

---

## 5 NET ZERO EMISSIONS PATHWAY - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

---

**Report prepared by:** Senior Sustainability and Environment Coordinator  
**File No.:** ENV/08/3/9 - BP23/98

---

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report outlines the results of the final round of community consultation for the City's Net Zero Emissions (NZE) Pathway 2022. At its meeting on the 23 August 2022, Council resolved to support and adopt the Net Zero Emissions Pathway (Plan) including the Council Operational emissions target 'of 2035 or sooner' and following on from the previously adopted, Community emissions target of '2040 or sooner' (23 November 2021) Council meeting. The resolution of the 23 August 2022 meeting included Council undertaking a final round of community consultation for the Plan as per the below resolution as a final action to complete the Plan:

*(c) That Council approves the public exhibition of the attached Net Zero Emissions Plan for a period of 28 days. Following public exhibition, and subject to the results and response to the adopted target, that the finalised Net Zero Emissions Report be reported back to Council to seek final adoption.*

Council has now completed the final Plan report resolution, engaging community, seeking feedback on key actions within the Plan that community believe Council should prioritise towards achieving Net Zero emissions (NZE).

A community engagement plan was developed utilising varying promotional avenues to reach community to 'have their say' into the priorities and was held from the 12 October – 9 November 2022. Council received feedback from a total of 413 individual community members including 382 interactions at the Granny Smith Festival and a further 31 online survey responses.

To achieve NZE, respondents voted that they would like to see Council prioritise improving food waste and food recovery including reuse in the city and in reviewing current development control plans for new developments for improving outcomes for energy, water, parking and electric vehicles. Council has commenced investigations into these areas.

### RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council acknowledges the final round of community consultation undertaken for the Plan and adopts the final consultation outcomes.
- (b) That Council staff work towards the implementation of the Plan as per the adopted actions and those highlighted in the engagement process to reduce emissions.

**ITEM 5 (continued)****ATTACHMENTS – CIRCULATED UNDER SEPARATE COVER**

- 1 Resolution Council Meeting - 11/22 - 23 August 2022 - Item 7 - City of Ryde  
- Net Zero Emissions Pathway - remodeling to 2030 Target
- 2 Final Net Zero Emissions Plan - Adopted August 2022
- 3 Net Zero Emissions Remodelling Report Council Meeting 23 August 2022
- 4 Resolution Council Meeting - 13/21 - 23 November 2021 - Item 10 - City of Ryde - Net Zero Emissions Pathway

Report Prepared By:

**Arefeh Hesaraki**  
**Senior Sustainability and Environment Coordinator**

Report Approved By:

**Kylie McMahon**  
**Executive Officer - City Resilience****Michael Galderisi**  
**General Manager - City Shaping**

## **ITEM 5 (continued)**

### **History**

The City's Net Zero Emissions Pathway (2022) was prepared in response to NSW Government's goal for Net Zero Emissions by 2050, the City of Ryde's Local Strategic Planning Statement and Council's Climate Emergency Declaration (2019).

The Draft Net Zero Emissions Plan and 118 associated actions for achieving net zero, were initially presented to Council in November 2021 providing recommendations for both a community and operations target and supported funding to reach the targets.

Actions and outcomes within the Pathway were developed in consultation with community under an initial engagement process in 2021 to inform the actions and assessed emissions reduction opportunities within Council's sphere of influence and control.

Each action was calculated against a total emissions generation value and costed against future implementation for reaching net zero emissions, modelled against timelines for Council to adopt. Council at its meeting in November 2021, resolved to support and adopt the '2040 or sooner' target for Community, however requested Council to remodel the Plan actions towards a '2030' Operational target. This was completed, and Council at its August 2022 meeting resolved to adopt an Operational target 'by no later than 2035' for Council Operational emissions.

The City of Ryde has already commenced activities towards reducing Operational emissions including the transition to 100% renewable energy for the Council buildings from 1 July 2022, the introduction of electric vehicles to Council's fleet, replacement of more than 90% of residential streetlighting globes with efficient LED globes via an Ausgrid Streetlighting Retrofit program, various energy efficiency initiatives, and installing Solar PV on rooftops of seven Council's buildings to date.

In the community space, Council has continued installing additional public electric vehicle charging stations, working with developers to encourage improved built design function of major developments, improving active transport connections reducing car use, increased car sharing opportunities, implementing residential emissions reduction programs and advocacy to the State Government for improved electric vehicle policy as well as public and active transport infrastructure and services.

### **Community Consultation**

To inform the initial Draft development, Council engaged community seeking to understand priorities for emissions reductions and support for a Net Zero emissions target originally in 2020. The initial consultation was held from 11<sup>th</sup> November until 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 with feedback invited via Council's 'Have Your Say' website and media including social media platforms, print, Council's Smarter, Cleaner, Green e-newsletter and targeted emails sent to Council community databases, Macquarie University and local schools. Results from the initial 85 respondents strongly indicating support for Council to develop and set, net zero emissions targets.

### ITEM 5 (continued)

Following the adoption of the Plan and targets, a second round of community consultation as per the Council resolution (addressed in this report) was undertaken from 12<sup>th</sup> October-9<sup>th</sup> November 2022. It was undertaken through a 'Have Your Say' online campaign on Council's website and promotion at the 90,000 community strong, Granny Smith Festival in 2022 to capture a diverse community input.

Council staff promoted the Plan at its Net Zero Council stand at the Festival where dedicated staff were on hand to discuss the document, objectives, actions and encourage feedback via an interactive 'dotmocracy' voting activity at the stall. In total 413 individual engagements were received during the consultation period, including 31 surveys completed and 382 interactions at the Granny Smith Festival, see Table 2.

Consultation was further advertised in Council's 'Smarter Cleaner Greener' (19<sup>th</sup> October) e-newsletter to 3,300 subscribers, and in the 'Your City News' (2<sup>nd</sup> November) e-newsletter and in The Weekly Times newspaper. Net Zero business cards were designed using a QR code and a competition promoted, to encourage feedback. These were then promoted at Council libraries during the consultation period. An interview on 2RRR community radio station also promoted the Net Zero Plan and invited input.

*Table 1 Tools used for final round of NZE community consultation*

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Engagement</b>
Online submission	12 <sup>th</sup> October-9 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Online survey was published in a dedicated webpage in City of Ryde's 'Have Your Say' website. 'Smarter, Cleaner, Green' and 'Your City News' e-newsletter promotion	31 surveys completed
Granny Smith Festival	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Face to face event allowed community to have one-on-one time with the project team to provide their thoughts and feedback.  2RRR radio interview on the NZE plan	382

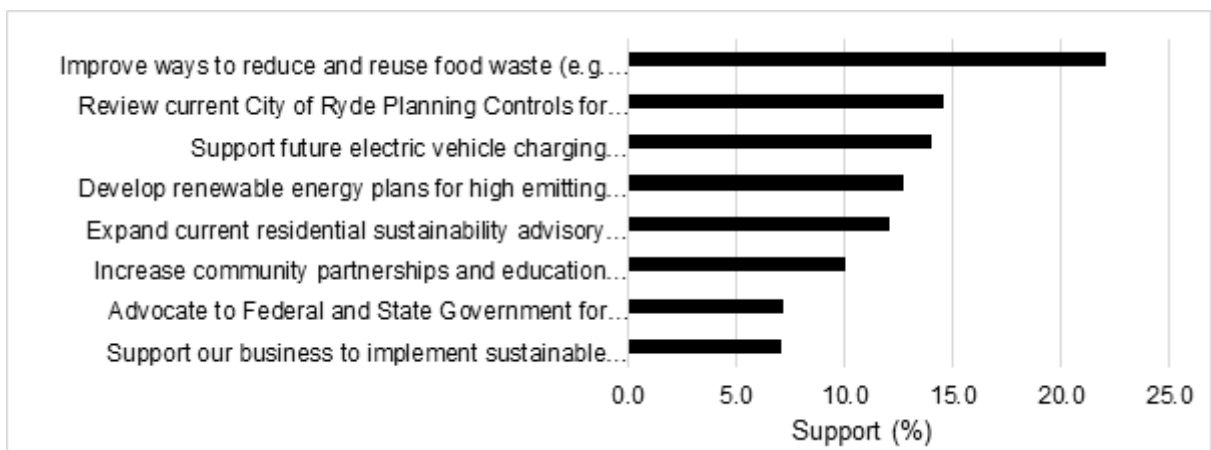
Eight priority action items from the NZE Plan were included in the direct community engagement which were based upon high emitting outcome areas in the city. Participants were asked to choose two actions that they would like Council to prioritize to reach NZE by the target date.

**ITEM 5 (continued)**

*Table 2 Priorities for Community voting from the NZE Plan*

Ref	Action	Support (%)
1	Improve ways to reduce and reuse food waste (e.g. food organics composting and worm farming)	22.1
2	Review current City of Ryde Planning Controls for parking/ energy/ water/ EV charging in new developments	14.6
3	Support future electric vehicle charging infrastructure and shifting the transport mode to more active transport	14.0
4	Develop renewable energy plans for high emitting areas of our city	12.7
5	Expand current residential sustainability advisory services (e.g. services to make your home more sustainable)	12.1
6	Increase community partnerships and education programs	10.1
7	Advocate to Federal and State Government for policy changes	7.2
8	Support our business to implement sustainable practices	7.1

Results of NZE community consultation indicated that 22.1% of respondents nominated that Council should improve ways to reduce and reuse food waste. Moreover, 14.6% of survey respondents stated that they wanted Council to review current City of Ryde Planning Controls for parking/ energy/ water/ EV charging in new developments, as outlined in the Figure 1:



*Figure 1 Results of final round of NZE Community Consultation*

**Two prioritised Actions from Community’s perspective:**

The results of the community consultation ensure Council actions towards NZE align with the values of the community for addressing carbon reduction to meet NZE for both Council’s own operations and community emissions. The two highest scoring actions from the consultation process were;

**ITEM 5 (continued)**

- **Improve ways to reduce and reuse food waste (e.g. food organics composting and worm farming)**

In the NZE pathway, there are at least 17 actions to improve waste management in both community and operations. (Actions: R1\_O, R2\_O, R3\_O, R4\_O, R5\_O, P1\_O, A2\_O, E2\_C, E4\_C, R1\_C, R2\_C, R3\_C, R4\_C, R5\_C, R6\_C, R7\_C, and A3\_C)

To date Council has undertaken several steps to better manage the waste and improve resource recovery including developing a Draft Waste Management Strategy (to be adopted), delivering education and awareness workshops to residents, and providing subsidised compost and worm farm bins, participating in Food Organic Garden Organics (FOGO) trial program, and in investigating waste to energy solutions.

- **Review current City of Ryde Planning Controls for parking/ energy/ water/ EV charging in new developments**

There are at least 13 Actions in the NZE pathway to address improving Development Planning Control in City of Ryde. (Actions: T6\_O, PL1\_O, T2\_C, T3\_C, P1\_C, P2\_C, P3\_C, P4\_C, P5\_C, P6\_C, P7\_C, P8\_C, and A1\_C).

Council has commenced several initiatives towards improving the sustainability and efficiency of new developments, including developing and implementing Sustainable Transport Strategy and Integrated Transport Strategy, mandating and assessing Green Travel Plans (GTPs) for all new developments that exceed 10,000 square metres of new floor space, or any development that Council believes has the potential to generate significant traffic and transport impacts. Additionally, work within regional groups in metropolitan Sydney to address access to EV charging infrastructure and policy and uplifting of building standards has also been of focus.

**Financial Implications**

Adoption of the consultation outcomes report will have no financial impact as the report objective is to provide a summary of the final community engagement and consultation on the Plan actions. It delivers on the final action of the NZE report resolution from the August 2022 meeting.

The NZE Plan, associated actions and funding commitment to deliver the Plan by the adopted targets, were previously adopted by Council at the 23 August 2022 meeting.