

2019 Australian Federal election information

Published on 30 April 2019

The 2019 Australian federal election will take place on Saturday 18 May 2019. The City of Ryde falls within the [Bennelong electorate](#).

Early voting centres

Early voting for eligible voters opened on 29 April and eligible voters can cast their votes at the following locations within the City of Ryde from Monday 6 May:

- St Anne's Anglican Church, 42 Church Street, Ryde
- Ground Floor, 3-5 Trelawney St, Eastwood

Postal voting closes on Wednesday 15 May.

To find out more about early voting visit the [Australian Electoral Commission \(AEC\) website](#), which also includes information about overseas voting centres, postal voting, AEC mobile voting and telephone voting.

Voting on election day

Voting can be done at any polling place in your state. Use the [AEC's interactive tool](#) to find a polling centre near you.

Voting assistance for people with disability or mobility restrictions

The Australian Electoral Commission provides information and assistance for people living with disability or limited mobility, including accessible voting options such as:

- Polling place accessibility
- Assistance to vote at a polling place
- Postal voting
- Mobile polling
- Telephone voting.

The [Official guide to the federal election](#) is also available in accessible formats including audio, large print and braille.

Find out more by visiting the [Assistance for voters page](#) on the NSW Electoral Commission website.

Information in your language

The AEC provides translated information in a wide variety of community languages.

There is also a free telephone interpreter service. Find out more on the [Translated information page](#) on the AEC website.

Council pushes for pedestrian crossing at new skate and scooter park

Published on 24 April 2019

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, has called on the NSW Government to intervene and approve a marked pedestrian crossing on Constitution Road West following the completion of the new Meadowbank Park skate, scooter and play space facility.

Under a motion put forward by Clr Roy Maggio in August 2018, Council resolved to investigate upgrading the existing traffic refuge island on Constitution Road West (near Federal Avenue), Meadowbank, to a marked pedestrian crossing once the skate, scooter and play facility was completed.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) will not approve the crossing as the current pedestrian counts do not reach the level stipulated under the RMS's approval guidelines. However, Clr Laxale has written to the NSW Transport and Roads Minister Andrew Constance asking him to overrule the need for the RMS criteria and provide a new pedestrian crossing at the location on Constitution Road West.

"There is strong community support for a marked pedestrian crossing to be installed on Constitution Road West as we have already seen a large increase in the amount of foot traffic in the area following the successful completion of the new skate, scooter and play facility," Clr Laxale said.

"Council staff have advised that the existing pedestrian refuge could easily be converted to a marked pedestrian crossing without the loss of on-street parking so I call on Mr Constance to use his authority as Transport and Roads Minister to intervene and ensure residents have the safest possible access to this important community facility."

Clr Laxale added that without the intervention of Mr Constance, the process to obtain the necessary approvals for a pedestrian crossing would likely take months.

"Council delivered the Meadowbank Park skate, scooter and play space facility as part of our commitment to provide more outdoor recreational spaces to the community. It is only right that all steps are taken to ensure safe access for all the people that use this new facility," he said.

Spotlight on one of our Learn to Swim teachers

Published on 23 April 2019



We sat down with Marina, one of our Learn to Swim teachers at Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, to find out why she thinks swimming lessons are important and how parents and teachers can support kids to develop their skills.



What do you love most about being a Learn to Swim Instructor?

To watch the children I teach grow in ability and confidence to the point where they want to try new things is the most delightful thing and everything I could ask for as a swimming instructor.



How do you see swimming lessons benefiting kids?

Swimming lessons benefit children in so many ways. A lot of what I see week-to-week day-to-day is about growth in children's confidence, motor skills, balance and focus. The teaching of water safety is a very important part of our lesson plans, and it's always rewarding to children becoming more competent in and around water. I also love the fact that children are able to develop relationships with their friends in the class and with us as their instructors.



What tips do you have for parents to help their children grow their swimming skills?

Continue to encourage independence if you have a pool at home, especially when you can see that your children are swimming, to a certain degree, independently in their lessons. Always remain within arm's reach of them, but encourage and praise them for practicing the skills they are being taught.

More information

To find out more about Learn to Swim, watch the video below or visit our [Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre Learn to Swim page](#). Enrol for Session Two swimming lessons and receive a 10% discount when you book for 10 weeks! Bookings must be made before 3 June 2019.

A message from the Mayor regarding terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka

Published on 23 April 2019

A message from Clr Jerome Laxale, Mayor of the City of Ryde

The City of Ryde stands with the people of Sri Lanka after the horrific terrorist attacks that occurred during the Easter holiday.

We offer our utmost condolences and support to the Sri Lankan community both in Ryde and abroad in these difficult times.

Council will observe a minute's silence at the next Council meeting on 30 April to remember the victims of the attacks.

Construction of new skate and scooter park completed

Published on 17 April 2019



Construction of the new Meadowbank Park skate, scooter and play space facility has been completed with keen skaters, BMX riders and scooter riders now able to try out the first-class facilities.

Developed by award-winning youth space builder, Convic, the new skate and scooter park features a range of high-quality components that cater for people of all ages and skill levels.

Key features of the new skate and scooter park include:

- Three-metre deep Olympic-standard competition bowl
- Dual spine flow bowl as well as obstacles such as a euro gap, kickers, rails, kerb banks, and a streetscape skate area
- A surrounding asphalt track for beginners
- Picnic and shelter facilities
- New landscaping and controlled lighting
- Playground equipment and a climbing net tunnel
- Parkour and Bouldering area
- A table-tennis court

- Connecting footpaths
- CCTV cameras

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the completion of the new skate and scooter park delivered on Council's promise to provide more outdoor recreational spaces to the entire community.

"This new facility is a huge addition to the City of Ryde, providing fun and safe facilities for people of all ages and abilities as well as alfresco and seating areas for everyone to take advantage of," Cllr Laxale said.

"After years of inaction from previous Councils, this Council got on with the job of delivering this new facility on time and on budget for the benefit of the entire community both now and well into the future.

"I would like to thank everyone who has advocated for this skate and scooter park over the years, in particular, the Skate Park Working Group who helped shape its final design and key features. Everyone who sees the finished product would agree that Ryde now has another outdoor facility that would be the envy of many."

To celebrate the new facility, the City of Ryde is staging an official opening on Saturday April 27.

The opening will feature a range of fun and entertaining events throughout the afternoon including demonstrations by professional skaters, competitions, a live DJ, Mexican food truck and a free ride for everyone to take part in.

The opening starts at midday with activities taking place until 4pm. More information about the official opening can be found [here](#).

Response to 60 Minutes story about recycling plastic waste

Published on 15 April 2019

City of Ryde would like to clarify Council's current recycling program following a *60 Minutes* episode about recycling plastic waste that aired on 14 April 2019.

City of Ryde's recycling contractor is Visy, which specialises in sorting, processing and onshore recycling of cardboard, plastic and aluminium.

Material from City of Ryde yellow-lidded recycling bins is taken to a Visy Material Recovery Facility in Sydney, where this is sorted and processed into recycled materials such as new paper, plastic bottles, cans and foil and steel products, among others. Other materials are processed and sold to commodity markets.

Council's preference is to always process recyclables onshore, however, there are various challenges within the recycling industry, including limited onshore processing options in NSW, and the recycling contractor ultimately determines whether recycling material is sold on the commodities market.

Every individual has a part to play in reducing waste and Council encourages residents to avoid excess packaging, reduce their use of single use plastics and reuse household material where possible. Council makes every effort to ensure that residents recycle right in Ryde and do not contaminate recycling bins with non-recyclable items such as soft plastics, garden hoses, clothes and kitchen items.

City of Ryde runs regular tours of the Visy Materials Recycling Facility at Smithfield to educate residents about where recycling goes after it has been collected. More information can be found [here](#).

Seven Steps of Sorting at a Visy Material Recovery Facility

Find out more about how recycled materials are sorted in the diagram below.

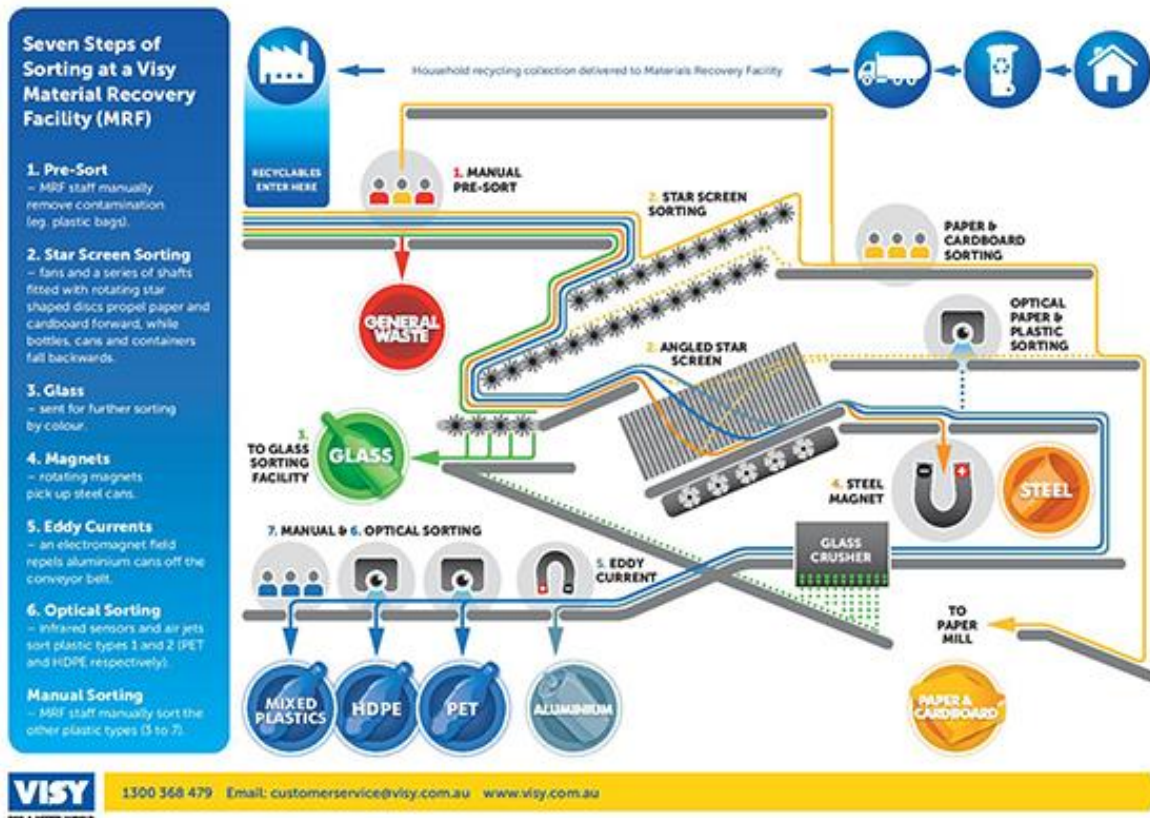


Image: [Visy Recycling](https://www.visy.com.au)

Waste hierarchy

View the waste hierarchy below, in order of preference:

1. Avoid and reduce
2. Reuse
3. Recycle
4. Recover energy
5. Treat
6. Dispose.

Most preferable



Least preferable

Council acknowledges Land and Environment Court Decision

Published on 12 April 2019

The Land and Environment Court has today dismissed a claim lodged by the City of Ryde that the NSW Government's Medium Density Code be ruled invalid.

The City of Ryde commenced proceedings in the Land and Environment Court on behalf of residents over the NSW Government's Medium Density Housing Code, alleging the government failed to consider certain environmental issues it was legally required to undertake before implementing the code.

Council has been opposed to the Medium Density Housing Code since it was first announced by the NSW Government given the negative impact it would have on the City's environment and infrastructure, and only launched legal proceedings after it became clear there were no other alternatives to stopping the code's implementation.

In his judgement handed down today, Justice Brian Preston SC, chief judge of the court, dismissed Council's claim and ruled that the Medium Density Housing Code was valid.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, acknowledged the decision of the court.

"While it is a disappointing outcome, the City of Ryde respects the court's decision," Cllr Laxale.

"However, our community does not respect the NSW Government's continued targeting of Ryde with overdevelopment. Coupled with the Priority Precinct program, the City of Ryde still maintains that the Medium Density Housing Code will have dire consequences for our entire community.

"The code is yet another example of NSW Government intervention with the intention of overdeveloping Ryde. First it was Priority Precincts, cramming 15000 dwellings into Macquarie Park, and now the code will lead to planning chaos in our quietest streets.

"If implemented, the code will completely change the character of our City as it will mean the number of sites capable of being developed for medium density housing would have increased substantially.

"Overnight, the City of Ryde could be transformed from predominantly low-density neighbourhoods with the required supporting infrastructure in place to medium density neighbourhoods outstripping available infrastructure and putting untold strain on our local natural areas. It is these serious concerns that led Council to commence legal proceedings against the NSW Government and the code.

“The code could also result in an additional 60,000 residents in these neighbourhoods – five times higher than the targets set by the Greater Sydney Commission.”

Clr Laxale said Council would lobby new NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes for the City of Ryde to be permanently exempt from the Medium Density Housing Code.

“We will continue our campaign for the NSW Government to give us a complete exemption from the Medium Density Housing Code and support Council in its efforts to continue its work in successfully delivering diverse and affordable housing supply for the community,” Clr Laxale said.

“I was particularly heartened to read that the new Planning Minister is not wedded to particular government policies currently in place. I will request a meeting with him to work through the situation created by the NSW Government’s planning laws and help shape policies that will deliver appropriate development and infrastructure while maintaining our City’s great character.”

Following today’s decision by the Land and Environment Court, the City of Ryde will continue to undertake its review of the Ryde Local Environment Plan, which is due to be completed by July 2020.

Changes to parking on Rowe Street, Eastwood

Published on 11 April 2019

From Tuesday 30 April 2019, the Eastwood Public School "Kiss & Ride" will be relocated to Rowe Street opposite the school, between the fire station at Shaftsbury Road and the zebra crossing.

The new "Kiss & Ride" zone will operate from 8.30 - 9.30am and 3.00 - 3.30pm on school days. The old "Kiss & Ride" zone along the school and fire station frontages on Shaftsbury Road will be removed and become NO STOPPING at all times. You will no longer be able to stop on Shaftsbury Road.

There is a zebra crossing at one end of the new Kiss & Ride zone with traffic lights at the other end, where children can safely cross Rowe Street to and from the school.

How will these changes affect Rowe Street?

There will be additional cars and children in Rowe Street during drop off and pick up times. When driving in Rowe Street, be sure to watch out for children crossing at the pedestrian crossing and the traffic lights, and cars pulling out of the new "Kiss & Ride" zone.

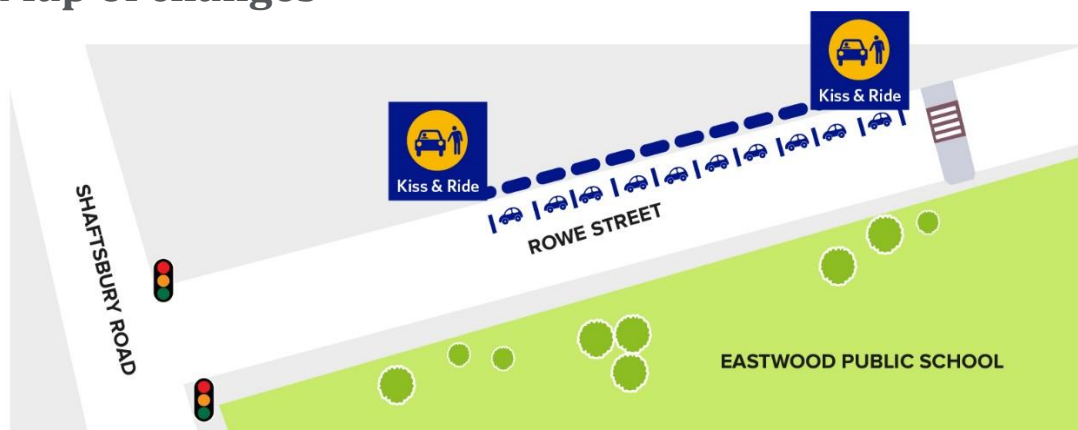
The existing ½ hr parking on this section of Rowe Street will be changed to NO PARKING between 8.30 - 9.30am and 3.00 - 3.30pm on school days. Remember to move parked cars from this section of Rowe Street during these times.

Only parking on the commercial side of the street will be affected by the proposed changes.

If possible, try to avoid using Rowe Street between 3.00 - 3.30pm when traffic congestion will be at its peak, unless you are using the "Kiss & Ride" zone.

Council staff and school volunteers will be helping with the operation of the new "Kiss & Ride zone" and directing children to the crossing points in the first week.

Map of changes



Information about measles cases reported in City of Ryde

Published on 05 April 2019

Measles alert for Sydney and Maitland: On 10 April 2019, NSW Health published a media release advising students, train passengers and shoppers in Sydney and Maitland to watch out for symptoms of measles after a young woman was diagnosed. The student visited numerous locations while unknowingly infectious. These locations included Macquarie University (various buildings) on Wednesday 3 April. [Find out more.](#)

Northern Sydney Local Health District has requested the following information be provided to City of Ryde residents.

Northern Sydney Local Health District is asking people to be alert for signs and symptoms of measles after a third person was diagnosed with measles who had spent some time in the Eastwood shopping area in recent weeks.

The three cases were diagnosed at medical practices in Eastwood and the public health unit has contacted patients who attended these practices at the same time as the cases.

Measles is highly contagious and is spread in the air through coughing or sneezing by someone who is unwell with the disease. As these cases also spent time in the local shopping area people who have been in this area over the last couple of weeks should be alert for signs and symptoms of measles.

Symptoms of measles include fever, sore eyes, runny nose and a cough followed three or four days later by a red, blotchy rash spreading from the head and neck to the body.

Should you develop these symptoms please see your local doctor and call ahead to the practice to ensure you do not wait in the waiting room with other patients.

The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and protects against measles. People born after 1966 who have not received two doses of the vaccine are considered susceptible to contracting the illness. The vaccine is available free for this group from your local doctor. If you're unsure whether you've had two doses, it's safe to have another.

For more information or advice on measles please call your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the [Measles page](#) on the NSW Health website.

Youth in the spotlight

Published on 03 April 2019



Shoreshocked 2018

With Youth Week (10-18 April) just around the corner, we've put the spotlight on young people and how Council is supporting them through programs, events and facilities.

Upcoming events NSW Youth Week

Council is organising and supporting a wide range of events to celebrate Youth Week in 2019.

Youth Jobs and Skills Expo



2019 Youth Jobs & Skills Expo

In 2018, the largest survey ever of youth aged 15-24 was conducted in Australia. The [Skillsroad Youth Census](#) was commissioned to address concerns around youth unemployment and workforce changes. It received more than 30,000 responses.

Key findings included:

- Working is consistent with higher levels of wellbeing for young people
- Feeling care for and supported at work was consistent with higher levels of wellbeing
- Participants in an apprenticeship reported the highest levels of wellbeing compared with other post-school pathways.

Council recognises how important employment and wellbeing are for young people and for the first time ever, we're holding a Youth Jobs and Skills Expo on 9 April. To be held at Meadowbank TAFE, this free expo will feature workshops, information stalls, a BBQ lunch and complimentary LinkedIn headshots.

Hear from keynote speakers including Fiona Anson from JobGetter, Soraya Raju from Migrate Success and TAFE NSW.

Best of all, there will be real jobs to apply for on the day!

[Find out more about the Youth Jobs and Skills Expo.](#)

Other Youth Week events

City of Ryde is supporting a number of events being held for Youth Week:

- Youth Mental Health Forum (9 April)
- Cinema on the Green (11 April)
- Shoreshocked 2019 (13 April)
- Emerging Civic Leaders Program (30 March-May).

[Find out more on our Youth Week page.](#)

Programs and facilities for youth

Ryde Youth Council



NSW Youth Council Conference

The Ryde Youth Council represents an important youth voice in Council decision-making. Comprised of young people who live, study, work or play in the City of Ryde, in addition to a representation from Council, its members carry out a range of activities including:

- Advocating on behalf of young people
- Organising events and activities
- Participating in community consultations.

[Find out more about Ryde Youth Council.](#)

Ryde Youth Theatre



Ryde Youth Theatre in action

Since its inception in 2009, Ryde Youth Theatre has grown into a household name in the City of Ryde. This inclusive performing arts program is funded by Council and run by a talented group of young people, with regular performances throughout the year. Ryde Youth Theatre writes and directs its own plays and is perfect for those looking to develop and build on their acting skills and meet new people in the area.

[Find out more about Ryde Youth Theatre.](#)

Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize



2018 Sustainable Waste 2 Art Junior Youth Environment Prize 1st Place winner

Each year, sustainability and art meet with the City of Ryde's Sustainable Waste to Art Prize (SWAP).

This popular competition has several categories of entry, including for ages 10 upwards. With the opportunity to exhibit your art work and be in to win cash prizes, SWAP presents incredible opportunities for budding and practicing young artists.

In 2018, the crowd was wowed as junior prize (10-13 years) winner Dane took away first prize for his portrait of Kurt Cobain made from 4,438 recycled buttons!

[Find out more about SWAP.](#)

Ryde Battle of the Bands Competition



2019 Battle of the Bands winner, Saturn V

This crowd favourite is the perfect launching pad for young musicians. Ryde Battle of the Bands is open to all young bands (with members aged between 12 and 25 years). Entry is free and the top 3 shortlisted bands perform at the City of Ryde Australia Day concert. Prizes include \$1,000 in cash and a mastering session with Studios 301.

This year, student band Saturn V from St Patrick's Marist College took away the top prize, with the People's Choice award going to Dysfunction.

[Find out more and register your interest for the 2020 Battle of the Bands competition.](#)

Meadowbank Outdoor Youth + Family Recreation Space



Concept plan for the Meadowbank Park Outdoor Youth and Family Recreation Space

In June 2017 Council endorsed the construction of the [Meadowbank Park Outdoor Youth and Family Recreation Space](#). This new space will provide an area for youth of all ages and the rest of the family to socialise and play within our community. This new space will open this month and provide an area for youth of all ages and the rest of the family to socialise and play within our community.

The space will feature:

- Skate and scooter facilities
- Competition deep skate bowl
- Picnic and shelter facilities
- New footpaths, landscaping and lighting.

Join us on Saturday 27 April for our [official opening event](#)! This free opening will feature competitions, appearances by professional skaters, food, DJ and more.

Thanks to Jon Prior from [NSW Business Chamber](#) for contributing to this article. You can catch the NSW Business Chamber at our upcoming Youth Jobs & Skills Expo on 9 April!

Response to incident at Lachlan's Line construction site

Published on 01 April 2019

Council's thoughts are with all those affected by a tragic incident today at a construction site in North Ryde, where scaffolding and concrete collapsed, trapping two workers.

City of Ryde would like to clarify that it has no responsibility in relation to the nbh at Lachlan's Line site as it is under the control of a Private Certifier.

However, this incident will be investigated by SafeWork NSW and Council staff will be talking to them as well as visiting the site tomorrow to ensure the safety of the public domain areas around the construction site.

City of Ryde Council meeting summary - March meeting

Published on 01 April 2019

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 26 March 2019. Here is a summary of the main outcomes from the meeting:

MARK OF RESPECT FOR CHRISTCHURCH VICTIMS

A minute silence was observed by Council as a mark of respect for the victims of the Christchurch mosque shooting.

STATE ELECTION

The City of Ryde congratulated local MPs and the NSW Premier on their re-election to NSW Parliament during the recent State Election. All local candidates were also acknowledged for their contribution to the democratic process.

COUNCIL TO BUILD RYDE RIVER WALK'S MISSING LINK

The City of Ryde will complete one of the final missing links of the Ryde River Walk and build a connection between Bill Mitchell Park and Ross Street at Tennyson Point.

Councillors unanimously resolved to build the connection along Glades Bay, between Bill Mitchell Park and Ross Street.

The connection will be included in the 2019/20 year of the 2019-2022 Draft Four Year Delivery Plan.

[Click here for more information.](#)

DRAFT CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE TO GO ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

A new Model Code of Meeting Practice for all local councils was recently prescribed by the NSW Parliament. As a result, Council resolved to place a new draft Code of Meeting Practice on public exhibition.

The new code will guide the conduct of all City of Ryde Council meetings and committee meetings.

The draft proposes a range of changes to the current Code of Meeting practice including a requirement for all committee meetings to be audio visually recorded and made available on the City of Ryde website. In addition, motions which require an additional expenditure but do not identify a source of funding will need to be deferred pending a report detailing the availability of Council funds.

The draft Code of Meeting Practice will be on placed on public exhibition from 27 March 2019 to 7 May 2019. A new Code of Meeting Practice has to be adopted by Council by 14 June 2019.

PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE BUSINESSES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT FOOD SAFETY

A pilot program will be arranged by the City of Ryde to provide information to local business owners about food handling, food safety, food safety inspections and waste management.

The pilot will take place in Eastwood and, if successful, Council will consider rolling out the education program across the City of Ryde in 2020 and 2021.

COUNCIL PLEDGES TO ASSIST LOCAL CLUB CONSTRUCT A BASEBALL CAGE

The City of Ryde will provide assistance to the Macquarie Saints Baseball Club to apply for funding to obtain 40 per cent (approximately \$65,000) of the estimated project cost to construct a baseball cage at Pioneer Park in Marsfield.

If the club is successful in obtaining the funding, the City of Ryde will allocate the remaining funds in the 2020/21 year of the Four Year Delivery Plan for the new baseball cage.

SUPPORT SOUGHT FOR LIGHTING UPGRADES

Council will seek a letter of support from local football associations and clubs to apply for grants under the Football NSW 'Let's Light up Football' program.

Last year, the City of Ryde was successful in obtaining two separate \$20,000 grants under the 'Let's Light up Football' program to help fund lighting upgrades at Marsfield Park and Monash Park.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 30 April 2019.

Council to build Ryde River Walk's missing link

Published on 01 April 2019



The City of Ryde will complete one of the final missing links of the Ryde River Walk and build a connection between Bill Mitchell Park and Ross Street at Tennyson Point.

The award-winning Ryde River Walk was opened to the public in 2008, providing access to the Parramatta foreshore for walkers and cyclists between Gladesville Bridge and Ryde Bridge.

However, a section at Tennyson Point diverts from the foreshore and instead forces people up a steep stairway and into local streets. The stairway has proved to be an impediment for some people while also depriving others of accessing a major part of the foreshore.

At the Council meeting last week, Councillors unanimously resolved to build the connection along Glades Bay, between Bill Mitchell Park and Ross Street.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said building the missing link would ensure the Ryde River Walk became more accessible.

“Our waterfront should be available to everyone, not just a few,” Clr Laxale said.

“The Ryde River Walk is one of the jewels in our city’s crown and building this new connection will not only improve this fantastic outdoor space but also ensure the entire community can access this picturesque part of the Parramatta River.

“As the City of Ryde continues to grow, it is imperative that as a Council we do all we can to provide more outdoor space for everyone to take advantage of and enjoy.”

The connection between Bill Mitchell Park and Ross Street will be included in the 2019/20 year of the 2019-2022 Draft Four Year Delivery Plan.

A report has been commissioned that will determine the estimated cost of the new connection, with the view to using developer contributions to fund the connection's design and construction.

Map

The map below shows part of the current Ryde River Walk (in red) and identifies the proposed 150-metre connection (in purple).

