

ITEM 4.3. GREENING SYDNEY - SUSTAINABLE STREETS, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES DEMONSTRATION PROJECT – MYRTLE STREET AND SURROUNDING AREAS CHIPPENDALE**FILE NO: S076192****MEMORANDUM BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**To Council:

Sustainable Sydney 2030 commits the City to becoming green, global and connected. The commitment to green living not only focuses on supporting green industries and making green lifestyle choices, but also the physical greening of our urban environment.

The physical greening of our urban environment is important because it:

- filters and improves the air we breathe;
- provides shade for our houses and streets;
- can regulate sunlight to our houses and streets;
- reduces urban run off and stormwater pollution;
- improves the appearance, economic value and liveability of our City; and
- provides a connection to nature in our City.

While the City prepares a Greening Sydney Plan, we have the opportunity to support a Sustainable Streets, Sustainable Communities demonstration project in Chippendale. This project will demonstrate how we can bring together a sustainable house, on a sustainable street, in a sustainable community.

The reason the Myrtle Street area is recommended is:

1. Following work already undertaken by the City and the Myrtle Street and surrounding area community, this part of Chippendale has a number of sustainable features. The opportunity now exists to further improve the sustainability of the area by bringing together all of this work into one demonstration project that is opened to the broader community through regular open days. The project would also enable the City to identify ways of building community capacity in sustainability. The features of this project could then be developed into a policy and program to be implemented in other City communities.
2. Mr Michael Mobbs, a resident of Chippendale who has been instrumental in the work to date, has agreed to the use of his house as part of the community education open days. This house is well known for its sustainable features, with approximately 19,000 people having already visited the house.

The City already provides a range of sustainability education programs and facilities through The Watershed and other community education projects. This project enables the City to develop a permanent demonstration program for our communities that brings together a sustainable house, in a street, within a community. It will also address the resolution of Council on 21 June 2010 which requested a report on options for a Sustainable House Demonstration Project to be prepared.

Greening Sydney Plan

The City is preparing a Greening Sydney Plan to support and guide the greening of our urban environment. Its key focus areas are developing and protecting the urban forest, improving the diversity of our urban ecology and empowering the community to green our City.

The Plan embraces current programs and new strategies to green the City and will be reported to Council in early 2011 for endorsement. It will include actions to achieve sustainable streets and sustainable communities.

Sustainable Streets

The Plan contains programs and projects to green the public domain, as well as initiatives to deliver streets that are tree lined, provide shade, filter stormwater, manage traffic and parking, provide organic food, engage the community, are safe and are places of beauty.

Green industry innovations are enabling sustainable streets to be built with low carbon materials and which can be supported by low carbon technologies such as LED lighting.

Demonstration site

While the Greening Sydney Plan is being finalised, there is an opportunity to trial the sustainable streets initiatives in an inner city setting to showcase emerging technologies and the City's programs for in-road street tree planting, raingardens, aerial bundled cabling, LED street lights, use of 'green' concrete in roads and footpaths, community composting, stormwater recycling, edible verge gardens and street beautification.

It is proposed that Myrtle Street and surrounding areas in Chippendale are used by the City as a demonstration site to showcase these sustainable street technologies and programs.

Myrtle Street offers an excellent opportunity for a demonstration site following recent PCTC works, the construction of raingardens and the installation of organic food gardens in the footpath verges. This street also contains the well known Sustainable House built by 'Sustainability Coach', Michael Mobbs. There are temperature sensors in Myrtle and Buckland Streets which will provide valuable data and, in addition, the adjoining Peace Park is now being used for community composting and stormwater re-use.

Mr Mobbs, a resident of Myrtle Street, has indicated his support for the project and would be willing to offer the use of his terrace house for tours, at agreed times, as part of the demonstration project. It is proposed that Mr Mobbs be engaged by Council, on a fee for service basis, to support this project with community education, seeking external grant funding, provision of technical advice, and monitoring results.

The City's Operations and Projects divisions will develop a plan for the site over the next six months with funding for delivery to be allocated in the 2011/12 budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Myrtle Street and the surrounding areas, Chippendale, be used by the City as a demonstration site to showcase sustainable street technologies and programs;
- (B) a detailed plan for the site be developed over the next six months, for funding consideration in the 2011/12 budget;
- (C) the Chief Executive Officer negotiate an agreement with Mr Michael Mobbs under which he will provide technical advice, community education and general support for the project for a period of six months while the detailed plan is developed; and
- (D) up to \$30,000 be allocated from the 2010/11 General Contingency to fund consultancy and other project development costs.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A Resolution of Council of 21 June 2010 - Sustainable House Demonstration Project