

City of Ryde rapidly divesting from fossil fuel investments

Published on 30 July 2018

The City of Ryde is following through on its commitment to reduce its fossil fuel investments, with the value of Council's investments in non-fossil fuel aligned financial institutions increasing by 27% in just six months.

In November last year, Council resolved to divest its term portfolio from all fossil fuel aligned financial institutions – such as oil, coal and gas companies – as a way of helping tackle climate change and protecting the environment.

As Council's current term investments expire with fossil fuel aligned institutions, these funds are then re-invested with companies that are not associated with fossil fuels. All funds reinvested need to be compliant with Council's investment policy and the investment rate of interest has to be equal to or better than those offered by fossil fuel aligned institutions.

Between January and June this year the value of Council investments in non-fossil aligned financial institutions increased from \$50.5 million to \$64.2 million. The percentage of Council's overall portfolio invested in non-fossil fuel aligned financial institutions is now 30.6%, up from 24.5% in January.

The increase in investment in non-fossil aligned financial institutions coincided with a strong performance for Council's investment portfolio, with returns well above the benchmark up until the end of June.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Council was leading the way in divesting from fossil fuel aligned institutions.

"The City of Ryde was one of the first local government authorities in Australia to join the global movement for fossil fuel divestment as a way of limiting global warming and help prevent the damaging impacts of climate change," Cllr Laxale said.

"When we introduced this policy, we had the knuckle draggers and climate change deniers hit the streets trying to oppose, and then reverse our decision to put the environment first. They wailed that we were being irresponsible and that we were wasting ratepayers' money.

"However, as expected, the fossil fuel divestment has had no impact on the City of Ryde's financial position, with Council's investment portfolio performing strongly for the benefit of the community and our environment.

"Environmental policies such as the fossil fuel divestment and the recent decision to phase out single use plastics shows how the City of Ryde is leading the way in improving the environment and committed to delivering real action on climate change which will benefit our community for generations to come."

City of Ryde also recently 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 pledge to introduce clean energy technology, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and other climate solutions to their respective local communities.

Future of key Ryde sporting venues looking a lot brighter

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The City of Ryde, with the assistance of Football NSW, will undertake extensive upgrades to the lighting infrastructure at two key sporting fields.

Marsfield Park and Gladesville's Monash Park will receive the lighting upgrades as part of Council's ongoing work to create state-of-the-art sporting venues across the community.

Both venues are heavily utilised by local sporting organisations and have become popular facilities for their respective communities.

Marsfield Park is utilised by the Macquarie Dragons Football Club as well as the Central Eastwood Rugby Club, while Monash Park is the home ground for Gladesville Ravens Football Club.

The lighting upgrades at both venues are funded under Council's four year delivery plan at a cost of \$275,000. Both projects were assisted with two separate \$20,000 grants from Football NSW as part of its Let's Light Up Football campaign.

Councillor Roy Maggio put forward a motion in March for the City of Ryde to seek the grants from Football NSW, which received unanimous support from Councillors.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the lighting upgrades would improve playing and training conditions for all people who use the two venues.

"The City of Ryde is committed to making continual improvements to the infrastructure of our sporting venues. These lighting upgrades will bring both fields up to the minimum Australian Lighting Standards, and will ensure teams can train and compete in safe and secure conditions," Cllr Laxale said.

"I would like to thank Football NSW for its funding assistance to help make these lighting upgrades possible and also its continued support to helping improve the sporting landscape in the City of Ryde."

Work on the lighting upgrades at both venues will commence in early 2019.

City of Ryde to build new public car park in Eastwood

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The City of Ryde will build a new multi-storey car park in Eastwood that will address chronic parking shortages for shoppers in the area and help boost the local economy.

The short stay car park will have between 150 and 200 parking spots and will be built at the current site of the Rowe Street East car park in order to support the proper functioning of the eastern town centre of Eastwood.

The new car park is consistent with the key findings of the Eastwood Traffic and Parking Study update report which pointed to evidence that commuter parking spots in Rowe Street East car park would be unsuitable.

At its meeting on Tuesday night, City of Ryde unanimously resolved to make \$550,000 available to fund the preparation of a preferred design for the new car park as well as a comprehensive consultation process with the local Eastwood business and residential community.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the new car park was a huge win for the Eastwood community after years of inaction.

“In 10 months, the current Council has been able to deliver what others have not been able to do in 10 years. This is the biggest increase in public parking places in Eastwood in almost 50 years and it doesn’t involve the destruction of Eastwood Oval,” Clr Laxale said.

“I was elected on the promise of saving Eastwood Oval from Mr Dominello’s bulldozers and increasing public parking in Eastwood. With the support of my colleagues, we have now achieved that.”

Clr Laxale added that the car park would specifically provide parking for shoppers.

“This car park will not be available for commuters. Unlike some, I don’t want a car park that is full by 8am of people who simply want to travel into the city and not spend more than five minutes in Eastwood,” Clr Laxale said.

“Anyone who knows Eastwood knows how big an impact the lack of short stay parking has had on local business and the town centre in general. This short stay car park will bring people back to Eastwood and revitalise the local economy.”

Outcomes from Council Meeting 26 June 2018

Published on 18 July 2018

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 26 June 2018. Here is a summary of the main outcomes from the meeting:

DELIVERING AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR RYDE

Council passed its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan, heralding an exciting new era of projects and activities that will benefit residents, local businesses, workers and community groups over the next 10 years.

The key strategic documents set out a roadmap for the City of Ryde's immediate and longer-term future. They also address the challenges of a growing population and resulting impacts on infrastructure and services, including roads and footpaths, recreational facilities and libraries.

Total operating expenditure under the Four Year Delivery Plan is more than \$500 million, including \$122 million for 2018/19. Almost \$200 million is for capital works including more than \$44 million in 2018/19. [View more information.](#)

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION RECOGNISED FOR HELPING FAMILY IN NEED

The work and assistance offered to the Wang and Yang families by a large number of local community organisations was recognised by the City of Ryde.

Hao Wang and Fiona Yang suffered serious burns when their Marsfield home was destroyed in March. Both require extensive hospital care, which has left their children in need of support, accommodation and transport to and from school.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, will write to the organisations that have assisted the families, thanking them for their efforts, while a morning tea will also be hosted by Council to thank the City of Ryde staff who assisted.

EXPANSION OF EASTWOOD LIBRARY TO BE INVESTIGATED

The City of Ryde will investigate the possibility of expanding Eastwood Library. As part of the process, Council will take into consideration the current and future requirements of Eastwood Library including forecasted future population growth. Consideration will also be given to the size of available land, flood issues, car parking limitations and structural capability of the building at the current location.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC WI-FI OFFERINGS IN RYDE

Council will review the current public Wi-Fi offerings in designated town centres and look at ways it can improve or expand its current public Wi-Fi offering. A report detailing the results of this work will be prepared for Council.

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT NEW ROUNDABOUT IN EASTWOOD

Following concerns from local residents, Council staff will inspect the new roundabout at Wingate Avenue and Railway Parade in Eastwood to see if it poses any potential risks to pedestrians. Council will also arrange a site meeting to take place with concerned residents.

SAFETY PLAN TO BE DEVELOPED TO MAKE RYDE EVEN SAFER

Council will develop a Safety Plan that will have outcomes to help the community feel even safer in the City of Ryde.

The Safety Plan will be developed in consultation with local stakeholders, including the Ryde Police Area Command. The plan will ultimately result in a dedicated 'online safety hub' on the City of Ryde website which will list safety support services in the community. The hub will also detail future opportunities and initiatives to improve safety in the community.

RYDE TO EXPLORE FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH KOREA

The City of Ryde will pursue the development of a friendship agreement with a South Korean city. The friendship agreement will be undertaken in consultation with the local Korean community and the Consul-General office of South Korea.

NEW NOMINEES FOR RYDE YOUTH COUNCIL

Five nominees were endorsed by Council for positions on the Ryde Youth Advisory Council. They were Jose Francisco, Gabriel Van Duinen, Meifei (Miffy) Song, Keats Mackay and Samuel Pheeney.

ESTABLISHING A YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Council resolved to work with the Ryde Youth Council to develop a Youth Ambassador Program to act as a spokesperson for the City of Ryde to local young people and help ensure young people are represented at official Council functions.

The program will initially run as a six month trial, with Council to develop a selection process for Youth Ambassadors and provide adequate support.

RECOVERY OF LEGAL COSTS FOLLOWING COUNCIL AMALGAMATION BACK-DOWN

The City of Ryde unanimously resolved to take all reasonable actions to seek the reimbursement of approximately \$37,000 in legal costs incurred by Council with respect to council amalgamations.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 July.

City of Ryde welcomes Netball Champions

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The ball is truly in Meadowbank's court this July, with the Eastwood Ryde Netball Association (ERNA) selected as Division 3 host for the State Age Netball Championships. The championships event is one of the largest women's sporting events in the southern hemisphere and celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

The competition, held over the weekend at Meadowbank Park's netball courts, includes teams from around New South Wales. ERNA is one of only four hosts of the competition, with Liverpool City Netball Association welcoming the Championship Division, while Camden & District and Inner West Suburb netball associations are hosting divisions 2 and 4 respectively.

The much-anticipated "March Past" featured a lively parade on Saturday by all districts on what was a crisp but sunning morning. Following deliberation by the judges, Ballina Netball Association was announced as the winner.

Councillor Pedersen gave the welcome speech on behalf of the Mayor, Councillor Jerome Laxale, at the event's opening. "The competition is a testament to the popularity of netball in our state and I would like to extend my congratulations to Netball NSW for this wonderful achievement", she said.

"I would like to congratulate Netball NSW representatives and life members, as well as Eastwood Ryde Netball Association executives, life members and sub-committees who worked to make this event such a great success."

"We are so lucky to have with us teams and their supporters from around the state, from Ballina to Mudgee, Tamworth to Tumut, and everywhere in between. I hope you have time to enjoy some of the things our City has to offer while you're here", she said.

Medium Density Housing Code deferred with only a 12 Month Reprieve

Published on 09 July 2018

The City of Ryde has commenced proceedings in the Land and Environment Court against the State Government's Medium Density Housing Code.

As the Minister for Planning, The Hon. Anthony Roberts, stated, the Code was recently deferred for 12 months to allow for "infrastructure in certain areas to catch up".

Since the announcement was made by the Minister, the City of Ryde has no confidence that State infrastructure will improve to a satisfactory level in the 12 months to 1 July 2019, when the Code is due to take effect in the Ryde Local Government Area. The City of Ryde is also concerned with the impacts that development under the Code will cause to our community and environment.

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To assist in addressing residents' concerns about overdevelopment, the City (with the knowledge of the NSW Government) is undertaking a review of the Ryde Local Environment Plan (LEP), which is due to be completed by July 2020. The review of the LEP is required to help address monumental growth that has been imposed on our community by the NSW Government.

The City also recently resolved to place a moratorium on new planning proposals involving residential uses until the completion of the new city-wide housing strategy and the Greater Sydney Commission's infrastructure plan. The moratorium will prevent developers from rezoning land for additional residential uses while the City undertakes the detailed strategic work required to ensure growth is appropriately located and supported by the necessary infrastructure with assistance from the Greater Sydney Commission.

The City of Ryde believes that it is not logical to implement the Code during the Planning Proposal moratorium period and prior to the review of the LEP concluding.

That is why the City requested the NSW Government to be excluded from the provisions of the Code given these unique circumstances.

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Jerome Laxale has stated:

"We have had no choice but to commence legal proceedings against this Government to hold them to their promise.

“We were told that the Code needed to be deferred to allow for new infrastructure. It is clear that the deferral is just to get the Government through the next State Election.

“Ryde has been targeted by the State Government and we have had enough. In the last 4 years, 64% of all new dwellings were approved under NSW planning programs.”

“We have 2 State Government priority precincts, an enormous new housing target, and State-stacked planning panels that wave through nearly every development application. Our residents have had a gutful.”

Join Up Join In libraries competition winners announced

Published on 09 July 2018



During the month of June, Ryde Library ran a competition to encourage the local community to become more engaged with their local library as part of a wider Join Up Join In campaign.

The Join Up Join In competition was promoted at the City of Ryde's five library branches to help put the spotlight on the range of services offered at each library. Entrants were in with the chance to win by:

- joining up as a new library member
- joining in a program or event
- signing up to the Library e-newsletter
- borrowing an item in the month of June
- posting a Join Up Join In selfie with the special giant library card with the hashtag #joinupjoinin at their local library branch.

The lucky winner, Jin Nu of Eastwood, took home a gold iPad Mini 4 (128GB) valued at \$600. Two runners up received an Events Cinemas voucher worth \$50 each and three minor prize draw winners received a Top Ryde City voucher valued at \$15 each.

The competition was supported by Top Ryde City shopping centre.

The winners were drawn at random from eligible entrants on Tuesday 3 July. A full list of winners is below:

- Ipad winner: Jin Nu L of Eastwood
- Events Cinema voucher winners: Santwona B of Marsfield and Caitlin Y of Marsfield
- Top Ryde City voucher winners: Baul G of Burwood, Ceanne B of Eastwood and Amelia X of Carlingford

[View more information on Join Up Join In](#)

Proposed new markets for City of Ryde

Published on 04 July 2018



New markets are proposed for the City of Ryde and Council is seeking feedback from the community on two proposed sites that meet criteria for holding markets.

Council resolved to look into the feasibility of regular markets. Criteria included site availability, amenities, access to power, traffic considerations, parking, onsite safety and impacts on local residents and businesses. Following this investigation, West Ryde Plaza and Anderson Park in Meadowbank (including Ryde Wharf Reserve) were identified as the two best possible locations to proceed to community consultation.

With Council set to begin renovation works in West Ryde Plaza in late 2018, a market would help reactivate the newly-embellished space and provide a boost to the local economy once complete. There is also easy access to amenities and power, and the ability to support either a daytime or night-time market.

In addition to West Ryde Plaza and with a stunning waterfront location beside the Parramatta River, a shared cycle and walking path and a surrounding population that could walk to the markets, Anderson Park and Ryde Wharf Reserve were also considered ideal locations for a market. Both West Ryde Plaza and Anderson Park are also within easy reach of public transport.

Residents, nearby businesses and visitors to West Ryde Plaza and Anderson Park are encouraged to have their say by taking a short survey on the proposed market locations and types of stalls and activities they would like to see at these markets.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said “I’m a huge fan of markets because they draw communities together and markets in West Ryde and Anderson Park have the potential to offer a new injection of life into our neighbourhoods. I encourage everyone to have their say by telling us what you would like to see, eat and experience there”

The consultation closes on 29 July 2018. For more information and to provide feedback, visit the [Markets at West Ryde Plaza and Anderson Park Have your Say](#) page.

Response to parking infringements issued outside car dealership West Ryde

Published on 02 July 2018

To address recent media enquiries, Council can confirm that infringement notices for illegal parking were issued by a City of Ryde Ranger outside the KIA Car Dealership, West Ryde on 21 June 2018.

Pedestrian safety and access is of utmost importance to Council and at the time these infringements were issued, two vehicles were parked illegally, both of which were issued with fines. We can confirm that Council's Ranger was positioned in clear view of the dealership whilst taking photos of the vehicles.

As a result of ongoing issues with cars obstructing pedestrian access at this location and in a residential area with nearby bus stops and a school, a number of infringements have recently been issued.

Council has met the Dealer Principal and sales team of KIA West Ryde today to discuss these issues. It was a constructive meeting and both Council and the dealership are working together to enable a positive outcome for pedestrians, new car owners and the dealership.

The dealership has advised Council that they will be covering the costs of the infringements.

Get the gardening gloves out for 2018 Spring Garden Competition

Published on 01 July 2018

The [City of Ryde's Spring Garden Competition](#) is back for 2018. This inclusive community event has been running for more than 30 years and attracts high-quality entries from across the City. Local residents, families, businesses, community and cultural groups are all encouraged to apply and put their gardening creations in the spotlight.

There is also an opportunity for kids to get involved by entering the [Children's Seed Growing Competition](#). This contest is a fun and interesting way for children to learn about biology and gain new skills while enjoying nature. The seed of choice for this year is the stunning Empress of India nasturtium, which is known for its unique blue-green leaves and striking crimson flowers.

City of Ryde is one of only a handful of councils running a garden competition and each year it receives a diverse range of entries across [12 categories](#).

City of Ryde Mayor Cllr Jerome Laxale said: "This long-standing community event showcases the creativity of our residents and I am proud to be involved in rewarding those who are enhancing our green space and encouraging native flora and fauna to flourish. I am always blown away by the beautiful entries for our Spring Garden Competition and can't wait to see what comes out of this year's contest."

"I encourage anyone with an interest in gardening to get onboard this year and for young green thumbs to join in by entering our Children's Seed Growing Competition", he said.

For more details visit the [Spring Garden Competition](#) page.