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RYDE WINS eTOWN AWARD

The City of Ryde has one of Australia's strongest small business digital economies according to internet giant Google.

Ryde came fifth in Google's list of Australia's top-ranking eTowns, behind the cities of Perth, Yarra, Adelaide and North Sydney.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Artin Etmekdjian said: "I am delighted to represent such an innovative and pioneering business community where enterprises of all shapes and sizes have embraced the internet's unique ability to connect with customers, to drive growth and boost their bottom lines."

Google looked at more than 600 local government areas to analyse which communities are contributing the most to the digital economy.

The new award recognises and ranks those communities which are outpacing the rest of the country in having its small businesses use the web to connect with customers and grow.

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