



annual report

06 > 07

 City of Ryde  
Progress Through Endeavour



## Vision

Ryde will be an innovative city, a leader in environmental, economic and social sustainability.

## Mission

The City of Ryde will work with the community to provide essential services and to ensure Ryde is a vibrant place to live.

# About this report

At the City of Ryde we are endeavouring to continually improve on the way in which we deliver services to the community. As we strive towards achieving innovation and sustainability for the City we are extremely proud to put forward our achievements during the past 12 months.

Throughout our Annual Report we have listed examples of these achievements and how the outcomes are creating a sustainable future for the City. We have presented some focus stories on our service delivery and programs. The publication of our Annual Report is our accountability and performance statement for the past 12 months.

The 2006/07 Annual Report is part of our corporate planning framework and is a key tool in disclosing our performance under the four key outcome areas:



People (social)



Assets (economic)



Environment



Governance

The Report documents our achievements against the planned objectives, strategies and actions in our Management Plan 2006/09 and links directly to the City Vision 2026.

## Customer's perspective

Throughout this report we have included a few focus stories which feature a customer's perspective on the services provided by City of Ryde.

The solid performance achieved by the City of Ryde this financial year, despite a difficult operating environment, is testament to the dedication of our people and the strength in our strategy.

## Feedback

We encourage readers of our Annual Report to provide feedback to assist us in continually improving our standards.

We want to hear your views on Our Annual Report 2006-07 so we can continually improve our reporting to the community. This can be done in a number of ways:

Phone : (02) 9952 8222  
Email [info@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@ryde.nsw.gov.au)

or write to us at:

**City of Ryde**  
Annual Report Feedback  
Locked Bag 2069  
NORTH RYDE NSW 1670

Hard copies of Our Annual Report 2006/07 can be accessed from any of our 5 libraries.

## In Focus...



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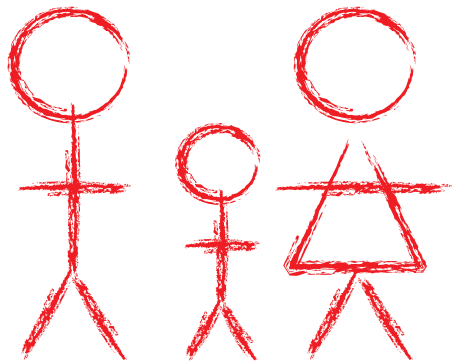
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*The City of Ryde acknowledges the Wallumedgal people as the original owners of this land.*

The City's Integrated Planning and Service Delivery Framework influences all decision making in the City. Our planning and delivery of services is based on Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles.

Council will endeavour to meet ESD principles in the following 4 areas: Social (People), Economic (Assets), Environment and Governance, through Council's planning and decision making processes.



## PEOPLE

The Social Planning Framework is underpinned by a set of principles that are reflected in all City of Ryde operations and policies. The guidelines give clear direction on the relationship between social justice and social planning as a way of ensuring that Local Government responds effectively to the social, economic, environmental, cultural and health requirements of the community.



## ASSETS

In determining Asset Management at the City of Ryde, the organisation has adopted a life cycle approach towards managing the City's assets. This long term process involves all levels of the organisation, particularly in the integration and management of data using appropriate asset management technology infrastructure systems.



## ENVIRONMENT

The City of Ryde is strongly committed to becoming an ecologically sustainable City through the professional management of our City's natural and physical environment and the conservation of natural resources to ensure the health, diversity and productivity of the local environment is maintained and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.



## GOVERNANCE

Our Governance Framework is developed through structures, activities and operations that are in accordance with the principles of accountability, providing leadership and a clear direction, community engagement, compliance with all legislative requirements and the provision of full transparency in our decision making processes.

# Year In Review



**People** - The City of Ryde is committed to maintaining a socially sustainable City through effective community participation in our programs and services.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Gladesville Library – New agreement negotiated with Hunters Hill Council to continue Joint Library Service for a further five years

New Community Hall and Helene Park at Shepherd's Bay, Meadowbank

Developed "Parks on Track for People 2025" strategic plan for the City's parks

Awarded Swimming & Water Safety Teacher of the Year AUSTSWIM

Teacher of Infant and Pre-School Aquatics Award AUSTSWIM 2006

## CHALLENGES

The Plan of Management for Ryde Riverside Park has been drafted but cannot be progressed until the parkland is gazetted by the NSW State Government.

Guidelines on Social Impact Assessment Criteria have not been developed and will be prioritised for completion early in 2008

## THE FUTURE

Implement "Parks on Track for people 2025" - upgrades to playgrounds, park furniture and picnic facilities

New Shepherds Bay foreshore park

Ryde Park improvements Stage 2

Expand council services through libraries

Increase swim classes at Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre

Reduce mains water consumption by 50% at Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre

Develop Community Facilities Plan

Develop Public Art Policy

New fortnightly Community Newsletter

More information on page 32



**Assets** - The City of Ryde is committed to the delivery and maintenance of high quality infrastructure and facilities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Brush Farm House Restoration \$2.5 million

Waste Service Rollout - The City's recycling levels increased from 18% to almost 43% by 30 June 2007

Council's delivery of \$23.6 million on capital expenditure, a 10% increase over the previous year

## CHALLENGES

Public domain work for West Ryde, Five Ways (Eastwood), and Putney.

Macquarie Park public domain upgrade work is expected to commence in November 2007

Rothsay Ave Cycleway

Ida St reconstruction

## THE FUTURE

Deliver \$41 million Capital Works Program including:

Town Centre Upgrades

New cycleways

Carparks - new and upgrades

Water harvesting and reuse initiatives

Shopping centre waste recycling initiative

Disability Access improvement program

Eastwood Town Hall improvements

Six Bus Shelter constructions

Further improvements to Brush Farm House curtilage and surrounds

More information on page 41



**Environment** - The City of Ryde is committed to maintaining an ecologically sustainable City through the management of our City's natural and physical environment.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Ryde Park - Stage 1 improvements
- Established a panel of professional Bush Regeneration experts
- Established the boulevard tree planting program and identified priority projects for the next 2 years
- Achieved significant reduction in Local Development Application turnaround time
- Completed first major review of Dwelling House and Duplex Building planning controls
- Finalised the assessment of Top Ryde Shopping Centre Development Applications
- Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel was established
- Environment Strategy 2007/10 for City of Ryde developed
- Draft Integrated Transport and Landuse Strategy completed after extensive stakeholder participation and analysis

### CHALLENGES

- Eastwood Masterplan – Submissions to the Eastwood Masterplan focused on transport and parking issues and as a consequence Council resolved to prepare a transport management and access plan (TMAP)
- Integrated Transport and Landuse Strategy Implementation

### THE FUTURE

- Implementation on the continued renewal of town centres and urban villages
- Transformation of Macquarie Park into the second largest CBD in Sydney
- New comprehensive Local Strategy to guide land use planning
- Developing water sensitive urban design options for urban villages

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**Governance** - The City of Ryde is committed to effective decision making processes that ensure transparency and the involvement of its community.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Financial Management - completion of the 2006/07 Annual Financial Report in September 2007 resulting in a working capital of \$2.3m and achieving an Operating Result before Capital of \$6.7 million
- Council's debt service ratio is currently at 2.6% of total operating revenue
- Achieved 2.49% outstanding for rates and charges, well below industry benchmark of 5%
- Developed and Council adopted the 2007/10 Management Plan on 5 June 2007, including updated Long Term Financial Strategy
- Developed and implemented standard project management templates to the organisation and provided training to 112 staff across Council
- Implemented Ryde Health Line program, to support Health and Well Being program for all staff
- Extensive research and documentation prepared to support Council's proposed Employment Framework for the City of Ryde
- Information Management and Technology Strategy adopted by Council in April 2007

### CHALLENGES

- Delayed implementation of Customer Request Management System (CRMS) implementation

### THE FUTURE

- Implement new Finance system
- Develop Leadership Development Program
- Implement new Customer Request Management system
- Implement new Governance Framework - Promoting Better Practice Model

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# Sound Financial Result

The City of Ryde's financial result for 2007 is an operating surplus before capital of \$6.7 million which is an increase on the surplus of \$1.6 million for the previous year.

This is the second successive year that Council has had an operating surplus and reflects Council's tight financial control in restricting operating expenses to a 3% increase.

## Key features of the 2007 result are:

- Council's delivery of \$23.6 million on capital expenditure, a \$2 million increase from the previous year, with major projects including the:
  - Restoration of Brush Farm House (\$2.5 million)
  - Town Centre Upgrades (\$1.2 million)
  - Roadworks (\$3.5 million)
  - Catchments (\$2 million)
  - Parks (\$2 million)
  - Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC) (\$0.9 million).
- Working Capital of \$2.3 million, to cover day to day operations and provide a buffer for unforeseen expenditures.
- Council's debt service ratio has been steadily decreasing over the past five years with 2.6% of our total revenue committed to loan repayments for 2006/07
- Council receives approximately 57% of its revenue from rates and annual charges and has consistently achieved an excellent recovery rate with only 2.5% of rates outstanding
- Council's unrestricted current ratio, which is a measure of its capacity to satisfy obligations in the short term, remained sound and was a healthy 1.7:1.

	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05
Unrestricted Current Ratio	1.7:1	1.8:1	1.7:1
Debt Service ratio	2.60%	3.20%	3.20%
Rate Coverage ratio	57.20%	58.00%	57.90%
Rates & Annual Charges			
Outstanding Percentage	2.50%	2.60%	2.70%

Council's Auditors, Spencer Steer, Chartered Accountants have completed their audit of Council's books and records for the year ended 30 June 2007.

They have undertaken the audit and provided their efforts in accordance with Section 417(1) of the Local Government Code of Accounting practice and financial Reporting to the general and Special Purpose Financial Reports.

Spence Steer, as detailed in their Audit Report have stated that they have conducted the audit "in accordance with Australian Accountancy Standards so as to express an opinion on both the General and Special Purpose Financial Reports of the Council. We have ensured that the Accounts have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) and Financial Reporting". In expressing their opinion on Council's available working capital the auditors have stated that Council's position is sound.

The above indicators confirm the position.



# Mayor's Message

The City of Ryde in many ways encapsulates all that is best about living in Sydney.

The convenience of its location, 12 kilometres from the city centre, allows easy access to all the services offered by a major international city.

But simultaneously, those 12 kilometres from the city allow enough distance to take advantage of the best of our natural environment. The City of Ryde is renowned for its beautiful trees and green open spaces, for its parks, its unique location between the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers and for the spectacular views from the mountains to the sea from the many high points in the area.

This makes it an ideal place to live and bring up a family, and people from widely differing backgrounds and cultures now call the City of Ryde home, giving the area an increasing diversity and cosmopolitan atmosphere.

With the development of Macquarie Park into a world class business precinct, it is also becoming the ideal place to work, with many local and international companies moving their headquarters to this part of the City.

Over the past year, the Council of the City of Ryde has endeavoured to safeguard and enhance all those features of the area that make it the beautiful and dynamic place it is.

In response to ratepayers' wishes and concerns, we have placed an emphasis on enhancement of our natural and built environments, protection of our heritage, and social and economic revitalisation of the area through strategic development of our town centres. During the past year, the award-winning restoration of Brush Farm House has returned to the community a historic asset of national significance. In addition the approval of the exciting development now underway on the old Top Ryde Shopping Centre site, and the planned development at West Ryde, will not only make our City more commercially competitive, but will provide residents with greater choice and enhanced community services.

The journey to achieving our vision is an exciting one, and will be ongoing. It would not be possible to achieve it without the dedication and enthusiasm of my fellow Councillors, and the expertise and hard work of the City of Ryde staff, to whom I extend my thanks.



# General Manager's Report

An excellent financial result has been achieved for the 2006/07 year with an operating surplus of \$6.7 million and with a working capital in excess of \$2.3 million ensuring Council's sound financial position. The challenge to manage our nearly \$2 billion of assets will continue.

Our Capital Works Program exceeded its target with the completion of 87.5% of Value of Works worth \$23.6 million. A highlight of the program was the restoration of Brush Farm House and the upgrading of a number of town centres.

Turnaround times of Development Applications (DAs) was dramatically reduced, particularly in the last quarter where the median assessment time was 27 calendar days.

There were 124 actions identified in the 2006/09 Management Plan grouped under the Four Key Outcome areas of People, Assets, Environment and Governance.

Of these, 102 actions were completed, achieving an overall result of 82.3%. Most of the other actions are well underway and will be complete in 2007/08.

A significant investment in our staff, particularly in skills training, has taken place this year and included the rollout of project management training to 112 staff.

The area that needs further effort is technology and our program over the next two financial years will provide improved systems and processes to enhance our customer service and responsiveness to community requests

Over 7 million visits were recorded at our parks, libraries and Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre during the year, demonstrating the value people place on these community assets.

I wish to thank the Councillors for their leadership and the staff for their efforts during the year and look forward to working with them in 2008.

