

Thursday 1 June 2017

BALLOON RELEASE BANNED IN CITY OF RYDE

The release of balloons at City of Ryde Council events and in Council-managed reserves has been banned.

The action is the result of a Mayoral Minute to raise public awareness of the damage to the environment and wildlife caused by this seemingly harmless activity.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: "Balloons released into the atmosphere and associated debris, travel long distances. The end destination is often waterways where they can be ingested by birdlife and marine animals.

"Given the number of parks and waterways in and around the City of Ryde, I believe that by Council setting an example, the community will understand the inherent dangers of this practise and I am calling on residents to follow the example set by this decision."

What goes up must come down:

- Beach litter surveys show the amount of balloon and balloon pieces found on beaches has tripled in the past 10 years.
- All released balloons fall back to earth. Even biodegradable latex ones take a long time to break down.
- Marine as well as land animals have all been hurt or killed by ingesting balloon debris. The animal is usually killed from the balloon debris blocking its digestive tract. They can also become entangled in the balloon and its ribbon.

Media Contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer p●99528083 m●0434306444 e●lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au