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## **CITY OF RYDE JOINS AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST COUNCIL CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP**

The City of Ryde has joined Australia's largest network of local councils tackling climate action, becoming the newest member of the growing Cities Power Partnership.

The Cities Power Partnership is a network of 70 local governments that represents more than 7.5 million people. Local councils who join the partnership pledge to take five key actions across renewable energy, efficiency and transport.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Cities Power Partnership supports councils to take practical and effective steps to introduce clean energy technology, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and other climate solutions to their respective local communities.

"Across Australia, towns and cities are surging ahead with greenhouse gas reduction plans, switching to cleaner energy, building greener, efficient and more resilient communities. I'm pleased to say that the City of Ryde is playing an important part of this mission," Cllr Laxale said.

"Through the Cities Power Partnership we're joining forces with other local governments to transform the way we use energy in our community.

"Recent Council projects such as the installation of a solar PV system of more than 800 panels on the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, the North Ryde Library installation in 2017 and recently finished, Eastwood Community Hall, shows how renewable energy can be used to power local infrastructure benefiting our local community."

Climate Councillor and international climate scientist Professor Will Steffen said local governments were emerging as the frontline for tackling climate change in Australia.

"We are pleased to welcome the City of Ryde to the Cities Power Partnership," Professor Steffen said.

"Councils have an opportunity to play a crucial role to in reducing Australia's rising greenhouse gas pollution levels. Transforming the way cities and towns use energy could make up to 70% of the greenhouse gas emission reductions needed to limit worsening climate change."

The 5 actions below have been chosen for Ryde to undertake for 2018/19:

1. Provide council resources to educate and support uptake of renewable energy.
2. Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on Council buildings
3. Roll out energy efficient lighting, particularly street lighting, across the municipality.
4. Encourage sustainable transport use through Council transport planning and design

5. Implement an education and behaviour change program to influence behaviour of Council Officers, local residents and businesses within the municipality to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy transport.

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