

Tuesday 9 June 2020

## **CITY OF RYDE COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY – MAY MEETING**

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 26 May 2020. Here is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

### **Small Business Support Package implemented**

Council implemented its Small Business Support Package, which is designed to support local businesses during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and assist in business recovery during the post-pandemic phase.

Under the Small Business Support package more than 40 different fees and charges will be waived for six months. In addition, Council will also negotiate financial assistance support for café and restaurant owners operating from Council premises and other commercial tenants of Council.

### **Dog off-leash sites to be trialled**

The draft Dogs Recreation Needs Study was endorsed by Council. The purpose of the study is to guide Council's planning of both existing and potential future dog off-leash facilities to meet the changing needs of the growing community.

Under the study, seven sites within the City of Ryde will be trialled as dog off-leash areas for six months subject to residents surrounding the sites being consulted. A report will be brought back to Council at the completion of the trial outlining the community feedback received.

### **Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program**

The City of Ryde has received funding under the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Council will now identify projects in the City of Ryde that could be eligible for funding under the program. Among these projects, Council will explore opportunities in collaboration with the Member for Bennelong, John Alexander OAM, to install safety structures (such as bollards) in local shopping precincts.

### **Changes to NSW planning laws and regulations**

Council will write to the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and NSW Minister of Planning, Rob Stokes, to express its opposition to a number of recent changes to State planning laws and regulations.

The changes include the creation of the NSW Government's Planning System Acceleration Program, which aims to fast-track new projects as a way of stimulating the economy during the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as allowing councils to no longer publish development applications in local newspapers.

In addition, Council will also request that in light of the growing level of complaints from residents, Mr Stokes reconsiders the decision to grant permission to allow construction sites to operate on weekends and public holidays.

### **Racism condemned by Council**

The City of Ryde condemned increased xenophobia and racism levelled at Australian-Asian residents and the broader multicultural community during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Council resolved to incorporate the 'Racism Stops With Me' campaign as part of the Granny Smith-replacement festivities that are due to take place in October this year.

### **Report to be prepared on ground hire and lighting fees for sports**

Council staff will provide a report to the Works and Community Committee meeting in June on the financial implications resulting from waiving ground hire and lighting fees for the rest of the year for all sports.

Any waiving of fees would only occur when training and match fixtures have been allowed to recommence.

### **Further support for small business to be explored**

A report will be prepared identifying appropriate funding sources for the establishment Ryde Relief Small Business Grant as well as other options for small business support in the City of Ryde.

### **Next meeting**

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 23 June 2020.

[Click here for the minutes of the May Ordinary Council meeting.](#)

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