

Wednesday 5 May 2021

## LOCAL FORUM TO ENCOURAGE MORE WOMEN TO RUN FOR COUNCIL

The City of Ryde and the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) NSW Branch will stage a free information session for women who are interested in standing at the September Council elections.

The Local Forum for Female Candidates event – to be held at City of Ryde Council Chambers between 1.30pm and 5pm on Saturday 15 May – will provide valuable information on how to run for the elections as well as provide insights on the role and responsibilities of a councillor.

It will be hosted by ALGWA President and Lithgow City Councillor, Clr Cassandra Coleman, with City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, and City of Ryde Councillor, Clr Penny Pedersen, also in attendance.

ALGWA NSW Executive members will be available for a question and answer session and to share their knowledge with women who are interested in standing for local government elections.

Clr Laxale said he hoped the information session would lead to more women becoming councillors.

"If councils are to be a true reflection of their community, then they need more female representation. Just over half of the City of Ryde population is female, however, only two of our 12 current councillors are women, which is not good enough," Clr Laxale said.

"From nominating as a candidate, running a campaign, and what to expect if elected as a councillor, this local forum will provide all the details required for women who are interested in serving their community."

Clr Pedersen, who was elected as a City of Ryde Councillor in 2017, said she had found the role to be a very demanding but a rewarding experience.

"I ran for Council because I wanted to make a difference for my community and help give a voice to sections of the community that I felt were not being represented at local government level. It is a decision I have not regretted," Clr Pedersen said.

"I would encourage women who are considering running for Council or those who are just curious about what the role of councillor involves, to attend this information session and find out whether being a councillor is the right choice for them. It could just be the start of a long and fulfilling career as a councillor."

Women from all local government areas are welcome to attend the Local Forum for Female Candidates event.

Registrations are essential. [Click here](#) for more information.

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