

ENCL: NO

DARWIN CITY COUNCIL

DATE: 5/10/09

REPORT

TO: ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE/OPENA

APPROVED: PR

FROM: MANAGER CLIMATE CHANGE &
ENVIRONMENT

APPROVED: BD

REPORT NO: 09TS0172PR

COMMON NO: 956492

SUBJECT: PRE CYCLONE SEASON CLEAN UP 2009

ITEM NO:

SYNOPSIS:

The Pre Cyclone Season Clean Up is an annual service that Darwin City Council provides for its residents.

The event was held in September this year which enabled both residents and Council to participate in the event during ideal weather conditions.

GENERAL:

The 2009 Pre Cyclone Season Clean Up was this year conducted on Sunday 13 September for the Northern suburbs and on Sunday 27 September for the Southern suburbs – south of Rapid Creek.

Bringing forward the date from October to September proved to be advantageous.

Council staff along with support from Correctional Services, Emergency Services and Neighbourhood Watch volunteered their time to assist Council with this annual program.

Some 200 people were involved and Council staff, landfill contractors and volunteers all worked together to make the 2009 Pre Cyclone Season Clean Up one of the most successful ever. All staff and volunteers involved with the Clean Up on the two Sundays enjoyed the opportunity to participate.

A Council Hotline for residents was established and was well received and used. This and other arrangements were in full swing 4 – 6 weeks prior to the two Clean Up weekends.

The number of additional pick-ups required following the Sunday collections was minimal and this appears to be due to the fact that the community was well informed in regards to the arrangements.

Feedback from the community was uniformly positive.

Additional collections from Indigenous Communities are held after the Northern and Southern suburbs dates and are arranged through the Operations Centre and picked up by Council work crews during their working hours.

Staff ensured the program was completed in an efficient and effective manner through holding regular meetings in order to update participating organisations and volunteers of the arrangement.

In addition to the regular ways of advising communities, the inclusion of information in the Rates Brochure provided to be beneficial.

In the Northern Suburbs there were a few isolated places that either didn't get their flyer or it arrived late.

The late issue was in part a delay in printing the 2nd flyer. The delay in distributing them in parts of Anula and Malak was due to 2 employees resigning from the distribution company during the week of second distribution.

Nearly 12,000 flyers were distributed twice in the Northern Suburbs and we probably received less than a dozen calls from people that said they didn't receive them.

The distribution of flyers for the Southern Suburbs provided an opportunity to conduct a survey of whether they had been successfully delivered and this was done by means of asking staff in those suburbs if they had received a flyer.

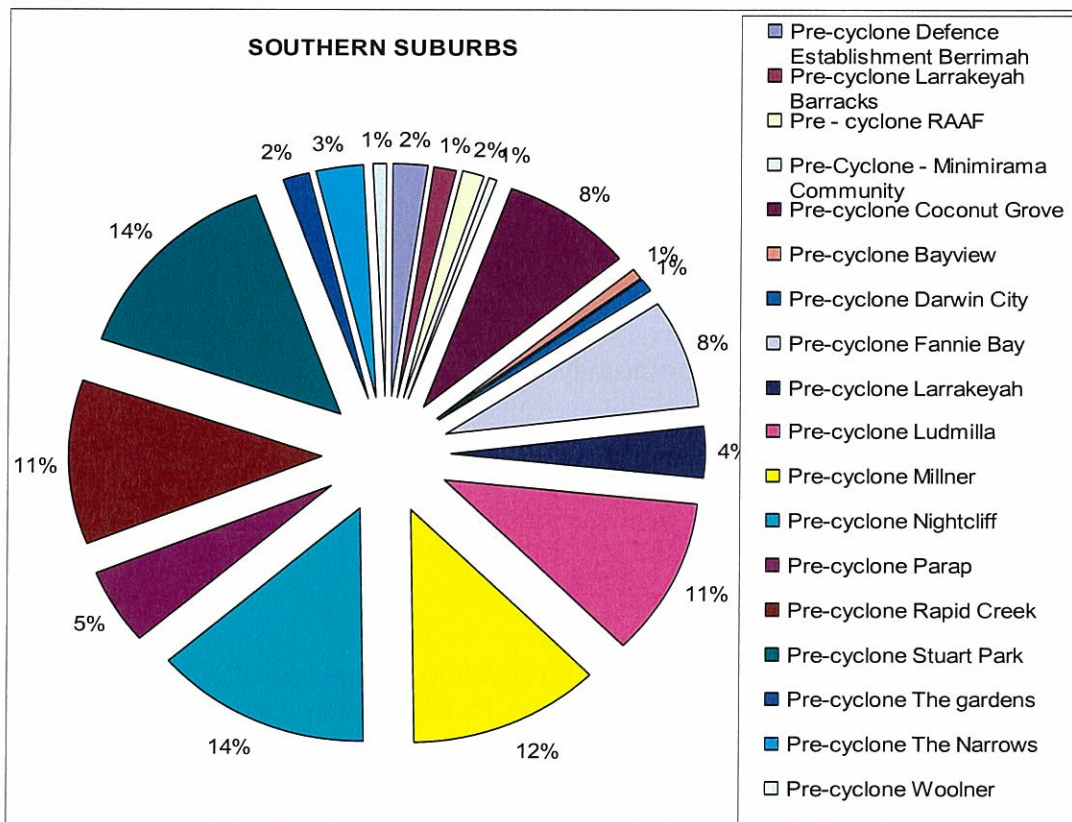
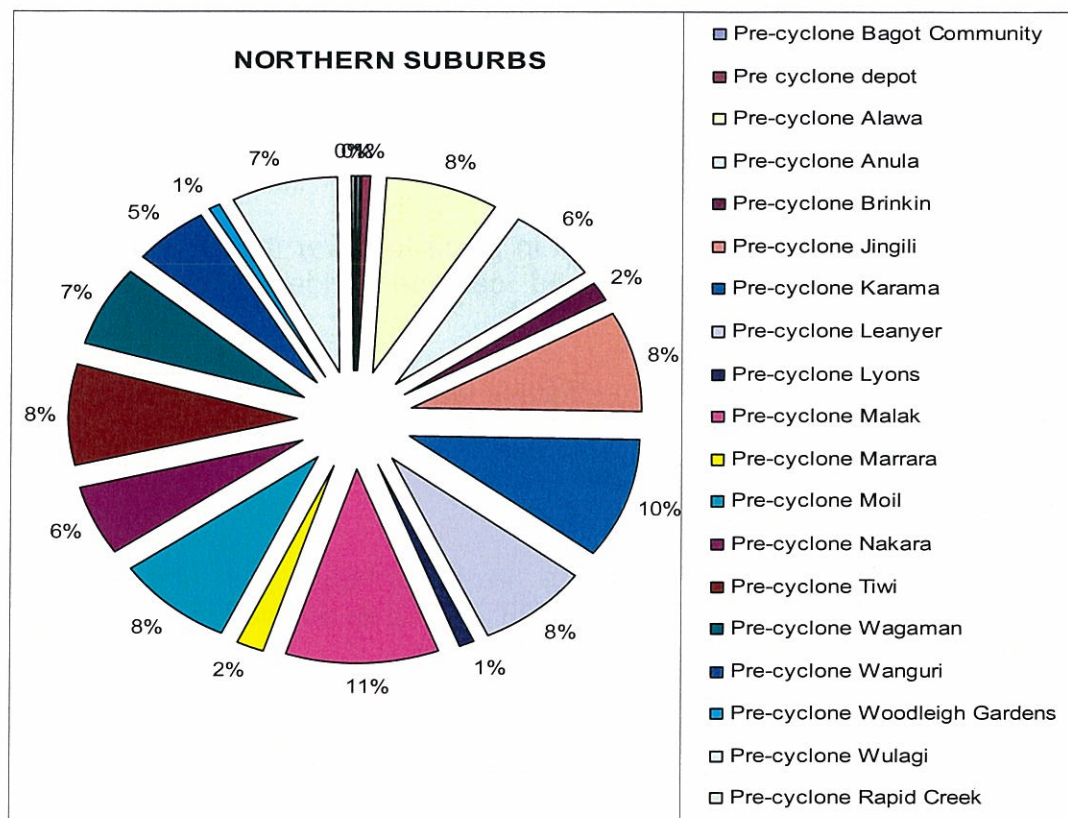
The response was positive.

A total of 433 tonnes of unwanted items were collected over the two collections. The collection trucks made approximately 644 return trips to the landfill. Approximately 25% of the articles collected went to recycling by means of items taken out by the Recycle Centre and a further amount of metal which will go to Simsmetal. A small amount of recycling happens prior to collection with 'cherry picking' happening by residents from various kerbside collections.

Additional arrangements put in place this year at the landfill which assisted smooth delivery of the loads were, clear signage for off loading in two distinct areas for the Correctional Services and Council trucks, along with a dedicated stop off point for gas cylinders, paint and other items not going into the landfill. The tracks in and out of Stage 2 were wetted down which minimised dust.

There appeared to be an increase in lounge suites, chairs and especially, fridges, stoves and washing machines.

A breakdown of the amounts collected by suburbs is as below.



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Pre Cyclone Season Clean up is a strong Council – Community annual exercise.

It is however a significant annual expense, given the additional staff wages and use of plant and machinery.

A 1st Quarter Budget Variation has been put in place to cover the total cost of the 2009 Pre Cyclone Season Clean Up and can be funded from the Waste Management Reserve.

A review of the most cost and community effective way to carry out the operation will be undertaken prior to the 2010 event.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS:

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies of the Darwin City Council 2008 – 2012 as outlined in the 'Evolving Darwin Strategic Directions: Towards 2020 and Beyond':-

Goal

4 Create and Maintain an Environmentally Sustainable City

Outcome

4.3 Increase efficiency of waste management

Key Strategies

4.3.1 Continue to lobby for, provide and develop contemporary waste management practices

Goal

5 Facilitate and Maintain a Cohesive Community

Outcome

5.3 Support harmony within the community

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:

Beneficial – illegal waste disposal is reduced, recycling increased and a coordinated delivery of hard rubbish is removed out the city to Shoal Bay Landfill through this program.

PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:

Very positive response from public – phone and written appreciation received.

COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS:

Beneficial – removes items that have the potential to become missiles during a cyclone.

DELEGATION:

NIL

CONSULTATION:

NIL

PROPOSED PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS:

Through flyers, print and electronic media, Rates brochure and email to Everyone DCC

APPROPRIATE SIGNAGE:

Effective Signage at Shoal Bay Landfill was in place.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT it be a recommendation to Council:-

- A. THAT Report Number 09TS0172PR entitled pre-Cyclone Clean Up 2009 be received and noted.
- B. THAT Council approve the following dates for the Pre Cyclone Season Clean Up 2010 as:
 - Northern Suburbs – 1st weekend in September
 - Southern Suburbs – 3rd weekend in September

PAM ROBINSON
CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

BRENDAN DOWD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Any queries on this report may be directed to Pam Robinson on 89300530 or p.robinson@darwin.nt.gov.au