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FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR TOWN-GOWN PARTNERSHIP

The City of Ryde and Macquarie University have celebrated a successful first year of their town-gown partnership.

Senior academics of the University joined Councillors and senior Council staff to review progress of the Ryde Futures Partnership *Smart and Connected* that was formed to bring together the research and intellectual capacity of the two organisations for the benefit of the City of Ryde community.

A number of projects started during the year are already producing results. These include a research study to understand how the Council is perceived by residents and how well the Council's strategic direction aligns with the view of the community. The findings of this project will provide guidance on how the Council can better communicate and engage with the community.

Another exciting project responds to one of the community's major concerns, the ever increasing traffic congestion in the area. A trial of innovative transport options will take place on the University Campus. It is hoped that this trial will inform the development of options that will lead to traffic congestion relief across the Ryde community.

City of Ryde Acting General Manager, Danielle Dickson, also took the opportunity to welcome the Vice Chancellor and commented on his diverse academic pedigree. "The Vice Chancellor has an eminent academic record, but for me the most impressive feature of his experience has been his commitment to applying this knowledge to benefit the community in locations as diverse as Malaysia and Kazakhstan and I look forward to working with him in the coming year on joint projects that will improve the wellbeing of the people of Ryde," she said.

"This is an important partnership allowing the University to engage with our community and wider society," says Macquarie University's Vice-Chancellor Professor S Bruce Dowton. "It is great to reflect on the many successful projects that have developed from it in the last year, and to know there are more exciting innovations to come."

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