

Welcome to the Annual State of the **Environment (SoE) Community Newsletter!**

his newsletter explores highlights of the many sustainability projects and other exciting community, business and Council initiatives that the City of Ryde has been working on this year.

Journey through a series of Ryde based casestudies from the regional SoE Report. The report measures, compares and details key indicators of water, waste, noise, bushland, air quality, soil

So... how important is our environment? Why should we attempt to understand and conserve it? Should we live and develop in a way that leaves a healthy ecological legacy?

Take a deep breath... to remember how basic environmental protection is - it's about protecting vital human needs, such as the air we breathe and the water we use.

It's about enhancing our quality of life through maintaining natural amenities, preparing for climatic changes and population growth, using resources efficiently, public transportation and protecting the living systems we depend on.

Bordered by the magical Lane Cove River National Park, and waters of the magnificent Parramatta and Lane Cover rivers, the City of Ryde encompasses

breathtaking natural spaces; such as the Wallumatta and Field of Mars Wildlife Reserves, as well as precious remnant bush habitat such as Blue Gum

Ryde also maintains around 150 hectares of dedicated recreational green spaces such as parks, ovals and gardens.

Talk to Us

Community consultation is a large part of how we determine environmental priorities and how to best address the needs of you, the resident.

Consultation for the Ryde 2030 Community Strategic Plan for example, has been initiated through on-line surveys, a 24 hour hotline, community forums, shopping centre displays and more. For more information see www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/ryde2030.

"My greatest hope is that by 2030 Ryde will have become a sustainable community".

- Resident, (65 years, Ryde), Ryde 2030 Consultation

We would love to hear your comments on this newsletter and our State of Environment Report. To make a suggestion or comment go to the SoE comments box on the SoE website at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/soe

These themes are explored in depth in the 2008/09 Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) State

of the Environment (SOE) Report.

You can view a copy of the SOE report on the Ryde Council website www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/soe, at any of City of Ryde's five libraries or customer service.

NSROC State of Environment Report 2008/2009

Get Involved

We encourage you to make use of the options made available

by the City of Ryde to learn about and enjoy

your environment, participate in workshops, tours, consultations etc. and take positive steps towards sustainability in

your homes, work, schools and community.

See our website www.ryde. nsw.gov.au/home.htm or call customer service on 9952 8222 for details.

Learn. Care. Enjoy!

Key areas of bushland in the Ryde LGA

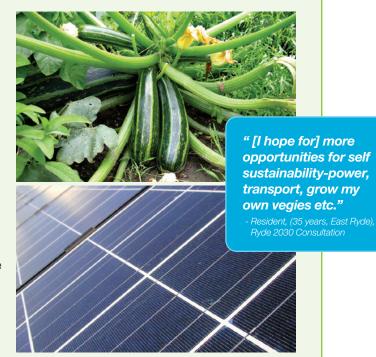
Living Light, Living Long - Sustainable Communities

City of Ryde supports many partnership events which promote positive sustainability action across the Ryde community.

Building on a successful series in 2006, the Australian Conservation Foundation delivered another round of GreenHome sustainability workshops in November 2008, covering water (and water bill) savings, energy and fuel usage, household waste, drought-resistant native gardens and vegetable gardens.

Ryde launched its online **Sustainable Living Guide** on the eve of World Environment Day 2009. The guide contains a comprehensive list of easy and simple actions we can all take to minimise our impact on the environment.

See www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/sustainableliving to view the guide.



Growing your own food and installing solar hotwater are some of the many actions covered in the Sustainable Living Guide

Home Sustainability Tip - Saving Water

- Install a water efficient showerhead You will save more than 12,000 litres of water per year and reduce your water and energy bills when you exchange your old showerhead for a new AAA rated one.
- Install dual flush toilets Installing a dual flush toilet will allow you to use the appropriate amount of water to clear the toilet bowl.
- Use the water twice Connect up a hose to your washing machine so you can pump the water out to your garden. Make sure you use phosphorous free detergent so that you don't harm your soil and plants.
- Invest in a front loading clothes washing machine with AAA water rating - They are much more efficient with water and energy. Plus they are gentler on your clothes.

City of Ryde has also developed Sustainability Product Information Kits for ceiling insulation, solar panels, rainwater tanks and solar hot water systems.

Sustainability Rebate Facts

Current rebates are available for...

- Rainwater tanks up to \$1500 for rainwater tanks connected to toilets and washing machines
- Hot water systems up to \$1200 to switch from electric to solar, heat pump or gas hot water systems
- Washing machines \$150 for buying a 4.5 star or higher WELS rated washing machines.



These kits have simple to follow installation checklists for residents on how to receive rebates and the process for lodging a Development Application if required. The kits also have contact details of our preferred suppliers for the installation of these products, with many offering discounts for City of Ryde residents.

These initiatives illustrate City of Ryde's commitment to promoting community sustainability and addressing the information access needs of our residents.

Walking the Talk - Leadership by Example

Project Sustainability Assessment Protocol

In order to support City of Ryde's project planners, Council has developed a Project Sustainability Assessment Protocol.

Staff designing projects in any part of Ryde Council's operations are encouraged and assisted to consider their plans against four key sustainability indicators - environment, people (social), governance (legal) and assets (economic).

As well as assessing the sustainability impacts of their proposals, the Protocol encourages project planners to identify opportunities for improving their sustainability performance in future activities.

Council Buildings

In the last 12 months, the Civic Centre has cut its emissions by 7% and energy efficiency has improved by 17%, contributing to a downward trend in greenhouse gas emissions across all Council buildings and assets.

The Protocol and Civic Centre initiatives are ways the City of Ryde provides leadership by example and encourages the development of a culture of sustainability considerations.

Fuel Tanks to Frontage - Remediation of the Shepherds Bay Site

The metamorphosis of Council's former works depot site at Shepherds Bay is now complete.

The site previously hosted light industrial infrastructure and a number of underground fuel storage tanks, but is now one of Ryde's waterfront park showpieces.

Remediation included the removal of localised nearsurface contamination, removal of underground storage tanks, and placement of engineered capping.

The new landscaping includes artworks that reflect the local Aboriginal and early European history of the site.

This is an example of how the City of Ryde attempts to revitalise degraded lands for future generations.



Site during remediation, showing underground storage tank pit



Same view of site following remediation

Leaving a Living Legacy - Biodiversity and Conservation

The City of Ryde has 355 hectares of parkland divided into 207 parks, most of which is classed as natural

bushland, the largest being the Field of Mars Reserve.

During 2008/09, **574**

Bushcare volunteers

from Ryde have contributed around 4730 hours of their time in total, to help protect and restore our bushland.



Bushcare volunteers.

City of Ryde has continued supporting its Bushcare program through the management, supervision and training of volunteers. Council has also provided several short training courses through Ryde TAFE to further the skills of these volunteers. These courses have received strong support and interest.

Bush Buddy Profile



Powerful Owl (Ninox strenua)

The Powerful Owl has a large range across the City of Ryde and beyond but is an endangered species. Recent sightings have been along Terry's Creek, Brush Farm Park, Bundara Reserve and Field

of Mars Wildlife Reserve. They prefer to nest in

Length: 60-65cm

Colour: dark brown barred with white

Eyes: yellow-orange Beak: black Feet: yellow

Call: 'woo-hoo' with 10 second breaks between calls. May be heard up to 1km away.

Prey: possums, gliders, birds, rabbits

The Powerful Owl was selected to feature in the Bushcare Program Logo in 2001 due to its iconic status.

See www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushland/ffreports.htm for flora and fauna reports and see www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/environment/wildlife.htm for 'How to make your Garden Wildlife Friendly'.



A flora and fauna survey of 54 urban bushland reserves throughout the Ryde LGA has also been completed. This included mapping flora and fauna species in each

of the bushland areas surveyed.

Council is also undertaking a weed inspection and education program, providing brochures, kerbside pickups of weed material and native plants, free of charge to residents.

"[I am concerned] that air quality will suffer due to the cutting down of trees and increase in cars"...

- Resident, (55 years, Denistone), Ryde 2030 Consultation

The protection and retention of native biota is supported through the identification of biodiversity hotspots and the development of a plan for creating or enhancing wildlife corridors and determining areas requiring conservation, particularly relating to threatened species and communities.

Many animal groups have been severely depleted as a result of development (especially land mammals, bats, large reptiles and frogs). Birds are the best represented fauna group in the LGA. Sites with over 100 species of native fauna have been identified at Field of Mars Reserve and Pembroke Park/Lucknow Park.

These initiatives detail how the City of Ryde supports its numerous community Bushcare

volunteers and tries to protect the remaining plant and animal communities in the LGA.



Threatened Blue Gum Forest

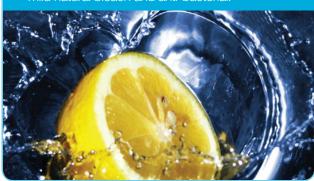
Cheap and Easy Natural Cleaning

Hard Surface Cleaner Recipe

Ingredients - White vinegar, bicarb soda, spray bottle, metal shaker

Method - Spray surface with vinegar, sprinkle bicarb and allow to foam. Spread over surface with dry cloth and allow to stand for 10 minutes. Wipe away with a damp cloth.

Tips - essential oils can add fragrance to your home made products, olive oil can act as a furniture polisher and lemons can be a great mild natural bleach and anti-bacterial.



Did You Know...

Plants and plant like microbes make the

oxygen we breathe in the process of creating their food using water and sunlight. Plants also affect local climatic conditions through their role in the water cycle e.g. by the release of water vapour at night through leaves.



The scientific terms for these processes are photosynthesis and transpiration.



Mural Design

Watching Our Waters - Catchment Management

Catchment Education and Community Projects

The City Of Ryde has continued its catchment education programs through a project called Catchment Connections. The three year project covers the Terrys, Mars, Shrimptons and Buffalo Creek catchments - all linking to the Lane Cove River. The partnership project is jointly funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and three Local Councils: Ryde, Hornsby and Hunters Hill with City of Ryde as the lead Council.



Catchment Connections aims to improve the water quality of local creeks, preserve and enhance remnant bushland, improve local biodiversity and increase community involvement in Bushcare activities.

A series of guided walks and workshops designed to engage the community with their catchments looked at catchment health, water sensitive design and gardening for healthy creeks.

"[My vision for the catchment is...]... for Terrys Creek to be free of pollutants and rubbish; the banks restored; the creek banks free of privet; the bush free of weeds and a vibrant community interest in the area..."

- Cnaries and Jean IVIIIIer (Catchment Connections Community Reference Group

Participants learned to identify issues which impact their local creek and learned about solutions they can use in their own homes to improve catchment health. The workshop materials have been designed as training packages to be used by community members and networks to present to community groups.



"The workhops made me aware of how important local government is in implementing environmental changes..."

"Thanks. Loved it. Good resources."

- Participants of community workshops

Guided walks for each of the creeks of the project area have been developed and are consistently booked out. Future walks and workshops will cater to speakers of several languages.



Eco house activty (above)
Educational mural
in Hillview Lane (right)



Upcoming Walks & Talks

See www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/catchmentconnections or call 9952 822 for upcoming Guided Walks and Workshops in your local area.





Stormwater Infrastructure and Creek Restoration

City of Ryde is updating its Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) policy and on-ground initiatives.

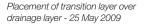
An innovative bio-retention 'rain garden' system for example, has been installed in Meadowbank Park. It uses vegetation and soil to treat stormwater runoff (the water that is collected from rainfall flowing to kerbside gutters for example), by filtering out pollutants before the water is released into Parramatta River.

Stormwater pollution and water quality are targeted through a variety of catchment and asset projects.

These include creek rehabilitation works at Archers Creek, Shrimpton's Creek and Strangers Creek, stormwater treatment measures at Meadowbank, Looking Glass Bay and Parry Parks and stormwater harvesting and reuse systems at Meadowbank Park, Ryde Park and North Ryde Library.

Other creek rehabilitation and bio-retention systems at Santa Rosa Park and a stormwater quality improvement device and constructed wetlands on Buffalo Creek are other examples of projects undertaken to better manage the local catchment.



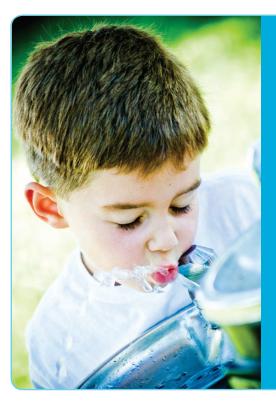




Placement of filter media over transition layer - 27 May 2009

Council has also recently completed the construction of an offline Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) along one of the drainage systems that discharges through Meadowbank Park into the Parramatta River. City of Ryde has constructed and maintains 28 GPTs that have prevented 209 tonnes of litter and other pollutants from entering our creeks and rivers in 2008/09.

The rehabilitation of Archer Creek at Lambert Park has provided public access for passive recreation and Bushcare activities and resulted in a reduction in sediment discharging to the Parramatta River, improvement to water quality, and the re-establishment of a creek riparian zone (area of land surrounding creek), providing additional local habitat.



Water Quality Monitoring

City of Ryde tested the water chemistry and macroinvertebrates (the animals that live in or around waterways), at five local creek monitoring locations in spring and autumn this year. Now into its sixth year, the Water Quality Monitoring Program indicates results that would be expected for typically impacted urban streams.

This year also saw the expansion of water quality testing to eight additional locations, to monitor any improvements in water quality from stormwater improvement capital works.

Data and analysis over the six years of the program is being used to help inform creek remediation and restoration and associated capital works in Ryde.

City of Ryde is dedicated to connecting our communities with their water catchments through popular educational initiatives, as well as monitoring water quality and protecting our waterways from degradation through considerate urban design.

Moving Around - Public Transport

Transport Access Guides and the Eastwood Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan

As part of its Ryde Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (RITLUS), the City of Ryde has developed the Eastwood Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) and a City wide Transport Access Guide (TAG) including guides for Macquarie, Eastwood and Gladesville Shopping Centres.

A key priority of the RITLUS is to identify ways of developing a continuous integrated pedestrian network across the 6 key centres of Ryde. The Eastwood PAMP is the first of a series to be completed for each of the centres namely, Macquarie Park, Eastwood, West Ryde, Meadowbank, Gladesville and Top Ryde.

It identified key routes to local attractions, access to public transport facilities, safe and accessible walking environments, pedestrian accidents and vehicle speeds. It will also inform Council's future capital works (infrastructure) budgets.

"[I hope for] a Council that fully supports the needs and rights of pedestrians..."

- Resident, Ryde 2030 Consultation

The City of Ryde is exploring ways of providing customised travel information for people travelling to and from particular sites in Ryde, using low energy forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.

A TAG can not only provide transport and travel information but also information about surrounding services and businesses including recreational walking and cycling routes.

TAG's have the potential to reduce car travel, associated greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion while improving health through active transport choices.

The Top Ryder Bus Service

The free community 'Top Ryder Bus Service' commenced on July 2008, demonstrating Council's commitment to environmental sustainability and local mobility, encouraging residents, workers and visitors to use public transport, especially for local trips.



The Top Ryder Bus is a key component of City of Ryde's Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (RITLUS) and services the southern part of Ryde to complement other existing public and community bus services.

This service connects the West
Ryde, Eastwood and Gladesville
shopping precincts via the Top Ryde and
Meadowbank shopping precincts and Ryde
Hospital. Since the service began, over 22,000
passengers have been shuttled between the centres.

The two colourful Top Ryder buses owned by Council run six days per week during business hours, and have been specially adapted to assist the elderly and those who use wheelchairs.

Ryding the Wave - Ryde's Climate

In 2008/09 City of Ryde's commitment to greenhouse gas emission reduction was recognised by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, for successfully completing Milestone 5 of the Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP).

Council has achieved significant energy savings from a range of initiatives including numerous climate change educational campaigns and the implementation of internal Environmental Monitoring Systems and sustainable transport initiatives.

City of Ryde actively promotes the Fridge Buy Back program which has seen 440 working second fridges collected since the start of the program, equating to \$620,000 in savings to residents on energy costs alone and the removal of 3600 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"Make Ryde a leader in low carbon impact living"

Ryde 2030 Consultation

While the residential energy consumption of all other NSROC Councils increased slightly this year, the City of Ryde's decreased by 0.1%. Around 36,000 tonnes of CO² was saved through Council run or facilitated community projects.

Achievements in the Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP) and performance in regional indicators reflects progress towards mitigating Greenhouse Gas enhanced climatic changes. "[I hope that] areas [are] well-serviced by public transport with [an] emphasis to clear up the air and choked streets-[and provide] alternatives to cars..."

- Resident, Ryde 2030 Consultation

The TAGs, PAMP and Top Ryder service demonstrate City of Ryde's commitment to integrated planning, public information resources and

facilities for public transport, to meet increasing demands, improve mobility and reduce environmental impacts and traffic congestion.

Energy Saving Tips

Install insulation in ceiling, floor and walls

- The heating and cooling requirements of you house are reduced dramatically if the house is well insulated.

Install compact fluorescent globes -

Compact fluorescent globes use approx one fifth the energy of incandescent globes (generating only one-fifth as much greenhouse gas as ordinary globes), produce the same amount of light and can last up to 10 times longer.

Block the summer heat - Install blinds and sun shades or plant deciduous trees to prevent the summer heat from over-heating your house.

Circulate air - Install ceiling fans for cooling in summer and circulating rising heat in winter.

Rug up in winter - Turn your heating thermostat down a couple of degrees (say to 20°C) and wear a jumper in winter. Every degree over 22°C adds about 10% to your heating bill!

Let nature work for you

- Use your clothes line rather than the clothes dryer.

Compact fluorescent wishes

Waste Not Want Not - Reducing Waste

City of Ryde has continued to deliver many waste management programs over 2008/09. These include:

Public Place Recycling & Waste Bins

City of Ryde have begun to install new waste and recycling bin stations throughout the City's shopping centres, with an initial 28 stations being installed in the Eastwood Town Centre in May 2009.

The bin stations enable shoppers to dispose of their bottles, cans, newspapers and other recyclable material in an environmentally friendly manner.



The waste and recycling stations, including rubbish and recycling signage, were designed by Council's own waste team with clear labelling in mind to reduce contamination.

To encourage recycling and eliminate illegal dumping, an education plan was developed including the distribution of "information about the waste and recycling bin stations" pamphlets to shop owners.

Butt Bins

Council has installed 42 new stainless steel "Butt Out" cigarette bins in high use locations around the City including Council buildings, bus stops and train stations.

Cigarette butts disposed of in the street end up in stormwater gutters and eventually our rivers and Sydney Harbour. The new bins will be serviced and cleaned regularly keeping our streets cleaner for everyone to enjoy.

E-waste Collection

City of Ryde collects residents' computers for recycling free of charge. As these items contain hazardous materials such as heavy metals, their recycling reduces contribution to environmental contamination from lead and other pollutants.

Energy Efficient Light Globe Recycling

A free drop off service for residents for light globes which contains mercury, commenced this year. By dropping them off at the Civic Centre Foyer, the mercury is safely recycled – rather than sending them to landfill which can leach into our environment.

Chipping and Mulching Service

Residents can book this service and have their garden waste turned into mulch to reuse on their gardens.

Mulch reduces water loss from soil, keeps weeds down and returns nutrients back to the soil.

Subsidised Compost Bins and Worm Farms

City of Ryde offers all residents heavily subsidised compost bins and worm farms. Organic material placed into the compost or worm farm is broken down to produce an all-natural fertiliser for gardens.

Residents are provided with information and education sessions and offered home visits by a Waste Education Officer. In addition, City of Ryde recognises the importance of reducing the amount of waste that goes to landfill and continues to offer workshops for any school that requests the service.

Each school in the City of Ryde is offered a free compost bin or worm farm.

"I hope we could have more greenery and reduce the amount of litter in public areas.

My greatest concern is how people dispose [of] their waste."

- Resident, Ryde 2030 Consultation



Extra Recycling and Greenwaste Bins

For only \$37 per year, Council offers a cheap alternative to your growing garbage bin. It is a fantastic way to help reduce the amount of garbage going to landfill while recycling and reusing current materials.

Household Chemical Clean Out

Each year, City of Ryde partners with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW to host a Household Chemical Cleanout whereby residents can drop off hazardous materials for free. In May 2009, over 754 people dropped off 23 tonnes of hazardous material for safe disposed. Paint was the most common item dropped off.

..."there is so much rubbish washed down the creek when it rains... I'm always fishing out plastic bags, cans and other [litter] on my walks through Laurel Park."

- Resident, Ryde 2030 Consultation

Return Unwanted Medicines and Medical Waste Programs

Over 300 tonnes of out of date and unwanted medicines are inappropriately disposed of (in household

garbage and down toilets and sinks) across Australia. City of Ryde offers residents the opportunity to dispose of their medicines, syringes and dialysis materials for free at 14 pharmacies throughout the City.



Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day is Australia's largest community based environmental event. Growing from strength to strength each year, City of Ryde had 34 community groups participate in 2009 with over 3.8 tonnes of litter collected in a fantastic community effort.

Waste management is an integral part of Council's core business and the City of Ryde is committed to improving residential access to improved services, waste minimisation and responsible disposal options.

Garage Sale - SecondHand Saturday

Council supports Community Garage Sales that encourages residents' to reuse and save on resources whilst diverting space from landfill. They are held on the Saturday before a scheduled Clean Up collection. Council advertises

the events for free in the local paper and sends out an information pack.

For details on how you can participate see www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/secondhandsaturday





ENGLISH

If you do not understand this document please come to Ryde Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm or telephone the Telephone and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask an interpreter to contact the City of Ryde for you on 9952 8222.

ARABIC

[ذا تعذر عليك فهم محتويات هذه الوثيقة، نزجو الحضور إلى مركز بلدية رايد Ryde Civic Centre على العنوان: Devin Street, Ryde 1 من الاثنين إلى الجمعة بين الساعة 8.30 صباحاً والساعة 4.30 بعد الظهر، أو الاتصال بمكتب خدمات الترجمة على الرقم 131 لكي تطلب من أحد المترجمين الاتصال بمجلس مدينة رايد، على الرقم 2822 995و، نيابة عنك.

ARMENIAN

Եթէ այս գրութիւնը չէք հասկնար, խնդրեմ եկէք՝ Րայտ Սիվիք Սենթըր, 1 Տելվին փողոց, Րայտ, (Ryde Civic Centre, 1 Devin Street, Ryde) Երկուշաբթիէն Ուրբաթ կ.ա. ժամը 8.30 – կ.ե. ժամը 4.30, կամ հեռաձայնեցէք <եռաձայնի եւ Թարգմանութեան Սպասարկութեան՝ 131 450, եւ խնդրեցէք որ թարգմանիչ մը Րայտ Քաղաքապերարանին հեր կապ հաստարէ ձեզի համար, հեռաձայնելով՝ 9952 8222 թեւին։

P City of Ryde

CHINESE

如果您看不懂本文,請在周一至周五上午 8 時 30 分至下午 4 時 30 分前往 Ryde 市政中心詢問 (Ryde Civic Centre, 地址: 1 Devlin Street, Ryde)。你也可以打電話至電話傳譯服務中心,電話號碼是: 131 450。接通後你可以要求一位傳譯員爲你打如下電話和 Ryde市政廳聯繫,電話是: 9952 8222。

FARS

اگر این مدرک را نمی فهمید لطفاً از 8.30 صبح تا 4.30 بعد از ظهر دوشنبه تا جمعه به مرکز شهرداری راید، Ryde Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde مراجعه کنید یا به سرویس مترجم تلفنی، شماره 131 434 لفن بزنید و از یک مترجم بخواهید که از طرف شما با شهرداری راید، شماره 8222 لفک، بنند.

ITALIAN

Se non capite il presente documento, siete pregati di rivolgervi al Ryde Civic Centre al n. 1 di Devlin Street, Ryde, dalle 8.30 alle 16.30, dal lunedi al venerdi; oppure potete chiamare il Telephone Translating and Interpreting Service al 131 450 e chiedere all'interprete di contattare a vostro nome il Municipio di Ryde presso il 9952 8222.

KOREAN

이 문서가 무슨 의미인지 모르실 경우에는 1 Devlin Street, Ryde 에 있는 Ryde Civic Centre 로 오시거나 (월 – 금, 오전 8:30 – 오후 4:30), 전화 131 450 번으로 전화 통역 서비스에 연락하셔서 통역사에게 여러분 대신 Ryde 시청에 전화 9952 8222 번으로 연락을 부탁하십시오

City of Ryde Council - Environment and Planning Civic Centre, Devlin Street, Ryde NSW 2112 Telephone 9952 8222 Fax 9952 8111 www.ryde www.ryde.nsw.gov.au