

ATTACHMENT 1:

RANDWICK CITY

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2006-07

NOTE: THIS IS THE NON-GRAPHICALLY DESIGNED VERSION

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1 Introduction

This report has been produced in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Amendment (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Act 1997*, which requires Councils to annually prepare a State of the Environment Report (SoER). A comprehensive SoER must be produced once every four years, whilst every other year Council compiles a supplementary SoER. This SoER is a supplementary report and covers the reporting period from 1 July 2006 to 30th June 2007.

This SoER is an attachment to Randwick Council's broader Annual Report, as part of a move towards more integrated and holistic sustainability reporting.

Over the course of the 2006-07 year Randwick Council continued to demonstrate a strong commitment towards sustainability, particularly through the implementation of the 20 year Randwick City Plan, and the ongoing 'Sustaining Our City' Environmental Levy program.

Council received a number of awards recognising sustainability achievements during the reporting period. Of particular note were the following awards:

- Winner of the 2006 International Livable Communities Gold Award in the Environmentally Sensitive Project division;
- The Resource Recycling, Re-use and Recovery Award category for Council's Recycling Centre in the annual IPWEA Awards;
- Highly Commended in the 2007 United Nations Association of Australia's World Environment Day Award;
- The 2006 NSW Green Globes Award for Energy and Water Research, Education and Awareness (against private and public organisations); and
- The 2007 Banksia Environmental Award for Local Government.

Community Environmental Consultation

During 2006-07 Randwick Council undertook a range of consultations with the community to gain a better understanding of environmental issues from the community's perspective, as well as to gather community information on, and responses to, specific projects.

Some examples of the environmental consultation undertaken include:

- Land remediation project at Pioneers Park and Bicentennial Park at Yarra Bay where consultation involved discussing the concept plans with the community, on-site information meetings, surveys, meetings with Precinct Committees, web information, letter box drops, and feedback to stakeholder representatives on responses to community submissions.
- Development of Council's significant tree register, with extensive community consultation and input.
- Consultation regarding park upgrades for Council open space and recreation areas.
- Extensions and upgrades of the Coastal Walkway included on-site meetings with residents to discuss environmental and public risk issues.
- The Bundock Street Community Reference Group consisting of community, Council, and Department of Defence representatives continued to meet quarterly and there were ongoing consultations on the developing Randwick Environmental Park.
- Best Green Innovations (Best GRIN): Randwick Council continued a Best Green Innovation environmental suggestion box, encouraging residents to submit their ideas on how we can protect and improve our environment. A number of suggestions received are being followed up by Council's 'Sustaining Our City' team including the Randwick development of a Local Government Emissions Trading Scheme.
- A special briefing convened by the Mayor to provide Principals, Deputies, Head Teachers and others at Randwick's secondary and primary schools on the range of sustainability and community education support available from the different areas of Council.
- Workshops with residents in developing Council's Sustainability Indicators. This was widely advertised in the local press and invitations were sent to precinct committees and chambers of commerce.
- Ongoing consultations using strategies including Randwick City's twelve Precinct Committees, Combined Chambers of Commerce meetings, resident workshops, meetings, surveys and Council's website www.randwick.nsw.gov.au

Ecological Footprint

In 2005, the University of Sydney Integrated Sustainability Analysis unit undertook an Ecological Footprint calculation to assist Randwick City Council establish baseline information for the preparation of its strategic 20-year City Plan, a key element of which acknowledged the importance of understanding and minimising the Randwick community's ecological footprint. The analysis included not only the population of the Randwick Local Government Area (LGA) but a number of other Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) within the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney.

As an extension to the Ecological Footprint calculation and analysis carried out for Randwick Council and to assist in the potential implementation of policy responses to these results, Randwick Council successfully sought funding on behalf of 2 of its neighbouring Councils to undertake a longer term approach to reducing and measuring the Ecological Footprint of the three relevant local government areas. Early in 2007, a grant for \$1.88 million was awarded for a three year project across the three Council areas, Randwick, Woollahra and Waverley, under the Urban Sustainability Program of the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

From major energy and water saving measures, comprehensive waste and recycling initiatives, innovative community education and communications, the strategic alliance of these three Councils working with a number of partnering organisations are involved in quantifying responses aimed at reducing the Ecological Footprint of the Eastern Suburbs, creatively and practically.

2 Atmosphere

Since the atmospheric systems that affect Randwick City are on a much greater scale than the Council area the environmental issues that arise, such as air pollution, are created in a much larger context (perhaps the whole metropolitan area and beyond). Given Council's inability to have a major influence on atmospheric systems, it is not a key focus of our operations and planning. However within a more limited sphere of influence, a number of initiatives are implemented.

Management Objectives

- Reduce air pollution from local sources.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Areas of Council Action

- Focus on mixed use town centres and facilities to reduce reliance on private vehicles.
- Promote alternative energy sources and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources.
- Encourage and participate in retrofitting of older buildings.
- Coordinate Council and community actions through the Cities for Climate Protection Program.
- Investigate and undertake regulatory control of odours and emissions.
- Assess new development.
- Run targeted education programs dealing with topics such as asbestos and solid fuel heaters.

Indicators and Responses

- In 2005, Council adopted a 20% energy reduction target for energy consumed at Council sites and buildings. This created an ongoing focus for energy saving initiatives across the local government area.
- Council is continuing its participation in the detailed monitoring and reporting provided by PlanetFootprint enabling Council to better understand higher consumption patterns in Council buildings and to plan and implement measures to reduce energy conservation and emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Randwick's draft Bicycle Plan Update has been prepared identifying priorities for expanding the cycling network across the City and linking it into priority cycling paths in our adjacent council areas.
- Installation of solar blankets and heating at Council's Des Renford Aquatic Centre were completed following the first half of work undertaken in the previous financial year.
- The two kilowatt demonstration solar panel project constructed previously at Council's Depot has led to an additional 10 kilowatts of photovoltaic solar panels installed in 2006-07 with plans now underway to install an equivalent amount for each of the remaining years of the environmental levy.

- One of the largest residential energy conservation programs for Local Government commenced in September 2006 following a successful funding application to the Department of Planning's Demand Management Planning Project (DMPP). Randwick's Home Energy Makeover was launched at Royal Randwick Shopping Centre by sporting celebrity and local resident, Brad Fittler, Randwick's Home Energy Ambassador, and sustainability champion, Jon Dee, from Planet Ark. The Home Energy Makeover provides residents with a free Home Energy Audit following their take-up of the residential Home Energy Pledge. Once the audits are completed residents become eligible for Home Energy Rebates of up to 40 percent for such measures as the installation of a solar hot water service, thermal insulation, upgrading to energy efficient appliances or changing over halogen lighting systems. By June 30, approximately 600 residents had taken the pledge and 320 home energy audits had been completed. The rebates have recently commenced for residents.
- Transport planning initiatives – Council has supported a commercial arrangement with GoGet car share to provide five community car share vehicles at strategic locations around the city. This has enabled some residents to avoid operating a second car or in several cases any car at all. The car share vehicles are also available for staff use to minimise additional fleet vehicles. Council has gone further by providing designated parking spaces for car share and hybrid vehicles at four Council-run car parks.
- Following a suggestion submitted by a local resident, Council has undertaken the development of a Local Government Emissions Trading Scheme for NSW Councils. The proposal has been supported by environmental specialists and experts from the UNSW and involved a number of workshops attended at various times by 40 Council staff from 24 Councils around NSW.
- Installation of solar hot water systems at Council's high use sites including the Works Depot, Maroubra Beach amenities and Des Renford Aquatic Centre. Savings are equivalent to approximately 200 showers a day in the summer peak.
- The number of development applications assessed with regards to odour and air pollution during the period 2006-07 was 46% of all development applications submitted to Council. These applications were referred to the Councils Health Building and Regulatory Services of which, 61% of the referrals were provided with relevant conditions to be included on the determination of the development application, addressing environmental performance, emissions and discharges.
- For the year 2006-07 46 air pollution investigations were undertaken by Councils Environmental Health Officers, following requests from the community.

3 Biodiversity

Biological diversity (or biodiversity) has been defined as: “The variety of all life forms – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form part,” (National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia’s Biological Diversity, 1996).

Biodiversity supports the critical ecosystem processes that make life possible: the quality of the atmosphere, fresh water, soil formation, cycling of nutrients and disposal of wastes. We rely on elements of biodiversity for food, clothing and other raw materials, controlling pests and curing diseases. There are also aesthetic and other cultural reasons why biodiversity is important (Environment Australia, 1998).

Management Objectives

- Maintain, protect and enhance local terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.
- Value our natural heritage.

Areas of Council Action

- Conserve and promote our local species and habitats.
- Revegetate the City by recreating green corridors linking open space areas and key habitats.
- Preserve and rehabilitate threatened species and habitats.
- Promote and give value to our natural heritage, including threatened species and remnant bushland.
- Operate the Randwick Community Nursery to provide a range of local native plants for revegetation activities and Australian native plants for Open Space areas.

Key Performance Indicators

Bushcare program

The hours in the following table includes bush regeneration in remnant vegetation, targeted weed control adjacent to bushland and in larger native revegetation sites where plants grown from locally collected seed have been planted. The work was performed by Council bushland staff, bush regeneration contractors and Council-supervised, Bushcare volunteers.

The amount of work on council land, 15,190 hours, has increased slightly from the previous year and exceeds the approximate number of person hours expected to be worked each year in bushland reserves (13,700 across 19 bushland reserves).

The following table indicates that the hours of work on non-Council land has decreased. This may not actually be the case and is due to the difficulty in obtaining accurate information from other landholders about their conservation activities. These landholders include National Parks and Wildlife in Botany Bay National Park, Centennial Parklands, The Coast, NSW and St Michaels Golf Courses, Landcom (Prince Henry Hosp. site) and the Defence Department (Randwick Environmental Park, Randwick).

Table 1: Hours of Bush Regeneration and Indigenous Revegetation Work

	2002 / 2003	2003 / 2004	2004 / 2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
Council land	7,698	11,733	7,820	14,732	15,190
Non-Council land	2,435	4,785	c.6,400	4,824	c.1,333
TOTAL	10,133	16,518	c.14,220	19,556	16,523

c. = approximate

Flora and Fauna Recording

Council identifies and records ten different life-forms; birds, terrestrial mammals, frogs, reptiles, vascular plants, non-vascular plants, algae and fungi, marine flora, marine fauna and fresh-water fishes.

New records of terrestrial fauna species included two mammals, the Little Forest Bat and the Lesser Long-eared Bat and one bird, the Double-barred Finch. One new marine species, a fish or Flutemouth sp. was recorded in the Ladies Pool at Coogee. No new species of plants were recorded.

Nursery

The Council Nursery continued to expand its sales to the community and increase its range of Australian native plants. A special 'Sticky Beak Open Day' was held for the community to view the nursery's behind-the-scene activities and gain advice on gardening with native plant species.

The nursery irrigation system was converted from the town supply to a recycled water system that not only reduced dependency on the water supply, but also filters any of the water run-off from the nursery which enters the stormwater system during peak flow events.

Threatening Processes

Clearing of vegetation

No remnant plant communities have been removed. However the unauthorised removal or poisoning of a number of native trees and shrubs in coastal reserves has occurred in Gordons Bay Reserve, Dunningham Reserve, Trenerry Reserve, Lurline Bay, Long Bay and Frenchmans Beach dunes. These events are increasing in frequency and are occurring across a wider range of locations. Council is addressing this issue in a number of ways including investigations, a signage program and a tree replacement program.

Impacts of stray and feral animals

The effects of feral and stray animals, cats, dogs and foxes, continue to have a negative impact on local native wildlife, particularly bird, lizard and frog species. Rabbits continue to damage native vegetation in Burrows Park, Clovelly and Malabar Headland. Investigations into the control of feral and stray animals were undertaken and long term plans for their control commenced.

Weed invasion

Actions taken to minimise the impact or reverse the spread of declared noxious weeds include:

- Roadside weed control treatments undertaken throughout the whole of the City, four times in the year;
- Implementation of a Bitou bush control plan;
- Treatment of Ludwigia and Alligator Weed in local water courses; and
- Inspections of private properties.

Council hosted a Weeds Education Project Officer for the Central Sydney and Sydney North Regional Weeds Committees. This officer designed material and held workshops for culturally and linguistically diverse members of the community on the impacts of weeds in the Australian environment.

Council played an active role as treasurer for the Central Sydney Regional Weeds Committee. A number of initiatives were undertaken by the committee following the revision of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 including the preparation of weed control plans for the major weed species affecting the region.

Other Significant Responses

- Council held a Wildflower Walk in spring for the community at Botany Bay National Park;
- Council sponsored and provided hundreds of native plants for National Tree Day, including to three Primary schools and for Broadarrow Reserve, Maroubra;
- Council provided and hosted numerous talks on bushland and biodiversity, including four Creating your Native Havens workshops for residents who wish to create habitat in their gardens;
- The newly established Native Havens Program assisted seven schools in developing fauna habitat on their land;
- Conservation Volunteers Australia assisted a number of corporate volunteers in bush regeneration work on council land; and
- Participation in the Feral Animal Group for the regional control of pest animal species.

4 Heritage (Aboriginal and European)

Management Objective

- Heritage that is protected and celebrated

Areas of Council Action

- Employment of a Heritage Officer to provide free advice regarding built heritage and provide specialist development assessment advice.
- Employment of an Aboriginal Liaison Officer to assist in identifying, implementing and maintaining ATSI related services and supporting the operation of the *ATSI Advisory Committee*.
- Natural heritage – see Biodiversity.
- Promotion and encouragement of the preparation of an oral history record of our Indigenous community within Randwick City.
- Heritage promotion, in conjunction with Library, Communications and Events, through community events including the National Trust Heritage Festival.
- Carrying out conservation works to Council owned heritage assets as funding becomes available.
- Ensuring LEP heritage provisions and the LEP heritage schedule are updated through the Administrative review of the LEP.

Indicators and Responses

- Council successfully reinstated the La Perouse Bush Tucker trail at Yarra Bay with support from the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council and as part of the opening of the trail, supported the engagement of local community members as guides for the trail during the annual Summer Activities Program and Earth Day Community Bike Ride to Bicentennial Park at Yarra Bay.
- The 2007 Heritage Festival was celebrated with a number of events including the Coogee Ocean Pools walk, and installation of several heritage plaques.
- In 2007, conservation works including reinstatement of the bronze face and pointer, were carried out to the Sam Memorial sundial on Dolphins Point.
- There are 566 gazetted Heritage Items within Randwick City, 24 of which are on the State Heritage Register. Randwick City Council has 72 sites listed on the Australian Heritage Database including items listed on the Commonwealth Heritage list and the Register of the National Estate. 155 items within Randwick City are listed on the National Trust (NSW) Register.

See: www.deh.gov.au/heritage and www.heritage.nsw.gov.au for more information on these registers

Table 2: Number and type of Aboriginal sites recorded AHIMS Register

Site Element	2006
Rock Engraving	15
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	2
Scarred Tree	2
Open Midden	14
Shelter with Midden	8
Open campsite	6
Axe Grinding Grooves	3
Burial/s	3
Shelter with Art	0
Historic Place	1
Contact, Mission	1
Total	65

Table 3: Number of Development Applications relating to heritage items

Applications Lodged	2006-07
Development Applications and s.96 modifications relating to heritage items	54
Development Applications and s.96 modifications relating to heritage conservation areas	104

5 Land

Management Objectives

- Sustainable land management
- Manage the challenges of development to retain amenity
- Encourage high quality urban design

Areas of Council Action

- Development of land use policy and guidelines, with an emphasis on sustainable development, design excellence and customer satisfaction.
- Assessment of new development proposals.
- Community consultation and mediation.
- Targeted education programs dealing with topics such as sustainable living.
- Design review panel expert assessment for major development .

Indicators and Responses

New planning instruments, policies and guidelines

- Two Development Control Plans were adopted:
 - University of New South Wales- Kensington Campus
 - Royal Randwick Racecourse
- Heffron Park Landscape Concept Plan was adopted by Council
- S94 Development Contributions Plan
- Affordable Housing Policy Program and Procedures

Development

Table 4: Number of Applications

Applications determined	2006-07
Development Applications	975
Section 96 modification of consent applications	349
Section 82A review applications	8
Construction Certificates (Council 355)	878
Staged DAs	2
Subdivision Certificates (Council 41)	51
Complying Development Certificates (Council 121)	186
Prelodgment Applications	52
Median DA assessment time	
33.09 days	

- 36 development proposals were referred to the Design Review Panel for comment per SEPP 65 *Design Quality of Residential Flat Development*. Including scheme revisits, the Panel had a total of 63 referrals.
- A total of 19 development applications were referred for mediation between affected parties to achieve a planning outcome.
- Council continued its review of town centres, with the commencement of an urban design study for Maroubra Beach.
- Typically the trend for development within Randwick City Council was for alterations and additions to dwelling houses.

Events

A number of events were held in this period as part of developing greater community awareness on sustainability issues, such as:

- Sticky Beak open day events at the Depot, Nursery and Town Hall
- A public seminar at UNSW to promote Randwick's Ecological Footprint results for the Eastern Suburbs
- The only public Earth Hour presentation for Sydney, bringing together the Earth Hour Ambassador, Sara Bishop, Federal member for Kingsford Smith, Peter Garrett and Planet Ark Founder, Jon Dee
- Earth Day Community Bike Ride between Centennial and Bicentennial Parks in Randwick
- Sustainable Urban Living Workshops through the Eastern Suburbs Evening College
- Annual two week Summer Activities program across Randwick's popular swimming beaches and coastal reserves to increase community understanding and appreciation of marine and coastal issues occurring along Randwick's 29 kilometres of coastline
- Council undertook extensive community consultations in key locations throughout our City associated with the exhibition of the Section 94 Development Contributions Plan, preparation of 'A safer Randwick City' Council's crime prevention and community safety plan and exhibition of the University and Racecourse DCPs.

Regional Issues

Council undertook extensive submissions involving its interests in regional issues, including:

- Botany Expansion – Draft Penrhyne Estuary Habitat Enhancement Plan
- Kurnell Desalination Project – Proposed Desalinated Water Distribution System
- Orica's proposed remediation of the Car Park Waste Encapsulation
- Draft amendment to SEPP No. 64 – Advertising and Signage
- Dolina site, Link/Epsom Road, Rosebery DA City of Sydney
- Proposed works to Bunnerong Substation at 6-8 Military Rd Matraville
- Submission on Part 3A development of the Amcor site
- Submission on development of Westfield Eastgardens (Botany Council)

Randwick also commenced a three year project with neighbouring Councils, Waverley and Woollahra aimed at achieving a measurable reduction in the ecological footprint of the eastern suburbs. The Ecological Footprint analysis undertaken by experts from the University of Sydney measures the amount of land and resources consumed to meet the needs of our residents.

6 Noise

Noise pollution can be defined as unwanted offensive noise that unreasonably intrudes on daily activities. In urban areas, noise pollution has many sources which are mostly associated with urban development, road, air transport, industrial noise, and neighbourhood and recreational activities. A number of factors contribute to the problem of increasing noise levels including:

- increasing population, particularly where it involves greater urbanisation and urban consolidation.
- increasing volumes of road, rail and air traffic.
- increasing development in the area incorporating the use and operation of associated plant and equipment.

People may be affected by the annoyance caused by noise. The level of annoyance or discomfort depends on a number of factors, including the type, timing, duration and frequency of noise or if the disturbance is out of the ordinary, that is, differs from the 'background' noise.

Management Objective

- Manage noise pollution.

Areas of Council Action

- Use of complaints system to track type and location of noise sources, and provide customer service regarding action requests.
- Regulatory control of noise pollution.
- Assessment of new development construction noise.
- Assessment of new developments, considering the potential for noise from the development to effect existing environments as well as the potential for noise to impact on the proposed development .

Indicators and Responses

- For the year 2006-07, 204 noise investigations were undertaken by Councils Environmental Health Officers, following requests from the community. This is an increase on the previous year's figure by 45 investigations.
- The number of Development Applications assessed with regards to noise impacts in the period 2006-07 was 46% of all development applications received by Council. These were referred to the Councils Health Building and Regulatory Services of which, 61% of the referrals were provided with relevant noise conditions to be included on the determination of the development application, addressing noise and acoustic issues.

7 Social Health

Council provided a range of diverse programs and services for community groups throughout the year. These groups include youth, women, people with disabilities, people of non-English speaking background, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the elderly.

Management Objectives

- Cultural engagement and enhancement
- Service delivery to identified Target Groups

Areas of Council Action

- Community services and facilities throughout our Council
- Supporting community organisations and programs through the small grants program
- Library services and events and activities organised to support our community
- Provision of information to the community from other community service providers
- Undertake community consultation to ensure Council's activities reflect the needs of our community

Indicators and Responses

- Council endorsed the exhibition of 'A safer Randwick City' Council's Crime Prevention/Community Safety Plan
- Quarterly meetings of Randwick City's Community Safety Committee
- In addition to a range of community cultural events undertaken, Council continued the preparation of a Cultural Plan to respond to the needs of our community both in terms of cultural celebration and support of our City's cultural diversity.
- An Affordable Rental Housing Program for eligible low to middle income families was developed and implemented.
- A planning day with local service providers was held to identify emerging and/or priority issues affecting target groups. The information will be used to inform future actions.
- An improved administration and funding framework for a vacation program in Matraville was implemented in partnership with two local service agencies. The new framework enabled the program to access Commonwealth subsidies for approved vacation care programs, and this arrangement will help to ensure affordable and quality care.
- Council provided a range of grants, donations and subsidies to community groups, non-profit organisations and individuals to provide services that support and assist disadvantaged groups within our community. A total of \$140,102 was provided to our community, as summarised in the following table:

Table 5: Grants Provided by Council

Grant Funding	Dollar Amount
Small grants	\$29,132
Community Development grants	\$110,970
Total	\$140,102

- **Sustainability resources and publications**

The library's collection of community sustainability resources was further added to during this period with additional resources provided for pre-school and early childhood educators.

8 Waste

Management Objective

- Manage and Reduce Waste.

Areas of Council Action

- Increase recycling and reuse opportunities within Randwick City.
- Investigate new alternative waste technologies.

Indicators and Responses

- Total Waste Collected - The total waste collected in Randwick City in 2006-07 was 48,227.13 tonnes, a minor increase (0.11%) on the previous 12 months. This can be attributed to an increase in green waste collected and increased economic activity.
- Total Waste to Landfill - Randwick City disposed of 29,451.23 tonnes of material to landfill over the 2006-07 financial year. This figure is slightly less (0.03%) than the figure for 2005-06 of 30,376.28 tonnes due to a reduction in household garbage and an increase in household recyclables collected.
- Total Domestic Recycling - The total tonnage of recycling collected was 18,775.90 tonnes, an increase of 978 tonnes from the previous 12 months. This is a result of increases in recycling tonnages of green waste (2.82%) and dry recyclables (6.52%). The increase in green waste tonnages could be attributed to higher rainfall during this period.
- Status of Former Landfills - The remediation of Yarra Bay was completed in January 2007. The remediation of Pioneers Park and Frenchman's Bay is currently in the planning stage.
- A new dry waste tender for the processing, recovery and disposal of bulky waste (including on-call, scheduled clean up and illegally dumped waste) commenced in 2006 further increasing resource recovery rates of metal.
- Public recycling facilities trialed at the popular Coogee beach were expanded to both Maroubra and Clovelly beaches to encourage the recycling of the full range of drink containers consumed by residents and visitors to these locations. An interim assessment indicates a reversal of previous contamination rates showing a low rate of 30 percent and approximately 70 percent of suitable recycled containers.

9 Water

Management Objectives

- Protect and enhance the quality of our waterways
- Sustainably manage water resources

Areas of Council Action

- Promote the reduction of water use
- Promote the reuse of water
- Reduce stormwater and run-off
- Investigate and manage flooding and groundwater issues
- Encourage and participate in retrofitting of older buildings
- Coordinate Council and community actions through the Every Drop Counts Program
- Regulatory control of water pollution
- Assessment of new development
- Targeted education programs

Indicators and Responses

- The number of Development Applications assessed with regards to environmental pollution including water pollution in the period 2006-07 was 46% of all development applications received by Council. These were referred to the Councils Health Building and Regulatory Services of which, 61% of the referrals were provided with relevant conditions relating to environmental performance to be included in the determination.
- For the year 2006-07, 149 water related investigations were undertaken by Councils Health Building and Regulatory Officers, following requests from the community.
- Water samples and testing was undertaken at all of the public swimming beaches by Beachwatch and Harbourwatch on a daily basis by the NSW Department of Environment Conservation and Climate Change. For the latest results, please refer to www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beach.
- A Groundwater Extraction Exclusion Area has been in place in part of our Local Government Area since August 2003. In late August 2006 the State Government extended restrictions on the domestic use of groundwater (borewater) from the certain areas of the Botany Sands Aquifer. For more detailed information on contaminated groundwater in the Botany area, please contact the NSW Government Botany Groundwater Hotline 1800 237 012 or visit www.dnr.nsw.gov.au/water/botany_bay.shtml.
- Council continues to work with the community, relevant State Government Departments and other key stakeholders to encourage the reuse of greywater particularly with regard to the approval and installation of greywater diversion and greywater treatment devices. In the year 2006-07 Council approved a number of Local Approval Applications for the installation of greywater treatment systems.

- Council continues to implement its Rainwater Tank Policy and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) requirements in its Development Control Plans (DCP). The rainwater tank policy is gradually being phased out by the introduction of BASIX. Council also encourages rainwater tank use through its exempt and complying DCP.
- There are a total of 19 Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) strategically located along the Randwick City coastline to prevent street litter from washing down our drains and affecting the water quality at our beaches. The GPTs are emptied and maintained on a regular basis, especially after storm events.
- Council's Sustaining our City (Environmental Levy) initiative has produced substantial results in reducing water consumption across the City. These include:
 - Completion of the 140,000 litre underground stormwater re-use and recycling system at Council's Community Nursery. The recycled water will not only prevent polluted run-off from entering the drainage system but will provide more than 60 per cent of water requirements for irrigation within the nursery and will save approximately two million litres of water per annum;
 - Water savings achieved to date in the wastewater re-use and recycling system at Council's Works Depot has reached more than five million litres of water and achieved approximately 70 per cent water self sufficiency for the site;
 - Completion of stage one and commencement of stage two of a 240,000 litre backwash and bore water re-use system at Council's Des Renford Aquatic Centre, which will save more than 15 million litres of town water per annum once completed. This will provide more than 80 per cent of the Aquatic Centre's water requirements and supplements 20,000 litres of rainwater storage on the site (these latter 2 projects have been supported by the Commonwealth's Community Water Grants);
 - Four million litres of town water have been saved in the first 12 months of operation of Council's Recycling Centre at Port Botany which is now meeting 90 percent of the site's water requirements;
 - Council has also put in place a program to support the installation of rainwater tanks in local schools.

For more information on Council's Environmental Levy program, please visit Council's website, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au