

STATE OF THE *Environment*

REPORT 2004/05





CONTENTS SoE 2005

Chapter		Page Number
	Mayor's Message	3
1	City snapshot	4
2	SoE direction and City Plan themes	7
3	Activities and Actions 2004-2005	9
4	Atmosphere	14
5	Biodiversity	16
6	Heritage	19
7	Land	21
8	Noise	23
9	Social Health	24
10	Waste	25
11	Water	27



A Message from the Mayor



I am pleased to present the 2004/2005 State of the Environment Report for Randwick City.

Randwick City Council is committed to implementing the principles of ecological sustainable development and to the protection and enhancement of our environment, our natural resources and our heritage. The State of the Environment Report records and reports on our yearly actions and progress.

During the time covered by this report (July 2004 – June 2005) Randwick City Council continued to deliver innovative environmental initiatives, including tree planting and dune stabilisation projects, upgrading sections of the Coastal Walkway, holding the first Randwick City EcoLiving Fair, installation of six new gross pollutant traps along our coast line and implementing the “Sustaining our City” Environmental Levy Programme.

2004/2005 has also seen the development of the Randwick City Plan. The City Plan is an innovative strategic framework that will set the direction for Randwick City over the next 20 years and has incorporated the actions and set future projects from the information in this and past Reports. Through the *City Plan*, Council will continue to make sustainability a high priority over the next 20 years.

I encourage you to contact Council if you have any comments or suggestions that may contribute to the protection and enhancement of Randwick City's environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Seng". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Cr. Ted Seng
Mayor**

1 Randwick City- a snapshot





Our history

Randwick City's history can be traced back to the Aboriginal people who have lived in the region for tens of thousands of years. The Randwick area is also important in the history of Australia's European settlement. When the First Fleet arrived, Captain Arthur Phillip landed at Yarra Bay before moving on to Port Jackson. One week later, an expedition, led by the French explorer, La Perouse, arrived in Botany Bay and set up a camp for several months in the area which now bears his name.

Randwick was incorporated as a municipality in 1859 making it one of the oldest local government areas in Australia. Randwick Municipality grew rapidly after the tramline was built in 1880. We hosted two nationally significant celebrations: the Centenary of Australia in 1888, and Federation of Australia in 1901, both of which were held in Centennial Park. After each of the two World Wars, we continued to grow rapidly until the 1970s, with population growth only today returning to the levels of that time. Distinct development phases occurring over previous decades have helped to shape the character of our City today. Randwick was proclaimed as a city in 1990 and is a highly desirable place to live, work and visit.

Our local area

Randwick City is located in the eastern suburbs of the Sydney metropolitan area. To the north, it is bounded by Centennial Park, its eastern boundary is the Pacific Ocean, and its southern boundary is Botany Bay. The western boundary is generally defined by the line of open space largely occupied by golf courses that were developed over low lying land that is known historically as the Lachlan Swamp and Botany Wetlands.

Randwick City has an area of 37.42 square kilometres (3742 hectares), and contains the suburbs of Chifley, Clovelly, Coogee, Kensington, Kingsford, La Perouse, Little Bay, Malabar, Maroubra, Matraville, South Coogee, Phillip Bay and Randwick.

Our City has extensive parkland and open space areas including Centennial Park, Heffron Park and Botany Bay National Park. These large areas of open space provide a habitat for over 500 species of indigenous plants and 250 species of terrestrial native vertebrate animals, including several remnant communities of threatened flora and fauna species. These large open space areas provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation and community interaction.

Another of Randwick's greatest natural assets is its vast coastline. The City's 29.3 kilometre coastline strongly influences the area's character and functions, and coastal land use ranges from beachside residences, open spaces and tourist destinations to industrial developments and port facilities. Running along this coastline is a significant part of the Eastern Beaches Coastal Walkway. The walkway has access to spectacular views of the coastline and those who use it gain a better understanding of the area's social, recreational and environmental qualities.

Our City has considerable education and medical facilities, including the Randwick Hospitals Complex; the University of New South Wales; Randwick TAFE; and many public and private schools. Randwick City is also host to regionally significant recreational facilities, including Randwick Racecourse, and a number of golf courses, coastal inlets and surf beaches. These facilities and our location near the Sydney Central Business District (CBD), Sydney Airport and Port Botany are contributing factors to Randwick's relationship with Sydney's economy.



Our community

Randwick City is a culturally diverse community and at the 2001 Census had a resident population of 121,497. This figure has increased from our 1991 population of 115,349, while still below the population of 123,450 in 1976. Our population growth is significantly less than that experienced in Sydney in general. It is predicted that our population will continue to grow at a slower rate than that for the Sydney average, and it is estimated that by 2021, our population will be 131,711.

Although our population mix varies throughout the different suburbs, the population is largely reflective of both our proximity to the Sydney CBD and the places of education. At the 2001 Census, compared with the Sydney average, our population:

- Was generally younger
- Had a larger proportion of people who rent
- Had slightly more females than males
- Had a larger proportion of single people
- Had a larger proportion of people living in a lone person or group household
- Fewer families with children.

Compared with the Sydney average, we have fewer cars per household. There are considerable Aboriginal, Chinese, Greek and Indonesian communities.

Over the next 20 years, our population will have a larger proportion of older people, and there will be a decrease in the number of people younger than 15, with a continued large presence of young adults. It is expected that the number of people per household will continue to decline, and from Sydney's trends car ownership will slowly increase.

For more information about Randwick City's demographic characteristics, please refer to the demographic profile, on our website: www.randwick.nsw.gov.au.

2 SoE direction and City Plan themes

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 4 years, whilst every other year Council compiles a supplementary SoER. This SoER is a supplementary report and covers the reporting period from 1st July 2004 to the 30th June 2005.

Future directions for our City are to be outcomes focused around the Randwick City Plan, Management Plan and reporting tools such as the SoE. Future SoERs will be able to report on progress towards the achievements of outcomes set by the City Plan and implemented through Councils Management Plan and budget process.





The draft Randwick City Plan is a strategic framework that sets the direction for Randwick City and Council over the next 20 years. In preparing the draft Randwick City Plan, five broad themes emerged from discussions with the community and research. These five interrelated themes are:

- A Sense of Community
- Places for People
- A Prospering City
- Moving Around, and
- Looking After Our Environment.

The draft Randwick City Plan reflects the differing levels of control and responsibility that Council has across the various themes and includes a detailed Background Paper for each theme as well as the overarching City Plan document.

In preparing the draft Randwick City Plan over 30 successful consultation sessions with members of the community, public agencies, Council staff and Councillors, Advisory Committees, Chambers of Commerce, Neighbourhood Precinct Committees and schools throughout the second half of 2004 and early 2005. The consultations included a number of interactive public forums including educational talks and tours, workshops, school writing and drawing competitions, library displays and surveys.

As part of developing the draft Randwick City Plan there has been a review of how we undertake and deliver our SoE reporting. This SoE includes some of the proposed changes from the review, including a discussion of our 'Actions and Activities' under the theme headings as set out in the draft City Plan. Further changes proposed to be implemented for the 2006 SoER will focus on holistic sustainability reporting for Randwick City, as well as using a range of indicators that are meaningful to our City's community, and are practical in informing the environmental management decisions of Council.

The draft Randwick City Plan is on public exhibition for comment until March 2006. See www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/ for more information.



3 Activities and Actions in 2004/2005

Over the year Council carried out many activities and actions to enhance and maintain the quality of life in Randwick City. A number of these activities grouped within the 5 themes of the City Plan are highlighted below.

A Sense of Community

Randwick City Plan

Council undertook an extensive program of community consultation to assist in the preparation of the Randwick City Plan. The City Plan is an outcomes based plan which sets the strategic direction of Council over the next 20 years, it will be directly linked to Council's Management Plan. The consultation program comprised: a series of workshops with key stakeholder groups, including Precinct Committees and Chambers of Commerce, Council's 7 target groups (such as Older Persons), and school students; an environmental management workshop at Yarra Bay (which includes a guided walk); static displays at Council's 3 libraries and Customer Service Centre; and a 'roving' display staffed by Council officers over 4 weekends in August 2004.

Summer Activities Program

More than 200 Randwick residents and visitors took part in Randwick Council's Summer Activities Program in January. The activities, ranged from snorkelling at Clovelly courtesy of DEEP6 Diving company, learning to surf with the instructors from Sydney Safe Surf School in Maroubra and for the first time the adventurous were able to sea-kayak from Coogee Beach with experts from Action Kayaks.

Summer Activities were organised by Council's 'Sustaining Our City' program, with the activities aimed to increase the community's understanding, appreciation and shared responsibility to protect these fragile areas.

Women's Art Competition

An art show and competition was held in Randwick Town Hall to encourage cultural diversity through artistic expression and celebrate art by Women within our City.

Safety and Crime Prevention Initiatives

Council worked with the Police Local Area Command (LAC) to develop and sign-off on a protocol for assessment of Development Applications where safety issues could be addressed, particularly through design considerations. Council and LAC liaised closely and agreed on the establishment of a Community Safety Committee. Its major task will be to prepare a Community Safety Plan.

Partnership Agreement with UNSW

Randwick City Council commenced a partnership agreement with the University of New South Wales. Amongst the first sustainability agreements signed between a university and local council, the partnership will aim to pursue best practice environmental sustainability initiatives.

Community Development Grants, donations and subsidies

Council provided a range of grants, donations and subsidies to, community groups, non-profit organizations and individuals to provide services that support and assist disadvantaged groups within our community. A total of \$1,647,980 was provided to our community over 2004/05.



Ship for World Youth

The City of Randwick hosted international delegates from the 'Ship for World Youth' during its inaugural visit to Sydney in February. As part of the ongoing 'Sustaining our City' program participants got to experience a range of unique activities:

- Council's Bushcare Team engaged them in the planting of native shrubs and groundcover species at the Jack Vanny Memorial Park, Maroubra.
- Dr Rob Brander from UNSW then discussed and demonstrated local coastal geomorphology and the complex relationships between waves, currents and sediment transport in the coastal nearshore zone environment.
- The delegates were then led on an exploration of the marine life found at South Maroubra's intertidal rock platform by the Marine Discovery Centre.
- A further group of delegates attended a number of workshops at the UNSW EcoLiving Centre assisted by the Green Corps, learning about grey water systems, solar hot water systems, composting and sustainable living.

Tsunami Relief

At Council's New Years Eve fireworks display at Coogee Beach, Council staff volunteers collected for the tsunami relief charities. Thanks to the generous support given by the public on that evening \$10,000 was collected, this was matched by Council with a donation of a \$10,000, making a total donation of \$20,000.

Places for People

LivCom Award

In late 2004, Randwick City received a silver commendation at the finals of the prestigious International Awards for Liveable Communities (the LivCom Award).

In winning this commendation, Randwick City proved to the judges that we have enhanced our landscape to facilitate enjoyable recreational experiences, we care for our cultural heritage, we have adopted environmentally sustainable practices and initiatives, and that our the community is involved in the management and planning of the local environment, including our local businesses and volunteers. Initiatives, such as the Sustaining our City environmental programme and the 20-Year City Plan, currently under development, were of great assistance in demonstrating Randwick City's commitment to our environmental, social and economic assets.

2004 Sustainable Water Challenge

Randwick City Council participated in this year's Sustainable Water Challenge, submitting the recently completed Community Centre at the Bundock Street Defence Site in the Challenge's Infill Category. Runoff from the roof and ground surfaces of the new Bundock Street Community Centre (comprising 3 buildings connected by a covered walkway) is collected in an underground tank and is used for the irrigation of the adjacent park. Top up of the storage tank is by bore water. Key issues associated with this development were site contamination and heritage.

Council received a Commendation award for their efforts in meeting the Sustainable water Challenge on this project.

Urban Sustainable Living Workshops

A series of Urban Sustainable Living workshops were organised to occur at UNSW's EcoLiving Centre from January through to March. The workshops include: Home Grey Water Systems; Sustainable Gardening; Attracting Native Birds to your Garden; Non-Toxic Cleaning; and an Introduction to Using Bush Tucker. The Sustainable



Gardening Workshop was run by Council's Sustainability Education Officer and was free to Randwick City residents.

Gross Pollutant Traps

Council undertook a major works program in constructing six new Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) at strategic locations along the coast. The first installation was at Malabar Road, South Coogee to service stormwater flow into Lurline Bay. Another installation was in Cromwell Park, Malabar.

As part of the sustainability partnership recently signed between the University of NSW and Randwick Council, council engineers will be exploring opportunities to tap into the University's expertise and resources to take the GPT technology further. Together the sustainability partnership will be examining the feasibility of capturing and re-using stormwater that exits through the GPTs, potentially for irrigation of nearby parks and open space.

Dune rehabilitation

Maroubra Sand Dunes – A fencing and rehabilitation works project was carried out to stabilise and protect the ocean dune ecosystem at South Maroubra.

A Prospering City

Environment Levy

Randwick City Council was successful in obtaining the go-ahead for an Environment Levy: approximately \$2.7m per year for 5 years. The levy will be spent on 6 key streams: biodiversity; caring for the coastline; increased sustainability [education focus; climate protection; water conservation; and historical information.

Moving Around

Coastal walkway upgrading

Work on upgrading Randwick's coastal walkway began at South Coogee; reconstructing the existing pathway from outside the Coogee Life-Saving Club to the boardwalk at Trenerry Reserve. The new work is an initiative under Council's new Sustaining Our City program with funding from the environment levy. The construction of the walkway uses recycled material for the base foundation, and the old pathway was taken to Council's recycling centre to be refined and used in future projects.

Celebrating Cycling

We hosted in conjunction with BikeEast a joint event to raise the profile of cycling within the community and to get people of all ages 'back on their bikes' in a safe and fun environment. The environmental benefits of cycling were also highlighted by reducing car use through increased use of the bicycle. The start and finish of the cycling event was in Kokoda Park Kensington and bike racks were installed throughout the adjacent town centre as part of the initiative.

Looking After our Environment

Remnant Bushland

Council has been working with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) controlling weeds at Yarra Point, La Perouse. This is a joint project funded by RCC and CVA. The teams consisted of volunteers who are local Sydneysiders and young environmental tourists mostly from USA, Canada and Japan. The groups are led by



a qualified bush regenerator from CVA and a graduate from biological or environmental science from the USA. They have been great fun and are doing a good job preparing Yarra Point for further planting and upgrading of the Bush Tucker Trail.

Council also commenced 9,000 hours of work with Green Corps, another similar program that provides training to young unemployed people many of whom are graduates, working in natural areas. We will be clearing a fire break on the boundaries of Fred Hollows Reserve, clearing weed and repairing tracks in Maroubra Beach Dunes and clearing Bitou Bush on Yarra Beach and Frenchmans Beach Dunes.

Council has also fenced an area of remnant bushland on the point of Dunningham Reserve. This is a major tourist attraction as it has a fabulous view and the bushland was suffering from trampling. It was also home to a locally rare plant species. The work was consistent with the recommendations of the Plan of Management and provided an upgrade to the main path out to the point.

Randwick Community Organic Garden

The Randwick Community Organic Garden (RCOG) re-opened on Council owned land in Payne Reserve, Kingsford, after being relocated from the Defence Site Randwick. Council assisted with the establishment, via its small grants program, for fencing and a rain water tank and also directly in providing plants, compost and worm farms.

National Tree Day

Council had a very successful National Tree Day, helping 2 schools plant trees and 3 schools create habitat gardens in their grounds as well as carrying out revegetation of a large slope in Albi Smith Reserve on Carrington Rd Coogee.

Water Conservation at Council Depot

Over 1.5 million litres of fresh water has been saved since the commissioning of a major water re-use system at Council's Depot late in 2004, funded through by the environmental levy.

Water Conservation at the Recycling Centre

Council's glass recycling centre has installed a 9,000 litre rainwater tank to store and re-use water on-site and construction is underway through the levy for a greenwaste water recycling system at Council's new Recycling Centre, to be commissioned in June of this year.

Water Conservation at the Community Nursery

Approvals and design are currently being processed for the construction of a 40,000 litre underground rainwater storage and re-use system at Council's community nursery.

Water Conservation at the Administration Building and Town Hall

Conserving our water has been a major focus across the operation of Council's buildings and parks. Dual flush systems and water saving devices in all taps and showers are currently being installed throughout Council's main Administration Building and Town Hall. Waterless urinals are also being effectively trialled.

So successful proved the first 5,500 litre rainwater tank installed in March this year that a second tank is being installed by the south-east side of the Town Hall. The



water is used in day to day operations such as maintaining the gardens and cleaning council vehicles.

EcoLiving Fair - World Environment Day

The *Sustaining Our City* team organised Randwick's first EcoLiving Fair held on World Environment Day, Sunday, 5 June. The fair brought together a range of specialist speakers and stall-holders, each providing practical information and demonstrations on energy and water saving devices, organic or natural cleaning methods, composting as well as a wide range of conservation activities for children and adults alike. Professor Michael Archer, former Director of the Australian Museum, presented as one of the keynote speakers, with innovative ideas that we could each consider for living more sustainably.

Environmental messages – World Environment Day

Another drain stencilling campaign aimed at improving community awareness of stormwater pollution was carried out as part of our 2005 World Environment Day activities. This campaign focused on the Malabar catchment area with the simple message THIS DRAIN LEADS TO YOUR BEACH - FOR RAIN WATER ONLY or THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN. To date, community volunteers have stencilled over 250 drains in the Coogee and Maroubra catchment areas with these environmental messages.

Sustainable Urban Living Workshops

Sustainable Living Workshops were offered free to Randwick's residents through the autumn term of the Eastern Suburbs Community College. The four workshops included: Sustainable gardens; Resourceful home; Bush in the City; and Common garden weeds. Workshops are now ongoing and held at the UNSW EcoLiving Centre, in partnership between Council, UNSW and the Eastern Suburbs Community College.

Energy and Water Conservation at the Aquatic Centre

New solar heating and energy saving pool blankets were installed at the 5 pools at Council's Des Renford Aquatic Centre. Research work is underway on water recycling schemes and energy and water audits.

Energy Conservation at the Administration Building and Town Hall

In an effort to tackle greenhouse gas emissions and conserving energy, an energy audit of the Administration Building and Town Hall resulted in the installation of sensor lights and energy smart lighting.

Marine Biodiversity Message

Grey Nurse Shark interpretive sign was located at South Maroubra car park. The content of the sign focuses on the plight of the critically endangered Grey Nurse Shark population at Magic Point. This initiative is in association with: NPA Marine; Nature Conservation Council of NSW; Australian Marine Conservation Society, and Randwick Council.

Seaweek

The theme the Marine Education Society of Australasia (MESA) nominated for Seaweek this year was "Save our Sharks". With a critical habitat site for the endangered Grey Nurse Shark at Magic Point, Maroubra the 'Sustaining our City' program funded Ross Browning's 'Funky Fins Puppet Show', originally developed for the Museum of Sydney, to visit local primary schools in Randwick during Seaweek and dispel some of the common myths associated with sharks.



4 Atmosphere

Since the atmospheric systems that affect Randwick operate at 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). It is therefore not an aspect of Council's operations and strategic policies that Council can have any significant influence over management outcomes.

An air-quality monitoring site is located in the grounds of the Randwick Army Base, and its data, for the period July 2004 to June 2005, showed that Randwick had a low count on the Regional Pollution Index for more than 80% of the period.

Management Objective

- Reduce air pollution from local sources.

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.
- Coordinated Council and community actions through the Cities for Climate Protection Program.
- Environmental Auditing Program assessing small and medium industry and premises containing cooling towers.
- Regulatory control of odours and emissions
- Assessment of new development.
- Targeted education programs dealing with topics such as asbestos and solid fuel heaters.

Randwick is engaged in a number of programs to improve local air quality. The general issue we need to address is how to measure performance on these, and in the underlying environmental quality that they are aimed at protecting. Program or project level indicators can be developed. Together they do not add up to a substantial contribution to managing local air quality outcomes, as motor vehicles are the primary pressure on air quality in Randwick, a pollution source which Council often has no direct control over. However they are important as a part of Council's contribution to managing the cumulative impact of air pollution sources.

Key Performance Indicators

- In 2005 Council completed Milestone 1 of the Cities for Climate Protection Program by establishing an inventory and forecast for key sources of greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations (buildings, vehicle fleet, street lighting and waste), as well as those from the Community (residential, commercial, industrial and transport). The inventory and forecast will be used to set and undertake an emissions reduction goal.
- As part of the changes we will implement for our future SoE reporting we will determine how to effectively report on the greenhouse gas emissions of Randwick City.



- Bicycle lane network improvements - Approximately 1000m of new bicycle paths where created in various areas to encourage cycling rather than car use.
- Walking catchments improvements - Approximately 7.4 km of new footpaths where constructed across the City to encourage and promote walking.
- Transport planning initiatives – Council participated a Light Rail Taskforce to lobby for light rail to be reintroduced to Randwick City.

An indepth discussion of community needs and management outcomes to be achieved regarding atmosphere and greenhouse by Council over the next 20 years can be found in the 'Looking after our Environment' and 'Moving Around' background papers and the City Plan, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/



5 Biodiversity

Biological diversity (or biodiversity) has been defined as: “The variety of all life forms – the different plants, animals and microorganisms, 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 Objective

- Maintain, protect and enhance terrestrial and aquatic local 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.

Key Performance Indicators

• Bushcare program

The hours in the table below includes bush regeneration in remnant vegetation, targeted weed control adjacent to bushland and 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 supervised Bushcare volunteers. Key features include:

- While the amount of bush regeneration on Council land decreased compared with the previous year, this was due to a delay in commencing new contracts. The rate is expected to return to previous levels next year.
- The hours of work on non-Council land increased by 33%, indicating increasing awareness and appreciation of the significance of local bushland.
- Two new landholders commenced bush regeneration activities in the past year, including Centennial Park.

Hours of Bush Regeneration and Indigenous Revegetation Work					
	2000 / 2001	2001 / 2002	2002 / 2003	2003 / 2004	2004 / 2005
Council land	6,496	7,380	7,698	11,733	7,820
Non-Council land	1,325	1,479	2,435	4,785	c.6,400
TOTAL	7,821	8,859	10,133	16,518	c.14,220

c. approximate

- Council commenced preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy with the aim of long term conservation of local native plants and animals.



- Area cleared of each remnant community
 - 0.2Ha of coastal scrub at NSW Golf Course as part of an approved new workshop development;
 - 0.01Ha of coastal heathland at Coast Golf Course.
- Significant new records of local native plants in the past year included:
 - Three species not previously recorded in the Council area, bringing the total to 513 species. One of the new species was *Eucalyptus racemosa*, a Scribbly Gum.
 - Seven new populations of locally rare species.
- Action taken to improve the conservation of specific species of flora and fauna listed under Threatened Species Conservation Act and other documents
 - Council rezoned 4.4Ha of nationally endangered Eastern suburbs Banksia Scrub at the Prince Henry development site at Little Bay to Zone 7 Environmental Protection.
 - Council rezoned 4.1 Ha of coastal heathland on the Coast Golf Course to Zone 6 Open Space, giving it the protection of State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 19 Bushland in Urban Areas.

- **Noxious weeds**

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

- Roadside noxious weed control treatments undertaken throughout the whole of the City between August 04 to June 05.
- Weedbusters week displays during October.
- Weeding working bees held at Lake Malabar, Yarra Point and Bunnerong Road – Chifley Bushland Remnant.
- On the ABC 6:00pm Sunday news, Maroubra Dunes was featured as the backdrop for the Friends of Malabar Headland and Council staff pulling out bitou bush. The story was documenting the first ever threat abatement plan that has been prepared for a weed species in NSW (prepared by DEC). Randwick Council previously provided comments in regards to the implementation of this plan.
- Ongoing private property weed inspections.
- Secured \$10,000 of weed control funds for Lake Malabar and Bunnerong Rd, Chifley Bushland remnant through the Department of Lands and Department of Primary Industries.
- \$11,723 was secured from the RTA for weed control along Bunnerong Road, Chifley.
- \$14,875 was secured from Envirofunds (Federal Government Natural Heritage trust) to continue weed control works in Lake Malabar.
- Council played an active role as treasurer for the Central Sydney Regional Weeds Committee. Initiatives undertaken through the committee include;
 - Submission of a Sydney Wide Privet Plan, Sydney Regional Pampas Grass Management Plan and a Sydney Regional Bitou Bush and Boneseed Management Plan to the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee for review.
 - Funding for the employment of a Central Sydney Regional Weeds Committee Project Officer and an Asthma weed project officer.
 - Undertaking mapping and selected control of Alligator weed and Ludwigia throughout the Sydney Central region.



- **Other Significant Responses**

- Fencing and path upgrades of South Maroubra Beach Dunes have been completed to protect native vegetation and stop erosion;
- Council held 2 Wildflower Walks in Spring for the community, both at Malabar Headland;
- Council sponsored and provided 100s of native plants for National Tree Day, including to 3 Primary schools and the new Randwick Community Garden;
- Council provided and hosted numerous talks on bushland and biodiversity, including at the EcoLiving Fair on World Environment Day and Birds in Backyards workshops for residents who wish to create habitat in their gardens;
- Council hosted the launch of the Sydney-based Volunteer Coordinators Network's Bushcare Manual – a guide for the management of volunteer environmental programs.

An indepth discussion of community needs and management outcomes to be achieved regarding biodiversity and natural heritage by Council over the next 20 years can be found in the 'Looking after our Environment' background paper and the City Plan, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/



6 Heritage (Aboriginal and European)

Management Objective

- Conservation and enhancement of heritage.
- Cultural engagement and enhancement.
- Community support of our Target Groups.

Areas of Council Action

- Council employs a Heritage Officer to provide advice regarding built heritage and provide specialist development assessment advice.
- Council employs 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.
- Promote and encourage preparation of an oral history record of our Indigenous community within Randwick City

Key Performance Indicators

- Randwick City has 19 conservation areas, draft LEP provides for a further 13 separate conservation areas, together with 6 amendments to boundaries of existing areas (extensions and reductions).
- There are 566 gazetted Heritage Items within Randwick City Council, 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 World Heritage List, the National Heritage List, the Commonwealth Heritage list and the Register of the National Estate. 155 items within Randwick City Council are listed on the Heritage Trust (NSW) Register.

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

Number and type of Aboriginal sites recorded AHIMS Register:

Site Element	2000	2005
Rock Engraving	23	15
Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD)	0	2
Scarred Tree	0	2
Open Midden	16	14
Shelter with Midden	8	8
Open campsite	7	6
Axe Grinding Grooves	4	3
Burial/s	2	3
Shelter with Art	1	0
Historic Place	1	1
Contact, Mission	1	1
Total	63	65



Number of Development Applications relating to heritage items

Applications Lodged	2004-2005
Development Applications and s.96 modifications relating to heritage items	110
Development Applications and s.96 modifications relating to heritage conservation areas	165

An indepth discussion of community needs and management outcomes to be achieved regarding heritage by Council over the next 20 years can be found in the 'Places for People' background paper and the Randwick City Plan, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/



7 Land

Management Objective

- Sustainable land management.
- Manage the challenges of development to retain amenity
- Encourage superior 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

Key Performance Indicators

New planning instruments, policies and guidelines

- A total of three Development Control Plans were adopted including:
 - Prince Henry Site
 - Exempt and Complying development
 - Footpath Dining and Trading
- A total of 2 LEP amendments were gazetted, including Price Henry and Exempt and Complying.

Number of Development Applications

Applications determined	2004-2005
Development Applications	1024
Section 96 modification of consent applications	436
Section 82A review applications	16
Construction Certificates	881
Master plans	2
Subdivision certificates	46
Complying Development Certificates	232
Pre-lodgement Applications	68
Median DA assessment time	
32.25 days	

- 80 Development Applications were referred to the Design Review Panel for comment per SEPP 65 *Design Quality of Residential Flat Development*
- A total of 5 Development Applications were referred for mediation between affected parties to achieve a satisfactory planning outcome.
- Major development activities occurred within the Prince Henry Site, in the major town centres of Maroubra Junction and Kensington and a Master plan was adopted for Long Bay Jail.



- Council continued its review of town centres, with the exhibition of studies on the future potential for Matraville town centre, public consultation included a shopfront exhibition.
- Typically the trend for development within Randwick City Council was for alterations and additions to dwelling houses.

Awards

Randwick City Council achieved a number of significant achievements during this period reflected in a number of awards received including:

- International Liveable Communities- Silver commendation for a range of outcomes and projects across Council covering Environmental, Heritage, Planning for the future, our community and built environment achievements.
- Sustainable Water Challenge 2004- a commendation for the Bundock St community centre project
- Year of the Built Environment 2004 Exemplars under two categories 'Towards sustainable communities' and 'Design for all'.

Events

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

- EcoLiving fair held on world environment day
- Sustainable Urban Living workshops, ongoing community workshops in partnership with UNSW and Eastern Suburbs Community College.
- Hosting of a regional forum on new Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) requirements for new development.

Regional Issues

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

- The proposed expansion of Port Botany, which included a Commission of Inquiry hearing,
- Masterplan for Sydney Airport,
- Draft Metro strategy, and
- State planning and threatened species legislative reforms.

An indepth discussion of community needs and management outcomes to be achieved regarding land issues by Council over the next 20 years can be found in the, Places for People background paper, Looking after our Environment and a Sense of Community background paper and the City Plan, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/



8 Noise

Noise pollution is subject of local impacts and limitations, such as noise relating to a particular land use. Noise is also subject of regional impacts, such as noise pollution created by traffic whose destination or origin lies outside of Randwick

Management Objective

- Manage and reduce 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 development requiring specialist advice regarding potential for road traffic noise intrusion or aircraft noise intrusion.
- Targeted education programs dealing with topics such as neighbourhood noise.

Key Performance Indicators

- Number of complaints by category and median response time.
 - 105 noise complaints were received, of which 252 were related to building works conducted outside of permissible building hours. Our average response time was less than 4 days.
- Number of complaints regarding aircraft noise – please refer to the Air Services Australia web site for current information and complaint procedures - www.airservicesaustralia.com/reports/saos.asp.

An indepth discussion of community needs and management outcomes to be achieved regarding noise by Council over the next 20 years can be found in the "Places for People" and "Looking after our Environment" background papers and the City Plan, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/



9 Social Health

Council provided a range of diverse programmes 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 Straight Islanders and the elderly.

Management Objective

- 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 programmes through the small grants programme.
- 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 need of our community

Key Performance Indicators

- **Safety and Crime Prevention Initiatives**

A range of initiatives as detailed on page 9

- **Cultural Development**

In addition to a range of community cultural events, Council commenced the preparation of a Cultural Plan. A survey of residents was undertaken to identify cultural issues needs and opportunities.

- **Council's Community Development Grants, donations and subsidies**

Council provided a range of grants, donations and subsidies to, community groups, non-profit organizations and individuals to provide services that support and assist disadvantaged groups within our community. A total of \$1,647,980 was provided our community, as summarised below:

Grant Funds	Dollar Amount
Small grants and Community Grants	\$137,566
Community donations	\$152,486
Community subsidy - rental & operational	\$1,357,928
Total	\$1,647,980

- **Sustainability resources and publications**

A collection of sustainability resources was established for community reference at Council's main library. This will be added to on an ongoing basis.

An in depth discussion of community needs and management outcomes to be achieved regarding heritage by Council over the next 20 years can be found in the, Places for People background paper and a 'Sense of Community' background paper and the City Plan, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/

10 Waste

Management Objective

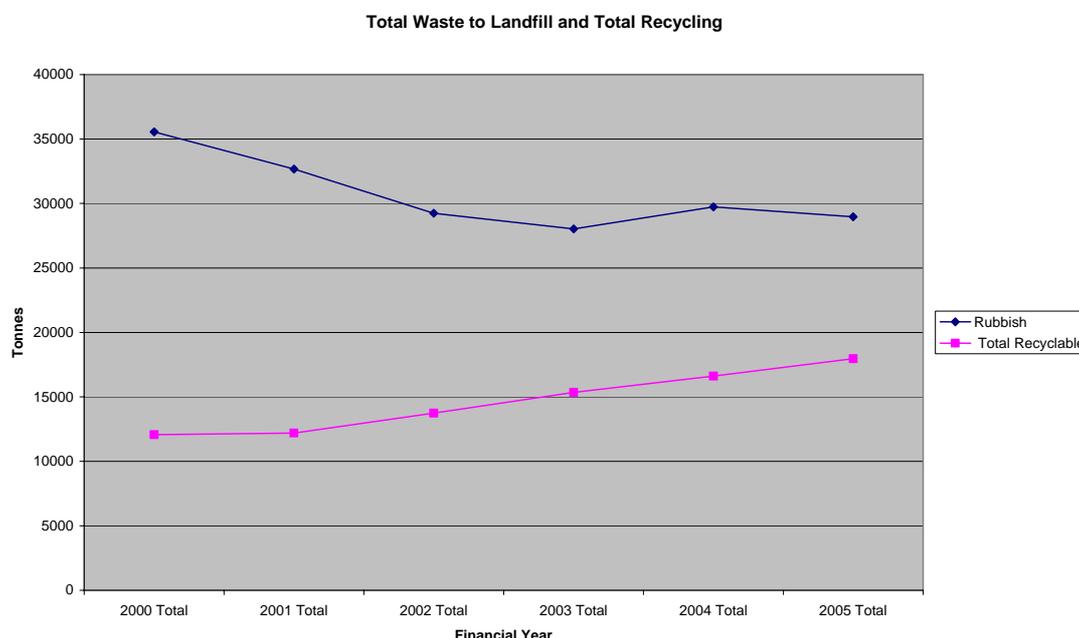
- Manage and Reduce Waste.

Areas of Council Action

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

Key Performance Indicators

- Total Waste Collected - The total waste collected in Randwick City in 2004/2005 was 46,924.32 tonnes, a slight increase (1.2%) over the previous 12 months. This can be attributed to increased economic activity. This figure is still below the base year of 2000 which illustrates the Randwick community is continuing their commitment to waste avoidance practices.
- Total Waste to Landfill - Randwick City disposed of 28,961.36 tonnes of material to landfill over the 2005 financial year. This figure is well below the figure for 2004 of 29,733.97 and continues the downward trend in the amount of waste Council takes to landfill.
- Total Domestic Recycling - The total tonnage of recycling collected was 17,962.96, an increase of over 1300 tonnes from the previous 12 months, which continues an upward trend in the recycling tonnages collected from Randwick Residents, as shown in the graph below:



- Status of Former Landfills - Randwick City has no landfills currently operating within the City, however we do have a legacy of 15 landfill sites that were previously operated within the City. Some of these were closed over 30 years ago. Environmental assessment of these landfills has been completed and



prioritised for remediation works, beginning with those at Yarra Bay and Malabar Headland landfills next year.

An indepth discussion of community needs and management outcomes to be achieved regarding waste by Council over the next 20 years can be found in the 'Looking after our Environment' and 'Places for People' background papers and the City Plan, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/

11 Water

Management Objective

- Enhance the quality of our waterways.
- Sustainably manage water resources.

Areas of Council Action

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

Key Performance Indicators

- Council completed an inventory to determine potable water supply usage from all of its buildings, through the Every Drop Counts Program and reached point 3 of the 7 point program.
- For information detailed water quality information, please refer to the Beachwatch and Harbourwatch state of the beaches report 2005 www.environment.nsw.gov.au
- Local testing under Beachwatch and Harbourwatch was reported as follows:

Site	Compliance (%)		Overall ranking (out of 23)
	Faecal Coliforms	Enterococci	
Clovelly Beach	100	91	4
Coogee Beach	100	63	15
Maroubra Beach	100	100	1
Malabar Beach	100	78	10
Yarra Bay	100	63	15
Frenchmans Bay	100	78	10
Congwong Bay	100	100	1

- Groundwater – 2004/05 saw Orica, in the adjacent Botany Council area, begin implementing the Botany Groundwater Cleanup Project. A Steam stripping unit was re commissioned in March 2005 and construction of a water treatment plant began, that will clean the contaminated ground water and prevent it from entering Botany Bay. This will be commission in late 2005. An independent monitoring committee was also established to monitor the progress of the Cleanup Project. Council attends community forums and monitors this matter.
- Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD): Council continues to implement its rainwater tank policy and 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.

- Mass of gross pollutants removed by GPT's - 217.71 tonnes.
- For information on Council's Environmental Levy programme, please refer to www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/pdf/randwickCommunityNews2005Spring.pdf

An indepth discussion of community needs and management outcomes to be achieved regarding water by Council over the next 20 years can be found in the 'Looking after our Environment' and 'Places for People' background paper and the City Plan, www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/the_randwick_city_plan/