



MAYOR'S COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Clr Bill Pickering - Mayor

As we near the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the achievements and challenges faced by Council during the last 12 months. 2014 has been a challenging year for local government in NSW and the City of Ryde.

The ongoing issues of Council's ability to provide long-term funding: the state government's proposed changes to the local government sector and the handing down of ICAC's findings in Operation Cavill have all had a major impact on Council's time and resources.

In many areas however, 2014 was a very successful year. Some of the highlights of the year have included:

- The new Surf Ryder attraction at the Aquatic Centre opened and has proved very popular with all age groups and levels of ability.
- Federal funding of \$1.1 million was received for the continuation of the construction of Ryde Riverwalk. When complete, the walk will link Wharf Road Melrose Park with Looking Glass Bay.
- New sport floodlights were installed at Waterloo Park. This project was a joint initiative between the Macquarie Dragons football club and Council.
- \$6 million of state government funding was received which will allow the development of much needed parkland in Waterloo Road at Macquarie Park as the Urban Activation Precinct earmarked for this area gets underway.
- Playground upgrades to enhance the facilities provided to our youngsters were carried out and will continue to be made in 2015.
- Work was carried out to beautify our town centres. Boronia Park and West Ryde in particular are now looking refreshed and vibrant.
- Council's LEP 2014 was gazetted and now sets the blue print for development over the next few years.

There will be challenges in 2015. To meet our financial obligations, Council is continuing its move to a Special Rate Variation which will provide the funds for necessary maintenance to Council's \$2 billion worth of community infrastructure.

It will also be necessary for Council to meet the biggest challenge of the New Year - the State Government's 'Fit for the Future' agenda - in order to avoid the splitting of our city to councils to our west and east.

On a final note, it is with deep sadness that we lowered our flags to half-mast on all our Council buildings yesterday to honour those who tragically lost their lives in the siege at Martin Place, Sydney.

Council's thoughts are with the survivors and their families as they work through this difficult time. Council also extends its condolences to the families of the innocent victims who sadly lost their lives.

We wish to extend our gratitude to the NSW Police and all other agencies for their professionalism and courage.

Sincerely,
Clr Bill Pickering - Mayor
Phone 9952 8222 or email mayor@ryde.nsw.gov.au

The following locations are participating in the Christmas Lights Showcase and invite you to view their Christmas Lights:

Christmas LIGHTS SHOWCASE
City of Ryde

- 23 Chauvel St, North Ryde
- 28 Chauvel St, North Ryde
- 34 Chauvel St, North Ryde
- 13-17 Morrison Rd, Gladesville
- Arnold St, Ryde
- Graham Ave, Eastwood

Dominic Johnson
A/General Manager
Ryde Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde NSW 2112
Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670
www.ryde.nsw.gov.au

HAVE YOUR SAY

Council invites the community to view the following documents on public exhibition:

Revised Draft Four Year Delivery Plan 2014-2018 including One Year Operational Plan 2014/2015 and Resourcing Strategy

The Revised Delivery Plan lists the projects and activities to be delivered by Council over the next four years. It is Council's implementation plan including the budget, to deliver on the Community Strategic Plan.

The City of Ryde Resourcing Strategy is made up of three documents being the Asset Management Plan (AMP), The Workforce Plan (WFP) and the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP). These three documents are all linked primarily through the Community Strategic Plan which outlines at the highest level what Council commits to delivering to our community over the life of the plan.

This then cascades down through the Four Year Delivery Plan and One Year Operational Plan to further detail exactly how council funds will be spent to ensure that commitment to the community is met, all within the context of delivering best value services to our customers. The re-exhibition of these documents for public comment was brought about by a resolution of Council to consider applying for a Special Rate Variation of 7% (including the rate peg) over 4 years from 1 July 2015 which is proposed to be an ongoing permanent increase. This application will be made to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), the government body that controls annual rate increases. This decision was based on feedback from the community that they supported Council's proposition to overcome an annual funding shortfall for the renewal and maintenance of Council's infrastructure and assets that has resulted in an ever increasing backlog. How this additional income would be utilised is outlined within the Revised Draft Four Year Delivery Plan 2014-2018 including the One Year Operational Plan 2014/2015. Submissions close 6 February 2015.

Draft Traffic and Parking Impact Study - 461-495 Victoria Road, Gladesville

Council has received a planning proposal for 461-495 Victoria Road, Gladesville (Bunnings Group Planning Proposal). This planning proposal seeks to amend the existing planning controls (height and zoning) to allow for redevelopment of the site to support a Bunnings development and the sale of bulky goods. The plan was exhibited from June to July 2013. Note that a planning proposal is not a development application (DA). If a DA is subsequently lodged for this site it would also be publicly exhibited for community comment.

On 26 November 2013, in response to community concerns, City of Ryde Council resolved to defer the decision regarding the planning proposal until a new traffic and parking impact study is complete. This comprehensive study undertaken by independent consultants is now available for public comment.

Submissions close Friday 30 January 2015.

Where can I view the documents?

You can view these documents at:

Online www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay
In person Customer Service Centre, 1 Devlin St, Ryde, Ryde Planning and Business Centre, and City of Ryde libraries. (Note: if you wish to receive the document on disc please call 9952 8222)

How do I make a submission?

Submissions must be in writing and can be made as follows:

Online www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay
Email cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au
Post General Manager, City of Ryde, Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670

PUBLIC NOTICES

East Ward By-Election announced

Councillor Ivan Petch resigned from the City of Ryde as a Councillor on 1 December 2014.

As a result, Council is required to fill this vacancy and has engaged the NSW Electoral Commission to administer a By-Election for East Ward to be held on Saturday 21 February 2015.

Nominations for candidates as a Councillor open Monday 12 January 2015.

Voting is compulsory for residents of East Ward who live in Chatswood West, East Ryde, North Ryde, Gladesville, Tennyson Point, Putney and Ryde.

To find out if you are required to vote go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/byelection or call Council's Customer Service on 9952 8222.

Festive Season Opening Hours

Council, including the Customer Service Centre and the Ryde Planning and Business Centre will close for the Christmas/ New Year break at 12 noon on Wednesday 24 December 2014, reopening for business as usual on Friday 2 January 2015.

City of Ryde Libraries will close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 24 December 2014, reopening for business as usual on Friday 2 January 2015

Waste collection will operate on the usual days and will not be affected by public holidays.

The free Top Ryder bus service will not operate from Christmas Day Thursday 25 December and will resume on Wednesday 7 January 2015.

The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre will be closed on Wednesday 24 December, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. For full details go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au

VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENT RECEIVED

Council has received the following Voluntary Planning Agreement.

Property: 2-10 Wharf Road and 134-140 Victoria Road Gladesville
Local Development Application: LDA2013/220
Applicant: Cth Street Pty Limited as trustee for Cth Street Unit Trust.

Voluntary Planning Agreement: The above application was granted deferred commencement approval on 10 April 2014 subject to the Council and the Developer entering into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) pursuant to Section 93F of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (Act) consistent with the VPA offered by the Developer subject of resolution of Council on 10 December 2013.

Under the Act, developers may contribute works, money or land to the local community as part of their development. The VPA sets out what contributions the developer intends to make to the local community.

Submissions regarding the above Voluntary Planning Agreement must be lodged no later than 22 January 2015.

The above VPA is not 'designated development' under the terms of the Act, and the City of Ryde is the authority responsible for the determination of the VPA. Anyone may make submissions concerning this VPA. The above VPA and accompanying Explanatory Note may be inspected electronically on the City of Ryde's website at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au or at the Ryde Planning and Business Centre, 1 Pope Street, Ryde (within Top Ryde City shopping centre) between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday during the period in which submissions may be made. (Please note: on the second Thursday of each month the hours are 10.00am to 5.00pm.) To make an appointment go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/planningandbusiness or call 9952 8222.

HAVE YOUR SAY, SUBMISSIONS PROCEDURE AND PRIVACY STATEMENT

The City of Ryde has resolved that all submissions received in relation to planning proposals, rezoning and development applications will be publicly accessible on request. The supply of personal information is voluntary. However if you choose to make an anonymous submission it may be given less weight (or no weight) in the overall consideration of the application. Submissions are required to be in writing. They should be addressed to the General Manager and sent by post, email or fax or delivered in person to the Civic Centre or the Ryde Planning and Business Centre. Should the submission be by way of objection, the submission should specify the grounds of objection.

OUR PERFORMANCE 2013/14

We invested \$95 million on 156 services to support business and the community

We invested \$610,000 in our libraries

We invested \$3.55 million on paths and cycleways

We gave \$289,843 to our community as grants and in-kind support

We managed \$2.22 billion worth of land and infrastructure

We invested \$2.33 million in making our neighbourhoods great places to live

We invested \$410,000 in our waste and recycling program

We earned \$63.3 million from rates and annual charges

We invested \$4.33 million in making our roads easier to travel

We invested \$1.96 million improving public domain in Macquarie Park

We invested \$5.8 million in open space, sport and recreation

We earned \$19.87 million in capital grants and contributions

City of Progressive Leadership

We seek to foster collaborative approaches to the governance of our city across all levels of government, and focus on delivering results against our agreed strategic outcomes in the most cost-effective way. This year we:

- Took steps to secure our financial future
- Responded to calls for local government reform
- Responded proactively to the ICAC investigation
- Engaged with our community and listened to our customers
- Webcast council meetings
- Made it easier for our community to apply for jobs

City of Harmony and Culture

We seek to recognise and celebrate links to our traditional owners and provide cultural and learning opportunities that meet the needs of our diverse population. This year we:

- Conserved our heritage
- Expanded our library activities
- Hosted 114,000 people at our community events
- Launched the Youth Services Hub
- Supported the 'Racism. It stops with me.' Campaign
- Launched 'Finding Benelong'

LOOKING AHEAD 2014/15

- Auditing and upgrading lighting
- Building new bus shelters
- Constructing and repairing footpaths
- Creating heritage walking trails
- Developing a biodiversity plan
- Developing outdoor advertising spaces
- Expanding our collection of library books including e-books
- Expanding our cycleways network
- Engaging with our community
- Hosting Ryde Remembers Centenary of ANZAC events
- Hosting the Youth Waste and Environment Project
- Implementing our Economic Development Plan
- Implementing the Macquarie Park Marketing Plan
- Making e-business easier for our community
- Upgrading town centres
- Planting trees on our streets and in parks and open spaces
- Protecting biodiversity
- Refurbishing Banjo Paterson Park Wharf
- Repairing and resurfacing damaged roads
- Replacing stormwater assets and undertaking other stormwater improvement works
- Rolling out a corruption prevention system
- Running our community garden and nursery
- Running the Active in Ryde program
- Supporting Macquarie Park's Transport Management Agency
- Supporting Ryde Youth Theatre Group
- Upgrading playgrounds and sportsgrounds
- Undertaking a parking study in Macquarie Park
- Upgrading public domain along Waterloo Road and Lane Cove Road
- Upgrading bridges

MANAGING THE MONEY

At the City of Ryde, money comes in from rates on residential, business and industrial properties, government grants, interest on investments, user charges and fees, and operations from Council's own business.

Money goes out for construction, maintenance, wages, grants to community groups and many other services to the community like libraries, immunisation, bush regeneration and tree removal programs.

The following information aims to provide a brief summary of our 2013/14 financial statements in a form that is easily understood by our community, customers, employees and other stakeholders. Further discussion may be found from page 28 of the Annual Report which is available on our website, with full details of the City of Ryde's financial statements from page 129.

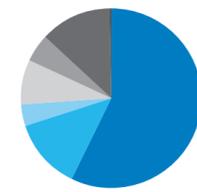
Where did our money come from?

This year, our main source of income, other than rates, was from user charges and fees of \$13.9 million or 12.7 percent (2012/13: \$13.3 million or 11.9 percent).

Income from rates and annual charges contributed \$63.3 million or 57.3 percent (2012/13: \$61.1 million or 54.8 percent). Federal and State Government grants assist us to provide facilities and services in the community. Income from the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre and regulatory/statutory fees are also an important source of income.

2013/14 Total income \$110.4 million

- 57.3% Rates and annual charges
- 12.7% User charges and fees
- 3.9% Interest and investment income
- 8.1% Other revenue
- 5.0% Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes
- 12.9% Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes
- 0.1% Net gain on disposal of assets

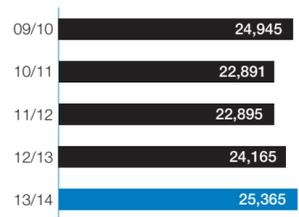


Where was the money spent?

We have maintained the level of capital expenditure (excluding contributed assets) on our assets to ensure our assets' long-term sustainability. We delivered \$25.4 million in capital expenditure (2012/13: \$24.2 million) and received no contributed public domain infrastructure assets associated with major developments within our City (2012/13: Nil). Identifying ways to manage the City of Ryde's \$2.2 billion worth assets, which include infrastructure, buildings, parks and public domain, has been major focus in 2013/14 - refer to pages 27 and 30 in the Annual Report on our website for further discussion of the steps we are taking to maintain the standards our community expects.

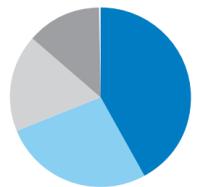


Capital expenditure (excluding contributed assets) (\$'000s)



2013/14 Total operating expenses \$94.8 million

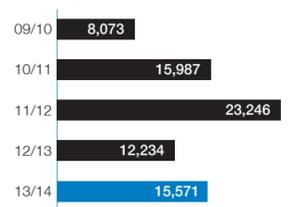
- 42% Employee benefits and on costs
- 0.2% Borrowing costs
- 27% Materials and contracts
- 17.5% Depreciation and amortisation and impairment
- 13.3% Other expenses
- 0% Loss from disposal of assets



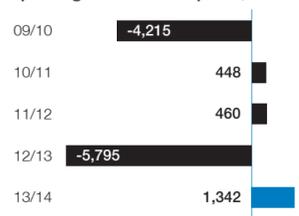
How does our performance compare with previous years?

We have achieved an operating surplus over the past five years of \$75.1 million including contributed assets, or a loss of \$7.7 million excluding capital income. This indicates that the day-to-day costs incurred by Council are more than the total revenue received, which is putting strain on our ability to pay for capital works.

Operating result (\$'000s)



Operating result before capital (\$'000s)



To view the complete Annual Report online go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/annualreport

Let's connect

