

# Environment

## Outlook for 2006-2007

Promote a more vibrant, sustainable and accessible City through the development of an integrated transport network, and the creation of a network of town, village and neighbourhood centres.

Improve air quality through control of local specific emissions and the implementation of local and regionally significant greenhouse gas reduction actions.

Place a high priority on conservation and recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities through biodiversity planning and management in natural areas.

Improve stream health of local waterways through control of local pollution, increased monitoring and improvements to habitat and water quality to sustain and enhance aquatic life.

### Did We Do That?

- Eastwood Masterplan Review
- Putney Village Public Domain Works
- Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy
- Adopted Greenhouse Gas Reduction Local Action Plan
- Converted 35% of passenger fleet to Hybrid or four cylinder vehicles
- Adopted Energy Savings Action Plan
- Conducted Eastwood Canal Water Wise Project
- Implemented biological and chemical water quality monitoring program targeting 5 main creek systems
- Biodiversity studies in Brush Farm Park, Darvall Park, Lambert Park and Field of Mars to identify indigenous and exotic flora and fauna
- Community workshops in partnership with Australian Conservation
- Foundation for the Green Home Program
- Introduced “Red Tape Reduction Program” for DA assessment, achieving 20 day reduction



# Department of Environment and Climate Change Local Council Partnership Initiative Grant

An Environmental education program targeting waste and stormwater pollution in and around the Eastwood Commercial Area.

This project was a joint effort between Council's Waste Services, Environment and Environmental Health teams. Environmental Health Officers carried out the component of the Project that targeted all the operators and employees of food businesses in the Eastwood commercial area. The outlets included grocery stores, fresh food retailers, take away shops and restaurants.

The project was carried out in two phases.

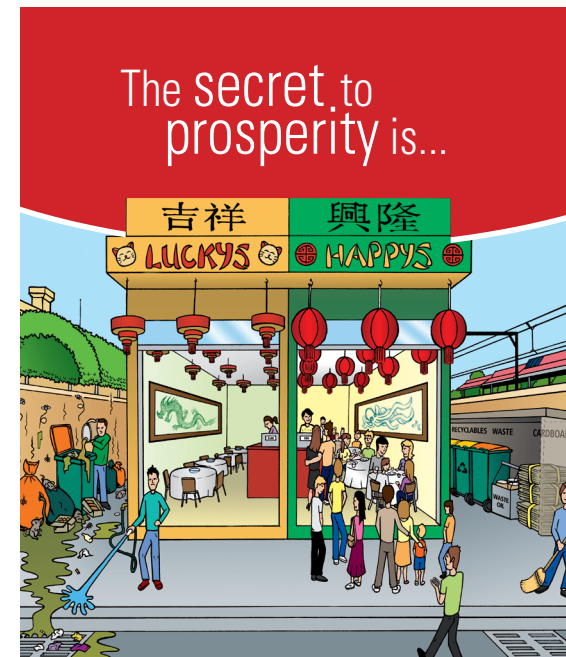
The first phase, carried out in late November 2006, involved two Environmental Health Officers visiting every food premises in the Eastwood commercial area. These inspections also included the participation of two translators – one Chinese speaking and one Korean speaking. This enabled the Environmental Health Officers to communicate the information produced for the Project to the proprietor where English was not their first language.

As the project aim was to raise awareness of shopkeepers regarding the managing of wastes from their premises and to avoid water pollution, this first visit comprised an inspection of the waste handling and storage facilities of the premises and a discussion on best practices. The proprietor was given an information booklet (in their preferred language) produced specifically for the Project. The booklet included information on waste service providers, pest controllers, Department of Environment and Climate Change "Solutions to Pollutions" publications and other relevant information.

A scoresheet was filled in for each premises rating its performance.

A follow-up inspection of 10% of the premises (targeting the poorer performers) was carried out by Council's Food Environmental Health Officers in mid-March 2007 to determine uptake of the information and any improved performances.

A total of 90 food premises were visited by Council's Environmental Health Officers – 82 in the first round and 8 follow-up inspections.



Eastwood Canal Waste Wise **Business Kit**





## New Park Recycling Stations

Public place recycling is a major step toward achieving greater diversion of waste from landfill and helping our environment.

Over the past year Council has installed over 240 garbage and recycling stations across in 83 parks and sporting fields.

The distinctive signs on these new stations show what can be placed in each bin.

The yellow-lid recycling bins accept glass, plastic, steel containers, aluminium cans, paper and small cardboard items. This is the same system as the residential recycling service.

The red-lid garbage bins accept all other general garbage.

There has been an enthusiastic response from residents and local sporting groups, as shown by the high volume and quality of recyclables collected to date.



Meadowbank Park

## Ryde Town Centre Urban Renewal Project

In 2006 the new Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) to guide the revitalisation of Ryde Town Centre became effective. When publicly exhibited, the much awaited sustainable planning controls met with 86% community approval and are now the basis for the Ryde Town Centre including the \$1.2 Billion redevelopment of the Top Ryde Shopping Centre.

Ryde Town Centre urban renewal is a model project that demonstrates:

- Successful public-private sector collaboration to generate more than \$2 Billion investment in Ryde Town Centre and its future.
- Council's effective coordination of its own resources and the input of State Government bodies (eg RTA) to deliver transport, planning and development assessment outcomes in record time frames.

- Transparent governance with three significant community consultation exercises being conducted. The first by the developer to understand what the community wanted in a new shopping centre, the second by Council when draft planning controls were publicly exhibited and lastly during assessment of the development application for the Top Ryde Shopping Centre.
- An innovative and probity conscious development assessment process that included independent assessment team and an IHAP to process a major DA in less than 6 months.
- Delivery of exceptional community benefits including new public domain spaces, streetscape and park improvements, pedestrian over-bridges, bus amenities, public library, public art, child care centre, and shop front customer service facilities for council.

## In focus: Biodiversity Surveying

During the spring and autumn months, Council has been undertaking systematic biodiversity surveys in the bushlands of the City of Ryde. Biodiversity is the variety of all living things on earth, including the different plants, animals and micro organisms, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form. These surveys will help to identify the occurrence of indigenous and exotic species of flora and fauna in local reserves, including plants and vegetation communities, mammals, birds, reptiles, frogs, fish and invertebrates (molluscs, insects, spiders).

The surveys will also assist Council to identify which areas require establishment to conserve or improve local and regional biodiversity, particularly in regard to threatened species and ecological communities. This information

will then help us formulate City and bushland management plans.

To date, biodiversity surveying has been completed in the following parks and reserves:

- Brush Farm Park
- Darvall Park
- Lambert Park
- Field of Mars Reserve.







Council was delighted to discover rare Powerful Owl, Echidna, native fish, and a couple of rare micro-bat species, but disappointed to find out how many species of exotic weeds have been introduced to the area.







The next areas scheduled to be surveyed include the catchment areas of Terrys Creek, Kittys Creek, and Buffalo Creek and on the Parramatta River foreshore.












The following tables show our progress towards initiatives and projects as outlined in our 2006-2009 Management Plan. ESD Linkage indicates whether the action is Social, Economic, Environmental or Governance related.








✓ Completed → In Progress 
  People (social) 
  Assets (economic) 
  Environment 
  Governance

ACTION	DELIVERABLES	ACHIEVED	ESD LINKAGE
Sustainable transport to reduce dependency on cars and improved transport connectivity between town centres	Integrated Transport Strategy linking Town Centres	→	
Introduce a Green Purchasing Policy	Policy and implementation documents in place	✓	
Cities for Climate Protection Action Plan	Reduction of Air pollution and high greenhouse gas emissions for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Action Plan	✓	
Conduct Community Sustainability Workshops for eco-friendly lifestyle choices	20 Waste Programs 25 environmental education programs	✓	
Conduct three Sustainability audits of Council's buildings/facilities	Installation of water-saving devices in Council and Public buildings	✓	
Implement Local Air Quality Management Plan 2009	Quarterly audit reports	✓	


ACTION	DELIVERABLES	ACHIEVED	ESD LINKAGE
Implement BASIX targeting a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for new residential developments	Water saving and Energy saving initiatives in new residential developments, alterations and additions	✓	
Water saving works at Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre	Water saving capital works 25.5% reduction on water consumption from 2005/06	✓	
Develop and implement Energy & water savings plans	Saving Plans introduced 14,831 kilolitres saved achieving a 15% reduction on 2005/06 consumption levels	✓	
Implement "Every Drop Counts" Recommendations to progress to four stars	Achieve 3 star rating	→	
Design Development Control Plans for West Ryde, Eastwood and Neighbourhood Centres	Development Control Plans and amended Local Environment Plans where applicable	→	
Design Development Control Plan for Gladesville	Development Control Plan and Local Environment Plan	✓	



ACTION	DELIVERABLES	ACHIEVED	ESD LINKAGE
Review Meadowbank Employment Area	Development Control Plan and amended Local Environment Plan	✓	
Review Macquarie Park Development Control Plan	Development Control Plan and amended Local Environment Plan	✓	
Flora and Fauna Survey and development of species listings	Brush Farm Park Lambert Park Darval Park Field of Mars Reserve Completed	→	
Vegetation mapping of local areas	City Wide Vegetation Maps	✓	
Community Education program on Noxious Weeds -Darvall Park	Inspection reports and community kits	→	
Review construction sites for sediment controls	Audit report and conditions checked	→	
Complete Acid Sulphate Soils Management Policy and identify affected lands	Land identified on Council mapping system including 500m buffer zone	✓	
Complete a Contaminated Land Development Control Plan	Plan and Policy	✓	
Water Quality Monitoring Program for Buffalo, Terry's, Porter's, Archers and Shrimpton Creek system	Monitoring of 2 sites during Autumn and Spring and reporting	→	

ACTION	DELIVERABLES	ACHIEVED	ESD LINKAGE
Clean up dead vegetative matter in Buffalo Creek	Clean up at Robinson Rd section of Buffalo Creek	→	
Facilitate quarterly meetings of Community Water Quality Management Steering Committee	Four quarterly meetings	✓	
Implement Stormwater Quality Awareness element of Enviro Ed Team Strategy	Community programs and displays, web based information	✓	
Build synergy with Hornsby Council water quality program for Terry's Creek	Meetings held	✓	
Community Education Programs on sustainability	Conduct a Community Sustainability Workshop for water quality with the Australian Conservation Foundation	✓	
Review current Geographical Information System and integration with other systems Evaluate options for future modelling System Tested and Implemented	Review on hold pending outcome of Core System Expression of Interest. New system in place by July 2008	→	
Establish and internal assessment panel	Panel established July 2006	✓	



ACTION	DELIVERABLES	ACHIEVED	ESD LINKAGE
Develop strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Council fleet Set standards for change in fleet structure Identify costs of change to fleet.	Strategy introduced by July 2006 Exceeded target of 30% and achieved 33% of passenger vehicle fleet now changed to 4 cylinder/Hybrid vehicles	✓	

Details relating to Council's environmental targets and achievements are available in Council's State of the Environment Report. Go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au).

# KEY MEASURES - ENVIRONMENT

Indicators	06/07	05/06
% of tonnes of waste stream to landfill	60%	57.36%
Value (\$) of approved development in Town Centres & Macquarie Park	\$952,775,551	\$478,031,255
Gross pollutants removed from gross pollutant traps (tonnes per annum)	116	63.42
Number of street trees planted by Council	530	234
% of Council's vehicle fleet to be 4 cylinder or Hybrid vehicles	35%	33.1%
Re-use of Council construction and demolition waste (tonnes per annum)	10,393	14,557

Please note that the data collected in 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 was not suitable for comparison as Council introduced Triple Bottom Line reporting in 2005/06.

## In Focus - Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN)

In 2007 the City of Ryde launched an environmental education network to local schools. The Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN) was established by Council to provide an effective channel for distributing environmental education resources and support to schools.

REEN is free for schools to join and is easy to be involved in with a mission to provide support for teachers whilst fostering internal and external networks between Council, schools and environmental organisations. Council provides schools with a quarterly newsletter and holds quarterly meetings for professional educators to discuss environmental projects and provide support and networking opportunities. Programs provided through the REEN in 2007 include:

"Catchment Chronicles" Thirteen schools signed up for the interactive and fun catchment Chronicles program sponsored by the City of Ryde. The schools learnt about catchment protection and methods of behaviour for creating a healthy environment.

Clean Up Australia Day: Schools across Ryde enthusiastically got involved in this year's Schools Clean Up Australia Day, collecting over 2 tonnes of garbage across the Ryde Council area.

The wonderful World of Worms: Over 10 local schools were introduced to the "Wonderful World of Worms" and shown how to set up their own Worm Farm at home. Several schools responded by setting up compost bins and worm farms, with students collecting their food scraps from lunch to feed the worms and build up the compost.

Total Water Consumption across the City of Ryde facilities

