

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 6 February 2024

Seating Plan for Council meetings



Director Corporate Services J Frangoples	General Manager R Brownlee, PSM	Mayor Councillor P Veitch	Director City Services T Clarke	Director Community & Culture K Anderson	Director City Planning K Kyriacou
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Public
address

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">at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed, orat 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. Environmental Levy Community Consultation Report – Ratepayer Survey free text verbatim
4. Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33
5.  Updated Long Term Financial Plan 2023-33 - Submissions Responses

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separate cover**

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

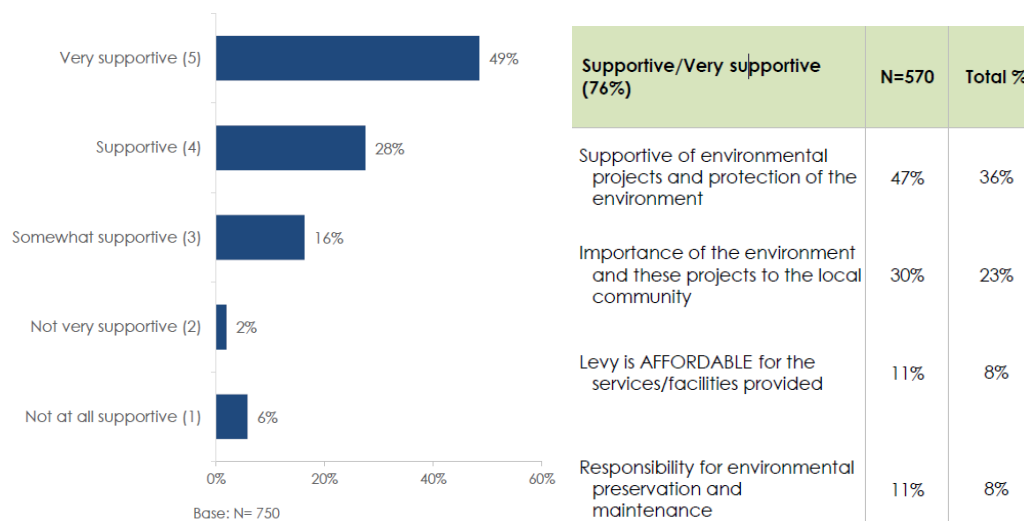
In October and November 2023, Randwick Council engaged independent research agency Micromex Research to conduct a random telephone survey with residents living in the Randwick LGA.

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.

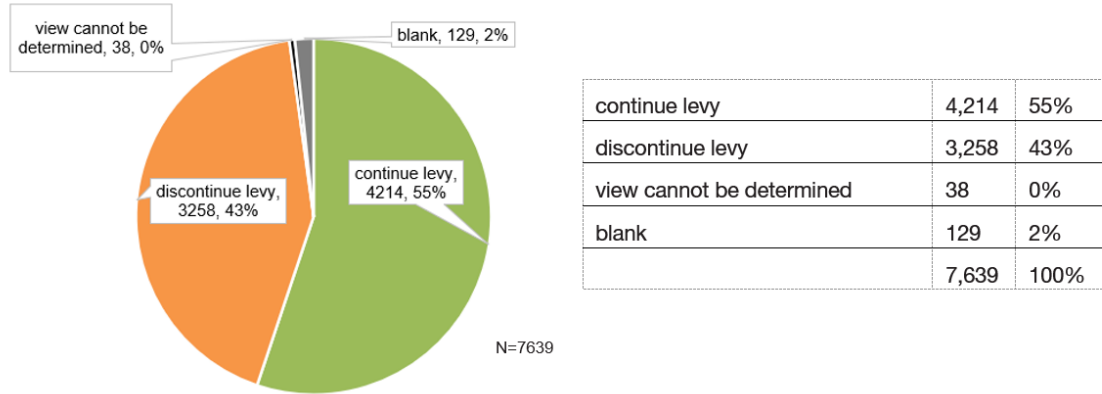
Only 8% of respondents were not supportive of the proposal. The main reasons given by survey participants reflected: the cost of the levy; the view that Council or Govt should pay for these initiatives; and/or a disregard for some of the projects and that other services or improvements of facilities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

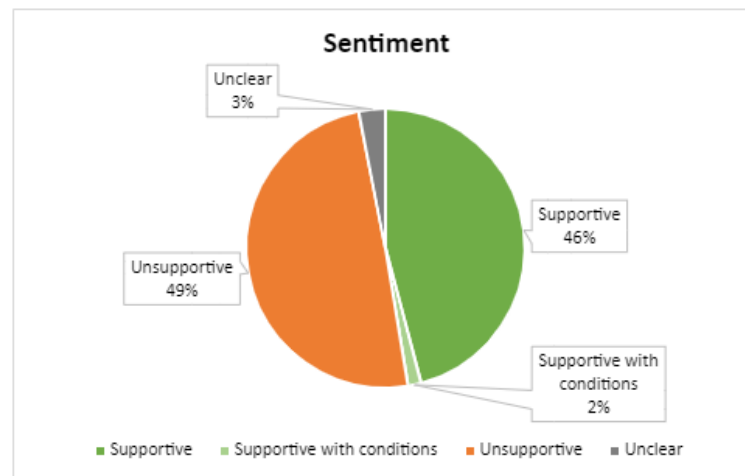
Support for the levy is strongest in East Ward (62%) and the suburbs of Randwick and Clovelly (59%) and Coogee and South Coogee (59%). Support is relatively less in West Ward (47%) and the suburbs of Kingsford (47%) and Kensington (48%).

		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.

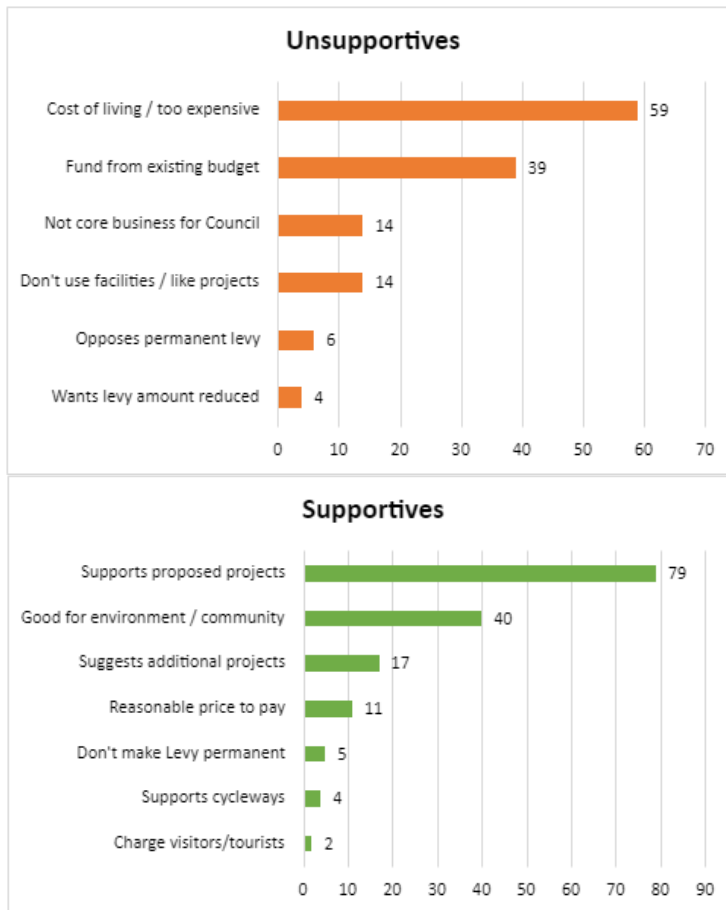
Their 'sentiment' as referred to in the summary, is broken down further as per the graph below for those against the Special Rate Variation. As can be seen, the main reasons for this unsupportive sentiment is based on their concerns regarding:

- 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).



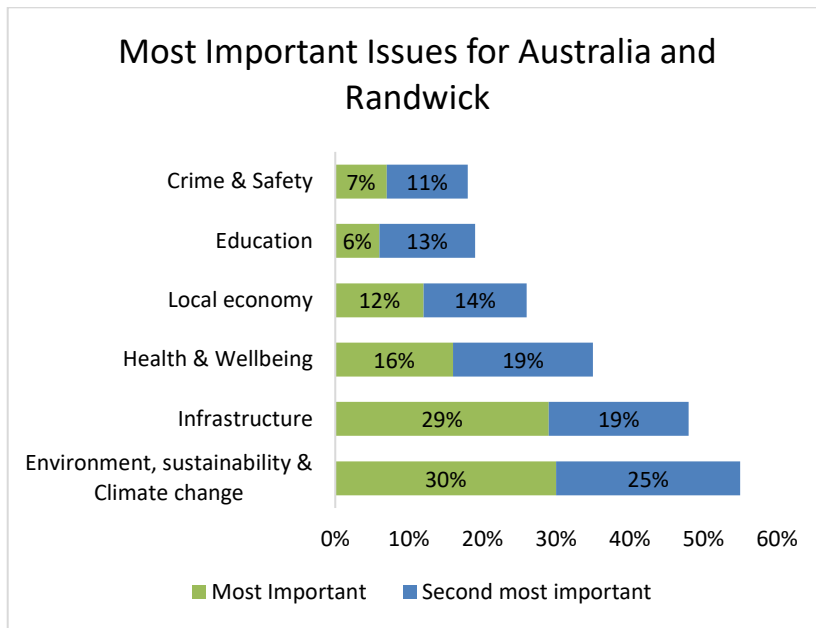
“Who Cares About the Environment” Survey 2021

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:

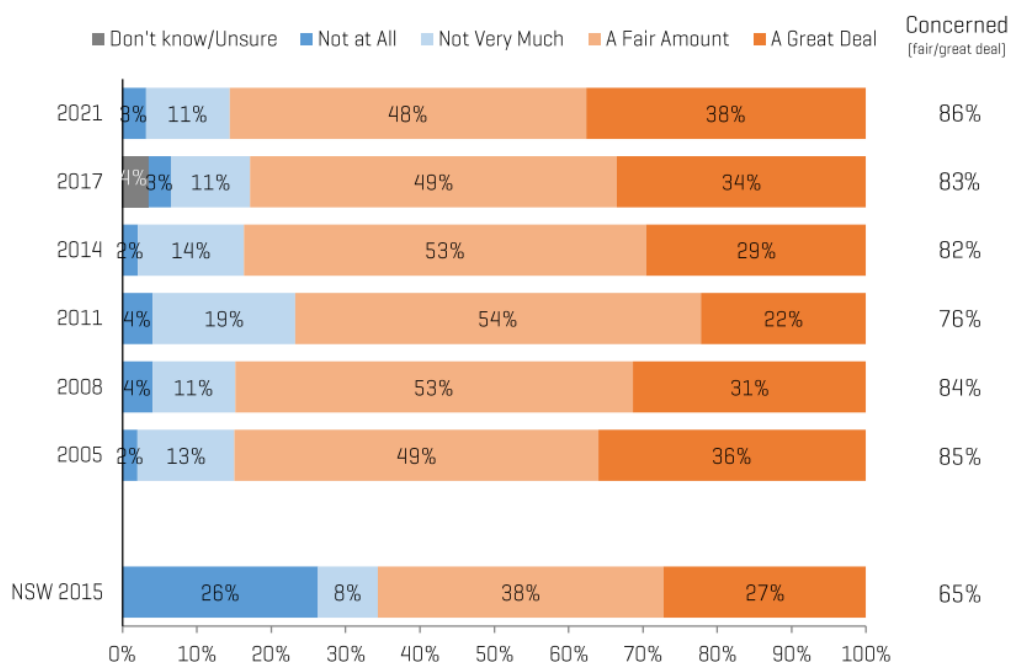
Randwick residents rated Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change as the most important issue facing Australia and Randwick. This was followed by Infrastructure. See figure below:



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.

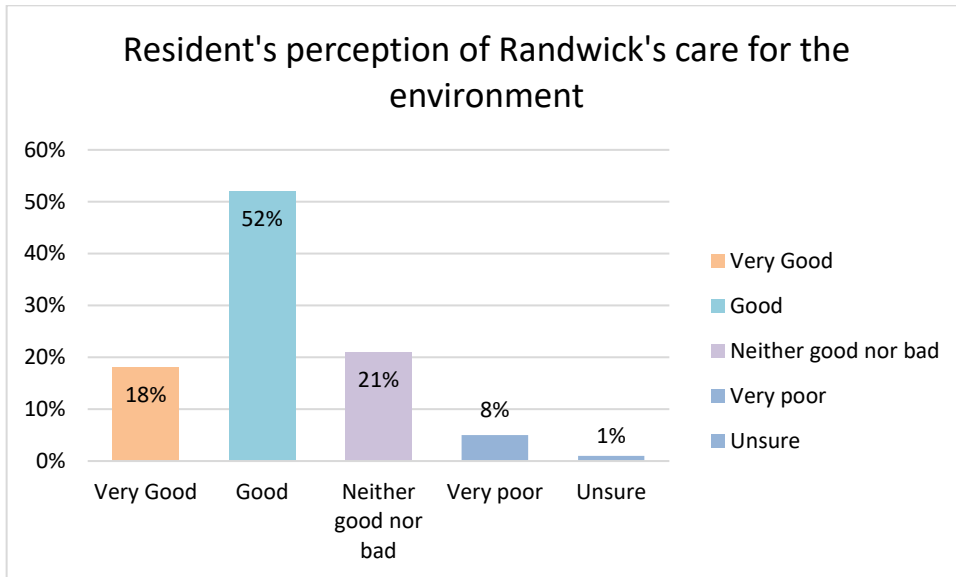
Figure 3.1 Level of concern about environmental problems – comparison to previous years



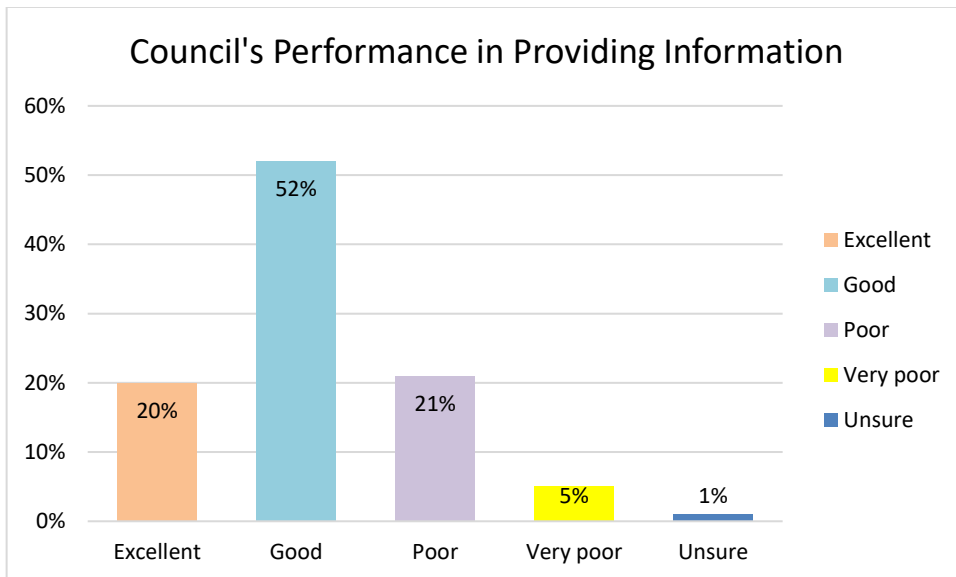
Q: In general how concerned are you about environmental problems? Would you say you are concerned....

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.

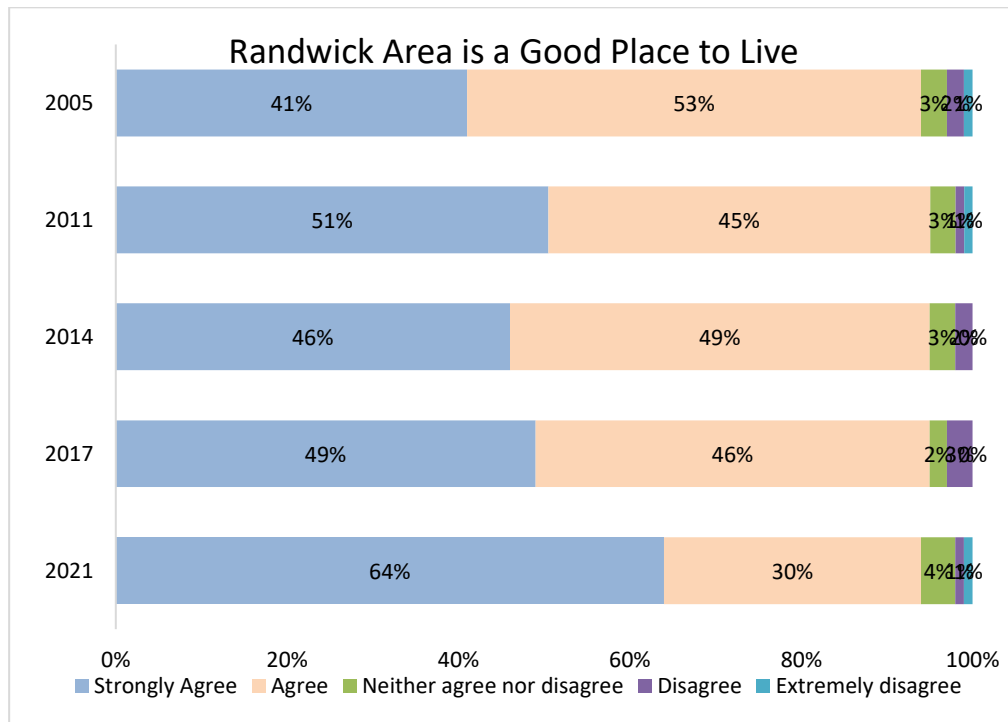


72% of residents rated Randwick Council as good or excellent in providing information to help protect the environment. There was a significant increase in the excellent rating compared to the 2017 survey from 9% to 20%.



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.



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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.

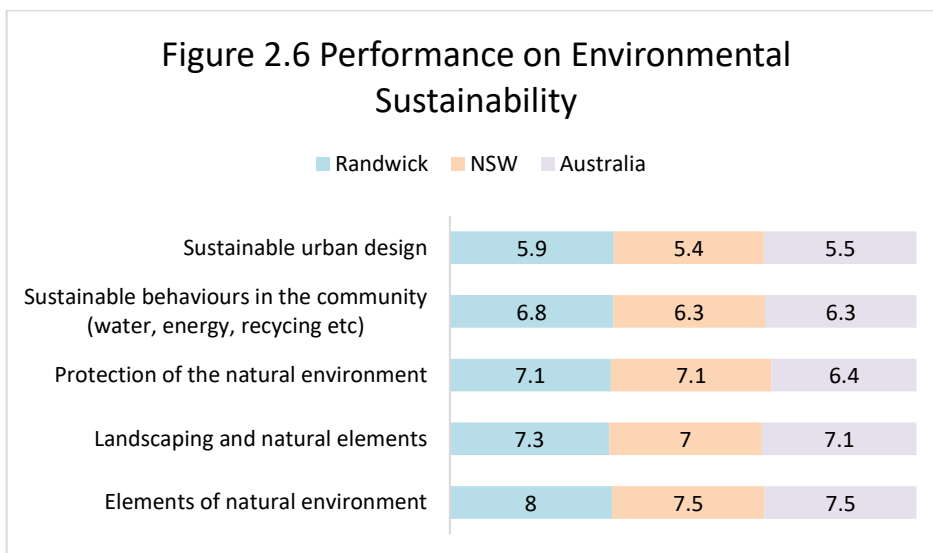
2023 Australian Liveability Census results for Randwick

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.

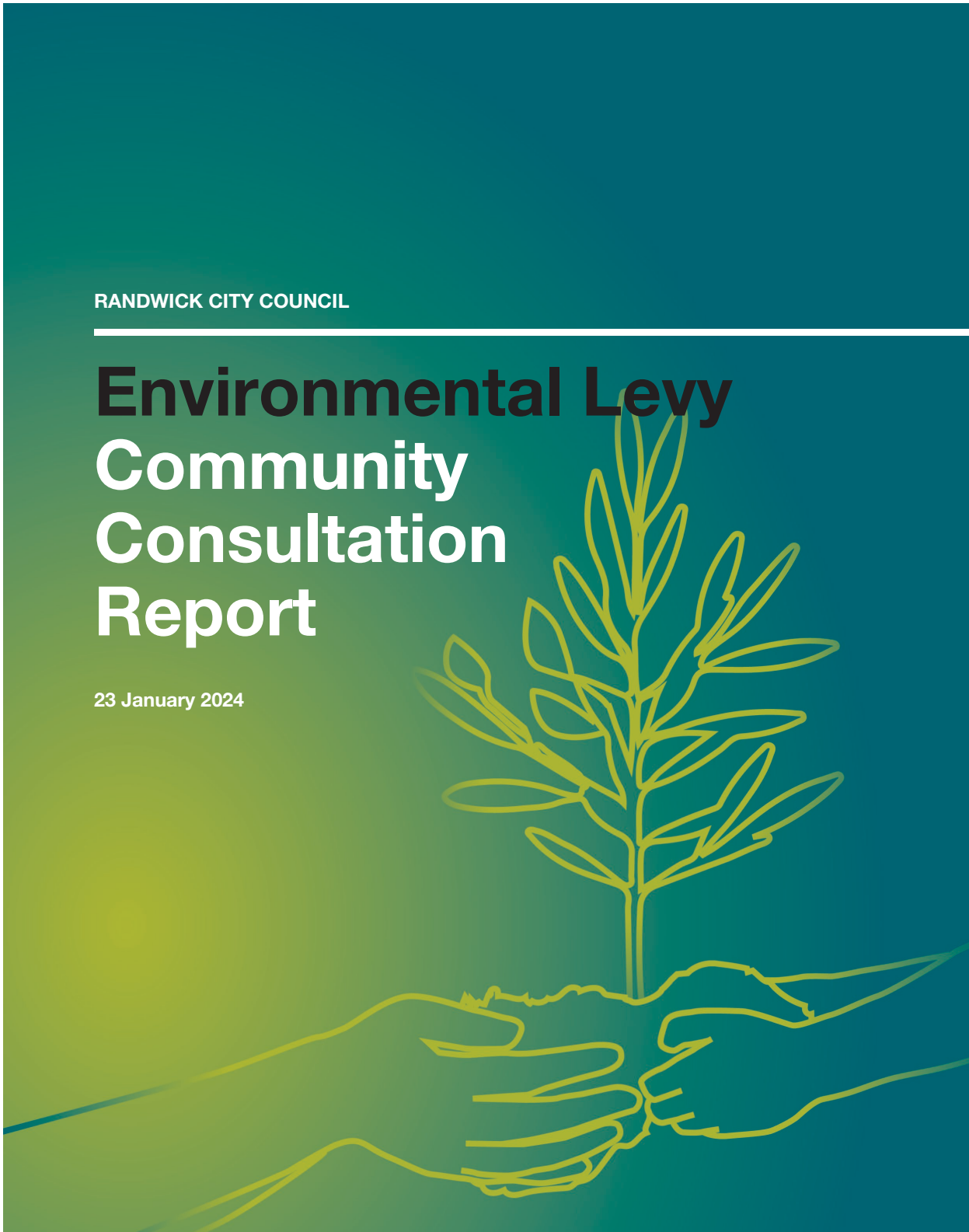
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RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL

Environmental Levy Community Consultation Report

23 January 2024



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randwick.nsw.gov.au

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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

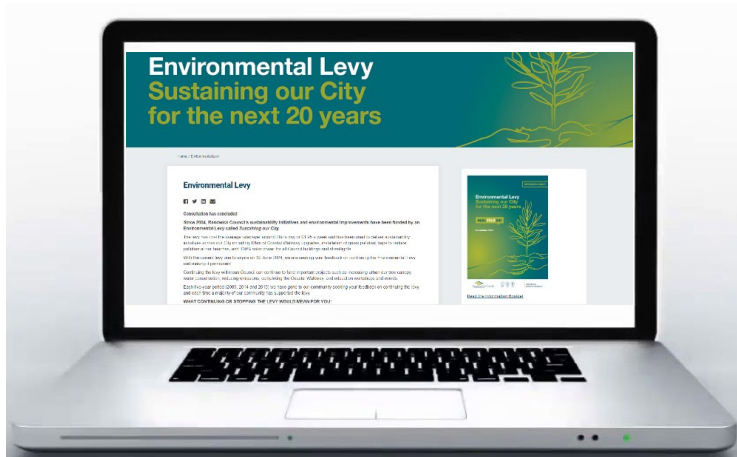


Image: Your Say Randwick website

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.

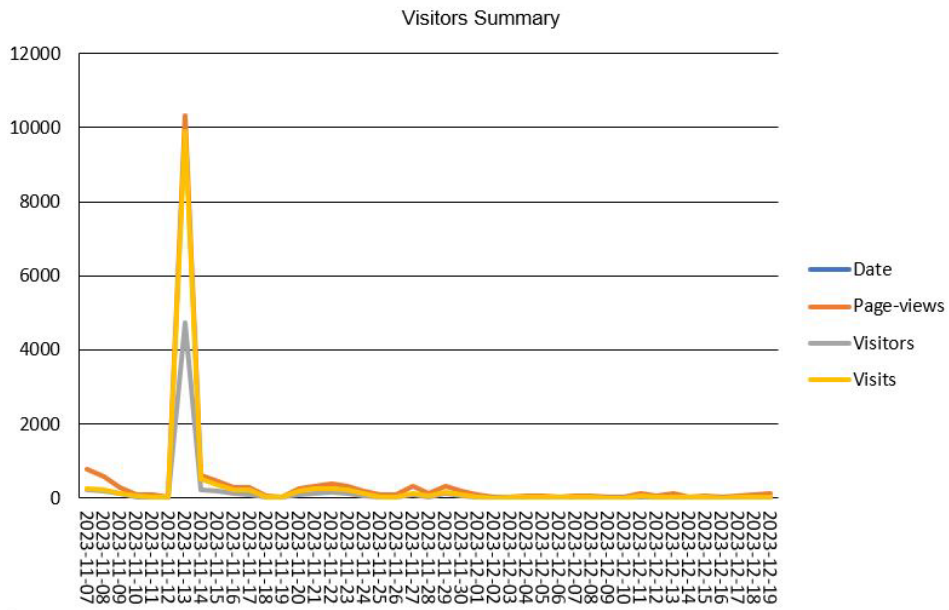
The website was launched on 7 November 2023 and was open for 42 days, closing 19 December 2023.

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
General Levy	11.67%	5.00%
Commercial Levy	11.67%	5.00%
Industrial Levy	11.67%	5.00%
Residential Levy	11.67%	5.00%

ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY ACHIEVEMENTS 2004-2024

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

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YOUR FREE MONEY LOCAL BUSINESS
EASTERN SUBURBS Life
 Shop direct from local Jewellery-Makers & save well over 40%.

Experience the very best of Australian Jewellery Craftsmanship with **Temple & Grace**

INSIDE: HERITAGE LISTING FOR TWENTY-ONE ON THE TABLE #4 • WHITE'S ON BAYSIDE #7 • RANDWICK COUNCIL'S DECISIONS NOT TO RIVY PALESTRINIAN FLAG #11 • BAKERS ON BE VOICE #12-13 • BONDI PAVILION WONG HONG LONG GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL #14 • BAKERS ON BONDY #19 • COUNCIL'S NEW #21 • ELLIOTT LANE #22

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

WHAT CONTINUING OR STOPPING THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEVY WOULD MEAN FOR YOU

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



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

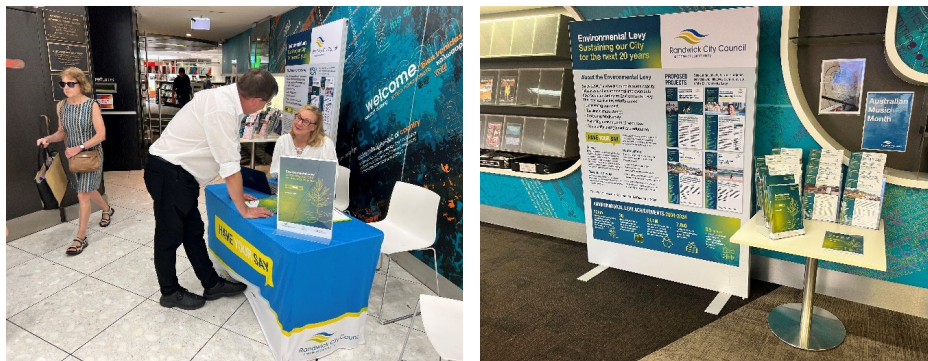


Image: Drop-in session and information display at Margaret Martin Library

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.

