

# nextsteps

CITY OF RYDE: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009





*great open spaces and parks for play*



## VISION

### Where are we headed?

Ryde will be an innovative city, a leader in environmental, economic and social sustainability.

## MISSION

### What benefits will we bring to our community?

The City of Ryde will work with the community to provide essential services and to ensure Ryde is a vibrant place to live.

## OUR COMMITMENT

### How will we achieve this?

The City of Ryde commits to delivering a range of outcomes for the long term healthy and sustainable development of the City of Ryde. We do this through our financial, political and organisational capacity and through effective engagement with our community and key partners.

## VALUES

### What underpins our commitment?

**PROFESSIONALISM**  
We deliver effective services to the community with consistent decision making.

**TEAMWORK**  
We work together with respect and support.

**LEADERSHIP**  
We promote clear direction and encouragement.

**ETHICS**  
We are honest, responsible and accountable for our actions.

**PRIDE**  
We have satisfaction in our work.

**RECOGNITION**  
We acknowledge our achievements.

# about this report

We report to our community and stakeholders in a number of ways.

This Annual Report focuses on the financial and operational performance of the City of Ryde in 2008/2009, documenting our performance against the Management Plan 2008–2012 and the 2008/2009 Budget. The report includes a snapshot of our performance (both highlights and challenges) and an overview of the next steps into future, including our plans to ensure the sustainability of our organisation, our City and the community we serve.

Our State of the Environment Report (SOE) is issued as a regional report with the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC). The SOE report describes our plans and performance in managing the environmental dimension of our activities.

## Sustainability at the City of Ryde

The City of Ryde is improving its approach to sustainability reporting. This 2008/2009 report demonstrates that we are coming closer to achieving full integration of sustainability considerations in our strategies and service delivery.

Core elements of sustainability reporting include the corporate policy, strategy and objectives to achieve and maintain sustainable development, and the presentation of data and information to reflect current performance against specific environmental, economic, social and governance targets. Our report draws on the criteria of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Guidelines and includes a quadruple bottom line approach to social, economic, environmental and governance outcomes. While Council is not yet fully compliant with the GRI, our sustainability reporting has been progressively integrated into our Management Plan and Annual Report.

The following symbols are used to highlight areas of this Annual Report where further information is available:



Environment Initiatives in the State Environment Report (SOE)



Where partnerships have occurred



On our website [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au)

Our community and stakeholders can support the environment by choosing to receive the City of Ryde's corporate communications in electronic form.

## Audience for this report

This report is intended to provide important information to a broad range of stakeholders including City of Ryde residents and ratepayers, local businesses, non-government organisations, our partners and other government departments and agencies.

It also provides our staff with information on how well we have performed over the year, how their efforts have contributed to the achieving the vision and what to expect in the coming year.

## Acknowledgement

The City of Ryde acknowledges the Wallumedegal clan of the Darug people as the traditional custodians of this land.

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## ABOUT THE THEME

The theme for this year's annual report relates to performance and the next steps needed to sustain an organisation like the City of Ryde. The many different footprints represent the diverse mix of people that move throughout the City of Ryde.

# who are we

## What does the City of Ryde look like?

There are sixteen suburbs within the City of Ryde, with a mix of residential living and successful business, retail and educational centres. There is also a diverse collection of natural landscapes, beautiful parks, scenic waterways and areas of historical significance.

## Where is the City of Ryde?

The City of Ryde is located 12 kilometres north west of central Sydney, set in scenic surrounds between the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers. It is well connected to other parts of metropolitan Sydney via major road systems, rail, bus and ferry services.

## Who lives in the City of Ryde?

- 101,994 residents (2006 Census estimate), projected to rise to 117,000 by 2030
- 25–54 years make up the majority (45%) of the population
- Ageing population with increase of residents aged 55 years and older since the 2001 Census
- 37.6% of residents born overseas
- 42% speaking another language. The most commonly spoken language in 2006 was Cantonese followed by Mandarin, Italian, Korean and Armenian.

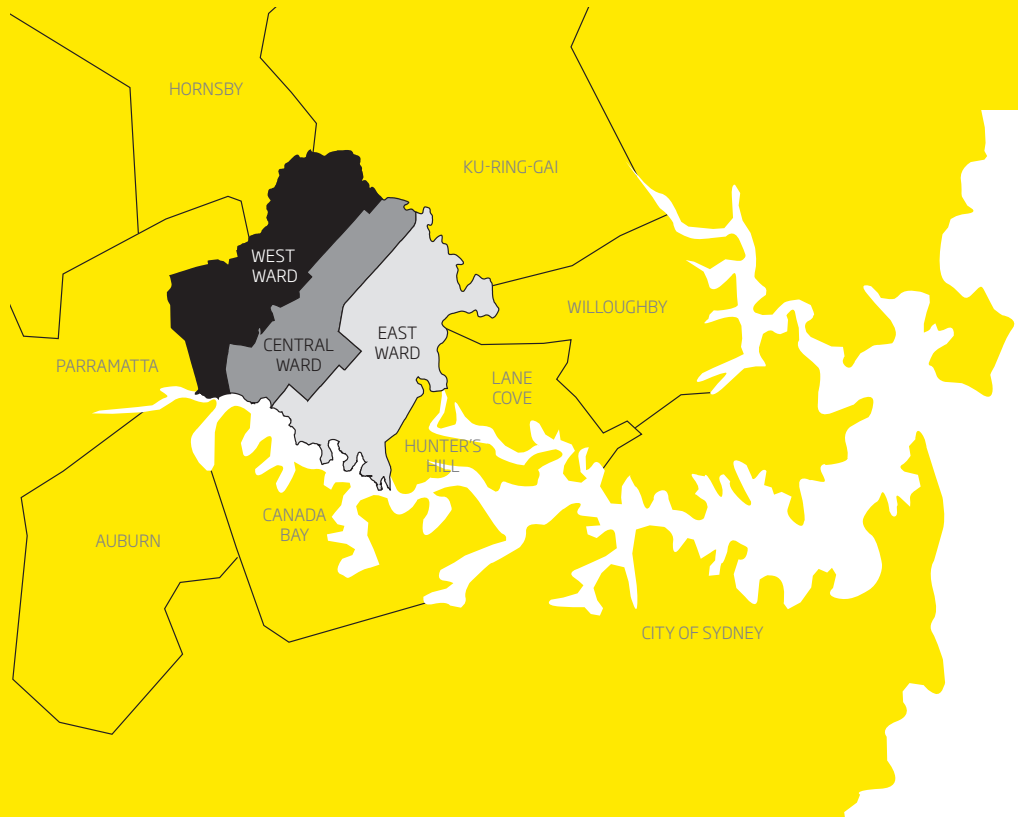
## Working and learning in the City of Ryde

- Macquarie Park Corridor
- Macquarie University
- Ryde and Meadowbank Colleges of TAFE
- The City of Ryde operates five public libraries, including a home library lending service
- Twenty-four primary schools
- Five high schools
- Ryde and Macquarie Hospitals.

## Doing business in the City of Ryde

The City of Ryde is part of an ever changing, dynamic global market place. Our City's support for economic development contributes significantly to the State's 'Global Economic Corridor' which is identified in the NSW Metropolitan Strategy.

Macquarie Park is the most important employment centre in the City of Ryde. Often called 'Australia's Silicon Valley', it is the location for many of Australia's 'top 100' companies in the pharmaceutical, health and IT&T sectors, as well as leading research institutions. This includes Macquarie University, CSIRO and the head offices for Optus, Siemens, Foxtel, Johnson & Johnson and Canon. The Macquarie Shopping Centre, one of the leading retail centres in Sydney, is also located in Macquarie Park.



As a specialised centre, Macquarie Park provides around 66,000 jobs/student places, making it the third largest concentration of jobs/student places in NSW after Sydney CBD and North Sydney with over 1,200,000m<sup>2</sup> of employment floor space.

Future: When fully developed Macquarie Park will have close to 3,000,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floor space, with the potential for 160,000 jobs/student places by the year 2031.

## Our open spaces

The City of Ryde caters for all kinds of active and passive recreation. Within our City there are 355 hectares of local open space, of which 205 hectares is natural bushland. Lane Cove National Park is one of Sydney's favourite places for picnics, barbecues and bushwalks. In addition, there are 207 parks and reserves with numerous scenic bike paths and walkways. Our many sporting facilities cater to those with interests in golf, soccer, rugby, cricket, tennis, squash, fitness, walking and swimming. The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, constructed as a venue for the Olympic water polo events and a training facility for the Paralympic Games, is a world class swimming and sporting facility enjoyed by families and sporting enthusiasts alike.

## History

Founded in 1792, Ryde was the third area of European settlement in Australia and was the food basin of the early colony. Traces of the traditional owners of this land – the Wallumedegal people – can still be found in rock carvings and middens along the Rivers that make up our boundaries.

Today, our population of around 102,000 is culturally diverse and growing. Over one third of our residents were born overseas and almost half speak a second language. This diversity is embraced and can be seen across the area in the food, shops, activities, places and people.