

Thursday 16 August 2018

CITY OF RYDE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR NSW FARMERS IMPACTED BY DROUGHT

The City of Ryde is urging the local community to dig deep and help NSW farmers and rural communities living in severely drought-affected regions.

At its Extraordinary Meeting this week, Council unanimously resolved to undertake a community fundraising appeal in support of NSW farmers utilising the charity Rural Aid and its 'Buy A Bale' initiative.

The 'Buy A Bale' initiative delivers hay and other essential items to farmers who have no feed left for their livestock.

Fundraising efforts by the City of Ryde will begin straight away with donation collection buckets already in place at Council's Customer Service Centre, libraries and the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre.

People will also be able to donate at all of City of Ryde's upcoming events including this Sunday's Cork and Fork Festival at Kissing Point Park, with proceeds from the sale of soft drinks by Love Bite at the festival to be directed to the fundraising appeal.

To kick-start the appeal, Council has pledged to donate \$20,000.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, urged residents and businesses to rally together and show their support for drought-affected farmers in NSW.

"Most residents would have seen through the media – or may even know someone living in a rural area – to understand just how damaging this drought has been on farmer's livelihoods and wellbeing," Clr Laxale said.

"As has been seen with previous fundraising efforts, the Ryde community is extremely generous to people in need and I am sure everyone will get behind the 'Buy A Bale' fundraising effort and raise much needed funds for drought relief."

The fundraising effort was put forward as a Matter of Urgency by Clr Penny Pedersen.

"If you do see one of our collection buckets around the community or are attending one of our upcoming events I encourage you to dig deep so we can all join together and do everything we can to help our farmers in their time of need," Clr Pedersen said.

The move by Council to help raise money for drought relief comes after all of NSW was declared drought-affected last week, with some areas recording their driest 18-month period since records began in 1900.

The fundraising effort will run until the completion of this year's Granny Smith Festival on 20 October, where a truck filled with the City of Ryde's hay donation will join the street parade and reveal exactly how much the local community has raised.

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