



Achievements 2020

- Sustainability
- Waste
- Natural Areas
- Parks



Overview of 2020

From the initial beginning of 2020 we saw huge parts of our country suffer from devastating bushfires, with the loss of over 14 million hectares of biodiversity and countless communities devastated during the Black Summer period, whilst we continued to endure one of the longest droughts experienced. These environmental issues are aside from the yearlong COVID-19 pandemic which has seen many areas of our City reduced in unprecedented capacity. It is easy to say that 2020 was been more than a difficult year for everyone.

In Ryde during 2020, we continued to see our City grow in population whilst we delivered our first Local Strategic Planning Statement. This document will provide the backbone of Council's new Local Environment Plan (LEP) setting a planning framework and vision for the City for the next 20 years. We engaged our community for development of the new Ryde Resilience Plan 2030 to understand the pressures and priorities our community are facing and the future they want for the City and we built plans that respond to these.

We didn't stop or slow down at all in 2020 and achieved some incredible outcomes within this time. We continued to prioritise works around climate action, enacting delivery responding to our Climate Emergency Declaration (2019) and work under our newly adopted Ryde Resilience Plan 2030 and community outreach programs. We also adopted a 100% Renewable Energy Target 2030 for the City to prioritise lowering our emissions.

Our Waste and Environment teams continued delivering our community education via new online platforms to ensure our community were supported during this time. We provided education in areas that reduced resource wastage and increased knowledge for environmental sustainability. We also continued to deliver our capital works program on projects towards future swimmability in the Parramatta River at Putney Park, through to new solar projects, launching of electric vehicles in the City and in developing new parks Plans of Management and masterplans for our future open spaces as we grow.

It has been challenging to say the least but have another exciting year ahead in 2021 and look forward to delivering great outcomes for all of our community.

Thank you for your support

Regards,

Environment, Waste and Parks teams at the City of Ryde

Climate Declaration Actions /

Renewable Energy

On 28 May 2019 Council declared a climate emergency. Since that time, we have:



Continued to divest from fossil fuel aligned investments in our Council portfolio currently at: **26.9% of our total portfolio as at 2020.**



Installed five solar systems on Council assets.



Through the Solar My School program, assisted one school to install a solar system. This system will save the school \$8,400 / year in electricity costs and will avoid 43 tonnes / year of carbon emissions.



Commenced transition of our fleet to electric vehicles – purchased two and charged by solar.



Adopted a 100% renewable energy target by 2030 for Council's electricity usage, for 2019/20 renewable energy made up a total of 38.2% of Council's energy*.

* 38.2% based upon the average renewable electricity % for the NSW region of the National Energy Market (NEM) using https://opennem.org. au/energy/nsw1 data. If the average for entire NEM region was used this figure would increase to 43.8%.



Started development of a Net Zero Emissions Pathway to reduce emissions to **Net Zero by 2050**.



Participated in Southern Sydney
Region Of Councils (SSROC) renewable
energy Power Purchase Agreement
(PPA) together with 18 other councils.
This PPA will supply Council's large
electricity sites with around 20% of
their energy load as renewable energy
from the Moree Solar Farm project,
with the balance of their retail electricity
needs being supplied as regular
grid electricity.





Individual tailored assessments were delivered this year, assisting households to reduce waste, energy and water consumption.



Participating households saved on average over \$500 / year on electricity, over \$440 / year on gas and over \$30 / year on water bills. Growth of 275% in participation by apartment residents was achieved through synergies with sustainable apartment living program, Our Common Ground. We assisted 48% of participants to manage their organic waste through composting / worm farming and engaged a further 31% to take up composting.



We further supported our apartment residents to achieve energy efficiency with a webinar series on creating Energy Efficient Apartments.

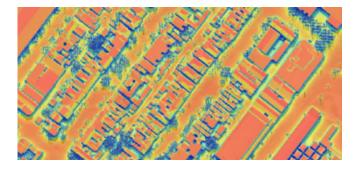


The two winners of this year's Ryde Eco Home Challenge chose installation of underfloor insulation and skylights.

SunSPoT

We continued to provide the SunSPoT tool to enable residents to know the solar potential of their home and make informed decisions about installing solar panels on their rooftop. Currently over 10.4% of our City has solar PV installed on their homes.







Council has continued with it's membership to transform our energy future and making the switch to clean energy.



Council has continued to provide free home assessments for residents in the City of Ryde, advising them how they can make simple adjustments to save energy, water and gas and the potential their home has to utilise renewable energy. We also ran multiple workshops across the year providing residents with the knowledge and skills to progress with installing solar or energy efficiency measures in their home.



Council installed a further 16.7 kW solar PV system on its Operation Centre in 2019/20.



Less efficient streetlighting across the City of Ryde's Ausgrid inventory have commenced replacement with more efficient LED lighting under Ausgrid's Residential Road Street Light LED Replacement Program. These replacements are due to be finished in 2020/21.



The City of Ryde has continued to support sustainable transport through its support of Connect Macquarie Park and North Ryde. In 2019/20, Council commenced construction of a new shared path along Pittwater Rd and completed numerous footpath projects including along Pooley Street and Wilson Street.



Sustainable Procurement

A new Council Procurement Policy was developed with targets to increase recycled materials in our operations and include ethical standards in our purchasing to boost local employment opportunities and lower emissions and waste generation.

Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and joint tender with a 16 council partnership under Southern Sydney Region Of Councils (SSROC) to prioritise recycled materials in our civil works operations in the areas of:

- Asphalt base and wearing course
- Pipe bedding and non-structural concrete (footpaths)
- Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP)

- Recycled crushed glass
- Reclaimed sand
- Tyre crumb

Sustainable Transport



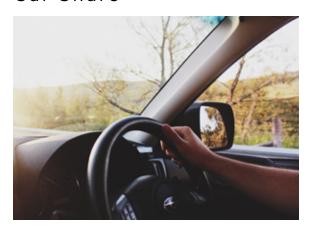
Green Travel Plans

We assessed Green Travel Plans for all new major developments and ensured developers have considered sustainable transport options in their new buildings, from car share pods to end of journey facilities to the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

PAMPs

We continued to improve pedestrian accessibility in our City. A record number of 21 treatments were completed across Meadowbank, West Ryde and Eastwood town centres as part of our Pedestrian Accessibility and Mobility Plans (PAMPs) in 2020. Works included treatments such as footpath renewal and upgraded kerbs and ramps.

Car Share



Council remains committed to increasing the uptake of car sharing in our City. In line with our Car Share Policy and Guidelines and following community consultation, we finalised an application process for car share operators, with submissions received for additional fixed car share spaces in Meadowbank, West Ryde and Top Ryde.

Shop Ryder

(free community shuttle bus)





Approximately

27,000

passenger trips in 2020

Due to reduced services under COVID-19 the 2020 numbers are significantly lower than the number of trips in 2019.

Electric Vehicles



We introduced two 100% electric vehicles (EVs) and accompanying charging stations into our fleet as the first step towards becoming Net Zero Emissions by 2050. We also hosted a webinar to inform our community on EV technology, and developed a brochure on EV charging solutions to assist our residents. All resources are available on Council's website.

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/EVs

Water

See it, Report it, Stop it.



The "See it, Report it, Stop it." campaign targeted 20,000 households across Terrys Creek, Kittys Creek, Buffalo Creek, Strangers Creek, Shrimptons and Archers Creek.

A direct mail campaign was run which outlined how to report an incident and this was supported through a website and social media campaign. This program is seeing increased reporting that is assisting Council to monitor and target known problematic areas to stop illegal dumping and improve water quality long term.

Water Quality Monitoring recommenced this year which monitors the health of our five major creeks: Terrys, Archers, Buffalo, Shrimptons and Porters. Reports are published on Council's website and help to inform decisions that impact on our waterways.

Portius Park Water Quality Improvement Project

At the Portius Park Bushcare site the steep, weed infested drainage line below Melba Drive has been transformed, with extensive weed control, stabilisation of the stormwater outlet and surrounding gully area including creek banks. Battering of the slope, using natural rock to slow and direct stormwater flow and through revegetation for stabilisation, of adjoining riparian area on each side of the gully in the park.

The much-awaited project not only looks fantastic, it has helped to connect parts of the Bushcare site, improved water quality and biodiversity, and reduced erosion.



Barton Park Creek Line Rectification Works



Works focused on riparian planting including installation of 2,000 grasses, groundcovers, ferns and rushes to provide stability and contribute long term, to an overall improvement of local water quality through natural bio-filtration by planting along this creekline system. Works were required as the site had suffered significant disturbance in recent years from clearing which exposed the soils and increased erodibility causing localised bank instability and presenting as a high flood risk.

Get the Site Right



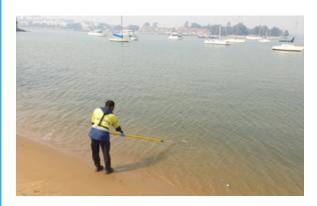
Now in its fifth year, "Get the Site Right" is a joint program between the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG), Cooks River Alliance, Georges Riverkeeper, Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Lake Macquarie Council, NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and local councils. This year's campaign focused on building awareness among home builders on how to implement correct erosion and sediment controls on site due to the increase in home renovations happening over the COVID-19 period. The campaign aimed to educate homeowners on the negative impacts of sediment on our waterways.

Make Parramatta River Swimmable

Putney Beach Activation



In October 2019, Council endorsed the Parramatta River Masterplan which sets out to make Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025. Through extensive community consultation and endorsement from Council, Putney Park was chosen as one of three initial swim sites. To deliver on this plan, Council has commenced work on the construction of beach access steps to the river's edge creating new recreation opportunities Completion of the steps is due in early 2021.



Council are also working with Sydney Water to monitor the water quality and test the sediment at the site to determine future swimmability of the site.

River Aware Program

River Aware residential stormwater education program launched online in May 2020 and will be repeated annually. This campaign encourages people to adopt five simple actions to reduce litter, pet waste, chemicals and other pollutants from entering the waterway. Council requested through an online campaign for residents to pledge to the following actions:



Cover it up

Keep grass clippings and garden materials away from wind and rain



Leave only paw prints

Picking up pet waste stops nasties washing away



Come clean

Wipes, tissues, nappies and hygiene waste all belong in the bin



Wash on the lawn

Washing your car on the lawn or at a car wash will keep fine particles and soap out of the river



Keep it clear

The drain is just for water (chemicals, oils, paints and litter don't belong there)

The Parramatta River Catchment Group has launched the Masterplan Dashboard on their 'our living river' website which provides regular updates in the progress that member Councils are making in each of the Ten Steps towards making a swimmable river by 2025.

www.ourlivingriver.com.au

Resilience

On 1 September 2020, the City of Ryde adopted the first comprehensive action plan for resilience at a local government level in New South Wales.

The Ryde Resilience Plan 2030 which sets out for actions over a 10-year period, aims to support the local community and organisations to withstand and recover from shocks (such as extreme weather events under climate change) and chronic stresses. The action plan sets out how we can work together to become more adaptable and better prepared for responding to local and global events that impact our way of life.

Over 100 people from across the community, including residents, more vulnerable groups, culturally diverse communities, local business and other organisations, provided feedback on the two-volumes draft via surveys, interviews and submissions.

The five main pillars for resilience in the City of Ryde are:



These respond in nine key areas of:

- Energy security
- Water security
- Resource efficiency
- Climate change, extreme weather events and natural hazards
- Biodiversity and natural systems
- · Transport and connecting our community
- Health and wellbeing
- Emergency preparedness, responses and recovery
- Governance with direction, collective leadership and collaboration

Implementation of the Plan is already underway, and in 2020 this has included:



Grant Applications

Applying for two grants in the areas of climate change and Urban Heat and ecosystem resilience for climate impacts. These grants if successful, will work with the community to aim at reducing urban heat island impacts in one pilot town centre and monitor endangered ecological community resilience in climate change.



Health and Wellbeing

Council partnered with Macquarie University to undertake a community cohesion and resilience survey in 2020. It assessed the adaptability, wellbeing, preparedness and recovery in an emergency event in three pilot centres of Eastwood, Putney and Macquarie Park. Council will be further developing this in 2021.



Emergency Preparedness

Council is rolling out education, information, guidelines and tools to help our community be better prepared for severe weather events (for example heatwaves, damaging storms and floods), bushfires and other emergency situations to better prepare community. These will be available both printed and via Council's website.

A local campaign was undertaken during Emergency Preparedness Week, which promoted the Red Cross 'Get Prepared' app and emergency kits to local residents which can be downloaded at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/GetPreparedApp.

Environmental Education

Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (SWAP)

137 artworks and design objects made from repurposed waste materials were submitted for the 2020 SWAP environmental art competition. 77 artworks were showcased in our first ever digital exhibition viewed by over 3,000 people. \$5,000 in prize money was shared amongst the winners from six categories.



137 Entries **77**Artworks exhibited





Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN)

REEN provides schools and their teachers with tools, resources, and support to incorporate sustainability into the curriculum. The network meets once a term and is free to attend. Teachers who attend also receive accredited professional development hours. 180 members of the REEN had the opportunity to engage with programs and presentations from Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize, The Habitat Community Garden and Nursery, Oz Harvest, The Happy Hens and Stormwater Shepherds.

Solar my Schools



Ryde Public School became the first school to install a new solar power system as part of the City of Ryde's solar pilot program and partnership with Solar my School. This council-run initiative is designed to help schools reduce energy bills and shrink their carbon footprint. Ryde Public School received funding through the NSW Community Building Partnership Grants, the philanthropic Purryburry Trust and a 50% contribution from the Department of Education. The 37.6 kW system will save the school \$8,400 / year in electricity costs and will avoid 43 tonnes / year of carbon emissions.



Sustainability Events / Webinars

After moving online, we hosted a 'Habitat Gardening', 'Brush Turkey' and 'Dealing with Garden Pests Without Harsh Chemicals'. 226 participants attended these educational webinars.

In conjunction with the Home Waste & Sustainability Advisory Service, we hosted four webinars on energy efficiency in apartment buildings.

- More Efficient Hot Water Systems in Apartment Buildings
- · Lighting for Apartment Buildings
- · Solar for Apartments and
- · Ventilation for Apartment Buildings.

292 residents viewed these online webinars.



Apartment Living Program

Over 100 residential complexes participated in the Apartment Living Program which aims to assist residents recycle more and reduce their waste. By working directly with managing bodies, onsite committees and residents alike, this program uses a personalised approached that addresses individual apartments' waste needs.

By conducting site visits, we assess bin bay layouts, supply of recycling bags, tubs, and personalised information to each household along with the promotion of Council services, such as our Pre-booked Household CleanUp Collections. As a result;

- Illegal dumping has decreased by 15%
- 120 apartment recycling and waste audits have been conducted
- 500 signs and stickers distributed.



Smarter, Cleaner, Greener Newsletter

Our sustainability e-newsletter, 'Smarter, Cleaner, Greener' – now in its fourth year – delivers to over 3,000 residents each month the latest sustainability, waste and environmental news and topics, green living tips and free Council-run events from our sustainability, bushcare, waste and active recreation teams.

To sign up visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/scgnews



Our Common Ground

Four apartment groups participated in the Our Common Ground program in 2019/20. Each group established a shared food garden, compost bin and worm farm in their apartment complex and participated in the Home Waste & Sustainability Advisory Service. A key part of the program was the tailored horticultural training conducted by Toni "the veggie lady" Salter.

Each apartment group enhanced the program by adapting it and making it their own.

individuals gained an appreciation of food including how it grows, the resources required and the importance of not wasting it and as an added bonus met their neighbours and made new friends.

Key outcomes included:

- 45 individual expressions of interest
- · 36 participants
- 4 group of neighbours growing and sharing food
- 4 groups turning their food scraps into compost
- 20 apartment residents received home living assessment
- 1 apartment completing an energy saving and sharing assessment.



Empowering the Community



Educational Resources for Residents

The Waste Education team provided our residents with numerous resources including translated guides, signage, posters, stickers and an annual waste calendar to help them reduce, reuse, recycle and correctly dispose of their waste. Reusable items including shopping bags, water bottles and coffee cups were also provided to encourage our community say no to single-use plastic.



Workshops

50 workshops were provided to the community with nearly 1400 attendees. Topics included Composting, Worm Farming, Food Waste Reduction, Plastic-free Living and Green Cleaning.



Note: Image taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic

50 workshops





Information Stalls

The Waste Education team conducted a pop-up education stall at Macquarie University O Week and provided resources to the community for Citizenship ceremonies and Seniors Week.



Towards Zero Waste

Implementing More Problem Waste Recycling Stations

Council is making recycling of tricky items more accessible by providing residents with more opportunities to take their unwanted items such as household batteries, fluoro light globes, mobile phones and accessories, ink cartridges and smoke detectors, to problem waste recycling stations for free. Items accepted in each Problem Waste Recycling Station varies, so for more information visit

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/dropoffstations

Council already have seven existing problem waste recycling stations in council locations and two more locations were added in 2020; one at Bunnings Gladesville and the other at Macquarie shopping centre.



Recycle Right and Reduce Waste

A series of eight educational videos were created which provide clear messages to help reduce contamination in recycling bins, increase recycling and advise ways that waste can be diverted from landfill through Council's waste and recycling services. The videos encouraged positive behaviour change and reached a wide audience through targeted promotion campaigns.



Waste and Recycling

Household Chemical CleanOut



712

People attended

26,956 kgs

collected



Clean Up Australia Day

Kgs of litter collected and how many community groups participated

7Business

Groups

8 Schools 5

Youth groups

Community Groups 1,700 kgs

of litter collected

Composting and Worm Farming

Number of items sold

76

66

Compost bins Wo



Chipping and Mulching Service

966

Bookings

1,913

Ryde Residents Community
Recycling Centre

1,913 Ryde residents visited CRC Artarmon



Clothing Bins

150 tonnes

of unwanted clothing diverted from landfill via the Clothing Bins collection



Medical Waste Service

14

Participating pharmacies

Recycling and Garden Organics

Tonnages / diversion from landfill



8,344
Tonnes of recycling



8,580

Tonnes of garden waste



Second Hand Garage Sales

66
Bookings

TV and Computer Collection Service

799

1,793

Bookings

Total items

34,582 kgs

Total weight

Items	Total	
	No. items	Kilograms
Monitor	387	9,675
Hard drive	69	1,587
Keyboard	65	32.5
Televisions	576	23,040
Stereos	6	40
Other	690	207

Problem Waste Recycling Stations

Tonnages / diversion from landfill

Problem waste recycling stations

2,807

Kilograms

Items	Kilograms
Batteries	1,532.82
Mobiles and accessories	354.49
Ink cartridges	459.49
Light globes	460.99



The Bower Collection and Rehoming Service

67
Collections

4,859

Tonnes diverted from landfill

Natural Areas



Protecting our Bushland

New fencing and walking trail reconfiguration at Stewart Park, Marsfield, is helping to protect the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest at the site. This Critically Endangered Ecological Community has been looked after by the Stewart Park Bushcare Group since 2002.

At Lynn Park, Denistone, bollards were installed around the core bushland to protect the Blue Gum High Forest at the site. This is another Critically Endangered Ecological Community that is found in the suburbs of Eastwood and Denistone.





Wildlife Protection Areas

Pleasingly in 2020 we have seen a decrease in off-leash dogs and cats within our declared Wildlife Protection Areas at Field of Mars Reserve, Kittys Creek Reserves and Terrys Creek Reserves.

Ongoing monitoring and patrolling have occurred at the declared Wildlife Protection Areas.

We would like to thank those responsible pet owners who do the right thing and help protect these vital wildlife corridors.

For more information on these areas, please visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/wpa



Feral Animal Control

The Feral Animal Control program continued with success at Barton Reserve, Bremner Park, Brush Farm Park, Darvall Park, Denistone Park, Field of Mars Reserve, Kittys Creek Reserve, Mallee Reserve, Pembroke Park, Portius Park and Tyagarah Park. The program is strategic, and the safety of the community and wildlife is the highest priority.

By targeting foxes and rabbits we are seeing more native wildlife in these areas. Recent wildlife sightings include a swamp wallaby at the Field of Mars Reserve National Tree Day site and an echidna roaming in Barton Reserve, Ryde.

Corridor Plantings

At ELS Hall Park, Bushlink, an all-inclusive enterprise helped spread 30m² of mulch along the Shrimptons Creek corridor followed by the planting of 720 native plants to improve habitat.

Seventy native trees in 45L pots were planted along the new shared user path between Epping Rd and Carramar Avenue. The variety of species including Sydney Red Gum, Scribbly Gums and Grey Gums will help to provide corridor connections for native wildlife and provide shade along the shared user path.



Biosecurity Weeds

Council has been successful in receiving further grant funding for the Weed Action Program for the year ahead. One of the main objectives of this role is working with the community to tackle priority weeds. The program has achieved a number of many successful outcomes to date. Council adopted a Local Biosecurity Weeds Policy and developed a Local Priority Weeds Management Plan.

Council has developed educational flyers and factsheets for the community, and updated the information available on Council's website, including educational videos from the 'Weed Watch Ryde' series, providing residents practical information on controlling common priority weeds on their property.

Council's Biosecurity Weeds Officer has completed inspection of 121 km of on-foot high-risk pathways, 35km of on-water surveillance, and 470 high risk site inspections including Council's depots, Waste Transfer Station, development sites and businesses such as florists, nurseries and pet stores.



Having inspected over 381 private properties, the program provides an opportunity to our community in seeking advice and information to manage weed issues.

Prevention and eradication measures such as these are proving to be the best form of weed management. Ryde residents can book a free private property weed inspection online at

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/priorityweeds

Terrys Creek Walking Trail: Stage 3 Upgrade

The final stage of the Terrys Creek walking trail upgrade was completed this year **connecting almost 2.6km of walking track from Epping Road to near Forresters Park** and we have had wonderful feedback from the local community.

The fibre-mesh decking, steps and bridges are easier and safer to use, improving recreational opportunities and allowing people to interact with the nature and learn about the local environment. The entry point signage and directional signage makes it easier for people to plan their walk and check out all the highlights. Council looks forward to sharing this important bushland corridor with more of our residents and visitors to the City.



Natural Areas

The Habitat Community Nursery

The Habitat Community Nursery and Garden became an even more popular destination for people to visit in 2020. The provision of food from the garden along with sale of food plants and native plants, kept the volunteers busier than ever.

2617

180

visitors

volunteers



Bush Regeneration Program

36

Bush regeneration contract sites

18

Bushcare groups

136

Bushcare volunteers

Around

103.6

Hectares of bushland being regenerated

4,300

hours of regeneration

Parks



Parramatta River Parklands Plan of Management

Draft completed, public exhibition carried out and Public Hearing undertaken in May 2020. Awaiting confirmation from Crown Lands following which the Plan of Management will be presented to Council for adoption.



2020 Collectively

800 trees were planted in various streets in Marsfield and Gannan Park.



Meadowbank Park Plan of Management

Draft completed. Minister approved Public Hearing that was undertaken in October / November 2020.



ELS Hall Plan of Management

Draft completed. Public exhibition and Public Hearing were undertaken in October / November 2020.

Parks



Generic Plan of Management — Parks and General Community Use

Adopted by Council in November 2020.

Generic Plan of Management — Sportsgrounds

Adopted by Council in November 2020.

Generic Plan of Management

Following Stage 1 community consultation in 2019, a draft Plan of Management - Natural Areas is currently being prepared.



Filtered Water Stations

9 new filtered water stations were added to parks across our LGA



Blenheim Park Masterplan

Masterplan was adopted by Council in August 2020.



Westminster Park Masterplan

Masterplan was adopted by Council in February 2020.



Field of Mars Reserve Plan of Management and Masterplan

Following Stage 1 community consultation in late 2020, a draft Plan of Management – Field of Mars Reserve and draft Masterplan is currently being prepared.



Magdala Park Masterplan

Stage 1 community consultation conducted in August 2020. Draft Masterplan design under development.



Spring Garden Competition

This year's competition saw more than 200 entries. The competition has been running for over 30 years now and has been much anticipated in 2020.



Olympic Park Masterplan

Stage 2 community consultation conducted in November / December 2020. Draft Masterplan design under development.





P City of Ryde

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/SCGAchievements