

Friday 2 August 2019

RALC SOLAR PROJECT IS FINALIST FOR NATIONAL CLIMATE AWARD

The City of Ryde's work to tackle climate change has been recognised with Council's Solar PV project at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC) selected as a finalist in the 2019 Cities Power Partnership Awards.

The Solar PV project was selected from a competitive field of entries from councils across Australia.

Completed this year, the solar harvesting power station at the RALC is the largest of its kind in North West Sydney and includes 846 solar panels, generating more than 300 kilowatts of power. It is estimated to save more than 315 tonnes greenhouse gas emissions and save more than 366MWH of energy each year.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the solar harvesting power station was part of Council's commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

"In the absence of leadership from state and federal governments, I am proud to say that the City of Ryde is taking real action on climate change to protect our local rivers and environment," Cllr Laxale said.

"In less than two years this Council has:

- Reduced its carbon footprint by 10 per cent over a 12 month period
- Divested from fossil-fuel aligned financial institutions
- Commenced the phasing out of single-use plastics at Council events
- Declared a 'Climate Emergency' status for the City of Ryde
- Supported renewable energy through the investigation of a Renewable Energy Target to be mandated by 2030

"The solar harvesting power station at the RALC is another component of our commitment to do more to protect the environment. It is great that it has been recognised for its contribution to reducing emissions by being nominated for a Cities Power Partnership Award."

David Craven, Director of the Cities Power Partnership, congratulated the City of Ryde for making the final shortlist for the awards.

"The City of Ryde is an Australian local climate leader, and I'm proud to be able to recognise the important work they're doing through the Cities Power Partnership Awards," he said.

"Local champions such as the City of Ryde are stepping up to the climate challenge in the face of continuing Federal climate inaction. It's time to celebrate these unsung climate heroes in local government, who are helping their communities to drive down local greenhouse gas pollution."

The Cities Power Partnership Awards recognise outstanding achievement by local governments in the fields of renewable energy, sustainable transport, energy efficiency, community engagement and climate advocacy. The award winners will be announced at the Cities Power Partnership's second birthday celebration on 29 August.

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