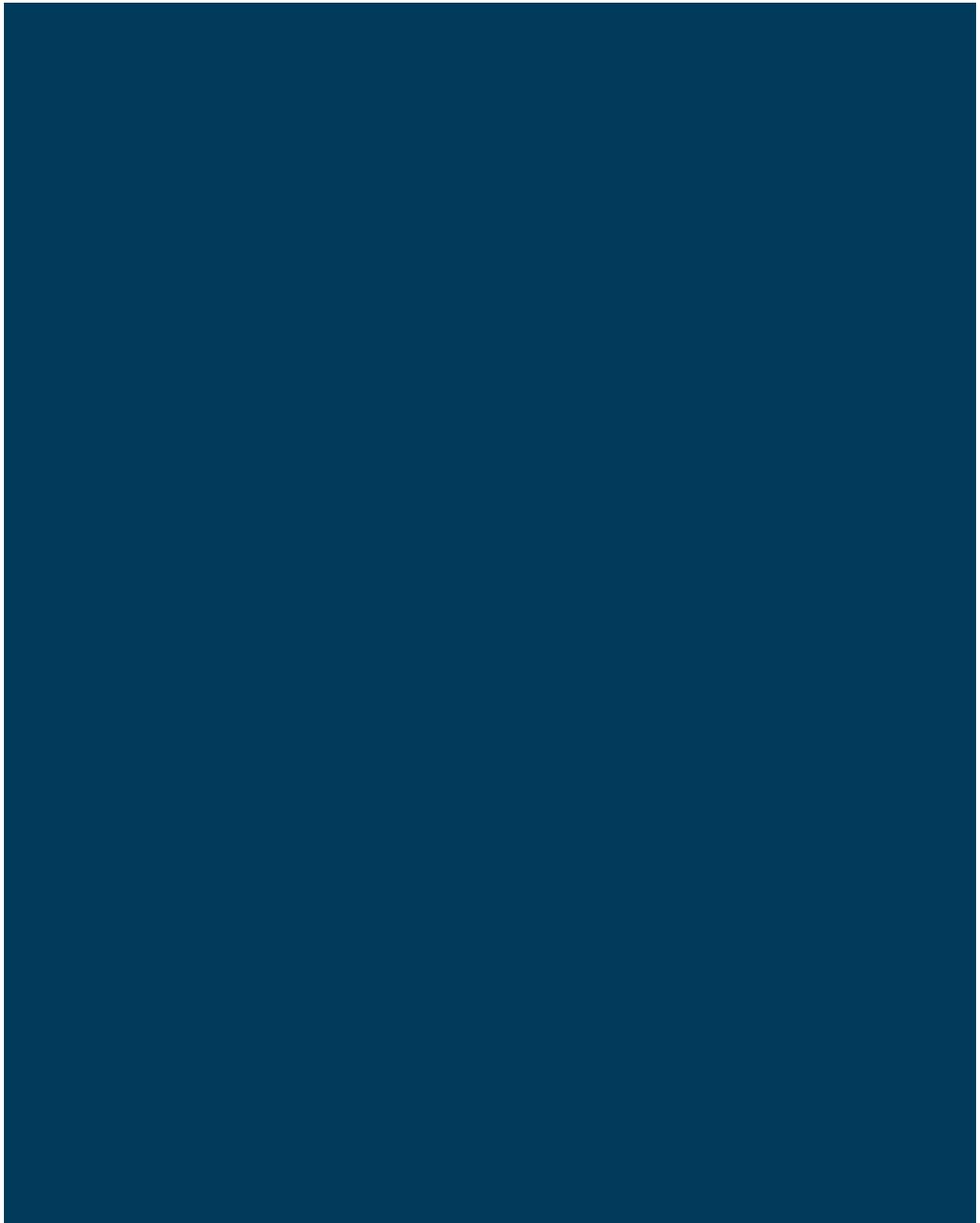
Budget: \$2M

- Landfill monitoring program
- First Nations art trail
- Sustainable markets
- Green living plan for public land developments
- Environmental sculptures on Coastal Walkway
- Children's environmental art at Munda Street Reserve sustainability hub

Note: The above presents show high budget allocations based on the next five years of the Environmental Levy. Some of these projects will take longer than five years to achieve and will likely be carried over and funded by the Levy in future years if required. All projects listed are subject to Council's usual community engagement and decision-making processes and are subject to change depending on circumstances at the time.

B. Attachment – Submissions verbatim

C. Attachment – Ratepayer survey free text



CP1/24

Randwick City Council
30 Frances Street
Randwick NSW 2031

1300 722 542
council@randwick.nsw.gov.au
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

FOLLOW US ONLINE



CP1/24

RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL

Environmental Levy Community Consultation Report

ATTACHMENT VERBATIM SUBMISSIONS

23 January 2024



1300 722 542
randwick.nsw.gov.au

The following is a verbatim transcript of the 194 submissions received by Council. Where the submissions have mentioned personal information, that detailed has been removed for privacy reasons.

View the main Community Consultation Outcomes Report for an analysis and other outcomes.

	Supportive
1	I fully support the levy and support it continuing past the expiry date. Having a distinct revenue stream with directly linked outcomes is preferred over these initiatives being funded out of consolidated revenue.
2	So long as it's used appropriately, it should continue.
3	It's an excellent idea and you should definitely continue it
4	make it permanent
5	I'm so very happy to live in Randwick and know that the council is committed to environmental improvements for all the community. I've used many, especially the walking tracks that I had never realised were supported by the levy. For me it's a no brainer to continue with the levy - but thanks for asking.
6	I strongly support the proposed permanent continuation of the Environmental Levy. What has been achieved so far with such a small weekly contribution by ratepayers proves its value.
7	I'm glad to have it - the benefits are obvious and appreciated
8	<p>I'm more than happy to pay the small addition to further our sustainability goals, but I also expect all of our councillors to then operate with those same goals in mind.</p> <p>There's been a few decisions & proposals from council meetings recently that I see as misaligned with a sustainable future (namely the deletion of the planned Maroubra Rd cycleway, and the subsequent Broadarrow Reserve parking proposal). Ultimately, an extra levy isn't productive if our councillors continue to vote down the kinds of projects it should be funding.</p> <p>I think getting more people walking & cycling should be a higher priority, since the benefits are more equitable than many other options (e.g. you don't need an expensive electric car, or ownership of a property where you can alter the power delivery to benefit). I would also like to see more support for reducing the net amount of cars in the LGA (i.e. encourage multi car households to adapt to a single car, and limit the amount of available on-street parking permits). How about a subsidy for households to replace their cars with an e-bike or a Car Share membership?</p>
9	<p>I would like the environmental levy to cover the cost of netting the street drains that run off is going into the sea, and to cost of maintaining and clearing the nets. Much more can be done. Waverly council has some great ideas to stop rubbish running into our sea.</p> <p>Also anti-litter, bin your butt, advertising campaign. The litter level on our streets is</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Supportive
	growing. Its very disheartening. The litter ends up in the sea and its not fun swimming with it!
10	<p>I fully support the levy. The environmental hub, initiatives and focus at Randwick Council are wonderful. I've been personally enriched by attending the Permaculture course, attended a Sustainable Fashion meetup, attended a photography exhibition and opening night, helped man the Randwick Community Organic Garden (RCOG) stall at the Eco Living Fair, been involved in the establishment of the Library of Things, and received support from Julian Lee in understanding common dynamics of community groups, which inspired me to take an action at RCOG which committee members have said is prompting positive change within the organisation.</p> <p>I've lived in lots of different parts of Sydney, but I've never experienced such a quick sense of belonging to a local community as I did when I moved to Randwick in March 2022, and this is mostly due to the impact of the Sustainability Hub.</p> <p>Thank you, and please keep up the great work!</p>
11	Good initiative.
12	Support the environmental levy. Would be great to use it to fund active transport initiatives.
13	Please make the Environmental Levy permanent! This is the kind of initiative that is an essential first step in ensuring livability, sustainability, and quality of life for generations to come. Randwick needs to continue its position as a leader in taking our environmental needs and challenges seriously. One of the main reasons I am so grateful to live in Randwick, and am delighted to pay my rates!!!
14	We have no objection to that small amount for the environment to be levied on our property.
15	Very much in favour of keeping the environmental levy! We need to do everything we can to help conserve our environment!
16	Yes. Please continue with the programs listed. I'm especially supportive of electrifying households.
17	Focus on improvements to the coastal walkways and water conservation and reduction of pollution as they improve the area the most. The rest are just a waste.
18	<p>Coming from Airlie Beach where Whitsunday Regional Council had an environment levy in 2008 but discontinued when it merged with Bowen city council, I can see the neglect of our natural environment. Having started Whitsunday Indian Myna Action Group 2 years ago,</p> <p>I am horrified to visit your beautiful Coogee Beach (8 December 2023) and Indian Mynas are everywhere. In the Main Street all over the roofs probably nesting and on the street, around food and people eating, in the trees along the beach and completely dominating the area. You can see they are overtaking native birdlife and no doubt arboreal mammals are disappearing as well as their hollows are taken by these ferals. They are filthy,</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Supportive
	Unhygienic and disease carrying and a threat to people as well as wildlife. Very disappointed RCC have allowed them to get this bad. They must be roosting nearby and can be culled. We had professionals with low power air rifles and drones from Brisbane cull 250 at Port of Airlie Boathouse apartments as they had completely taken over the infrastructure. Please divert funds to culling this pest as they scream neglect and are at odds with your councillors claims to be environmentally friendly etc. thank you for your time
19	Keep the levy, and increase the levy in line with inflation so as to increase the impact of Randwick City environmental sustainability projects.
20	The environmental levy has been fantastic and funded a range of initiatives that we are very proud to have in our local area, making a practical difference for our communities. I hope the levy will be made permanent (I thought it already was!).
21	It's a great idea. The planet needs help. I am probably 30 years from dying so I will probably miss most of the destruction caused by global warming, but future generations will appreciate it.
22	I agree 👍 with supporting such a worthy cause BUT My rates (near \$25,000 yearly) make living in Randwick (50 years plus) a very expensive undertaking.
23	I would like to continue the levy. I am happy to contribute to any sustainability initiatives. We all need to do more not less!
24	Its a very small amount for the long lasting benefits to the community and accessible to the majority
25	I think it's a fantastic idea and every council should have one. The more money spent on protecting our climate the better!
26	I strongly support the levy and would support an increase in its amount. We live in a wealthy area of a wealthy country. This is the least we can do. I ride a bicycle and have no car and would also support measures to encourage cyclists and public transport users and limit private car use.
27	Ceasing the levy would be a retrograde step at a time requiring urgent climate action and environmental awareness
28	Keep it- plant trees amongst the graves at Malabar cemetery, make it a place people want to visit, like European cemeteries
29	\$1.95 per week per household seems a fair levy if it is actively in something tangible that we can see, such as rebates, electrification, clean initiatives to get rid of waste on our beaches etc etc
30	I am in full support of the Environmental Levy to support sustainability in Randwick. That said, I think the Levy should be reassessed when Council's goals have been achieved and the community consulted on any further changes to rates.
31	Maintain levy

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Supportive
32	Continue the levy. Make it permanent. It's a small price to improve the environment.
33	<p>The Environmental Levy is an important separate funding stream to improve the quality of residents, visitors lives and the sustainability of the local environment. Without it, we are left to the whims of the ideological views of the councillors to develop such initiatives. In a fiscally constrained environment, this will be one of the first areas to go - or be converted to run essential services like waste / recycling collection or water treatment. This is not acceptable.</p> <p>I support the permanent setting of the Levy.</p> <p>The next question that needs resolving is how to continue indexing to ensure value is maintained in real terms. I suggest linking to CPI, on condition that the levy is not a fund to be used for funding emergency works as a result of the impact of climate change. This will need to come from another source.</p>
34	<p>I believe that the environmental levy should remain, and it could also be increased if more positive outcomes could be achieved, such as relocating electricity poles and cables underground, plant more trees in streets to provide shade, stop using pesticides and use steam to kill weeds.</p> <p>I am not a house owner however I pay indirectly the environmental level by paying a very high weekly rent.</p>
35	Its a great idea, keep it going. The small amount each house holder makes has a big impact for the community.
36	Please continue the levy and work to make randwick beautiful.
37	I support the continuation of the Environmental Levy and I support the range of proposed projects to be funded from the levy.
38	I am completely in favour of maintaining this levy. I've been paying for the 20 years and it has helped many great projects. Let's continue!
39	I think it would be absolute madness if you didn't continue the Environmental Levy. Randwick Council does so many vital environmental initiatives that help minimize the impact of climate change and help future proof the community against the negative effects of a changing climate. I really hope other people agree you should definitely keep the Environmental Levy and keep up the good work.
40	I moved to Randwick 3 years ago and was especially looking in that area because of Randwick's sustainable reputation. I am more than happy to continue paying for the Environmental Levy, so the council can keep going on great sustainable projects, particularly in developing cycle paths.
41	<p>Your continuous efforts in Sustaining the City are well appreciated. While we agree and support your Environmental Levy in the sum of \$1 .95 a week, we hope that this level remains the same as long as possible .</p> <p>We do believe the State Government as well as the Federal Government should take bigger roles in shaping up the sustainability efforts of the whole of NSW and</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Supportive
	Australia. This can come along in the form of reduced tariff and tax rates and increased subsidies. Wish you success in your next phase of Sustaining the City program.
42	I am happy to pay a little more each year to finance all the great project Randwick Council has taken on in the past. It adds so much more value to our community and makes it a nicer place.
43	I wish for the levy to continue, but perhaps there could be a fairer system to reward rate payers who have very little red bin waste to counteract the increased levy? My household has 1 small bag of red bin waste per week so it is almost an empty bin every fortnight.
44	We need to increase it to support non-house owners in apartments who cannot afford or find a strata path to convert buildings to sustainable solar panels, EV chargers, replace gas cookers and install heat pumps
45	We are fine with Levy but would like to have more say in how our rates are spent! South Maroubra has just completed a very nice shower/ toilet block! For who ??? The campers this summer in their vans as they park and stay for weeks free! We need also to stop the high volume of cars coming into Maroubra Beach! Put in Parking Metres and the mass of people will reduce and Council will have a huge revenue raiser! No brainer!!
46	<p>this levy has delivered great initiatives and projects in the area and I am very supportive of it continuing indefinitely.</p> <p>Education is an important component into the future to ensure residents make the best decisions possible on how to deal with waste. In the unit complex I live in (and also obvious in general at shopping centres or other places where waste sorting is available) it is evident people either do not understand, do not know how to find out the right way or sadly do not care about what happens with their waste or the impact of contaminating waste streams. ALSO it is important to be transparent about where recycled materials end up, are all the plastics and glass recycled in Randwick being re-used, if so how/where, or are they being added to large stock piles of recycled materials. This is often hidden and a disincentive for people to do the right thing.</p> <p>it would also be beneficial in part of that education to flag the amazing recycling centre in Matraville, and to have it open much more frequently on the weekend. as someone who works mon-fri outside of Randwick it is almost impossible to make use of that amazing facility, and I would expect much ends up in landfill because the access to the recycling centre is so restricted. How about closing it one weekday and opening it all day every Saturday and selected Sundays.</p> <p>In the local environment it would be great to a) see better management of lantana and bitou bush, particularly in the Bunnerong creek, Chifley and La Perouse areas b) establish some cooperation with Bayside council on managing Foreshore road (as a main access point into Randwick) as there is often litter all the way along which ends up in the waterways and can effect Randwick's beaches and c) work on ways</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Supportive
	<p>to reduce rubbish dumped on the streets which seems to be repeatedly problematic in the same spots.</p> <p>In my view these items are more important than whale watching stations, eco living festivals, environmental sculptures and science trails as they ensure the future is kept clean.</p>
47	Coastal walk: fixing the coastal walkway gap from the end of Bunya Parade to Liguria Parade is a priority. It is more than disheartening to have to climb Cuszco Street back to busy Malabar Road. A solution would persuade many people to support the environment levy.
48	Please continue with the levy. An excellent use of funds.
49	I agree with keeping the levy
50	I am local maroubra/ Randwick resident and would like to throw my weight behind the Environmental Levy renewal as sound economic and social policy. This levy has achieved huge benefits to the community and helped provide a liveable environment for all. It has enabled and enhanced the recreational and lived experience of the area. This increases the number of people coming into the area and helps business and commerce. House prices will benefit from the lived environment and it will free up alternative funds to spend on non environmental issues. It is impossible for no money to be spent on the environment so with out dedicated funds there will be a need to take many away from other areas meaning other areas of spending will suffer. this impacts all and in the end costs everyone. There are huge health benefits of a better environment not just physical but mental and developmental meaning the impact is generational. This levy has benefitted the area for 20 years and this is a huge shift at a time when we are facing a looming climate crisis and short term drought and heat wave issues. As a local Dr and clinical director of a hospital it is essential we support real world improvements in our green spaces and water resources and it is the councils responsibility to support this and not send us on a path to undoing the work of the last 20 years. many thanks For hearing my submission.
51	option 1- keep the levy
52	It sounds like an excellent initiative and I fully support it
53	I'm in favour of continuation of the levy beyond 30 June 2024 as a small and equitable method of preserving the Randwick city environment for all to enjoy!
54	Please go ahead with the proposed Environmental Levy as explained in the information booklet
55	As a resident, and a prospective ratepayer, this is such an important initiative that really sets Randwick apart from other areas. Local solutions make such a big difference for sustainability.
56	I think it is a good idea.

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Supportive	
57	Absolutely keep doing this. It's a great initiative and has demonstrable good effects for our community and society at large.
58	<p>I would support paying the environmental levy in the future. I would particularly support planting more street trees in Chifley and Little Bay which are protected by mesh cages until they are well established. Previous street plantings have been removed by residents.</p> <p>I would also like to have the low fences around the tram corridor on Anzac Parade re-established from Prince Henry to Bunnerong Road. This has become an unsightly parking spot for cars, caravans and boats. As a green corridor this has been a great recreation space for people and birds in the past.</p> <p>Both of these proposals would result in greening these areas, reducing temperatures on the streets.</p> <p>I also feel that in the interests of reducing power usage the number of street lights could be reviewed as we can see eight street lights from our house and the street is unnecessarily bright. Excess light can have adverse effects on wildlife.</p>
59	<p>I totally approve of the levy but I think there needs to be much more focus on the health of our oceans.</p> <p>So often our beaches and waters where we swim are dirty and full of the almost raw sewage Sydney dumps into the ocean through the sewer pipe a few kilometres off shore. We are literally swimming in our own shit! What sort of a first world city whose beaches are one of the main tourist attractions would dump only primary treated sewage into our oceans for it to simply wash back to us depending on the wind and ocean storms.</p> <p>It is not only human waste. I have attached a list of the pollutants we pump into the ocean every single day as part of the sewage.</p> <p>I used to be a technical diver meaning my friends and I dived many deep locations such as shipwrecks all around the world. One day we dived the sewer outlet by accident and I saw first hand with my own eyes the disgusting cloud of high pressure sewage being pumped into our oceans.</p> <p>Today it was a beautiful day so I went to Gordons Bay to have a swim but was once again confronted with a bay full of the very sh*t we pump into the ocean. I just can not fathom why we do this. I would like as much of the environmental level to be put towards a solution to this horrible problem, and to lobby state Gov to fix this hideous blight on Sydney. Making another walk way to peer down at the shit floating in our waters surrounding our coast should wait until we clean our oceans.</p>
60	<p>I think it's a small price to pay to have one of the most environmentally forward councils in NSW!</p> <p>But I'm not a fan of the environmental waste of sending out a bunch of booklets to all households. Kind of defeats the purpose, don't you think?</p>
61	<p>I think the Environmental Levy is an excellent Council initiative. It enables Council to fund and support a range of initiatives to make life in Randwick City more sustainable and therefore healthier and happier for all its residents. Building cycle paths and cycle ways offers residents a flexible and cheaper alternative to cars or public transport, while sustainability rebates allow people to 'de-carbon' their lives, contributing to a healthier planet and offering rate-payers a financial benefit as well.</p> <p>As a member of a local Community Garden, I appreciate Council's support of</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Supportive
	community groups like ours. All this is made possible by the Environmental Levy. It should definitely be retained.
62	The Randwick city area is markedly and positively impacted by the investment in urban renewal and environmental projects. The importance of communal green spaces, clean water, sustainability measures around water use and reuse and education are paramount in keeping the area beautiful, safe, healthy and highly regarded by its residents and visitors. The cost per rate payer per year is not insignificant, but the impacts and benefits of the levy by and large outweigh the financial sacrifice it may pose to households.
63	<p>We recently completed the survey regarding the Environmental Levy proposal. In it we stressed the importance of the Council pushing forward in promoting the Coastal Path. One area that is in need of attention is the 'missing link' between Cuzco Street and Seaside Parade and Lurline Bay. So many walkers are turned off when confronted with the long haul up to Malabar Road and back down to the steps accessing Lurline Bay.</p> <p>When the Council was preparing the 2012 LEP we made a submission proposing that the small property at 49 Cuzco Street should be acquired at least in part to create a through path that would link to Seaside Parade.</p> <p>The Council put a Reservation on the property.</p> <p>We understand that Council did not want to act whilst the elderly owner continued to reside in the premises. Whilst this might seem reasonable in the short term it is now 12 years later and we wonder if Council could start to negotiate with the owner with an offer that reflects the value of the property to the broader public good and also the advantage of relocating to a more accessible property more appropriate to an elderly person.</p> <p>A path that went from Bondi to Maroubra without the current detour would be a World class feature worth pushing for and spending money on and not waiting decades to achieve.</p> <p>We look forward to receiving an up-date on the current and proposed actions regarding the acquisition of 49 Cuzco Street.</p>
64	Option 1 - keep the levy
65	A fine initiative and should continue.
66	I'm happy to continue paying the levy
67	Please make the Environmental Levy permanent. It is a tiny cost with enormous benefit. This Levy, and what it's done for our community, makes us proud to live in Randwick. And it makes where we live beautiful now and for future generations.
68	<p>Over these twenty years that it has been operating, the environmental levy has funded many projects that have provided us with much greater benefit than it has cost us.</p> <p>It has made Randwick City more attractive, which has been good for local businesses.</p> <p>The improvements to our public spaces, such as the Environmental Park and the coastal walks has saved us travel time and travel costs by not having to travel so far for our recreation.</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Supportive	
	<p>It has made Randwick City a healthier place to live, This has saved us medical expenses.</p> <p>It has helped slow the production of Greenhouse gases.</p> <p>It has funded Council's solar panels, which will have paid for themselves in about five years.</p>
69	<p>Should be continued. Could get a more positive response if it gave a 5 year option. BUT some of the projects you list are not really environmental, but parks/gardens, or tourism infrastructure. Such as coastal walkway and whale watching lookouts. Without conserving the bushland, the coastal walkway is somewhat pointless. And we can already see whales. Do not put more structures on the lovely coastline. Most important is anything which improves air and water quality, such as transport options to reduce driving; gross pollutant traps; and BANNING WOOD FIRES! I don't think people who are already comfortably-off should get subsidies for clean energy choices. But we need clean energy. Thanks for reading.</p>
70	<p>It is a NO brainer, please continue with it! It's amazing how much (environmental) good can be done for much less than half the price of a coffee per week, hopefully people realise that! Randwick Council, keep up the GREAT work! So happy to be living here =)</p>
71	<p>As a rate payer, I am happy to support a modest levy to improve the environment for Randwick so that we may all enjoy our spectacular beaches and parks.</p> <p>However, as a rate payer, I would like to see more beautification of the main shopping areas in Randwick which look very sad. Randwick shopping precincts could look like the Mosman shopping precinct because they were built around the same era. With a little Council support and encouragement of shop keepers Randwick could be transformed.</p> <p>Christmas is also a season of joy and there is little to reflect this in Randwick. For instance, the large pine trees in the park opposite the light rail could be lit up and provide a wonderful focal point for all to see and to remind us that no matter what religious background, it is a season of giving and we can come together to celebrate.</p> <p>Come on Randwick Council, I know you can do better.</p>
72	<p>I think we should continue the environment levy.</p>
73	<p>The environmental levy should definitely stay. The funding for Black-water reuse, Coastal Walkways, Green spaces, Gross Pollutant Traps, Reducing food waste, Renewable energy, and Whale watching platforms is vital to keep Randwick progressive and help reduce greenhouse emissions. why would you even consider removing such a vial levy?</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Supportive
74	Make the Environmental Levy permanent and increase it every year!
75	I don't mind paying if it is used for the stated purposes
76	I support it. The environment is important and we need to all work together to keep our world liveable.
77	I love the environmental levy. I wish our local council, and indeed all local councils, would have one. The environmental levy helps groups do what they do, care for the ecology, teach others to care for it. At this time of crisis, when the United Nations has declared this the Decade of Earth Restoration, the final remaining decade in which positive action may turn the tide of damage, having an environmental level is the least we can do. It's an intergenerational policy, and we must think beyond the momentary reactions of people who say we can't afford it. We can't afford NOT to have it. We must move forward with plans for the children who will sit under the trees long after we are gone.
78	Make the environmental Levy permanent. Is less than a dinner out a year per tax payer. No brainer.
79	I support continuation of the levy and the proposed works
80	I strongly support the continuation of the Environmental Levy
81	I have no problem with the levy It should be continued to make a difference in Randwick.
82	Given the havoc climate change is about to wreak, protecting environment should be at the top of everyone's list. I fully support Council's Environmental Levy. I would love to see more of it spent on infrastructure that could get children to school by walking or cycling rather than getting driven by car.
83	It's a small amount to pay for the great initiatives funded under this levy eg solar street lighting, coastal walk upgrades, rainwater storage, gardens, education sessions. We need to keep innovating. I am happy to support the continuation of this levy.
84	Please continue it!..and make the Lurline Bay walkway asap!
85	I am happy to pay the levy. I would like to you to do a bit more about the banksia trees that line some of the streets. The rubbish that falls from them into the gutters is disgusting and washed down the stormwater. You cannot expect the workers to continually to clean the gutters get rid of the banksia trees and plant some environmentally friendly trees. Keep them in the parks
86	I don't disagree with having an environmental levy if 1) Council will be fair to undertake due diligence on all areas under the jurisdiction of the Randwick council, regardless if the area is an affluent or lower-income areas. I, as a rate payer, find it is usually the areas where the rich live that regular maintenance, upgrades and new developments usually take place. This is particularly true of road infrastructures (development/condition of roads & infrastructure, public space parking and street lighting). e.g. Bona Vista Avenue at

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Supportive
	<p>Maroubra Beach. I have submitted numerous feedbacks to Council Surveys to suggest</p> <p>(i) making Bona Vista Avenue a one-way street and</p> <p>(ii) to improve this dimly-lit road.</p> <p>Both these suggestions are purely for safety concerns.</p>
87	I think it is a good idea to continue with the levy.
88	Extend the levy to continue funding more project
89	<p>Feedback on Environmental Levy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been residing in the Randwick community since 1993. • I swim regularly at Clovelly Beach, walk along bush tracks to Coogee, Bronte, Bondi and South Coogee and often cycle to La Perouse or the city • I am delighted with the creation of the Environmental levy to address environmental concerns in the Randwick LGA. This is particularly relevant with considerations such as the increase in population, change in climate, increase in density of dwellings, increase in vehicles traveling through the LGA, more people using cycleways etc. • Having just returned from a trip to Japan, it was extremely interesting to see how the Japanese have adopted to live in cities such as Tokyo with a population of more than 13 million. • The Japanese have encouraged dwellings in certain regions closer to the centre of the city to a height of more than 8 levels. • They have encouraged more rapid public and private transportation within the city. • Japanese living is accompanied with Open areas and much Green Space where people can relax and meet. <p>My recommendations for the use of Environmental Levy in Randwick LGA, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain and increase the areas of green open space. • In order to reduce the leaf waste accumulated in roadways etc., only plant non deciduous native plants throughout parks and along motorways. • I regularly sweep up leaves in front of my and next door's place reduce leaf litter flowing into drains. A semiregular council leaf litter street sweeper would be effective. • At Clovelly I observe much waste place in the regular garbage bins could be recycled, Therefore, In the beach areas such as Clovelly, Coogee and Maroubra to accompany the regular waste bins with yellow recycle bins. • I currently recycle my plastic bags by travelling to the Council Recycle Centre at Perry Street Matraville. It would be far more convenient if Councils were to place multiple plastic bag recycle ports or drop offs throughout the LGA.

Supportive	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to reduce our reliance on Electricity, it would be a very cost effective strategy for all buildings owned the Council to have Solar panels and battery storage which would feed back into the grid. • Similarly in order to reduce the stormwater flowing into the ocean and maintain the many green spaces in Randwick LGA, an effective strategy would be to increase the harvest stormwater runoff and use it to water native vegetation. • Similarly I am impressed with the cycle network throughout the Randwick LGA and it would be good to integrate the cycleways with the respective Botany, Waverly and Sydney Council LGA's.

Supportive conditionally	
1	I'm fine with it, but don't make it permanent. Make it for another 5 year term. It's usage/effectiveness needs to be subject to citizen review/oversight, and if made permanent, that would go away.
2	The levy is worthwhile, however making the levy permanent, with no further review periods, I do not believe is the way to proceed. The continuation of the 5 year reviews, with Council nominating projects to be funded by the levy during that period, would, in my opinion, be a more appropriate way to proceed.
3	<p>Sustainability projects into the future need to be funded, to benefit the overall Randwick LGA community – Yes definitely.</p> <p>The 2-minute video titled 'About the Levy' highlights the increasing cost of living. How exactly will this levy benefit households of ratepayers? Are there going to be more rebates on energy and water-saving improvements? Are greener and sustainability projects planned for the south and southwest wards?</p> <p>Today, was the Melbourne Cup and in turn, the interest rate rose 0.25 basis points, likely meaning the levy will cost ratepayers more next year and the year after and so on. This decision will be a hard one for ratepayers to make ~ where on the one hand there is saving x amount of dollars in one area to service another area where this interest rate rise and inflation knock-on effect has bitten into; and on the other hand, a levy that will benefit the future community and potentially may not see the tangible rewards now but into the future.</p> <p>Is this levy able to be postponed or reassessed in 2025? Has there been any other options investigated to fund this levy?</p>

Unsupportive	
1	I'm writing to you about the Environmental Levy, its continuation and scheduled increase. As long term property owners and residents, we are opposed to both. This is not because we are NOT environmentally conscious and aware, It is because we are not the major users of these facilities and features and even when we do use these – we already pay for them! Tourists and visitors who swarm our area in ever

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Unsupportive	
	<p>growing numbers and destroy and use our environment should be the ones to pay. NOT the residents and businesses who have worked and continue to work hard to preserve our properties.</p> <p>I have provided some suggestions for how you may be able to raise revenue for environmental impacts caused by ever increasing crowds attending the beach, coastline and surrounds and the larger number of events you are staging for no charge to visitors or tourists at all!!!!</p>
2	<p>Please consider the current economic situation and the cost of living crisis residents are experiencing.</p> <p>The Levy should be discontinued for the time being.</p> <p>If you stick to core business you may still be able to spend on environmental issues from rates.</p> <p>Eg Councils spend in promoting the “yes” vote is political and on averages 60 percent of residents voted “No” yet you spent rate money on this. Also expenditure on “Pride “ and painting and maintains “Rainbow” at Coogee etc political and not core business.</p> <p>Further 20 million on 1 kilometre of cycle track could only happen in a very wealthy country. The track is obviously part of connection with outer suburbs and benefits users from outer suburbs as well. Why not get other councils to contribute to such costs etc.</p> <p>Do we need to remind you of 13 rate increases now. Don’t you think people are struggling not to mention pensioners and people who are unemployed etc.</p> <p>Also has councils petrol and electricity costs increased!!! So has ours. My electricity had increased by 60 percent in 2 years. Etc, etc, etc.</p> <p>Please consider this as 2 responses as my husband also disagrees with the levy. I note you say it’s only about \$100 however over 20 years it is now about a \$1000.</p>
3	<p>I think we should discontinue the levy. Given the cost of living pressures and rising interest rates, every dollar counts. It can always be reconsidered in later years.</p>
4	<p>Local Governments shouldn't be asking tax payers to foot this bill! We have enough things to pay for than to add another TAX! Let's not beat around the bush and insult people's intelligence. Call it for what it is, a TAX. It's a big NO from me and many other people I speak to!</p>
5	<p>During the Covid years which is still going for some I am gobsmacked at the amount of money government in general wastes.</p> <p>If building cycle ways that nobody uses (or a minimal number of people) is an example of how you will spend levies then count me out from supporting your levy plan In the background is your Smart City plan which is also something of concern to some of us and the less money you have to spend on it the better So in short “NO” to your levy proposal. Collect my garbage (don’t worry about the recycling) light and clean the streets, maintain parks and beaches and I will be happy Yours Barrie Brown PS my bicycle is my main form of transport around the suburb</p>
6	<p>The environmental levy should be abolished.</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Unsupportive
7	I request that the levy be withdrawn, as it has already run well over its intended period. Council should continue to provide the services that the levy monies were used for, but budget for these services within their normal annual budget planning, and rates collection.
8	Remove it and spend rate money on roads, rubbish collection etc. Stop using rate money for painted rainbows, political agendas, etc. Can assure you there will then be plenty of money to do the role what the council is suppose to do. Thus, I say no to the environment levy.
9	I unfortunately do not support the Enviro Levey. Council should be setting aside funds as part of the current budget for programmes that they see as beneficial to the community. Levy is not the right option to rise funds long term and onto a rolling contract. Council should always take the sustainable option for projects as its best for community, best for environment and best for the future.
10	Randwick Council presents the Environment Levy as a nice to have additional activity on the core businesss of the Council. Investment in environmental projects should be funded as part of the mainstream budget of the Council, something that Randwick Council has failed to demonstrate. As such we as residents of Randwick Municipality cannot support the concept of an Environmental Levy. It appears that Randwick Council is using the Environmental Levy as a means to increase its taxes without doing the hard work of reprioritising its budget spending. Only after this has been done should Randwick Council come back to seek support for more funding for new projects that are truly additional and these may include environmental and non-environmental activities.
11	This is disgusting. The levy has been a waste of time and is adding to the cost of living crisis.
12	I am strongly opposed to making the environmental levy permanent for three main reasons. Firstly, I don't think council has used the levy wisely and disagree with a lot of the claims made in relation to sustainability. I opposed the building of the toilet and storage facilities at South Maroubra which took green space, I opposed the use, even intermittently, of the Broadarrow reserve for car parking. The overflow parking in place at South Maroubra has led to the construction of a large hot tarmac car park and expansion at the cost of green space and vegetation, encouraging further car use. I see council sometimes planting a few shrubs only to drive over them with their own vehicles. I observe the continuing use of pesticides and herbicide by council workers. I note the regular removal of trees considered sick or old and not replaced. I have noticed the lack of action on pollution - noise, fousl odours from Malabar WTP, and traffic. I note how McKeon Street Maroubra was turned into a plaza with very little vegetation. I conclude that despite the levy being in place, not enough has been done, and most of the money is wasted. I no longer trust the consultation and submissions process and feel it has been compromised. Secondly, I strongly believe the environment and sustainability projects should be

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Unsupportive
	catered for and incorporated into the regular operational budgets of council, even if that means spending less elsewhere. Finally, my rates are already high, well above the average rates for Randwick based on the council figures and would welcome a reduction.
13	THIS LEVY SHOULD CEASE. The work being undertaken using this levy is part of Council's normal responsibility and is disguised to extract more revenue from rate payers when you should be doing this work within your existing budget. If you haven't noticed there is a cost of living crisis and all you can think about is how to extract more money from ratepayers.....what a ripoff! Mange your budget and reduce your expenses and waste that is inherent in every local government.
14	It is imperative that Option 2: Discontinue Levy, be adopted. Inflation is becoming an issue for all rate payers with mortgages so government spending MUST be reduced. Council must cut spending on cultural/feel good programs, that benefit only a few people in the district, and redirect this money to environmental programs. It is hard to comprehend that council requires public feedback on something as elementary as fiscal responsibility.
15	I am very disillusioned with Randwick Council. a 4 page information booklet telling us everything except the cost to us, indefinitely, to our rates. Randwick Council should seek a 5 year time frame. we were told originally that this was temporary. now, Council wants to make this permanent. I feel misled by Randwick Council. I would like ask Councillor Philipa Vetch, if you know households are suffering from rising cost of living pressures, why do you wish to contribute further to their suffering ?
16	We are against the continuation of the environmental levy . As cost of living soar, every dollar we can save, COUNT ! Please help to ease the cost of living. NO ADDITIONAL RATE. NO RATE INCREASE.
17	I wish to say No to the green Levy.
18	There should be a third option: continue the levy for another 5 years. To give us only 2 options is very limiting. If I have to choose between paying the environmental levy forever or not at all, I say not at all, given the cost of living crisis. Which is a shame, as I can see that RCC has done a lot of good things with the Enviro Levy - for example, the stormwater capture and treatment systems for watering public parks, the coastal walkway, etc. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
19	I believe that the levy should cease. Randwick council has increased rates over the last few years and this increase rate payments that should be enough to cover what this environmental levy has been paying for .

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Unsupportive
20	We pay too much rates already, why not make people who visit our wonderful are pay more or increase payments for services . People who use the facilities should pay more ,
21	Randwick City Council has some of the highest rates in Australia. Randwick generates a cash surplus. While the levy is described as an Environmental Levy, it is only covering costs which the council should anyway be covering. Council is not good at saving money. Take the planned toilet block in Coogee, costing \$8m... At a time of high cost of living, and given the council's profligate spending in other areas, there is no sensible reason for maintaining the so-called environmental levy.
22	Time to end the environmental levy. The cost of living is extremely high and rate payers should be to have a breather. During this period of high living cost and inflation everyday dollar cost. Everyone is struggling to put food on the table. Every dollar counts. Environmental levy should only be consider once living cost is back to normal and struggling families can meet day to day. Stop Environmental Levy and help families in Randwick Council.
23	No Levy thanks. That's my say. As a now disabled 88 year old Randwick resident I have paid enough.
24	I don't want to continue!
25	What rubbish We pay enough in rates and do not need another invalid increased impost. I cannot ride a cycle and object to this unlawful impost. I suggest Council resign and appoint an administrator to manage Council's business I oppose and will not pay the levy which is totally unjustified We need the light rail to be extended to Maroubra and to get rid of the buses which choke up the streets
26	I hereby submit the following against the proposed extension of the environmental levy: I am writing to you in response to Council's invitation to lodge submissions regarding the proposed extension of Environmental Levy. I staunchly oppose the extension of the environmental levy at this point in time for the following reasons. I speak on behalf of my family and many of my neighbours and friends: Most households are finding it tough to manage their finances in the rising inflation climate we are currently in the midst of. Grocery prices, utilities, petrol prices, have been rising relentlessly. All of which have increased by significantly more than the published inflation rate. There is no room for an additional levy right now. And it's not that the environment is not important. Please refer to my comments below. Secondly, council rates have risen substantially in the last few years due to the increase in property valuations. However, that does not mean that household incomes have risen proportionately or at all. Absolutely not. In fact, in general wage growth has been very stagnant. In many cases household incomes have fallen due to retirement, redundancies or reduction in employment. So the valuation of one's property is absolutely unrelated to the financial ability of the household or the income of the household/owners. I understand that the method of calculating and

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Unsupportive
	<p>applying council rates is a state law but you can see that it is flawed. Therefore, the only cost that can be somewhat controlled is Council rates. For example, many of the projects Council is undertaking or planning to undertake are "discretionary" , nice to have, such as gym equipment in various parks, some other seating in public places, toilet upgrades etc.</p> <p>These are totally unnecessary in my view when I have such a huge burden to carry with inflated grocery, utility prices, mortgage payments and all the other associated household costs.</p> <p>As Council has been collecting significantly increased revenue from the residential and commercial council rates in the last few years merely on the basis of increased property values, Council should be looking at ways of easing the burden on ratepayers and reducing council rates.</p> <p>Suggestions: Cut some of these unnecessary projects from the budget, redirect some of the funds to environmental projects.</p> <p>And more importantly look at ways of reducing council rates charged overall and in a more equitable method.</p> <p>As mentioned above, there is no correlation between increased property values and household incomes and thus capacity to pay higher and higher council rates. It's non sensical and should be reformed. I understand that that's how it operates under State law but there is significant discretion on Council's part.</p> <p>FYI, I understand that various Councils in Sydney have adopted the Equalisation method of charging rates - i.e. every rate payer the same \$ amount per sq metre or up to a specific threshold so that some property owners whose property increases in value disproportionately to other ratepayers in the same Council area does not get burdened with staggering increased Council rates. After all every property in Randwick receives exactly the same services from Council - sewage, garbage collection etc. Please have a look at the annual council rates Council is collecting from individual properties - \$8, 000 - \$10,000 or more. That's simply inequitable and cannot be justified.,</p> <p>It's absolutely illogical to charge families more based on the value of their property. And in conclusion there should be no environmental levy at this time. and I support Choice of Discontinuing the environmental levy at least for the next 2 years.</p> <p>There are plenty of other ways to educate the public and generate behaviours to get results in decreasing our carbon footprint, saving our environment and decreasing waste without funding such activities. (In my household we're reducing food waste, stopping or reducing purchase of unnecessary items, clothing, etc, buy from op shops, reduce unnecessary trips in the car or go on foot, reduce time spent on the internet - as i understand this is a massive source of carbon emissions, reduce use of electricity and heating, spend more time outdoors, recycle or reuse or repurpose anything that can be),</p> <p>I hope this makes sense and you can see the pain we are all feeling currently and the prospect of further inflation and higher prices for every day living expenses and see the reasons to initiate some initiatives to curb this.</p> <p>Thank you for your time to consider the above.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p>
27	<p>I vote AGAINST renewing the Environmental Levy against ratepayers after 30/6/24. If you need anything further to validate my vote please contact me.</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Unsupportive	
28	I think it's a positive idea but having the extra dollars in my bank account will assist in my home loan due to increased interest rates.
29	This council has done so many really wasteful things in the name of sustainability, eg replacing ALL of our dustbins when many were in perfect condition. If they needed an e-tag, a tag could have been applied instead of recycling literally thousands of perfectly good bins. Seriously poor management of ratepayers' money. The FOGO experiment - is it actually achieving anything - what is the cost vs saving? The constant painting and removal of various rainbows at Coogee Beach - LGBTQ, BIPOC, what next? And how did I miss the consultation for the really ugly BIPOC colours before you went ahead and did it, was there any? This is wasteful and not representative of all residents. Not to mention other political support (eg the Voice), again representative of some but not all residents (as evidenced by the final polls). Council should not be taking a political stand. You call this an Environmental Levy, well it's what our rates should be covering anyway, instead of channeling money off to support various personal and political feel-good schemes. And the trees on nature strips planted on top of the drains? Every year we suffer a stench, then along comes Sydney Water (or a privately paid plumber) to clear the drains of tree roots, and when a tree dies it's promptly replaced by council. When I talk to them, I'm told, "not my problem" ie "I know that I'm planting on top of a drain, but I'm paid to plant trees, keeps me employed, and keeps the drain guys employed too". It truly is a case of paying someone to dig a hole and paying someone else to fill it in. How is this good use of our rates? Seriously Randwick Council, get your act together, get your departments speaking together, stop with the political attitude, and you will be able to do all of this without an Environmental Levy.
30	Why a separate levy? Just factor the 'levy' amount into annual council rates and allocate that amount to the 'Environment Levy' budget. Doesn't the Council have separate budgets for incoming monies, all visible to the ratepayer?
31	I do not agree to continuing the levy. Our rates are already extravagant. Please do not continue this expense.
32	Council is not transparent about whether this is combined with the already significant increases it has requested and often received above the IPART determination, including the Special Rate Variation which has seen rates rise significantly. Council has only offered to make this PERMANENT or remove it, rather than see it extend for a shorter defined period. Effectively this is a massive permanent increase in rates above IPART which is designed to see FAIR increases in rates. Council has not demonstrated how it will ring fence this levy specifically for Environmental projects. This should not proceed.
33	Given the economic situation and pressures of living it should now be discontinued
34	Instead of Randwick residents funding these projects, charge non residents to park at our beaches and use our bbq's, toilets and showers, thus claiming some of the running and clean up costs that we now pay for.

Unsupportive	
35	<p>My wife and I, as heavy ratepayers, we recommend the temporary suspension of the environmental rate, as it is increasingly difficult to meet all the charges inclusive of rates and Land Taxes.</p> <p>Under the current difficult financial situation, with cost of living skyrocketing, we think that the ratepayers need a break.</p> <p>{Unfortunately our negligent contribution is not going to save the planet, while China and US contribute more than 50% Co2 emissions.</p> <p>That is the sad truth....}</p>
36	<p>No more environment levy. That is just a 'green' excuse to charge more money. The rate is already increasing so much over the years because it is based on land value, which beats inflation for many years since the 90s. That kind of increase already covers many of your mentioned sustainability projects, if not all. And project like cycling, those proper bike paths are mostly funded by the state government, not you, and even that is repeatedly delayed for years. If it is funded by your council it would have been a 4 million dollar project just paint a few green lanes or draw a symbols on some streets as a death trap to draw cyclists into. So this levy is a total BS.</p>
37	<p>I find it quite off-putting that something that was proposed to be a temporary help to the environment becomes permanent - yet again. When interest rates keep going up, I'd rather (like so many people in the area that I know) would spend it on whatever I find more pressing, being different from week to week</p>
38	<p>Hello, I am a ratepayer in Coogee and would like to vote NO. I don't believe environment should be a special charge but something already covered by the high rates and taxes we pay. It's up to the Council to reallocate funds and reduce funding in another area if necessary to take care of environmental needs. What you propose is essentially a rate increase.</p>
39	<p>Do not support continuation of environmental levy given rising cost of living</p>
40	<p>No, I do not wish to pay an environment levy. Responsibly looking after the environment should go without saying and be incorporated into the fees we already pay, things like planting more trees and maintaining the Australian native vegetation in parklands and responsibly collecting and disposing of rubbish etc (things the local council should do). I DO NOT wish to pay additional for bullshit 'green' initiatives where council is pushing their ill informed agenda regarding electricity and financing inefficient and dangerous rust dump wind farms in remote places and any other 'green' initiatives where council members 'conveniently' have to travel the globe to see what's being done in other countries. Use my rates to look after the local council area. Fix the foreshore areas for everyone to enjoy, remove the Lantana, build landscaped maintainable public spaces.</p> <p>The answer is NO to an environmental levy, looking after the environment should go without saying and should be included within reasonable, not extortionist, rates.</p>
41	<p>In a cost of living crisis you're imposing higher costs on all residents. Please reconsider the levy.</p>
42	<p>EXTENDING GREENIE'S LEVY - Thanks but NOOOOOO!!!! THANKS</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Unsupportive	
43	<p>I am not in favour of making the environment levy permanent. A couple of the environmental proposals are concerning eg solar power battery installation and installation of EV charging stations in the Randwick area . People should be encouraged instead to use public transport and or walk/cycling. The solar power batteries and EV batteries have only a short term lifespan (up to 8 years) and environmentally safe disposal methods for spent lithium batteries have not yet been determined .over the past 12 /24 months many of these batteries in the urban residential sector have swollen within 4 years of installation and required replacementto my knowledge the safe disposal of swollen batteries has not been advertised to the general public nor indeed has the occurrence of these battery failures I have three friends who have required battery replacement in recent months .</p>
44	<p>Council wasted almost \$29,900 (my rates money) donating it to “Yes” campaign. Why are we entering politics now? Misuse of rates money. Small section of footpath opposite my house was redone 3 times over a period of weeks. I presume because a dog stepped in it. Misuse of rates money. Already pay high rates so what are we slapped extra money? Rates should already cover infrastructure and environmental projects. My red lid bin is now only emptied fortnightly causing maggots. I’m discriminated against (living in a house) as several unit complexes still get weekly pick ups. Hardly any households put their green bin out weekly and if they do so and you lift the lid all you see is one tiny little green bag in this great big garbage bin. This program sounds good but is a total failure. The park that no one uses down Maroubra Beach should be open for carparking every Sunday in the 3 summer months to alleviate the pressure of traffic jams in our local streets and so we can park at weekends. But “NO” Greenies wouldn’t like that so you don’t do it. Its only open for parking on certain ‘big event’ days. And you want to slap an environmental levy to put more trees?? A majority of the projects listed are of no interest to me so I can not justify paying an extra environmental levy to support them. “Completing the coastal walkway” is listed every 3 years but the small section I would really be interested in seeing completed is from Coogee to Maroubra Beach. The part where you still have to walk up the steep hill to Malabar Rd then along Malabar Rd and back down another street again to rejoin the coastal path. This is an enormous flaw in the most beautiful coastal walkway that any council would like to have. It’s the part (and only a small part) that all hikers and walkers would adore to see completed. But “NO” it never gets done so don’t boast you have a continuous coastal walkway because you don’t. Levy should be an optional choice. So my vote is a definite no to continuing the levy.</p>
45	<p>I don't believe purchasing solar panels for council facilities is the best use of the Environmental Levy, especially not for Local governments or from a cost-benefit point of view. That is why I would like to Option 2, to Discontinue the Levy.</p>
46	<p>Thank you for inviting dialogue with your constituents.</p> <p>Whilst the monetary value for the Levy is low, the rising cost of living view this as a</p>

Unsupportive	
	<p>measure where funds can be saved. Any opportunity save is welcomed irrespective of the amount.</p> <p>I do not accept that Council will need to suspend the services provided should the levy not remain. Given the volume of high rise development in the LGA there should be a substantial income stream for Council via its development contributions plan.</p> <p>Should the contributions plan fail to address in its policy for this environmental levy, then it is a mismanagement of Council's policy making, and should not be a cost simply passed on to the rate payer.</p> <p>The volume of development in RCC particularly the K2K precinct will turn the once magnificent community to a ghetto and burden resources such as waste management onto the remaining community.</p> <p>I do not support the increase in levy on principle and urge Council to think of other ways to ensure the services are provided without a cost impost via rate or levy increase. It appears that is always Council's first and easiest path for funding.</p> <p>Thank you, and appreciate the consideration afforded to this objection.</p>
47	<p>I am writing to you as a resident of Matraville, to express my concern and opposition to the proposed levy of \$101 per household as an environmental Levy, I believe that this levy is unfair, unnecessary, and burdensome for many residents who are already struggling with the high cost of living in our area.</p> <p>I appreciate the council's efforts to improve the environment, but I do not think that imposing a levy on the residents is the right way to fund this project. These projects should be funded by the general revenue of the council, not by a specific tax on the people who live near it.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider this levy and to find alternative sources of funding for the environment. The levy would add to the financial hardship and stress of many residents who are already facing rising costs of housing, utilities, food, and health care.</p> <p>For these reasons the Environmental Levy should be discontinued. Thank you for your time and attention.</p>
48	<p>The Levy should be discontinued. Council should be able to manage any of these initiatives within the already high Council rates collections.</p>
49	<p>I do not agree with the idea of making the Environmental Levy permanent, because I much prefer that the Council at least report to ratepayers and receive our submissions/remarks, etc. In fact, I would much prefer that there be no Environmental Levy in the first place, but presume there is no hope that our opinion will be sought for this. I think that Council has a generous enough budget to work</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Unsupportive
	with - and I was furious about the use of our rates to fund a political position on the referendum.
50	No Way NO ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY Use the rates you already have for the important council issues such as roads and infrastructure, DO not waste my rates on meaningless items . NO ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY No further rates increase as you already receive more than enough
51	I hope only ratepayers are voting. I can barely afford to pay my rates now. Unless you introduce a reduction in rates for pensioners and those on low incomes I'd vote no. I'm for the levy in principle. I'd like to see the coastal walkway completed. Apart from that I can't afford it anymore. Rates keep going up. Everything has gone up. I'm a nurse on a low wage. So. Coastal walkway yes. Otherwise. No more.
52	I have seen no benefit in this levy. In the current market with interest rises this should be abolished. I ask what does this levy get used for and what is data that shows its usefulness?
53	Basically, the cost of living here is too high. The levy should go. The Council wastes money on WOKE rubbish like the "Yes" flags when 60% of Australians voted "Non". Also, things like the rainbow on the steps of of Coogee should go. All wasteful rubbish. Cut admin staff by 20% and cut rates. If they won't go to work why pay them. We are sick of Green WOKE rubbish. Cut costs and focus ONLY on matters in Randwick.
54	that is by default continued , which is not a fair system.
55	We are not interested in continuing to pay the Environmental Levy as feel this should be covered by the amount already paid in rates. Also, as seniors, we cannot afford to pay more than necessary. So we vote for OPTION 2 - TO DISCONTINUE WITH THE LEVY
56	With current cost-of-living increases being a problem for many people, the environmental levy looks like one area where the financial burden may be relieved for those struggling (especially young families). Although Randwick is generally an affluent area, we don't believe it is appropriate to heap additional pressure on those less able to cope. We, therefore, support temporary suspension of the environmental levy.
57	We like many others in our area are elderly and survive on a fixed income. With the current cost of living pressures the last thing we need is for our already sky high rates to be increased with your environmental levy. Council donated \$28,900 of ratepayers money to the "Voice Yes" campaign, this money should have been spent on relevant ratepayers issues. We believe Council has no business discussing political issues during Council meetings, never-mind donating ratepayers money to these issues. You are not elected to do that.

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Unsupportive	
	<p>NO TO YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY.</p> <p>I forgot to mention. We don't have any electrical vehicles, they are expensive and only for the rich. Even if the environmental levy is accepted, Council should not be using ratepayers funds to install EV charging stations.</p> <p>Any funds spent should be for the benefit of the majority not just the rich few. Or, just to make the Council look good. (like the \$28,900 ratepayers funds squandered on "the Voice Yes" campaign.</p>
58	<p>I feel it is no longer required as the levy was introduced whilst rate increases were minimal. Recently the council did receive approval to increase rates further to cover such works. Therefore the levy is no longer necessary.</p>
59	<p>Please discontinue the levy on my behalf, the way you wasted Ratepayers funds for the Yes vote was conclusive enough of how out of touch you are with the ratepayers.</p> <p>The majority of the people in my age group do not believe in global warming, A family member who is responsible for the sea ways in Sydney Harbor tells us the water at pinch gut island has not risen in 100 years , with all of the volcanos that have gone off in the last few years and all of the Atomic bombs that were detonated in the 60s 70s and 80s,and yet we export coal all over the world ,and you think you are going to save the planet, well not on your watch</p> <p>Traffic pollution Darley Rd</p> <p>If you are aware of the mess that has been made of the intersection of Darley Rd, York Rd and Avoca St ,please note this is so dangerous and slows the traffic to a crawl. The traffic now backs up on Darley Rd to Wentworth St. and Dangar Sts How is it that the council is oblivious to the mess that has been created , if not by your action, then not having a say as to how dangerous it is, and how much the traffic is slowed down in the peak hours' we Ratepayers wonder what you people really do</p> <p>I would really like to hear your reply</p>
60	<p>I am furious about this. I found out about it accidentally a few weeks ago and made an enquiry as to what it is. It is the first I have heard about it. I am furious and want a refund for the 19 years Randwick Council have wasted my money. You do nothing now. Who gave the Council permission to use rate payer money to host a referendum information afternoon. It is not Council's business to get involved in politics</p> <p>The environment is just fine as it is. I will be taking this to the media. What a waste of money</p>
61	<p>As a renter in this council area, I oppose any such levy that is immediately passed on to my family. How can we ever break out of renting when we pay levies such as this. Death by a thousand cuts is what life is like today. This levy is one of those thousand cuts bleeding us dry. End the levy. Thankyou.</p>
62	<p>I ticked DISCONTINUE LEVY. Why? Am I anti-environment, anti-community gardens or anti coastal walk upgrades?</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Unsupportive	
	<p>No, of course not. However, there is massive Council waste on show for all to see simply by walking down Coogee Bay Road or Clovelly or Maroubra beaches. Every Power Pole/ street light pole has a massive flag [maybe 2 metres x 5 metres] blowing in the wind reminding of us of the latest virtue signaling issue. What is the significant cost of 200+ banners, not only for the screen printing and delivery but also the installation? It must be tens of thousands or maybe hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Then all the flags become landfill.</p> <p>Vote "Yes" to the Voice say the Greens and Labor Councillors ... how out of step with ordinary Australians did that turn out to be? Recognise and fight Domestic Violence is the current one. Early in the new year we can look forward to a stack of Rainbow flags proudly broadcasting how LGBTQ+ friendly Randwick Council is...AGAIN..... Why does it matter? Who cares? What a waste of money. People have opinions on things. You cant change that and neither should you be trying to do so. It is outside the mission statement of what we expect Council to do. There wouldn't be one person in the LGA that, on seeing one of your expensive banners, would change their mind on an issue.</p> <p>Dear Mayor, keep the place clean, make sure the bins are collected on time and clean the parks. That is your job. We expect you to do it. If you don't want to do that ... Please resign. When you stop wasting huge amounts of money I would reconsider my position on the Levy. Until you do that, it's a no from me. Stop wasting my money on hundreds of flags every couple of months.</p> <p>If someone from Council wants to reply to this letter please refrain from telling me how much good feedback you are getting from the community unless you can be specific. General comments about general feedback are nothing but invented fantasy spin by the Council spin doctor. I actually talk to other residents and they agree with me. If you would like me to present you with a petition I will be happy to do so.</p>
63	I think the Randwick Council rates are high enough to do the sustaining plans without extra Environmental Levy.
64	<p>I vehemently oppose the continued imposition of the Environmental Levy. This Council already imposes disproportionately high rates on owners of small properties in Randwick Council such that I pay more than FOUR TIMES as much in rates as wealthy landowners do. For this Council to ask that I pay even more in rates for an environmental levy is simply unconscionable. And the way in which it is described on the website is biased - call it what it is and say "we want to continue to charge you about \$150 a year extra in rates - vote to agree with this if you want to pay more in rates" not try to water it down by saying it's some "cents" every day. That's outright lying and conniving, which is no less than I expect from this council.</p> <p>Furthermore, this "Environmental Levy" is not serving any legitimate purpose. Our local beaches are full of rubbish, I don't have any easy access to a local community garden, there are no solar panels on my building, etc etc. Meanwhile this Council gives the money from the environmental levy to advocacy groups that serve their own political interests. This money isn't going to help our community and this levy is not what our community wants! You're already charging ridiculously high rates and now you want to cement in more rates?</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Unsupportive
	<p>Randwick Council's average amount of rates charged is higher than in Waverley and yet somehow Waverley manages to provide better services. To top it all off, Randwick Council makes no effort to actually engage with the community. Where is the environmental advisory committee? You want to impose an environmental levy and spend it on your politically self-serving interests so you don't engage with community at all, on this or pretty much anything else. If you do go against community wishes and impose this horrible additional tax, the least you can do is to have people like me who are community leaders actually sit on an advisory committee and tell you how to spend the funds you're stealing from hardworking residents.</p> <p>I want to make clear having said all of this that I am an environmentalist. I gave up eating meat, I have multiple worm farms, I compost, I separate my recycleables and drop them to recycling hubs, I use far lower than the average electricity and gas consumption for my size household (less than half!). I am an actual environmentalist. My actions speak for themselves and show that I actually do care for the environment.</p> <p>But this so-called "environmental levy" does NOT protect our environment. It just puts money into the pockets of political supporters of incumbent political parties and interests, by rapping funds from those of us who can least afford to pay. I DISAGREE AND INSIST YOU DISCONTINUE THIS LEVY!</p>
65	I do not agree with the Environmental Levy continuing indefinitely. Council should work within its budgets to sustain these important Environmental programmes.
66	As a rate payer we already pay enough rates. Stop asking for extra money and learn to manage the finances more efficiently. Stop pandering to minority groups who don't pay rates.
67	The Environmental Levy should be discontinued. Council should prioritise maintenance of existing assets and parks rather than vanity projects promoting itself as 'green'.
68	We didn't agree to a permanent tax. As much as you'd love to keep charging it, that wasn't the deal. The tax should expire
69	Things in life like survival are tough for many right now so a stop might be the way to go. Take a brake before you brake someone.
70	I vote AGAINST renewing the Environmental Levy against ratepayers after 30/6/24.
71	<p>Sustainability projects should be central to the Council's daily business. It should not be an optional add on. Too much money is wasted in Council doing the opposite of sustainability (eg converting green space to parking). Rate payers are then expected to fund the costs of fixing the damage. Due to the Council's disregard for sustainability, and given that much of the levy is given to individuals through rebates etc, instead of spending on communal spaces which benefit everybody, I object to yet another extension of the environmental levy.</p> <p>Council has fundamentally failed to address the pressing need to make all playing fields capable of sustaining sporting activities during extremely wet periods and</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Unsupportive	
	<p>particularly hot spells.</p> <p>Instead of laying astroturf at Coral Sea, Council needed to remove the surface and lay down appropriate layers that allow the water to drain properly while also permitting the grass to grow.</p> <p>Instead we have one astro turfed pitch which is exceptionally hot to play on.</p> <p>Similarly the walkway is not about sustainability, nor are the whale watching platforms. They are about tourism and very likely won't be insurable.</p> <p>Particularly in present economic times, Randwick Council needs to be respectful of the ability of residents to pay. It also needs to live up to the green reputation that it projects. Sustainability needs to be at the core of all the choices it makes about spending other peoples' money.</p>
72	<p>The cost of living is extremely high. Every dollar counts. Families have mortgages and rising food cost and petrol. Not everyone can afford extra money for the environmental levy.</p> <p>Rate payers are struggling to put food on the table. Please end and stop Environmental Levy and help families. The council should give out discounts coupons to help families during this period of time. Everyone is struggling. Stop rate hikes.</p>
73	Option 2 - discontinue levy
74	<p>Considering the huge increases in our land valuations this year which have exponentially increased our council rates, then to consider adding further percentage increases onto our rates, I think the Council will have enough money without ANY additional levies. While your increase is based on rates of \$1622, our rates are DOUBLE that amount. It is becoming too hard to live. Please don't add to peoples' living costs. Enough is enough. Reduce the waste in expenditure instead, such as flying flags that are irrelevant and changed far too often. Needless expense. You need to be more careful with our money & give residents better value for their hard earned money. I don't believe these surveys are honest- I don't know anyone who voted for the huge rate increases a while back- 3 options & your result showed a majority for the most expensive- unbelievable! In the current economic climate I cannot believe people will vote to pay more. It is dishonest to quote an amount of \$101 based on rates of \$1622, when this is not representative of many if not most living in Randwick municipality.</p>
75	<p>The survey is disappointing: there should be a third option, to continue with the current arrangement of five yearly authorisations.</p> <p>I am totally against making this levy permanent and committing people who are not yet residents to making the payment forever.</p> <p>Of course, RCC can do more if it gets an extra \$29,600,000.00 from ratepayers in the next five years. But why is the budgeting so poor that RCC seems to depend on</p>

Unsupportive	
	it, or it will 'reduce services, projects, initiatives and infrastructure levels'? RCC needs to work within its income and keep it rates : many people are doing it tough.
76	Option 2 stop the levy as a pensioner I cannot afford it
77	No levy. Cost of living pressures.
78	<p>Not Support. Attached a copy of the correspondence which goes into considerable detail as to why support for another extension of the levy extension is not forthcoming. I have made suggestions for a more equitable process to raise the required level of revenue required to fund the cost to Council of upkeep of the local government area and the provision of all services including conservation initiatives. I have also asked for more detail of the process used to calculate the average levy \$ numbers.</p> <p>Letter: We are writing to you in connection with the proposed extension of the Environmental Levy for another 4 years post 30 June 2024.</p> <p>We do not support the process by which the levy is imposed upon the residents of Randwick and accordingly cannot support the proposed extension.</p> <p>As lifetime residents and ratepayers of Randwick City we are not at all comfortable with the information circulated by Council in support of the levy extension. The use of averages to illustrate the weekly and annual financial impact upon residential ratepayers is arguably misleading and deceptive.</p> <p>In our own family's case we are currently paying an annual environmental levy of \$212.87 which is already more than double the average \$101 pa cited in the Council's information booklet for 2024/25. Likewise the total rate we are currently paying of \$3390.32 (Residential rate \$2489.10 - Environmental levy \$212.87 - Waste management \$663.35 and stormwater \$25) is also more than double the stated average rate of \$1622 projected for 2024/25 which allows for a \$72 (5%) rate peg increase. We are disappointed that Council is once again using averages as a selling point to support its case for the extension and disregards the inequitable financial burden it imposes on many home owners who arguably are paying well in excess of average rates and yet receiving the same (if not less) level of services by Council.</p> <p>The use of averages is effectively skewed by the large extent of social housing and unit development within the Randwick local government area. Our understanding is that social housing is exempt from council rates or environmental levies etc and for units the rate is levied on the body corporate based on the land value component of the unit complex - under such a scenario the owner/ occupants do not individually pay council rates or levies but do pay a nominal contribution towards the latter amount by way of strata levies. It is clear that those residents fortunate enough to own freestanding residential property with a high rateable value are subsidising those less fortunate and who are probably most in need of the environmental benefits that would be funded via the levy. This would be particular relevant for those living in high rise unit developments with limited open space.</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Unsupportive
	<p>As a long serving member of the Maroubra Precinct Committee I have been regularly approached by older residents on fixed incomes and pensions expressing their concerns with the Council's consistent practice of imposing the maximum CPI peg rate on Council rates, or as was the case in 2018, to seek approval from IPART for a 19.85% rate hike over the ensuing 3 years. On that particular occasion it was put to IPART that the then in place environmental levy would not be extended beyond 2019 and this was used as a justification for seeking a rate increase in excess of the then applicable rate peg. Quite disappointingly the environmental levy was in 2019 extended for another 4 years based on a similar pitch by Council based on averages. At the Maroubra Precinct meeting held on 7 December members present passed a resolution opposing extension of the levy.</p> <p>From a business case perspective it would be desirable for all Councils to move away from a Valuation based formula for rate assessment etc to a process that is more equitable across the community possibly based on an equitably shared user pays concept. It is acknowledged that this will be a formidable challenge for Local Government going forward but as a starting point, Council could with regard to the environmental levy, just simply charge every rate payer the average annual levy rate of \$101. This would be far more equitable than the process currently in place and again proposed and would limit the financial burden for senior rate paying residents, particularly those on fixed incomes or pensions and very unlikely to use or derive benefit from most environmental initiatives proposed. It is acknowledged that a \$101 across the board levy would not be popular with those paying less than the average.</p> <p>It would be very interesting to see what data Council has in terms of the break up number of those residents who pay above and below the average annual rate and levy and the \$ revenue generated by each of these ratepayer groupings. It would also be interesting to know the detail of the process used to calculate the averages - eg who was included or excluded in determining the divisor number.</p> <p>It is not unreasonable to expect all Randwick property owners within the local government area to be obliged to pay a fair and equitable shared contribution towards the cost of upkeep of the local government area and provision of services but not on the basis of a levy over and above traditional rates and based on an inequitable and questionable pricing basis.</p>
79	<p>I'm writing to you about the Environmental Levy, its continuation and scheduled increase. As long term. property owners and residents, we are opposed to both. This is not because we are NOT environmentally conscious and aware, It is because we are not the major users of these facilities and features and even when we do use these – we already pay for them! Tourists and visitors who swarm our area in ever growing numbers and destroy and use our environment should be the ones to pay. NOT the residents and businesses who have worked and continue to work hard to preserve our properties.</p> <p>I have provided some suggestions for how you may be able to raise revenue for environmental impacts caused by ever increasing crowds attending the beach, coastline and surrounds and the larger number of events you are staging for no charge to visitors or tourists at all!!!!</p>

Unsupportive

As a family owner of a home very close to Coogee Beach since 1980 which is a 43 year period, we have watched Coogee Beach and its surroundings change considerably over this period with a great deal of turmoil.

Before I address the issues, the subject of this submission, I wish to point out the serious and significant shortfalls of Council which have had very adverse impacts on the enjoyment of our property over these decades and indeed the environmental impacts we have had to endure over this extensive period as long-term residents.

We have lived through substantial issues which have been both distressing and have impacted our health and wellbeing over these years, including some of the worst aspects of living in this prime beach side location.

The below may give you some idea. There are many issues – but these are some of the main.

The Randwick Rugby Club

For 15-20 years we had to put up with the noise and filth of bordering in our backyard what used to be the Randwick Rugby Club, where we had to put up with smells of rubbish, rats and vermin and weekends of excessive noise where partying by patrons continued to 3 to 4am illegally on both Friday and Saturday nights and other “special occasions”. As a family working in business 6 to 7 days a week, this would mean NO sleep for weekends on end from extreme load music permanenting throughout the house. No where to get any peace or rest and anxious and stressed from getting NO sleep for years on end. Dreading every weekend for the exhaustion we would suffer from getting hardly any sleep whilst working long hours in hospitality businesses. We also received threats of violence and were bullied by the management of that club over the years for daring to complain about the unliveable hell they were putting us through as neighbours. We were elated when this Club was demolished to make way for housing. Of course - that too created considerable problems during construction which went on for over 1 year and impacted our property where they sought to put foundations in our back yard for this largescale housing development. Eventually a much better outcome than the Club and all its countless issues. but so much better than the endless years of suffering with constant noise and drunken patrons swarming our immediate home till the early hours of the morning.

Illegal Backpacker Accommodation

The property next to us (semi) was developed into a second storey to house illegal backpacker accommodation.

For over 15 years we had to put up with more than 20 people living in this illegal backpacker accommodation on the second level of this property crammed in with beds on the floor to house international visitors. Constantly coming and going- where we had to put up with drunken visitors (most of whom appeared to be from the UK) screaming all night and all morning in their drunken states. At first and for many years, the owners continued to live in this accommodation downstairs, whilst renting out the top level to backpackers for short stay accommodation. We were constantly bullied and harassed not only from all the implications of the

Unsupportive

backpackers themselves, but the tyrant psychopathic owner of the property who would harass and bully us constantly over minor issues (like pigeons landing in our backyard). Trying to create issues so that we would be reluctant to complain about the illegal accommodation he was cashing in on. As the properties are close to one another with just a fence and a narrow walkway in between the properties - even their flushing the toilet all day and especially all night and morning created enough of a disturbance in itself - let alone the rest. A very traumatic time for our family until the tyrant and his wife (who was the actual owner of the next door semi) sold the house.

We complained to Council for years and years on end about this illegal accommodation to NO effect. We were completely ignored and told that Council had no power to shut the illegal accommodation down. The question still remains – how can the Council approve a second level addition for the purpose of adding space to an existing home – then tell us that despite the addition being approved as additional space for an existing home – then tell us they have NO power when that addition and conditional approved is used for commercial purposes – despite having no commercial zoning or approval? In effect - a completely illegal use of that property for which approval was conditionally granted by Council.

Flooding in Dolphin Street (in front of our home)

On many occasions Dolphin Street became flooded with large down pours. The front of our property completely inaccessible for hours during flood events completely buried in flood waters. Not being able to go in or out of our property. Not to mention cars being bogged in the flood waters and soaked if we had made the mistake of leaving it out of our garage or driveway with an overnight deluge! It took over 38 years for Council to do anything about this and devastating flooding, to extend and improve drainage, in order to prevent these flooding events.

Major property valuation impacts on our Council Rates

Forty-three years ago this location was neither as sought after or as expensive a property. You would hardly see anyone at the beach back then and very few visitors. Australia was sparsely populated back then and so was the Sydney population. Dramatic increases in Sydney population levels have resulted over successive years with added large numbers of tourists and visitors pouring into the beach and surrounds. Mostly the visitors pour in from the burgeoning western suburbs populations.

Now large crowds frequent this beachside area and have a major impact on all its amenities and environment and indeed on all the residents who reside in this location.

These beachside properties and our Coogee property now has to pay Council rates to accommodate ever growing needs for maintenance and upgrading from the impacts of ever growing numbers on the Beach and surrounding environment. Council has made very little- if any attempt- to equitably distribute the ever growing costs of these crowds and the impacts on the Council Rates for property owners. We are being asked to pay more and more for environmental impacts we are neither responsible for or have any control over.

Unsupportive

Now Council wants to add more tourist features to an already over crowded visitor environment which has enormous costs to rate payers. For eg your desire to add “whale watching platforms”, amongst others. Additional features will add additional visitors and escalating cost impacts not only to construct these features – but to maintain them and to deal with the consequence of ever growing crowds and their environmental impacts which new features will inevitable add.

This is a huge additional impost in both financial terms and in the actual quality of life impacts of living with such large crowds.

What did we get in return for all these impacts we have to live with as owners and residents over the past 43 years???

The only real benefit to us as residents has been (in more recent years) an extra bin for composting organic waste!!! And this is not for our benefit. But the benefit of our collective environment. The only other benefit visible and which we have not used is one EV charging station in the adjacent street. Yes! Just ONE! Hardly what anyone would call benefits of living here over 43 years when putting up with as huge number of adverse impacts!! The fact is t there has NOT been any benefit – just constant and ever-growing problems and higher and higher COUNCIL rates and charges for exactly the same property we have owned and lived in for 43 years and at great cost!

Not only have we had to live with all the above and many more issues over our decades of owning a residence here with NO real benefit – apart from the “privilege” of living in close proximity to the beach and ocean, but we are being asked to pay ever growing costs for more “features”, “more events” and much, much, more costs and more overcrowding!!!!

When will Council decide to introduce a more user based approach for the tourists and crowds chocking our beachside suburb and the ever growing escalation in costs associated with these issues???

And stop driving people to sell their hard won properties?

Council needs to do the work they are being paid for and planning for both the future and anticipating future events and demographics which will impact their Council areas particularly areas such as beachside suburbs which areas of high population demand and ever growing demand in their region.

Whilst it is understood that we don't want to charge for swimming and visiting the beach itself- there is clearly a need to come up with innovative and affordable ways for tourists and visitors to make some type of valid contribution to the ever growing costs of maintaining these areas and Council budgets beyond the exclusive reliance on property owners to pay for just about everything whilst getting zero additional benefit. Not only Nill benefit but huge inconveniences associated with large crowds. These escalating costs have major impacts on property owners – who in the main are hard working people who make great sacrifices to own these properties over decades. Speaking from personal experience, I myself, started working in family business from the age of 10 and have continued working throughout my life and with chronic health problems. My family and I worked extremely hard and lived with

CP1/24

Unsupportive

considerable hardship and adversity to buy and maintain the assets we managed to acquire for all those sacrifices. Why should we be driven out of our properties when we should be enjoying these in our retirement years???

The world is becoming a much more complex and expensive place to live in and survive in. Climate change, geopolitical pressures, larger populations and on and on it goes are having a larger and larger impact on individual budgets. People are being asked to pay for more and more of ever limited resources brought about by the tectonic changes across both Australia and across the globe.

These pressures will only increase and so will the costs of living. Getting less for more outlay will continue to be the feature of life both now and for future generations. It is imperative that Governments of all persuasions realistically plan for these pressures in balanced and innovative ways which are both affordable and sustainable into the future. I can't see much evidence of this happening in most Government settings.

One suggestion I would like to make for a more sustainable and user pays option is to charge an environmental levy for all hotels, motels and guesthouses for each night of tourist accommodation. Council should consider implementing this type of levy where it can be effectively collected to assist in the Council budget to pay for some of these ever-escalating cost pressures. Even a \$1 a night charge has the potential to yield substantial sums and make a significant impact to Council environmental budgets. It will allow tourists to make some small contribution to the upkeep and maintenance of the environments that they utilise and enjoy without having a detrimental impact on business. Events such as the NY fireworks and Carols etc should have reasonable admission charges to pay for some of the costs in staging these events. Even things like RUGBY should have some contribution for the environmental impact of visitors. It is not the vast majority of locals who attend these events! Locals try to avoid these imported crowds. The other suggestion is that you increase the number of parking meters along the shoreline and make weekend\ public holidays more expensive to park in as this is the time visitors are more likely to use the beach and surrounds. This is now possible with more smart meter technology which allows more flexible charging models. Why is this NOT happening? There are many other innovative ways to collect revenue without negative impacts. You are being paid to think about these issues!

In short, every opportunity should be made available by COUNCIL to collect revenue from those who visit and use the facilities, events, beach, parklands and large surrounding areas impacted by large visiting crowds.

Council is continuing to add "events" to our local environment but there is no evidence that anyone else is paying for these ever growing numbers of events or facilities being used or their environmental impacts. If council is paying from its Budget for these increased events, then it is taking away the budget it needs to carry out other major upgrades which property owners and business pay for and have a right to expect from their significant Council rates and charges.

Clearly the only evidence we have seen of Council's interest in having a more user

Unsupportive	
	<p>pays and user impact policy and approach, is the parking meters installed at the eastern end of the beach. Coogee is not a large beach, similar to Bondi, Maroubra or even Bronte. But we certainly have the same proportion of visitors and tourists. There are certainly not as many businesses to share the load of costs on the environment. Where is the other evidence of a more user\ user impact policy from Council?</p> <p>It is also inappropriate to burden either businesses or property owners with any further cost imposts. The costs are substantial enough and forcing businesses to the wall and driving long term property owners from their hard won properties to make way for the super-rich. You have no right to force people from their properties!!!</p> <p>You need to start charging those who gain the benefit of these facilities. Visitors and tourists visit and walk away leaving the huge cost for us all to bare. Where is any semblance of equity and good public policy and governance in that??? Because locals are already paying for what they may use. Visitors and TOURISTS are NOT!</p> <p>Someone has to pay for what the tourists and visitors leave behind. It is not good enough to expect property owners and even businesses to continue to bare the entire or even the majority cost of these impacts and the ever growing cost that others clearly enjoy and in ever growing numbers. People who visit out beach live in less expensive areas from outer suburbs and therefore have lower living expenses (mortgages, rents, council rates and charges etc) in comparison. If they can afford to come here, then they can afford to make some contribution for what they and their families enjoy and use. If they are international visitors – then they clearly have the money to pay for some of what they enjoy in other countries they visit and in our beautiful and picturesque beach, coastline and surrounds.</p> <p>WE...ARE OPPOSED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY AND ESPECIALLY ANY INCREASE IN THAT LEVY. THE LEVY SHOULD BE ABOLISHED AND TOURISTS AND VISITORS SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO PAY.</p>
80	<p>Being a pensioner am concerned about the environmental levy and would suggest three adjustments, 1) increased rebate or subsidy for pensioners effected; 2) like electricity GreenPower, whether an opt in or opt out option could be made available; and 3) perhaps aim for a lower proportion for the environmental levy such as 1%, 2% or 3% instead of 5.52%. Thank you</p>
81	<p>Discontinue Levy. Current economic circumstances are seeing house struggling with their own budgets. I think Randwick Council need to rethink this initiative and find an alternative to this. Maybe reducing there Political aspirations and concentrating on Local Management. Flag Flying and LGBT are not Local issues. Street Scaping and services are. Get to it</p>
82	<p>Having just received your updated financials, I still believe the council should not continue with the levy. We should all be in belt-tightening mode, to stop the rate rises, not allowing council free rein with our money. The levy needs to stop.</p>

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Unsupportive	
83	<p>I do not agree with the Levy.</p> <p>For the simple reason that the money is not spent on anything that is beneficial for our area.</p> <p>I wish somebody from the Council would come to our street and look at the dreadful conditions which we have everytime that we have some rain,. The whole street runs with water which pools in the middle of Waratah Avenue Randwick. Infrastructure and drainage the basics seems to be more important than a new Coastal Walkway.</p>
84	<p>Discontinue the environmental levy as your proposals don't make scientific sense. Also the council collects enough money to pay for gardens etc. Cycling tracks will only be used by a very small minority. The majority of rate payers want Randwick council to focus on maintaining the infrastructure and modifying its storm water drainage so it's no longer in a flood zone. Residents are paying a premium for their insurance every year because we are regarded as being in a flood zone.</p>
85	<p>I do not want my rates increased. Making this adjustment is your way around increasing rates.</p> <p>I currently appreciate the many fine improvements that have been made in my community, however if I don't see value for the extra levy I'd like the option to say you don't deserve the extra money!</p>
86	<p>I am the owner of 2 lots within the Randwick council area.</p> <p>I am opposed to the ongoing environmental levy for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current cost of living pressures - the council has had 10 years of this levy to "fix things" but now requires another 10 years - it is just another form of council fees but under a different guise - I believe the same outcomes can be achieved with better management of the council rates you already receive. - Cut costs, trim where possible (like every household is being forced to do) rather than burden your constituents with additional pain. <p>I therefore REJECT the proposal for this levy.</p>
87	<p>I have read the Long Term Financial Plan in conjunction with the most recent Financial Report for the Randwick City Council and it surprises me how much money the council is spending. In the year ended financial year 2023, Revenue from Continuing Operations increased by in excess of 10%, far outstripping CPI for the same period of 6%. Obviously the cost of providing various services has increased, however, I would expect greater financial restraint and more rigorous tendering to occur during this period and in the future.</p> <p>The Balance Sheet of the Randwick City Council also reveals significant cash and term deposits of a combined \$151 million held in assets, noting this excludes another \$12.8m in receivables.</p> <p>Given the envious state of Randwick City Council's financial position and result, I can see ample room for environmental services to be prudently provided within the existing revenue generated without imposing an additional environmental levy on</p>

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	<p>ratepayers.</p> <p>Without having the detail, I would recommend a detailed review of existing expenditure, particularly in the areas of consultancy fees and discretionary expenses.</p>
88	<p>Remove it. we are in a cost of living crisis and the council wants to increase rates?? Just to burn more money building car charging stations for the wealthy?</p>
89	<p>Discontinue Levy please.</p> <p>I would like Council to concentrate more on maintenance , for example, street sweeping for all streets and not just those in the public eye.</p> <p>This should all be covered in our current rates. It is ok to have lovely trees but they must be maintained. Also, the correct type of tree should be planted on medium strips. Not the Water Gums which grow to a huge height. You have planted these on our medium strip next to footpath opposite the Supa Centa. Obviously, whoever organised this has no idea of the future size these trees.</p> <p>Street sweeping this area regularly would be much appreciated.</p>
90	<p>The levy has already had a considerable lifespan and should have met nearly all its original objectives on a macro level. The levy should cease and the council should adopt cost saving measures which reduce rates. If that means some employees become redundant, then so be it. Randwick Council should review its own finances and determine where savings could be made. The levy encourages Randwick Council to be 'lazy' in finding other means to fund spending. As well, inflation is affecting many constituents and the Council needs to empathise with the many who now struggle to make ends meet.</p>
91	<p>I do not support it. I do not want the levy nor want it become permanent</p>
92	<p>I am a big supporter of these initiatives but the way you have presented this is agree to the levy or these things stop - really??</p> <p>My preference would be keep the programs in place funded by a separate review of other council expenditure. At the moment there is no evidence that this has even been considered.</p>
93	<p>Most of the projects earmarked for the community should come out of existing rate revenue. This levy is an extra impost we don't need and the projects aren't that beneficial in the long term.</p>
94	<p>Randwick Council's Environmental Levy after already having been in place for 20 years and was called 'Sustaining our City' now needs to be Discontinued.</p> <p>All these sustainability initiatives Council has outlined for across the City of Randwick should be funded from the existing payment of Council rates else it's just a grab for more money.</p> <p>No further Environmental Levy required as cost of living pressures have put a financial burden on rate payers.</p>

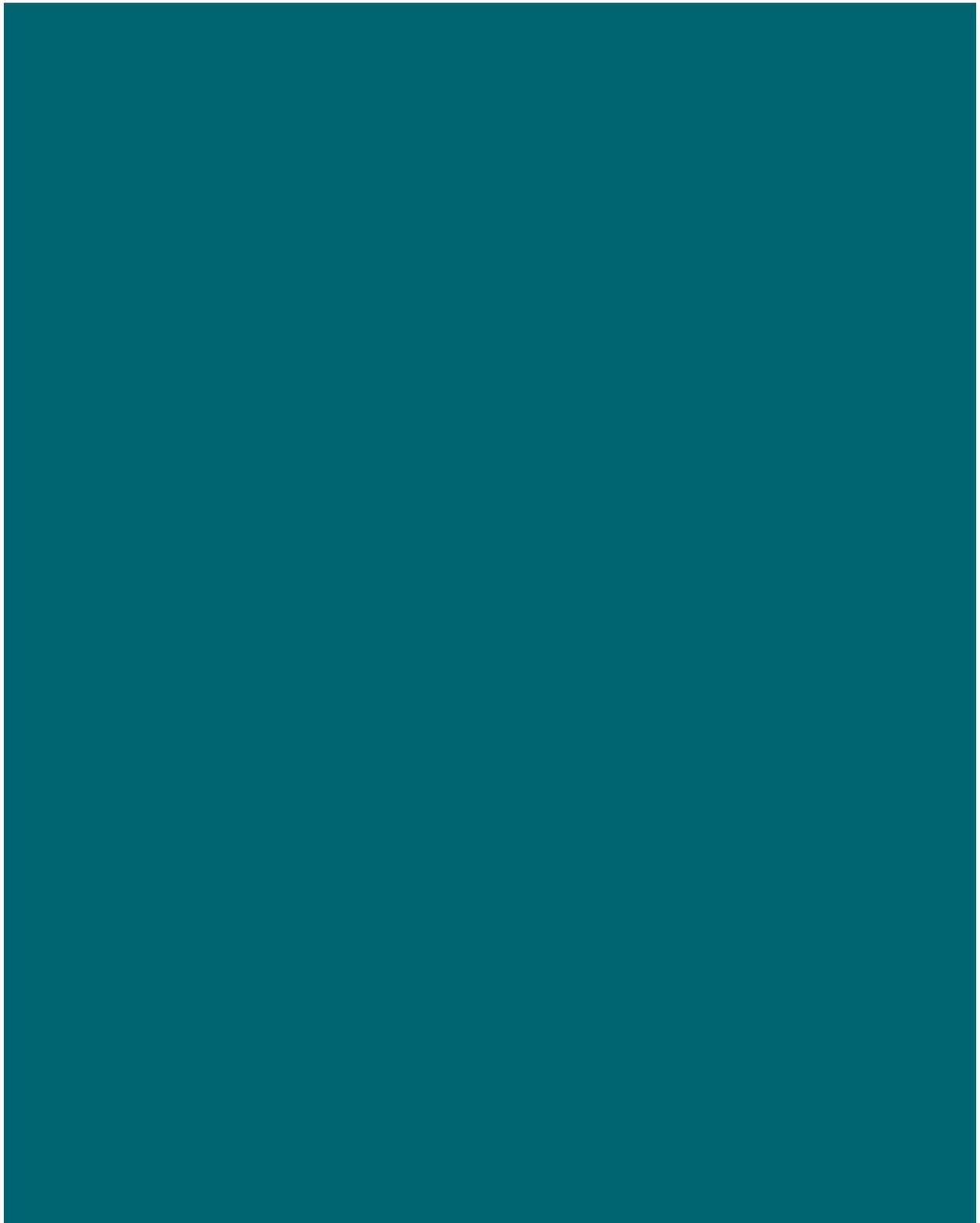
Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

Unsupportive	
95	I have read the attachments and I wish to advise that I do not wish this Levy to continue.
96	<p>The environment is a priority and should be treated as such when the council determines its priorities and allocates funding. An environmental levy should not be necessary to enable the allocation of funds to the highest priority items of greatest benefit to the community.</p> <p>The cost of living has become the central problem people are facing. If the council were to truly recognise that fact, it would not be asking the community to permanently build in higher rates at this time. Clearly whatever maximum increase the state government allows to annual council rates will also be passed on automatically by Randwick Council. As a result I cannot take seriously the concern expressed by the council at the rise in the cost of living when it asks the community to agree to a permanent rise in rates.</p> <p>In my view fiscal restraint (rather than rate increases) should be the council's priority while the cost of living crisis lasts. The council should be seeking ways to ease the financial burden on ratepayers. Dropping the environmental levy is clearly a lever that can be pulled to achieve this.</p> <p>The idea that the levy should be a percentage of the rateable land value does not make sense to me. The specific environmental projects that have been linked to the levy do not provide any greater amenity to residents who pay lesser or greater amounts because of the assessed land value of their own properties. If the levy were to continue it should be a flat rate across all rate payers. Surely we are all equally responsible for enhancing our environment's sustainability.</p> <p>Some of the environmental initiatives (eg. rebates for installing certain products) do not belong at the council level in my opinion and should be the responsibility of the state government. I do not want my levy used in this fashion.</p> <p>While I appreciate the focus council gives to the general condition of the municipality I do not see the justification of 'baking in' an effective permanent rate increase to my rates. Any projects that the council wants public support for that are in the realm of good ideas should be proposed in advance with the money required for it spelled out. Is the environmental levy strictly governed so that in the future the money raised for it cannot be spent on other types of activities? How so? Does it permanently increase the proportion of council funding dedicated to the environment in the annual budget? How can that actually be guaranteed?</p> <p>Cost of living pressure and the structure/basis of the environmental levy both need to be reviewed and I do not support the current proposal.</p>
Unclear	
1	It is a levy. Why is there not a 3rd option to continue the 'levy' but not permanent. If council wish to do environmental projects then evaluate the existing budget with

Environmental Levy ATTACHMENT – Verbatim submissions

	Unclear
	<p>that in mind. Alternative way of marketing this is asking to introduce as a permanent environment budget. Whereby council ensures x percentage of the overall budget is spent on environmental projects. By not stating a percentage spend year on year, there is nothing preventing you from using the increased funding on something else in future years, as you have made it permanent and not a levy. (a levy is scrutinized as more in the public eye)</p>
2	<p>Please note that it is not enough to plant greenery along tram routes and laong roads... they need to be weeded and cultivated to look any good. The trees are dying. The weeds are growing. Alison Road is a disgrace. I weep for the old fig trees you destroyed. I weep for the new Huon pines that are left uncared for and stunted by weeds. What are you using the levy for?</p>
3	<p>Environmental levy sustaining our City: This is all well and good. But you have changed the green bins so that paper/food scraps and other items that were suppose to go in the green bins for recycling are now back in the red bins . I still can't understand the waste of money and effect that goes into the planning. Just to be knocked an the lead after 6 months. Please explain and start reducing our quarterly levies.</p>
4	<p>Whilst I understand and agree with the extension of the levy, I am left questioning whether any appropriate steps have been undertaken to ensure that a "user pay principle" is being judiciously applied when it comes to the Council ensuring that all legitimate sources of revenue are being received, to address the ever increasing costs associated with the running of the Council?</p> <p>If all ratepayers are being asked to continue to contribute, then I also want to ensure that all funding available to the Council is being received.</p>
5	<p>Can council be more transparent about the levy's total cost over 10 years to the average ratepayer. If it becomes a permanent part of the rates, it would then be subject to lpart increases. Can council give a demonstration of what that would look like (total rates with/without the environmental levy baked in) over the life of the long term financial plan.</p>
6	<p>Could you please display the dollar figure of the levy? If it is here it is hard to find.</p>

CP1/24



Randwick City Council
30 Frances Street
Randwick NSW 2031

1300 722 542
council@randwick.nsw.gov.au
www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

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Council Responses to Community Submissions : Updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 Consultation Period - 29 November 2023 to 19 January 2024		
No	Community Submission	Council Response
1	It would seem that with the Environmental Levy, council is essentially budgeting a \$5m profit each year & growing, which seems excessive, whereas without the levy there are operating losses. I would suggest that neither option is preferable & perhaps there should be a 3rd option, with a reduced levy, or greater spend on environment. Also, if you are going to continue to raise the Environmental Levy, then these funds should be exclusively for the environment & there should be greater clarity on exactly what the money is spent on, possibly even voting by surveys etc.	The Environmental Levy is used to fund environmental and sustainability initiatives. The levy is an restricted fund and is accounted for by Council separately. Council reports on the use of the levy annually in Council's Annual Report. Page 43 in the LTFP, Scenario 2 - Income Statement excluding Environmental Levy, indicates that for the Net Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions, there will potentially be an accumulated deficit of ~\$17m over a 5 year period from 2024-25 to 2028-29. This highlights an ongoing structural deficit unless there is a reduction in services to the community. Their key financial objective is that the council operates a balanced budget every financial year.
2	Fix the 20 year old flooding problem at 58 - 62 Leonard Avenue Kingsford. This should be a priority and included in the financial costing for upgrade. Passing this off as a Sydney Water issue is not good enough. Lets see some action Randwick Council	The flooding problem at 58-62 Leonard Avenue was identified as part of Council's Floodplain Management Planning for the Kensington-Centennial Park catchment. Following the Flood Study, which analyses the catchment, a Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan (FRMSP) was developed. The FRMSP assessed the flood risks and identified mitigation options with a positive cost benefit ratio for further feasibility. Sydney Water has been undertaking a feasibility study for the option to increase the capacity of the trunk drainage underneath Gardeners Road. Subject to the outcome of the feasibility, the project will be funded by Sydney Water.
3	Embrace fiscal responsibility by living within your means. Cherry picking figures to advance their own agendas. This is pure PR spin.	The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is a 10-year rolling plan that informs decision-making and demonstrates how the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan and commitments of the Delivery Program and Operation Plan will be resourced and funded. All assumptions, financial statements and analysis are published in the LTFP. In addition to this, the Council produces monthly financial reports, quarterly forecasts and audited annual financial statements.
4	This is financial blackmail - "if you don't provide Council with more money, then we won't provide these services".....How dare you hold a gun to ratepayers heads! It is outrageous that a Council can't find \$6m/year in reduced expenses (\$29.6m over 5 years), ongoing savings and efficiency to fund the environment projects and services detailed in the so called levy. You surely won't have to look far! Staffing levels, waste, useless boondoggle green projects, supporting political causes that have nothing to do with local government (i.e., the voice), property management costs, staffing and technology productivity improvements.....the list is endless. Your management need to have a serious look at themselves and make some tough decisions. This is so typical of local government.....so easy to spend other people's money. These environment projects should be absorbed into the budget and funded by cost reductions. By the way, you might have noticed there is a cost of living crisis going on, and all the Council can do is find more ways to suck money from ratepayers to fund ongoing inefficiencies and waste in the Council. Hopeless.....absolutely hopeless!	The Environmental Levy is not a new levy, it has been part of the annual rates and charges since 2004. The levy funds environmental and sustainable initiatives that are beyond the scope of maintaining existing services and projects. Council is seeking to maintain the levy to continue funding environmental and sustainability initiatives that are crucial to our LGA. Since 2004, some of the environmental initiatives that the levy has enabled Council to achieve are; 6.5 tonnes of food waste diverted from landfill, 12km of coastal walkway and 38 gross pollutant traps installed preventing more than 300 tonnes of rubbish entering our oceans every year.
5	The environmental levy needs to remain or be increased. Randwick council needs to continue improving the environment where it is. Many places have unplanted trees which had been left to die and there is a lack of canopy cover leading to very hot streets.	The submission and support for the Environmental Levy is noted.
6	Retain the environment levy	The submission and support for the Environmental Levy is noted.
7	Working on the basis of continuing the environmental levy as part of the long term financial plan is flawed planning. The levy was a temporary measure and it should not be factored in the long term business plans. The council should have focused on developing a balanced plan without the levy. Recent rate increases and the opportunity to review operational efficiencies and savings should be the focus to generate a balanced budget or a positive position not a loss. Continuation of levy should be funding additional initiatives and not propping up the council's poor budget planning.	The Environmental Levy was introduced in 2004 to fund environmental and sustainability initiatives that are beyond the scope of maintaining existing services and projects. The Environmental Levy enables Council to focus on environmental and sustainable initiatives that provide benefits now and extends into the future for generations to come.
8	Discontinue of levy. The LTFP income statement doesn't show circa \$30M loss over the 5 year period. It is showing a positive net operating result every year & a 5 year accumulated result of circa \$14M. This is all with the levy not included.	Page 43 in the LTFP, Scenario 2 - Income Statement excluding Environmental Levy, indicates that for the Net Operating Result before Capital Grants and Contributions, there will potentially be an accumulated deficit of ~\$17m over a 5 year period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
9	The current level of services should be maintained, therefore the Environmental Levy should remain.	The submission and support for the Environmental Levy is noted.
10	I totally approve of it! Please keep up the great work you are doing!	The submission and support for the Environmental Levy is noted.
11	Remove the levy and other unnecessary measures that will reduce council rates. If council wants a levy the councilors that want it should pay for it. Not everyone can afford an electric car let alone a new car in this economy!	The Environmental Levy is critical in providing ongoing environmental and sustainability initiatives for the Local Government Area.