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Media Release

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TOWN-GOWN PARTNERSHIP LOOKS TO FUTURE

Macquarie University and the City of Ryde have signed a Memorandum of Understanding strengthening the relationship between the two organisations and providing greater opportunity for research projects that will benefit the local community.

The “town and gown” partnership will allow the City of Ryde to leverage the world-class research capabilities of the University in delivering its 2021 Community Strategic Plan. In return, staff and students will be able to undertake unique research projects and see their results applied to real-world situations in the local community.

Projects proposed under the program include research into implementing a domestic waste to energy conversion process, analysis of traffic movement patterns to enable better planning, and design and planning of upgrades to local town centres.

Under the University’s Participation and Community Engagement (PACE) program, the City of Ryde will connect students with key not-for-profit organisations operating in the local government area, giving them practical opportunities and experience while offering their hosts additional skills and resources not otherwise available.

“This is a very exciting prospect for us,” said Professor Jim Piper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research at Macquarie University. “As a public organisation it’s important that the work we do contributes to our community and wider society. Agreements like this demonstrate our commitment to research that helps make a difference to people’s lives.”

City of Ryde Mayor, Councillor Artin Etmekdjian said the Memorandum of Understanding marks the first step in a long term collaborative partnership.

“This is a partnership that will demonstrate the importance of research and the sharing of knowledge in the planning and shaping of our City,” he said.

“It gives Council unprecedented access to information and a clever and creative pool of talented individuals - Macquarie’s students – who are keen to explore new ideas. Our objective is to position Ryde as a Smart City, with an international hub for innovation.

“The Memorandum of Understanding outlines a shared aspiration for success by two outward looking organisations and harnesses the best of both for the benefit of all,” he said.

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