

Item 11.2

Notices of Motion

Reusable Coffee Cup Scheme

By Councillor Phelps

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) it is estimated that Australians use more than three billion disposable coffee cups each year. Disposable coffee cups are not recyclable due to the plastic lining inside the cup used for waterproofing, forcing these cups to end up in landfill, where they take 50 years to degrade;
- (ii) the council is currently partnered with Responsible Cafes, however, there still exists impediments to using reusable coffee cups that are not solved by this partnership, including:
 - (a) individuals forgetting to wash or bring a reusable cup; and
 - (b) reusable cups are often expensive, which may deter individuals from buying them;
- (iii) Sustainable Sydney 2030 aims to both create “a globally competitive and innovative city” and be “a leading environmental performer”. As the City plans for Sustainable Sydney 2050:
 - (a) piloting a cup exchange program will allow the City to align more closely with this message of sustainability by reducing the amount of waste contributed to landfill, and help the City progress its goal of becoming a zero waste city; and
 - (b) with over one million visitors to the City daily, and such an ingrained coffee culture, the City has an opportunity to become a global leader in minimising wasteful consumption to pave the way for sustainable environmental and economic policy;
- (iv) cup exchange programs, where the council provides businesses with reusable, heat-resistant and dishwasher-safe cups made from recyclable polypropylene which are loaned to the user for a small deposit fee (usually €1 or \$2), which is returned when the cup is returned, have successfully been implemented across various cities in Germany, including Freiburg, Munich and Berlin. In Freiburg, 60 to 70 per cent of the café sector participates in the program and over 26,000 FreiburgCups have been distributed;
- (v) cup exchange programs have also been tested with success by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in their Sydney and Melbourne offices, and a program is currently being trialled by the Inner West Council; and

- (vi) implementing a cup exchange program can help save millions of disposable coffee cups from ending up in landfill, and helps to offset the burden on small businesses and cafes (which are the backbone of the City's coffee culture), to provide a 'substantial' discount often expected by customers bringing their own cups; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to prepare a report on the potential for piloting a reusable cup initiative to reduce consumption on single use, disposable coffee cups in the City of Sydney to be distributed to Council. The report should include:
 - (i) the potential for a pilot to be limited to a single suburb to allow universal café participation to be achievable in the short term;
 - (ii) local café owners who might be willing to become advocates and assist council in recruiting other businesses;
 - (iii) links to any available business cases or reviews of municipal or city-wide or government-initiated reusable cups schemes; and
 - (iv) given the large proportion of disposable cups that are deposited in domestic waste bins, the potential for such a pilot to be funded through the waste levy or reserve.

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