



RANDWICK CITY

Environment Strategy



Randwick City Council
a sense of community

APRIL 2022



Introduction

The environment is at the centre of Council’s commitment to achieving a sense of community. Caring for our environment requires all of us to do the little things that make a difference.

The accumulation of these individual actions will create the critical mass we need to meet the challenges of Climate Change and a depleting resource base.

For many years now, Randwick Council and its community have taken action on a range of initiatives aimed at protecting, restoring and regenerating our natural environment. We’ve supported and facilitated hundreds of new solar installations on Randwick homes, schools and Council’s own buildings. We’ve led the installation of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure and constructed stormwater and alternative water harvesting systems for irrigation purposes saving millions of litres of potable water each year. Along our coast we’ve treaded lightly, protecting our natural coastline and preserving the spectacle that is our cliffs, views and vistas.

Each year, thousands of residents, students and visitors participate in learning and engagement courses, workshops, activities and events building their confidence, skills and knowledge to take on sustainability and resilience in their own homes, schools, gardens and workplaces. We now have a dedicated sustainability education ‘hub’ for these programs and our volunteers at our Randwick Community Centre with features that include a purpose-built sustainability classroom, permaculture garden and orchard, apiary, wildfood and habitat trails, water-saving, renewable wind and solar and reedbed irrigation public amenities.

The ‘hub’ is adjacent to our 13-hectare Randwick Environment Park, a sanctuary for threatened species and an ephemeral wetland. Our smaller sustainability demonstration project at Barrett House provides additional learning examples for residents to see practical sustainability solutions in situ for application in their own homes or units.

Waste solutions are on hand with extensive drop-off waste recovery facilities at our Perry Street Recycling Centre and advanced kerbside collection services now including food waste and organic collection across the City. Biodiversity conservation and habitat protection remains a high priority across our urban environment with commitments to expand our urban canopy coverage and tree planting programs to provide shade, habitat and heat reduction benefits.

Importantly our Environment Strategy commits Council to work with and embed the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals across our operations and ensure circular economy principles and Climate emergency considerations are incorporated across corporate policies, strategies and purchasing.

Strategic approaches and overarching objectives adopted in Randwick’s Environment Strategy will be reviewed and updated in each of Council’s annual operational plans and results and implementation progress will be reported in Council’s Annual and State of the Environment Reports.



Environment Strategy Principles

Sustainable

Improve the natural and urban environment by ensuring new developments and economic and social initiatives enhance the local ecology and aim to reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Partner

Work collaboratively with the community and other organisations, especially our Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities.

Equitable

Our natural environment is maintained, protected and nurtured to best meet the needs of the present and future generations.

Conserve

Improve and protect Randwick City's biodiversity, native habitat and natural assets.

Inform

A community and Council that is informed and aware of the value of the natural environment and the impact of everyday activities.

Environment Strategy At a glance

OUTCOME 1 Biodiversity Conservation

Restore and protect the diversity of ecosystems.

Objective 1

- ⚙ Increase by at least 60%, the number of native and indigenous plantings across Randwick City by 2030 from a 2018 baseline.

OUTCOME 2 Climate Change

A community more knowledgeable, proactive and responsive to Climate Change impacts.

Objective 2

- ⚙ Achieve a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂ 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.

OUTCOME 3 Conserve Resources

Our limited natural resources are protected and conserved.

Objective 3

- ⚙ Increase residential recycling to 70% across Randwick City and divert 75% waste from landfill by 2025.

Objective 4

- ⚙ Reduce the consumption of energy and water across Randwick City per capita by 30% by 2030.

OUTCOME 4 Coastal Protection

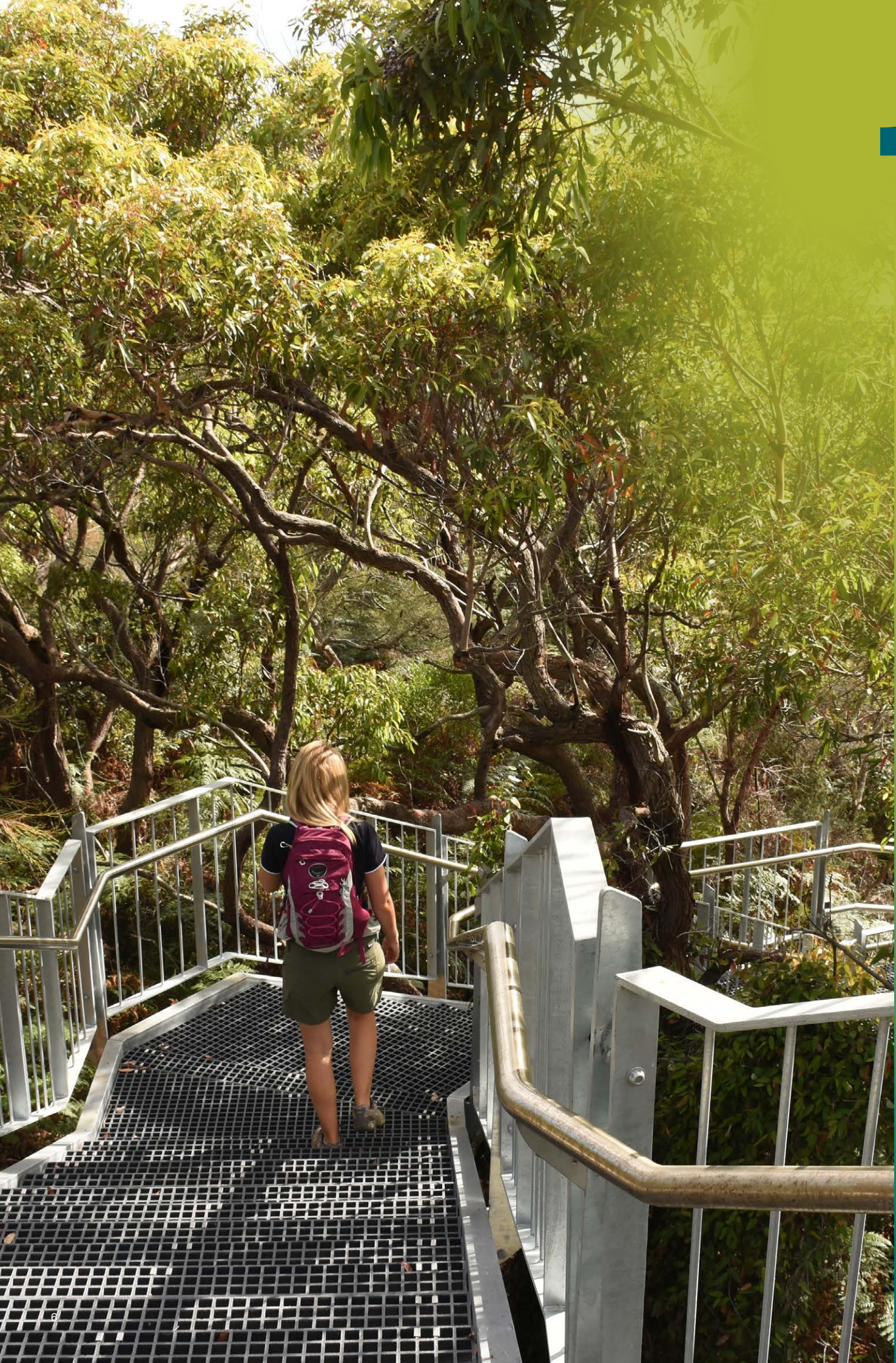
Coastal and marine environments are protected and conserved.

Objective 5

- ⚙ 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.

Objective 6

- ⚙ Ensure community satisfaction of the coastal experience is retained above 80% in surveys conducted from 2020 onwards.



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OUTCOME 1 Biodiversity Conservation

Restore and
protect the diversity
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Objective 1

⚙️ Increase by at least
60%, the number of
native and indigenous
plantings across
Randwick City by 2030
from a 2018 baseline.



STRATEGIC APPROACH

- 1.1 Improve the connectivity of key bushland areas by planting and maintaining 14,000m² of native and indigenous ground covers, shrubs and trees starting in areas between Kamay National Park, Bunnerong Road Chifley Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, Yarra Bay bushland areas and Malabar Headland National Park by 2026 and extending into additional areas of the City.
- 1.2 Review our partnership with NSW Department of Lands to identify unmanaged parcels of Crown Lands with high biodiversity potential and seek divestment of these lands to Council for inclusion with our bush regeneration program and coastal management by 2021.
- 1.3 Review management and revegetation restoration strategies across coastal and terrestrial areas on a 3-yearly cycle.
- 1.4 Improve preservation of native habitat through the mapping and conducting of various flora or fauna surveys of 10% of Council's managed bushland each year, particularly measuring the density and extent of threatened native flora and fauna species against that of introduced or competing pest plant or animal species (e.g. foxes).
- 1.5 Review Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) by 2021, strengthening the requirements for new and replacement planting of native and indigenous species for new developments, and also for existing developments where tree and / or native vegetation removal is approved or permissible.
- 1.6 Review the feasibility of and complete the upgrade of the glasshouse facility of Council's Community Nursery by 2021 for the purposes of expanding the propagation of native and indigenous plants.
- 1.7 Manage visitor access to Randwick Environment Park by constructing an augmenting walkway and associated facilities by 2025.
- 1.8 Reduce the weed density by 25% in areas of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub under the control of Council by 2025.



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OUTCOME 2 Climate Change

A community more knowledgeable, proactive and responsive to Climate Change impacts.

Objective 2

✦ Achieve a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂ 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.



STRATEGIC APPROACH

- 2.1 Monitor and increase the number of trees planted, retained and maintained to provide shade, habitat and heat reduction benefits and increase plantings by 100% in 2021 (by approximately an additional 180 trees) and annually increase after that to achieve the Greater Sydney Commission target of 40% tree canopy cover across Council managed land by 2040.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Mandate that all future plans of Council (next 10 years) will detail the impacts that the plan will have on Climate Change using a consistent methodology for measuring this impact.
- 2.4 Implement an accelerated street lighting replacement program by replacing existing legacy streetlights with 4,000 energy efficient LED lights by 2022 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use across streetlights by 30% per annum.
- 2.5 Continue implementation of the information and delivery programs by Australian Energy Foundation (or similar programs such as Solar My Apartment) to increase rooftop solar installations by 20% by 2022, from a 2018 baseline, for Randwick householders and businesses including those living in single and multi-unit dwellings.
- 2.6 Implement by 2021 residential and business participation in energy saving or similar programs (e.g. Australian Energy Foundation, Council rebates or GreenPower) to achieve direct and indirect greenhouse emission reductions across those participating by 20% by 2025.
- 2.7 Facilitate solar installations of energy saving measures across clubs (e.g. RSLs) and remaining schools across Randwick City via the Solar my Schools initiative and its extension, Solar my Club, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at these locations by 30% by 2025.
- 2.8 Partner with 10% of small businesses across Randwick City and engage on energy saving programs such as Solar for Tenants and / or similar programs to achieve a 20% reduction in their greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.
- 2.9 Procure 100% of Council’s electricity through power purchase agreements (PPA) and increase rooftop solar and batteries by 20% (from 2020 levels) on new and existing council infrastructure by 2025.



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OUTCOME 3

Conserve Resources

Our limited natural resources are protected and conserved.

Objective 3

✦ Increase residential recycling to 70% across Randwick City and divert 75% of waste from landfill by 2025, from a 2017 baseline.

Objective 4

✦ Reduce the consumption of energy and water across Randwick City per capita by 30% by 2030, from a 2017 baseline.



STRATEGIC APPROACH

- 3.1** Research the use of asphalt products containing recycled materials i.e. glass, by undertaking trials on high, medium and low traffic pavements in Randwick and Maroubra.
- 3.2** Reduce waste generation per capita across the LGA by 10% by 2030 from a 2017 baseline, through tailored education campaigns including but not limited to tours of our Randwick Recycling Centre, partnerships with other organisations e.g. Compost Revolution, the Bower, Recycle SMART, and new programs targeting specific waste streams e.g. single-use plastics.
- 3.3** Strengthen by 2022 our partnership with UNSW to participate in education programs such as Orientation Week and Green events organised by the University, raising student awareness about the appropriate disposal of unwanted goods and increase the re-use and recycling of goods in and around student accommodation adjacent to the University.
- 3.4** Divert from landfill, 60% of food waste generated by residents through the implementation of domestic food waste collection services by 2025.
- 3.5** Explore initiatives to facilitate food waste recovery from Randwick cafes and restaurants across the LGA by 2024.
- 3.6** Review our education and incentive programs and engage with 20% of small businesses in Randwick about replacing single-use waste items (e.g. plastic bags, straws, cutlery, coffee cups) with sustainable alternative products by 2022.
- 3.7** Increase the information provided in all development categories on sustainable design provisions and design excellence opportunities and potential savings in terms of achieving 50% of energy and water savings beyond BASIX requirements by 2022.
- 3.8** Research the application of sustainable design provisions in all development categories, addressing water and energy consumption over BASIX requirements in the LGA by 2021.
- 3.9** Reduce the Council's reliance on potable water by constructing a 2-million litre stormwater harvesting system at Maroubra beach by 2022.
- 3.10** Explore partnering with Sydney Water on initiatives and campaigns to reduce by 20% potable water consumption by residents, businesses and schools by 2025.
- 3.11** Implement the principles of a circular economy and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into Council strategies and operational plans by 2025.



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OUTCOME 4 Coastal Protection

Coastal and marine environments are protected and conserved.

Objective 5

🎯 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.

Objective 6

🎯 Ensure community satisfaction of the coastal experience is retained above 80% in surveys conducted from 2020 onwards.



STRATEGIC APPROACH

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Improve water quality results at Coogee by partnering with Sydney Water to divert run-off from 1-month storm events into their infrastructure and away from Coogee beach by 2022, to contribute toward a "Good" or better water quality rating as per the NSW Beachwatch water quality program.
- 4.3 Strengthen the LEP by 2021 to include new coastal planning provisions to ensure all new development complies with the community's desired future character principles of the coastal zone.
- 4.4 Manage visitor access to our coastline by constructing a coastal walkway and associated facilities along the southern golf courses and Lurline Bay by 2030.
- 4.5 Introduce monitoring and management programs to reduce microplastic pollution in our coastal waterways by 2025.







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Stay in touch

