## MEDIA RELEASE

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## RATES A WINNER FOR CITY OF RYDE

The latest figures just released from the NSW Department of Local Government show that the City of Ryde has the fifth lowest rates of all 38 Metropolitan Councils in Sydney.

City of Ryde Mayor Clr Artin Etmekdijian has welcomed the results, calling them great news for Ryde ratepayers.

"I am very pleased with how our Council compares with other councils of a similar size and make-up," he said. "It shows that Council's leadership team is heading in the right direction to deliver better value for our community."

Clr Etmekdijian said the data, contained in the Department's *Snapshot of NSW Local Government for 2009/10,* also revealed that City of Ryde's residential rates per capita are well below the state average and substantially lower than many comparable local government organisations.

"Benchmarking performance against other comparable councils helps City of Ryde keep track of how well we serve the community," said CIr Etmekdijian. "Understanding this data enables Council to identify areas for improvement in customer service and operations, while remaining within budget.

"Council is committed to looking for ever better ways to streamline our operations and provide excellent customer service," said Clr Etmekdijian.

"And while it's pleasing to get independent confirmation that we provide value for money, financial responsibility is a touchstone.

"City of Ryde needs economic development that is sound and sustainable.

"I will continue to press our case with the highest levels of government and business on behalf of the City of Ryde to ensure there are plenty of future opportunities."

Commenting on his recent re-election as Mayor, CIr Etmekdjian said the next 12 months will be busy with many exciting initiatives ahead. "I'm very proud to again represent the City of Ryde community as Mayor.

"Council has a great team and I am looking forward to progressing the many projects and opportunities of the City of Ryde 2021 Community Strategic Plan," he said.

"I look forward to keeping you updated on our progress in the coming months."