# **Environmental Levy** achievements 2004-2018

The Environmental Levy provides funding for specific environmental programs and initiatives.

#### 1. BEAUTIFUL COASTLINE

Major sections of our Coastal Walkway have been constructed, upgraded and repaired including the Malabar Headland Western Walking Track, South Maroubra to Maroubra boardwalk, La Perouse upgrade and Cape Banks connection at NSW Golf Course as well as links at Coogee, South Coogee and Clovelly.

#### 2. SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN

Council supports schools to install water tanks, develop food and native gardens, install bike racks, native bees, solar panels and have classes visit our sustainability education hub at the Randwick Community Centre.

#### 3. CLEAN BEACHES

Innovative technology treats and re-uses stormwater to improve water run-off into our beaches.

#### **4. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

We are preserving remaining bushland areas, enhancing Randwick Environment Park, restoring the last remaining dunes in the eastern suburbs, increasing native tree plantings in our streets and parks and protecting important areas of native vegetation.

#### 5. PRESERVING PRECIOUS RESOURCES

We are saving 450 million litres of water annually through our wastewater and stormwater re-use, recycling and park irrigation projects - this is equivalent to 180 Olympic swimming pools of water per year.

#### 6. REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION

We have contributed to solar installations on 2,600 homes, representing 9,600 kilowatts of solar power, generating up to 14 million kilowatt hours and saving residents about \$1,500 off their energy bills each year.

#### 7. CLEANER AIR

There are now 6,000 residents participating in the local car share program reducing car ownership by an estimated 900 vehicles and achieving a reduction in greenhouse gases.

#### 8. A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Every year almost 15,000 residents participate in sustainability workshops, events and activities with about 9,000 attending the annual Eco-Living Expo.







### 2020-22 **Forward Estimates**

The forward estimates have been derived from the 2019-29 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The LTFP, along with the Asset Management Strategy, Workforce Plan and Digital Strategy, underpins the Council's Delivery Program and City Plan outlining how these will be resourced in the future.

The forward estimates relate to Option 1 Model in the LTFP - for the temporary continuation of the Environmental Levy. The LTFP Option 1 (Primary) Model results in a cumulative increase of 19.91 per cent over five years 2020-24 in revenue raised from rates (see Appendix A).

The 19.91 per cent cumulative increase includes the existing 5.52 per cent approved increases for years 2019-20 and 2020-21, as determined by IPART in May 2018.

The Asset Management Strategy and associated plans, the Digital Strategy and the Workforce Plan are based on Option 1 Model – continuation of the Environmental Levy. The projected financial result over the next 10 years indicates Council will continue its strong growth in capital expenditure. Refer to the LTFP for further information.

Year 2

	r car r	rear z	i cui o
	2020	2021	2022
	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Income from Continuing Operations			
Rates & Annual Charges	122,475	128,849	132,788
User Charges & Fees	20,209	20,819	21,448
Interest & Investment Revenue	1,289	1,204	1,256
Other Revenue	9,240	9,563	9,702
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	7,144	7,207	7,271
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	4,802	4,818	4,834
Total Income from Continuing Operations	165,159	172,460	177,299
Expenses from Continuing Operations			
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	67,552	69,737	72,244
Borrowing Costs	1,241	1,199	1,154
Materials & Contracts	42,765	45,560	46,739
Depreciation & Amortisation	24,750	25,990	26,817
Other Expenses	15,872	16,915	16,707
Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets	171	115	177
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	152,351	159,515	163,839
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	12,808	12,945	13,460
Discontinued Operations			
Net Profit/(Loss) from Discontinued Operations	-	-	-
Net Operating Result for the Year	12,808	12,945	13,460
Net Operating Result for the year before Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	8,006	8,127	8,626

# Appendix A



# **Environmental Levy Sustaining our City since 2004**

Proposed continuation of levy for environmental projects



### Doing our bit for the environment

Let's face it, what can 25 cents buy you today? Not much you say... well what if just 25 cents a day opened up new areas of the coastline for you and your family to explore, provided lush tree canopies in parks and streets, and helped clean your beaches? Well that's exactly what's been happening for the past 15 years thanks to the Environmental Levy.

In that time it has helped extend the world-famous Coastal Walkway, deliver sustainability programs and events and irrigate our coastal parks with recycled stormwater – saving us about 450 million litres of water a year.

It's a little that goes a long way.

We're also working hard to be as efficient as possible while delivering you the best possible services, facilities, projects and events. Our coordinated & balanced strategy for delivering services and infrastructure whilst looking after our environment is ensuring a sustainable future for our community and for those generations that will come after us.

As a long-time local resident, a Councillor and now as Mayor, I've seen the progress we've been able to make as a council because of the funding from the levy.

At an average of 25 cents per day or \$7.62 a month for the average residential ratepayer, it's a small amount that makes a big difference.

I believe continuing the levy is the best option for our Council and community. Ultimately we will be guided by what you the community want.

The options are clear – continue a levy already included in your rates to deliver some great environmental programs or stop the levy for a small rate cut. Discontinuing the levy means we'll have to reprioritise our works programs – this means some of the environmental programs we've been delivering won't continue while others will take longer or result in other works programs not happening.

We've included information in this booklet to help you in providing feedback.

Your view is important and I encourage you to take the time to have your say so we can decide on the best way forward for our community.



Councillor Kathy Neilson Mayor of Randwick





#### Introduction

Since 2004, Randwick City Council has been delivering a range of significant environmental programs, community initiatives and new and upgraded infrastructure as part of the Sustaining our City program funded by an Environmental Levy.

The five-year levy applies to residential and business ratepayers and is currently due to expire on 30 June 2019.

We want to know what you think about continuing the levy for another five years to 2024.

This information booklet gives you details about what the levy has achieved to date, proposed future programs and the impact to ratepayers of continuing the levy.

### **The Environmental Levy**

The Environmental Levy was first approved by Council in 2004, and has successfully transformed the way sustainability projects and programs have been implemented across Council and the community.

Due to this success and ongoing community support, the Environmental Levy was extended for another five years in 2009 and again in 2014.

We want to continue to deliver these important environmental projects and we are considering an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to continue the Environmental Levy for a further five years to 2024.

### How much is the levy?

The Environmental Levy is calculated based on the unimproved land value of your property as valued by the NSW Valuer General.

This means the amount paid on individual properties varies depending on land value.

The levy for the average residential ratepayer is \$91.49 per year averaged over five years. If you're one of the 26,000 owners of a strata unit in Randwick City, you're likely to be paying much less.

You can check what you are currently paying by referring to your annual rates notice.

# **Environmental Levy** achievements 2004-2018

The Environmental Levy provides funding for specific environmental programs and initiatives.

#### 1. BEAUTIFUL COASTLINE

Major sections of our Coastal Walkway have been constructed, upgraded and repaired including the Malabar Headland Western Walking Track, South Maroubra to Maroubra boardwalk, La Perouse upgrade and Cape Banks connection at NSW Golf Course as well as links at Coogee, South Coogee and Clovelly.

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food gardens

in local schools

### Proposed projects 2019-2024

If the Environmental Levy continues, it will fund the following projects:

Coastal Walkway

**\$9m** Working towards a continuous Coastal Walkway from Clovelly to La Perouse.

Funds will help design and implement walkways at South Coogee, Lurline Bay, Randwick Golf Course, The Coast Golf Course and St Michael's Golf Course.

**Gross Pollutant traps** 

Installation of five additional pollutant traps to increase water quality at local

beaches.

Water Saving water

Future proofing wastewater re-use program at Maroubra Beach, Des Renford

Leisure Centre, Purcell Park Matraville, Nagle Park Maroubra and Pioneers Park

Malabar

Other Reducing waste and consumption of natural resources

**\$620k** Continuation of Council's Compost Revolution, Switch your thinking on Plastics

and other Green events.

Energy Energy efficiency program

**\$2.36m** Energy efficiency program for Council building upgrades, community renewable

energy, smart monitoring and carbon offset program.

Greenhouse Solar power, composting, electric vehicles and cycleways

\$3.1m Installation of solar panels on five Council buildings, increased rates of

composting, installation of public electric vehicle charging locations and funding

for improved cycleways.

**Biodiversity** Green Corridor program

\$1.12m Planting more native trees in streets and parks, continuing Native Havens

program and additional flora and fauna monitoring and WIRES relocation and

interpretive centre.

Food Sustainable food

**\$500k** Funding support for eight community gardens and 22 school food gardens.

Education Sustainability events and workshops

\$2.2m

Continuation of Council's Eco-Living Expo, Earth Hour, World Environment
Day, Best Gift Markets, NOX Night Sculpture Walk, Marine and Coastal School
Holiday Activities, school grants, Eco Heroes program, sustainable schools

exchange and workshops at Randwick Community Centre, Barrett House and

libraries.

Total

Note: Administration activities including staff salaries and costs have been distributed throughout the proposed levy program.

# Impact of continuing **Environmental Levy**

#### **Option 1** Continue Levy

Under this option, ratepayers will continue paying an Environmental Levy. These funds will deliver a range of environmental programs and projects for the Randwick City community.

Coastal Walkway Environmental events/workshops Water reuse projects Additional tree plantings 1 Gross pollutant traps <a> Energy efficiency programs</a>

\$91.49

19.91%

**Environmental Levy** residential

Cumulative overall rate increase (including/excluding Environmental Levy) over 5 years Overall cumulative increase including:

• IPART approved rate increase years 1 & 2

• Assumed rate peg for years 3-5

• Environmental Levy

### **Option 2** Discontinue Levy

This option proposes discontinuing the Environmental Levy. Ratepayers would receive a small reduction. Environmental programs and projects will be reprioritised within Council's budget. This means some won't happen, some will take longer to implement and some may affect the timing and scope of other capital works programs.

Coastal Walkway Gross pollutant traps Energy efficiency programs

Environmental events/workshops

Water reuse projects Additional tree plantings

savings

• IPART approved rate increase years 1 & 2 12.44%

\$91.49

cost

Overall cumulative increase including:

• Assumed rate peg for years 3-5

• No Environmental Levy

#### For average residential ratepayers

	2018/19 Current	2019/20 Year 1	2020/21 Year 2	2021/22 Year 3	2022/23 Year 4	2023/24 Year 5
% rates increase		5.52%*	5.52%*	2.5%**	2.5%**	2.5%**
Average annual rate		\$1,214	\$1,281	\$1,352	\$1,386	\$1,421
Annual rate increase		\$67	\$71	\$34	\$35	\$36
Total rates	\$1,214	\$1,281	\$1,352	\$1,386	\$1,421	\$1,457
Environmental Levy	\$81	\$85	\$90	\$92	\$94	\$96
Total rates and Environmental Levy	\$1,295	\$1,366	\$1,442	\$1,478	\$1,515	\$1,553

#### For average residential ratepayers

Current 2018/19	Year 1 2019/20	Year 2 2020/21	Year 3 2021/22	Year 4 2022/23	Year 5 2023/24
	5.52%*	5.52%*	2.5%**	2.5%**	2.5%**
	\$1,214	\$1,281	\$1,352	\$1,386	\$1,421
	\$67	\$71	\$34	\$35	\$36
\$1,214	\$1,281	\$1,352	\$1,386	\$1,421	\$1,457
\$81	Х	х	Х	Х	х
\$1,295	\$1,281	\$1,352	\$1,386	\$1,421	\$1,457

#### For average business ratepayers

	2018/19 Current	2019/20 Year 1	2020/21 Year 2	2021/22 Year 3	2022/23 Year 4	2023/24 Year 5
% rates increase		5.52%*	5.52%*	2.5%**	2.5%**	2.5%**
Average annual rate		\$8,452	\$8,919	\$9,411	\$9,646	\$9,887
Annual rate increase		\$467	\$492	\$235	\$241	\$247
Rates	\$8,452	\$8,919	\$9,411	\$9,646	\$9,887	\$10,134
Environmental Levy	\$161	\$170	\$179	\$183	\$188	\$193
Total rates and Environmental Levy	\$8,613	\$9,089	\$9,590	\$9,829	\$10,075	\$10,327

#### For average business ratepayers

Current 2018/19	Year 1 2019/20	Year 2 2020/21	Year 3 2021/22	Year 4 2022/23	Year 5 2023/24
	5.52%*	5.52%*	2.5%**	2.5%**	2.5%**
	\$8,452	\$8,919	\$9,411	\$9,646	\$9,887
	\$467	\$492	\$235	\$241	\$247
\$8,452	\$8,919	\$9,411	\$9,646	\$9,887	\$10,134
\$161	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
\$8,613	\$8,919	\$9,411	\$9,646	\$9,887	\$10,134

- IPART approved special variation increase of 5.52% in years 1 and 2
- Assumed rate peg of 2.5% in years 3, 4 and 5
- Average over five years

Denotes projects that may not occur, take longer to implement or affect the timing of other projects.

# Your questions answered

### Didn't IPART already approve an SRV in May 2018?

Earlier in 2018, IPART approved Council's Our Community Our Future Special Rate Variation of 19.85% cumulative over three years – 2018/19 to 2020/21. This increase is already in place in your rates now.

Our Community Our Future is funding anti-terrorism measures to make our public places safer, addressing domestic violence, upgrading the La Perouse Museum, creating an arts and cultural centre, building a new indoor sports centre and gymnastics centre at Heffron Park and implementing Council's digital strategy.

The continuation of the Environmental Levy is different. The Environmental Levy is a levy on top of your rates. You have been paying it for the past 15 years.

# Why is the cumulative overall rate increase figure so similar to the Our Community Our Future levy increase?

IPART require that when we present information to the community about rates, we show the community the total cumulative impact. This helps you get a better idea of the real impact over the time period.

We are required to show you how your rates are increasing in total due to the already approved rate variation as well as the potential continuation of the Environmental Levy.

The figure is similar because we're showing you the same rates increase information. This doesn't mean your rates will again increase by 19.85%, we're just showing you how your rates are changing.

This consultation is really asking whether you want to keep paying the Environmental Levy or not? For the average residential ratepayer over five years, continuing the levy will cost \$1.76 per week or \$91.49 per year.

#### How can I find out how much the Environmental Levy for my property will be?

The Environmental Levy is based on the unimproved land valuation of your property as determined by the NSW Valuer General. Please note this figure is different to the market value of your land.

The table on page 6 (left) provides the Levy increase for the average residential and business ratepayers. But if you want to know the specific increase for your property, you can use the table below if you know your land value.

You would have received a notification from the Valuer General in 2017 with your most recent valuation. You can also find out your land valuation by visiting www.valuergeneral.nsw.gov.au

### How much Environmental Levy am I currently paying?



The Levy appears on your annual rates notice as a separate line item.

If you cannot find your annual rates notice, please call Council's Rates Team who can advise your current levy amount.

You can also calculate your current Environmental Levy by multiplying your land value by 0.010884%.

#### **Estimated Environmental Levy based on land value**

Land value	2018/19 Current	2019/20 Year 1	2020/21 Year 2	2021/22 Year 3	2022/23 Year 4	2023/24 Year 5
50,000	\$5	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$7
150,000	\$16	\$17	\$18	\$19	\$19	\$20
250,000	\$27	\$29	\$30	\$31	\$32	\$33
350,000	\$38	\$40	\$42	\$43	\$45	\$46
450,000	\$49	\$52	\$55	\$56	\$57	\$59
550,000	\$60	\$63	\$67	\$68	\$70	\$72
650,000	\$71	\$75	\$79	\$81	\$83	\$85
750,000	\$82	\$86	\$91	\$93	\$95	\$98
850,000	\$93	\$98	\$103	\$106	\$108	\$111
950,000	\$103	\$109	\$115	\$118	\$121	\$124
1,250,000	\$136	\$144	\$151	\$155	\$159	\$163
1,750,000	\$190	\$201	\$212	\$217	\$223	\$228
2,500,000	\$272	\$287	\$303	\$311	\$318	\$326
3,000,000	\$327	\$345	\$364	\$373	\$382	\$392
4,000,000	\$435	\$459	\$485	\$497	\$509	\$522

58% of ratepayers pay an Environmental Levy in this range.

# Have your say

The Environmental Levy is on public exhibition for community comment for 28 days from 20 November to 18 December 2018.

Copies of the Environmental Levy consultation material are available to view at www.yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au or at Council's Administration Centre at 30 Frances St Randwick, Margaret Martin Library Randwick, Lionel Bowen Library Maroubra or Malabar Library.



#### Survey

Randwick City ratepayers will receive a letter and survey in the mail. Complete and mail the survey back using the included reply paid envelope or follow the instruction to complete the survey using the website link provided.

You can also make submissions using the following channels. Please note if you return the survey, this is counted as a submission and you do not need to make another submission.



Visit www.yoursay.randwick.nsw.gov.au to view the consultation website where you can find out more, ask a question and lodge a submission.



#### **Email**

Submissions can be emailed to council@randwick.nsw.gov.au titled "Environmental Levy submission".



#### Writing

Submissions may be made in writing to Randwick City Council, "Environmental Levy submission", 30 Frances St Randwick NSW 2031.

If you'd like to speak with a Council officer about the Environmental Levy please call us on 1300 722 542.

#### Information sessions

Information sessions are being held to provide people with the opportunity to learn more about the Environmental Levy and discuss directly with Council officers.

#### Wednesday 28 November 2018

6.30pm-7.30pm,

Randwick Community Centre

#### Thursday 6 December 2018

6.30pm-7.30pm,

Lionel Bowen Library, Maroubra

#### Wednesday 12 December 2018

6.30pm-7.30pm,

Prince Henry Centre, Little Bay

No registration is required.

16 OCT 2018

Council resolves to seek community feedback

20 NOV -18 DEC 2018

Public exhibition and consultation

FEB 2019

Levy

Council considers community feedback and determines whether to continue Environmental 11 FEB 2019

SRV applications due to IPART **FEB-MAR 2019** 

IPART publicly exhibit applications

14 MAY 2019

determinations announced

1 JULY 2019

Environmental Levy continues or concludes











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### **Appendix B**

# **Technical** information sheet

#### Possible continuation of the Environmental Levy

This sheet is supplementary to the 'Environmental Levy - Sustaining our City since 2004 - Proposed continuation of the levy and environmental projects' booklet November 2018, distributed to ratepayers as part of the community consultation about the continuation of the Environmental Levy. This sheet has been designed as an additional tool in explanation of technical matters related to the special variation process, including the expiry of the current levy and the minor revision of Council's Integrated Reporting suite of

#### expired from the Council's rate base?

The current Environmental Levy approved by IPART in June 2014, was a temporary approval for five years commencing 1 July 2014 and ending on 30 June 2019.

At the time of approval the levy component of total rates income was \$3.8 million, then representing 6 per cent of Council's rates revenue (rate base). On 30 June 2019 at the end of its fifth and final year, the levy which now represents 5.38 per cent of the rate base, will be expired by a reduction of \$4.45 million to Council's rates base.

This expiration of the temporary five year levy is mandatory and will occur irrespective of whether the Environmental Levy is continued or not. It effectively means that Council's rates revenue is forced down before it is able to go up again (by the application of the 2019-20 approved increase of 5.52 per cent).

The table below shows the impact of the expiring levy, the existing special variation in years 1 and 2 and a continued Environmental Levy. In Year 1, the current Environmental Levy expires at 5.38 per cent, and then the existing special variation increase of 5.52 is added, resulting in a negative 1.1 per cent reduction in total rates, prior to a new Environmental Levy being applied (should the Environmental Levy be continued in 2019-20).

#### How is the current Environmental Levy

#### IMPACT OF THE EXPIRING VARIATION + EXISTING SPECIAL VARIATION+ PROPOSED CONTINUED LEVY

		BASE YEAR	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	CUMULATIVE INCREASE
Expiring current Environmental Levy	Average Residential rates under the existing SRV path of 5.52% going forward with and expired Environmental levy of 5.38% end of 2018-19		\$1,281	\$1,352	\$1,386	\$1,421	\$1,457	12.44%*
Annual increase (%)			-1.10%	5.52%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	
Expiring current Environmental Levy before replacing with a continued Environmental Levy	Average Residential rate with a 5.38% expiring Environmental levy + existing approved SRV of 5.52% (in years 1 and 2) + a continued Environment levy of 5.9% commencing in 2019-20		\$1,366	\$1,442	\$1,478	\$1,515	\$1,553	19.91%*
+ exisiting SRV	Annual increase (%)		5.52%	5.52%	2.50%	2.50%	2.50%	

#### Didn't Council just get an IPART approval to increase rates?

Yes - In May 2018 Council received IPART approval to increase rates over three years to fund the projects and services associated with the \$27 million, seven-year, Our Community Our Future Program. This program is separate to the Sustaining our City Program, which has been running for the past 15 years funded by the Environmental Levy. These two programs may sound similar but are quite different hence their separate and dedicated funding paths.

#### Our Community Our Future program - existing special variation

YEAR	APPROVED INCREASE %
2019-20	5.52%
2020-21	5.52%

The Environmental Levy has been approved and replaced on three separate occasions since 2004. Each time temporarily for a five year period, with each expiring levy reducing Council's rate base before a new levy was applied. Each special variation application process and application to IPART involved considerable community consultation and the support of the elected Council. Historically Councillors of Randwick City have taken a five year temporary approach to the levy as a means to ensure that the program is periodically evaluated in conjunction with significant community participation.

#### Does the Environmental Levy affect the Minimum rate?

No - the Environmental levy bears no relationship to the 'minimum rate'. Council's rating structure is subject to minimum rates for both residential and business properties. Rates are determined by multiplying the land value of a property by a rate-in-the-dollar amount. The minimum rate is applied when the rate-in-thedollar calculation does not reach a predetermined (or 'minimum') amount. Just over half of all residential ratepayers paid the minimum rate in 2018-19 of \$805.68.

The Environmental Levy is a special rate which must be shown as a separate line item on the Rates Notice. If the Environmental Levy is not replaced the line for the Environmental Levy will disappear from rate notices in 2019-20. Irrespective of whether the levy is continued or not minimum rates will remain unchanged, unaffected by the expiration of the existing levy or by a continuation of the levy.

Council will increase the minimum rate each year in line with the annual increase percentage. Council already

has approval to increase rates by 5.52 percent for the next two years 2019-20 and 2020-21. The table below shows minimum rate amounts for this next five years, assuming a rate-peg of 2.5 per cent in years 3 – 5.

#### **MINIMUM RATES FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS**

	INCREASE %	RESIDENTIAL	BUSINESS	PORT BOTANY
<b>Year 0</b> 2018-19		\$805.68	\$1,298.32	\$1,298.32
<b>Year 1</b> 2019-20	5.52%	\$850.15	\$1,369.99	\$1,369.99
<b>Year 2</b> 2020-21	5.52%	\$897.08	\$1,445.61	\$1,445.61
<b>Year 3</b> 2021-22	2.5%*	\$919.51	\$1,481.75	\$1,481.75
<b>Year 4</b> 2022-23	2.5%*	\$942.50	\$1,518.79	\$1,518.79
<b>Year 5</b> 2023-24	2.5%*	\$966.06	\$1,556.76	\$1,556.76

#### Why is Council exhibiting revised **Integrated Planning & Reporting** documents at the same time as the **Environmental Levy consultation?**

Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) has been updated to include a financial modelling scenario for the case of a continued Environmental Levy. There are a number of financial scenarios within the LTFP, including scenarios that model variations for a discontinued levy. In keeping with a revised LTFP the City Plan and 2018-19 Operational Plan & Delivery Program 2018-21 has also been amended to reflect the possible continuation of the Environmental Levy. As these documents are Council's significant strategic plans that sit at the core of Council's planning and service delivery, it is industry best practice to publically exhibit the revised content for

These revisions were not included in the last review of these documents adopted by the Council in February 2018, because at that time it was not appropriate for the Council to assume and model a scenario for a continuing Environmental Levy without first initiating a conversation with the community about its replacement.