

NOVEMBER 2018

Environmental Levy Sustaining our City since 2004

Proposed continuation of levy
for environmental projects

HAVE
YOUR
SAY



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.

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.



200 kilowatts
solar panels on 12 buildings



450,000,000
litres water
saved each year



6 Gross
Pollutant Traps
stopping pollutants and
rubbish entering our
beaches each year



2,000
trees, plants and shrubs



20 food gardens
in local schools

Proposed projects 2019-2024

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

Coastal \$9m

Coastal Walkway

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 \$6m

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 \$620k

Reducing waste and consumption of natural resources

Continuation of Council's Compost Revolution, Switch your thinking on Plastics and other Green events.

Energy \$2.36m

Energy efficiency program

Energy efficiency program for Council building upgrades, community renewable energy, smart monitoring and carbon offset program.

Greenhouse \$3.1m

Solar power, composting, electric vehicles and cycleways

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 \$1.12m

Green Corridor program

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 \$500k

Sustainable food

Funding support for eight community gardens and 22 school food gardens.

Education \$2.2m

Sustainability events and workshops

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 \$24.9m

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	✓
Gross pollutant traps	✓	Energy efficiency programs	✓

Environmental Levy^o
residential

\$91.49 per year	\$1.76 per week	\$0.25 per day	cost
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Cumulative overall
rate increase
(including/excluding
Environmental Levy)
over 5 years

19.91%

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	⚠	Environmental events/workshops	⚠
Water reuse projects	⚠	Additional tree plantings	⚠
Gross pollutant traps	⚠	Energy efficiency programs	⚠

\$91.49 per year	\$1.76 per week	\$0.25 per day	savings
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12.44%

Overall cumulative increase including:
 • IPART approved rate increase years 1 & 2
 • 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
% 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	X	X	X	X	X
Total rates and Environmental Levy	\$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
% 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	X	X	X	X	X
Total rates and Environmental Levy	\$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

^o 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

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.

How much Environmental Levy am I currently paying?

The screenshot shows a 'Rate Notice' from Randwick City Council. It includes a table titled 'Particulars of Rates and Charges' with columns for 'Particulars of Rates and Charges', 'Cents in \$', 'Rateable Value', and 'Amount'. The 'Environmental Levy' is listed with a value of \$1,760.00. A red box highlights this section.

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%.

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.



Online

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	20 NOV – 18 DEC 2018	FEB 2019	11 FEB 2019	FEB-MAR 2019	14 MAY 2019	1 JULY 2019
Council resolves to seek community feedback	Public exhibition and consultation	Council considers community feedback and determines whether to continue Environmental Levy	SRV applications due to IPART	IPART publicly exhibit applications	IPART determinations announced	Environmental Levy continues or concludes



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