

02 civic leadership

COUNCILLORS

HOW DO WE GOVERN OUR CITY?

STANDING COMMITTEES

ADVISORY COMMITTEES



Balanced decision making for the future needs of our community





Councillors

WHO WE ARE

Council elections, September 2008

On 13 September 2008 elections were conducted for Council by the State Electoral Commission. All Councillors were elected for four year terms, with the next election to be held in September 2012.

It is compulsory for those people who reside within the Ryde Local Government Area to vote.

Three Councillors did not stand for re-election. The new Council included five Councillors who had been elected for the first time and seven who were returning from the most recent Council.

The City of Ryde is divided into three wards (East, Central and West) with four Councillors elected to represent each ward. Councillors are elected by the community for a four year term following an election. The Mayor is elected annually by the Councillors. Together, the Councillors make the policies and decisions that drive how the city runs on a daily basis and shape how it will develop in the future.

The new Council readily adopted a project to develop a 20 year plan to be based on the community's vision for the city, the Ryde 2030 Community Strategic Plan, which will set the direction for the longer term and Council will develop a four year delivery program to deliver on its strategic outcomes.



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how do we govern our city?

The role of Council

Council's role is to make policies on the City's direction, funding, expenditure, investment, borrowing, finance, strategic development and growth.

Determining the direction of a city is a complex matter. There is rarely community-wide consensus on the issues that face a growing city.

The elected Council weighs up the options and ensures that ratepayers' money is spent in the most effective way. This can mean balancing the needs of the community against the needs of individuals and taking into account the long and short term implications of decisions.

Together, the Councillors as 'Council', form the governing body of the City of Ryde, a public statutory body constituted under the Local Government Act 1993.

Council Meetings

Regular Council and Committee meetings are held on Tuesdays at the Ryde Civic Centre.

Meetings are open to the public, and residents and businesses are actively encouraged to attend and participate in the decision-making process. Some matters, due to their nature, may be considered by Council in closed session, due to the need to maintain confidentiality. All Council and Committee meetings are carried out in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Council's meeting schedule, agendas and minutes, are available on the City of Ryde website www.ryde.nsw.gov.au.

The Mayor's role, as Chair of Council and the civic leader of Council, is crucial to effective relationships within the administration and to good governance.



Top Ryde City shopping centre development

One of the key roles involves presiding at and being responsible for the orderly conduct of Council meetings. The Mayor also ensures that Council's decisions are carried out.

Council Decisions

Council is recognised as a single entity and Councillors only have the authority to make decisions as a group, when they are acting as 'Council'. At Committee meetings, reports from Council officers are submitted, with a recommendation, for the consideration of the Committee members.

Depending on the nature of the issue, the Committee may have delegated authority (in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993) to make resolutions which will be implemented by Council officers.

If the Committee does not have the appropriate delegated authority, the Committee will either refer or make a recommendation to Council for determination.

MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ARE ACTIVELY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

standing committee

Council reviewed its committee setup and now has two standing committees: the Planning and Environment Committee and the Works and Community Committee.

Previously there were three standing committees. In 2008/2009 these were the Public Facilities and Services Committee, the Development Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee.

The new committees continue the work the previous committees conducted to carry

out many of Council's strategic and decision-making functions and generally meet fortnightly.

All Councillors meet as the Committee of the Whole on a fortnightly basis to consider the most significant high level matters.

Membership of the standing committees is determined annually. The Chairperson is also elected annually.

Committee of Whole

Chairperson: Mayor

Members: All Councillors

The Committee of the Whole primarily deals with issues relating to the management of Council's financial, human and physical resources including significant planning matters. The Committee of the Whole comprises all Councillors and operates with the same powers as a full Council meeting.

COUNCIL

Works and Community Committee

Chairperson: Clr Tagg

Deputy Chairperson: Clr Campbell

Members: Clr Li, Clr Maggio, Clr Perram and Clr Petch

Ex-Officio: Mayor

The Works and Community (W&C) Committee deals with provision of community facilities, services and programs to meet community needs and promote community well being. For example the W&C Committee deals with matters affecting our public libraries, leisure facilities such as the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, community events, and the award of community and cultural grants.

The W&C Committee also deals with a number of matters that impact on the physical environment such as requests for removal of trees, redevelopment of parks, and capital works projects such as roads, footpaths and drainage. The Committee also evaluates traffic studies and considers the recommendations of the Ryde Traffic Committee.

Planning and Environment Committee

Chairperson: Clr Pickering

Deputy Chairperson: Clr O'Donnell

Members: Clr Etmekdjian, Clr Salvestro-Martin and Clr Yedelian

Ex-Officio: Mayor

The role of the Planning and Environment (P&E) Committee is to deal with issues affecting the built environment and public health matters. For example the P&E Committee considers and determines many planning matters, such as local development applications. The Committee also reviews environmental enforcement matters such as issuing of orders to prevent illegal building or demolition works.

Guidelines for Councillors

Code of Conduct

Councillors are bound by a Code of Conduct which sets a high standard for ethical behaviour and decision making. Council has adopted a Code of Conduct that states Councillors' roles and responsibilities. The code provides the steps to be followed when making and investigating allegations of breaches of the code.

There were no breaches of the code in 2008/2009.

The City of Ryde is committed to engaging its residents, stakeholders and Council staff in the development of policies, plans and the delivery of services for the community. Council's Community Engagement Policy recognises the importance of community information sharing, consultation and participation for effective decision making.

More information on community engagement is available under Our Performance in this report. You can also find out more on www.ryde.nsw.gov.au 

Delegating decision making

As provided for in the Local Government Act, the Council can delegate some of its decision making authority to the General Manager, thereby allowing a more efficient operation in several areas such as enforcement of Council regulations and finalising/negotiating various matters within parameters set by Council.

Councillor Meetings/Attendance

Meetings from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 – the meetings reported on are for the previous Council elected up to the end August 2008 and the incoming Council elected on 13 September 2008.

The new Council was sworn in on Tuesday 30 September 2008 following the General Election. The statutory meeting, including election of the Mayor, was held on Tuesday 30 September 2008.

Current Council:

13 September 2008 – 30 June 2009

Councillor		COW	PFS	DEV	FAC	Workshops	TOTAL
Clr Butterworth	13	10		5	3	23	54
Clr Campbell	15	12	9		5	26	67
Clr Etmekdjian	17	12	12		7	35	83
Clr Li	17	11	8		3	26	65
Clr Maggio	17	13		7	5	37	79
Clr O'Donnell	17	13		7	7	37	81
Clr Perram	16	12	12		6	37	83
Clr Petch	15	10			4	19	48
Clr Pickering	17	12		7	7	36	79
Clr Salvestro-Martin	15	12		7	7	34	75
Clr Tagg	17	13	12	5	7	37	91
Clr Yedelian OAM	17	12		6	7	34	76

Previous Council:

1 July 2008 – 12 September 2008

Councillor	Council	COW	PFS	DEV	FAC	Workshops	TOTAL
Clr Butterworth	4	4		2	2	7	19
Clr Campbell	4	3			2	6	15
Clr McCosker	2	3	2		1	3	11
Clr Netterfield	4	4		2	2	8	20
Clr O'Donnell	4	4		2	2	8	20
Clr Perram	4	4	2		2	8	20
Clr Petch	3	4			2	7	16
Clr Ryan	3	2	1		2	6	14
Clr Tagg	4	4	2		2	8	20
Clr Wilde OAM	3	4		2	2	8	19
Clr Yedelian OAM	4	4		2	2	8	20

Note: Committee abbreviations:

COW – Committee of the Whole, PF&S – Public Facilities and Services Committee (now Works and Community Committee)

DEV – Development Committee (now Planning and Environment Committee)

FAC – Finance and Audit Committee (dissolved and now monitored by Internal Audit Committee)

Council Advisory Committees

There were 19 Council Advisory Committees operating within the City of Ryde in 2008/2009.

Name	Purpose
Access Committee	Advise and make recommendations to Council on matters relating to access issues, with particular emphasis on issues for people with disabilities as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act.
Audit Committee	The committee provides a review and monitoring function over Council's corporate assurance, audit, risk management and corporate governance activities and arrangements.
Bicycle Advisory Sub-Committee	Advise Council on the needs of all who cycle in the City of Ryde including beginners, experienced cyclists and those who cycle for recreation or as a means of transport.
Bushland Environs Advisory Committee for Ryde (BEACR)	Advise Council on the preservation, conservation and management of bushland, wildlife and native vegetation generally in the City of Ryde.
Community Harmony Reference Group	Advise and provide feedback to Council on multicultural and interfaith initiatives and events reflecting the diversity of the City of Ryde community.
Companion Animals Advisory Committee	Advise Council on development of companion animals programs for the City of Ryde area and on work in partnership with Council on various companion animal initiatives.
Country Council Partnership Advisory Committee	Consider and review partnership proposals submitted by Council or the community, generate ideas for new partnership proposals and promote the partnership to the community, business and government agencies to seek sponsorship and/or in-kind support for projects.
Eastwood and Terrys Creek Floodplain Risk Management Committee	Assist in the preparation of a Floodplain Risk Management Plan for the Eastwood and Terrys Creek subcatchment areas.
Eastwood Events and Promotions Committee	Promote and sponsor entertainment in the Eastwood Town Centre and promote and sponsor new activities/initiatives which enhance the profile of the Eastwood Town Centre.
Heritage Advisory Committee	Provide advice to Council about the preservation and enhancement of items and places within the City of Ryde that are of natural, Indigenous, cultural, social, aesthetic or historic significance.

Name	Purpose
Macquarie Park Floodplain Risk Management Committee	Assist in the preparation of a Floodplain Risk Management Plan for the Macquarie Park area.
Macquarie Park Landowners Forum	Some of the largest landowners in Macquarie Park participate in this forum which provides high level strategic and industry input in areas such as transport, marketing, urban design and sustainability.
Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre Parking and Traffic Management Working Group	Advise Council on ways to achieve a viable solution to parking and traffic problems in the streets surrounding the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre.
Ryde Hunters Hill Joint Library Service Advisory Committee	Provide advice on areas of common interest, particularly for Gladesville Library, but also including advice on services such as Local Studies, Home Library Services, the Toy Library and Outreach Services that are available to residents of Hunters Hill and adjoining areas.
Ryde Safe Communities Steering Committee	Establish effective partnerships with key stakeholders engaged in improving the safety and well being of individuals and groups in the City of Ryde. Provide specialist advice and support to Ryde Safe Communities partners relating to safety issues.
Ryde Youth Committee	To advocate, represent and plan for events and training for young people in Ryde.
Sports Council	Representing the sporting clubs and associations in consultation with the City of Ryde and endorsement of agreed programs and strategies.
Traffic Committee	The Ryde Traffic Committee (RTC) is a technical advisory committee which is required to advise Council on matters referred to it. Council refers traffic related matters to the RTC prior to exercising its delegated functions. Matters relating to classified roads or functions are referred directly to the RTA, and are not dealt with by Council.
Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee	Guide the development, implementation, review and reporting processes of the City's Water Quality Monitoring Strategy.