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ENGLISH

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KOREAN

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CHINESE

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ITALIAN

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ARMENIAN

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ARABIC

تحتوي هذه النشرة على معلومات هامة. إذا احتجت إلى مساعدة في قراءتها أو فهمها يرجى طلب المساعدة من صديق لك أو الذهاب إلى مجلس مدينة رايد في Civic Centre, Devlin Street, Ryde. يستطيع الموظفون مساعدة الأفراد الذين لا يتحدثون الإنجليزية وذلك باستعمال خدمة الترجمة الشفهية. يمكن الإتصال بالمجلس على الرقم ٩٩٥٢ ٨٢٢٢



Foreword

Recent international negotiations over the Kyoto Protocol and ongoing debate about climate change illustrate the difficulty of reaching agreement about which actions are in the best interest of the world's population.

How does the global community achieve optimal environmental outcomes while preserving or creating employment and economic opportunities in developed and developing countries? How can it be done without eroding indigenous cultures and heritage? In a phrase, by ecologically sustainable development.

Ecologically sustainable development is easier said than done, but it remains true that global environmental problems often have their origins in cumulative actions taken in local communities. Every citizen, and every community really can make a difference, for better or for worse.

Here in Ryde it is the task of Ryde City Council to demonstrate leadership through our own regulatory and operational activities. We are also here to inform and guide residents and other stakeholders, and to work in partnership, where appropriate, with other government and non government organisations.

Despite the stress and strain of urban change, so many visitors to our city testify to its attractive environment. Let us continue to work together to protect and improve it, and to restore and rehabilitate where necessary, for the benefit of future generations.

On behalf of the Council, thank you to the many citizens who do make a positive contribution. I commend this report to all who have the opportunity to use it and look forward to your feedback.



Councillor Ivan Petch
Mayor

October 2001

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General Manager's Perspective

All New South Wales Councils are required to report annually to the Minister for Local Government, on the state of the environment of the area for which they are responsible. Beyond that statutory obligation there is clearly a need to provide environmental information to the local community.

Since taking up my appointment as General Manager earlier this year, I have introduced a new form of Management Plan for Ryde City Council. This has been well received, and it will be my aim to also ensure that Council develops a state of the environment reporting process which becomes increasingly relevant to the needs of individual and corporate citizens, students, and community interest groups. The process should identify emerging environmental issues and provide a stimulus for action.

The State of the Environment Report which is presented this year is in the nature of an update report. In 2002 changes will be introduced, and consideration will be given to the best format to link with Council's new style of Management Plan.

Community input will be sought in the development of the report, and in examining ways and means of providing citizens with environmental information, including more electronic access to data. Community stakeholders will also be consulted about the establishment of a Local Agenda 21 or equivalent program which promotes ecologically sustainable development at a local level.

The healthy future of the environment is certainly one issue in which all citizens have a common cause. This gives me confidence that given the leadership which Council can provide, together with the skills and enthusiasm of our community, we can fulfill our responsibility to properly manage, develop, protect, restore and enhance the Ryde environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael G McMahon'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael G McMahon
General Manager

State

The New South Wales Government continues to emphasise the need to ensure that residential growth throughout the metropolitan area is addressed largely by urban consolidation. Local Councils are to ensure that their urban consolidation initiatives are addressed by providing a mixture of residential development.

During the financial year 2000/2001 Council received 1163 local development applications and 789 construction certificates.

Response

Since the production of the 2000 State of the Environment Report, there have been a number of planning provisions introduced and reviewed.

State Environmental Planning Policy No. 5 - Housing for the aged and people with a disability

The State Government announced a review of this State Policy and Council responded by requesting an exemption from the Policy. This request was based on the fact that Council is meeting the needs of all groups in the community by its policy on villa homes. This policy allows villa homes to be erected in all areas zoned Residential A. Additionally, this form of residential development is single storey which successfully addresses the needs of an aging population together with those members of the Ryde community that have a physical or mental disability.

At the time of writing, Council's application for exemption has not been determined by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning.

Draft Local Environmental Plan No. 105 - Heritage

Council advertised its new heritage provision during May/June. Additionally, a number of meetings were held with residents of proposed conservation areas which is where the majority of submissions originated.

Council is presently assessing the submissions prior to making a decision on the provision of the Draft Local Environmental Plan and requesting the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning to gazette the LEP.

The Heritage LEP will provide Council and its residents with a set of documents that are relevant to the needs of the City of Ryde.

Draft Local Environmental Plan No. 99 entitled "For Now and the Future" is undergoing redrafting following new proposals from the State Government on the preparation and provisions of major Local Environmental Plans. The new provisions have been formulated in the document called "Plan First". Further detailed work is necessary on Draft Local Environmental Plan No. 99 prior to being formally advertised by Council.



Plan First

This is a review of plan making provisions contained in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and is proposed to be based on regional planning including the establishment of a regional committee. Council has many concerns regarding the proposed amendments and has placed a detailed submission before the Minister for consideration. Council is of the view that there is insufficient detail to allow a positive comment to be made.

Many additional Local Environmental Plans have been submitted and have either been dealt with or are in the process of being finalised.

Section 94 Contributions Plan Business And Employment Centres

Council has prepared an amendment to its Section 94 Contributions Plans. This has been exhibited and contains updated contributions for development proposed to be carried out within the City. Following exhibition all submissions will be reviewed and Council will consider a report and make a decision on a new contribution rate.

The contributions plan will allow Council to continue providing essential infrastructure such as drainage for its residents.

Due to the introduction of State Government Planning procedures relating to the Master Plan it was necessary to re-examine the Meadowbank Employment Area Master Plan. This has been completed and the revised Draft Master Plan, Draft Local Environmental Plan, Draft Development Control Plan and Draft Section 94 plan for contributions will be placed on exhibition at the end of August 2001.

The North Ryde Employment Area is being reviewed as part of the proposed rail link from Epping to Chatswood. Council has entered into a partnership with the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning to carry out this study. Considerable consultation is being undertaken with landowners including residents and all relevant Government Departments.

Council and the Government are both committed to maintaining North Ryde as New South Wales' premier "high-tech" industrial park. This will only be improved by the railway should it be approved.

Pressure

The City of Ryde continues to be pressured for both residential and 'high tech' commercial/industrial development. In providing opportunities to meet this pressure, Council is mindful of the need for ecologically sustainable development. Council will also continue to be responsive to the needs of residents when considering what opportunities are available.

Moving Along



Public Transport

The "Better Buses" proposals were implemented in 2 stages by Sydney Buses to improve the services. The following items of work are currently being implemented:

- A break in the median in Rutledge Street to allow buses only to turn right into the northern ramp linking West Parade and Rutledge Street
- A traffic signal at the intersection of Lane Cove Road/Fontenoy Road to facilitate bus movement

Private Transport

The efficiency of the operation of the arterial road network is still a concern. The construction of the Lane Cove Tunnel (M2 - Gore Hill Freeway Link) would provide some relief in the North Ryde area. Preparation of the EIS is in progress. The Western Sydney Orbital EIS has been released for public consultation.

Response

The installation of traffic calming measures along selected local roads continues in order to reduce the impact of through traffic spill over on the local traffic network.

Ryde City Council has supported policies to improve the attractiveness of public transport, walking and cycling. Hence, encourage residents and visitors to rely on modes of transport alternative to private vehicles. In particular, Council continues to advocate the early construction of the Parramatta-Chatswood Rail Link, subject to stringent environmental protection controls.



Macquarie Park/North Ryde Transport and Traffic Project

The existing road system of the Macquarie Park/North Ryde area remains at capacity. There is a continuing need to review the transport infrastructure of the area having regard to likely future building development. An integrated approach to strategic planning is required.

Response

The Macquarie Park Corridor Strategy Study 2001 is being co-ordinated by Council and the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

Top Ryde Traffic Transport Management

There has been no material change since the State of the Environment report 2000. Implementation of all recommendations of the Top Ryde Transport Study is dependant on funding from an external source.

Tennyson and Putney Traffic Calming

Detailed design for the roundabouts and raised 'Wombat' crossing at Parry Street is in progress (construction cost \$230,000).



Road Safety

Accident and casualty trends in Ryde are illustrated in Table 1 below.

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total Accidents	928	952	919	895	879	884
Killed	3	4	5	1	4	3
Injury Accidents	277	312	279	270	240	300
Tow Away Accidents	749	633	635	624	635	583

Table 1 RTA Road Traffic Accident Data

Response

Traffic calming measures and blackspot programs have improved safety and amenity in Council's road system, but clearly there is a continuing need for improvement.

A Road Safety Officer will be recruited to develop and implement a road safety strategy and action plan for Ryde with particular emphasis on behavioural education.

Council has requested the Roads and Traffic Authority to investigate and improve the following intersections which have a bad accident history:

- ⇒ Epping Road/Culloden Road
- ⇒ Marsden Road/Lawson Street
- ⇒ Blaxland Road/First Avenue
- ⇒ Blaxland Road/May Street
- ⇒ Blaxland Road/Balaclava Road
- ⇒ Blaxland Road/Melville Street

Pedestrian Amenity and Disabled Access

Council has continued to address the needs of disabled members of the community. This includes the provision of kerb ramps. The repair of infrastructure where it impacts on these members of the community is given high priority.

Council has continued implementation of projects to improve traffic capacity, road safety and pedestrian amenity. The following identifies the status of key traffic facilities during 2000/2001.

Traffic Signals Installed

- ⇒ Intersection of Waterloo Road/Macquarie Centre Entrance
- ⇒ Intersection of Talavera Road/High Tech Road
- ⇒ Intersection of Lane Cove Road/Fontenoy Road (in progress)

Design in progress

- ⇒ Herring Road pedestrian signal at Macquarie Centre
- ⇒ Victoria Road/West Parade upgrading

Roundabouts Completed

- ⇒ Quarry Road and Aeolus Avenue
- ⇒ West Parade and Miriam Street
- ⇒ Ashburn Place/Pearson Street
- ⇒ Ashburn Place/Wharf Road

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Design in Progress

- ⇒ Bowden Street and Squire Street
- ⇒ Clanwilliam Street and Darvall Road
- ⇒ Mons Avenue and Rex Street
- ⇒ Putney and Tennyson Traffic Calming

Raised 'Wombat' Crossing Completed

- ⇒ West Parade outside Eastwood Plaza
- ⇒ Wharf Road outside Melrose Park School (50:50 with Parramatta City Council)

Design in Progress

- ⇒ Kent Road outside Kent Road Public School
- ⇒ Parry Street outside Putney Public School

50 kph Urban Speed Limit and Slow Down in Ryde Project

The 50 km/hr general urban speed limit remains in force including all collector roads, but excluding the industrial precinct in North Ryde.

Council has purchased a Speed Monitor III to raise awareness of road users to the speed they are travelling. Public education campaigns are followed by enforcement. The NSW Police Service is working in with Council in the 40 km/hr School Zone and 50 km/hr speed education/enforcement exercise.

Bicycle Networks

Several bikeway projects completed or in progress during 2000/2001 include:

- ⇒ Shrimpton's Creek - Epping Road to Kent Road route
- ⇒ The bikeway link along Talavera Road

Design in Progress

- ⇒ Lane Cove River to Macquarie University

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Main Areas

During the year 2000/2001, the main line of the West Ryde Stormwater Drainage Tunnel and the Chatham Road microtunnel were completed.

The Shrimptons Creek Remediation works initially undertaken with a Stage 2 Stormwater Trust Grant were extended upstream to Kent Road utilising Council funding.

Council Management Plan

Works and activities carried out in 2000/2001 include:

- ⇒ Completion of the main line of the West Ryde stormwater drainage tunnel and the Chatham Road micro tunnel to reduce the frequency of flooding through the West Ryde shopping centre and the residential area to the south
- ⇒ Remediation of Shrimptons Creek between Kent Rd and Waterloo Rd including construction of a riffle at Trevitt Road to improve water quality
- ⇒ Reconstruction of the drainage line from Addington Ave through Sewell St to Shepherd St
- ⇒ Urgent repairs to the drainage lines in Adam Street and ELS Hall Park. Work in Buffalo Road commenced
- ⇒ Controls of development and building activity
- ⇒ Street and gutter cleaning
- ⇒ Gross pollutant traps on pipelines in Ryde and Meadowbank parks
- ⇒ Leachate collection and disposal from Porters Creek landfill
- ⇒ Regulation enforcement on illegal discharges

In 2001/2002 it is proposed to

- ⇒ Implement Stormwater Management Plan water quality improvement measures including a wetland and Gross Pollutant Trap in Maze Park
- ⇒ Reconstruct failed drainage lines in Terry Road, Eastwood; Buffalo Road at Buffalo Creek, Anzac Park and Alexandria Avenue
- ⇒ Upgrade stormwater drainage and install Gross Pollutant Traps in the Meadowbank Employment Area
- ⇒ Commence construction of the Eastwood Stormwater Tunnel project
- ⇒ Remediate creek bed at Miriam Creek to suit reduced flows following tunnel construction
- ⇒ Implement Stage 3 Stormwater Trust Works
- ⇒ Eastwood CBD: implement source control of car park pollutants by oil and grit interceptors and community education program

Recommended Indicators

The indicators recommended by the Department of Local Government Environmental Guidelines to promote ecologically sustainable development can be used to monitor environmental conditions and trends. These include

Climate

Rainfall data has been obtained from North Ryde Golf Club who recorded 943.7mm for 2000/2001. This is 17% down on the 28 year average for rainfall measured at Macquarie University between 1971 and 1998

Stormwater Management Plans

Stormwater Management Plans previously prepared for the Middle and Lower Parramatta River and the Lane Cove River Catchments.



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In 2000/2001, water quality improvement measures were carried out as recommended in these plans in:

Lane Cove River Catchment: Pollution control devices installed in Shrimptons Creek and revegetation commenced. Bush regeneration to restore riparian vegetation in progress in Terry's Creek and Shrimptons Creek

Lower Parramatta River Catchment: Catchment based education programme. Construction worker education programme in place

Middle Parramatta River Catchment: Implementation restricted due to EPA non-acceptance of report, however capital works are proposed for commencement in 2001/2002

Preliminary projects which have common application to all catchments in various stages of progress eg: key locations needing audit regime identified, definition and ranking of environmentally sensitive areas to be further considered, common reporting indicators essentially agreed, long term water quality monitoring options being further investigated, educational material distributed.

Funding has been increased to \$300,000 for the continuation of this work in 2001/2002.

Water Quality

The water quality in Porters Creek has been monitored on a monthly basis. Sampling is carried out up and downstream of the landfill at the Porters Creek waste facility. Results in 2000/2001 have been within acceptable limits.

Streamwatch

In March 2001 Council participated in the annual Lane Cove River Catchment Day organised by Cheltenham Girls High School and Hornsby Council. On this day Streamwatch groups throughout the Lane Cove River catchment took samples and analysed them in order to produce a 'snapshot' of the water quality across the whole catchment. Council's Environmental Health Officers sampled sites in Terrys, Shrimptons and Mars Creeks.

The results for this year and previous years are available as separate reports in the Local Studies section of the Ryde Library. The 2001 report includes a trends analysis for the main Streamwatch parameters for the last 5 years. This analysis shows that many of the parameters are improving but faecal coliforms and total dissolved solids remain areas of concern. (Cheltenham Girls High School & Hornsby Shire Council [2001] Lane Cove River Catchment Day Report 2001)

Council is reviewing its participation in Streamwatch with a view to developing its capability as an environmental monitoring tool. Some opportunities may exist to better utilise the biological monitoring aspects of Streamwatch to assess the health of a catchment. Discussions with Sydney Water Streamwatch have commenced. The involvement of other stakeholders is a key aspect of the review.

Buffalo Creek Water Quality Monitoring Project

Monitoring during 1999/2000 indicated that the stormwater line draining the nearby industrial area may be affecting the water quality of the creek. A preliminary survey has been carried out in preparation for compliance audits of businesses in the industrial area.

Biological Water Quality Monitoring

There is an identified need for information on the status of ecosystems in creeklines to assist in consideration of creek restoration and water quality. In order to address those issues Council commenced a 12 month project with Macquarie Research Ltd in June 2001 to monitor sections of Shrimptons Creek and Archers Creek

Facts and Figures

Street sweeping of silt and litter from gutters and drainage pits to prevent these materials entering the natural waterways amounted to 828 tonnes in 2000/2001. Each maintenance zone within the City of Ryde is swept on a frequency of 8-10 weeks.

Material removed from the Ryde Park and West Ryde Stormwater Tunnel Gross Pollutant Traps in 2000/2001 was

Ryde	17 tonnes	(10% sediment	10% litter	80% organic matter)
Tunnel	25 tonnes	(7% sediment	5% litter	88% organic matter)

Three (3) tonnes of material was collected and removed from Shrimpton's Creek

Lane Cove River Estuary Management

The Lane Cove River Estuary Processes Study was published in October 2000. Work continues on the Management Study leading up to the production of a Draft Management Plan to be exhibited early in 2002. This is a combined project between the Councils of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Ryde and Willoughby.

Regional Pollution Index (RPI)

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) (1) has permanent and mobile monitoring stations around Sydney. Ryde is near the junction of three regions (Central East, North West and South West) and therefore the following table is indicative of the air quality experienced in our City.

AIR POLLUTION INDEX	TOTAL NO. OF READINGS (A.M.)
LOW	
North West	240
Central East	281
South West	248
<i>Total</i>	<i>769 (-106)*</i>
MEDIUM	
North West	112
Central East	69
South West	104
<i>Total</i>	<i>285 (+82)*</i>
HIGH	
North West	13
Central East	13
South West	13
<i>Total</i>	<i>39 (+27)*</i>

Table 1 Air Pollution Index
 LOW: pollution index from 0 to 24
 MEDIUM: pollution index from 25 to 49
 HIGH: pollution index 50 or higher
 * Changes from the previous year.



What the table does not show is the peaks and clusters experienced. For example; August, September, October 2000, and March, April and May 2001 were months with most days in the low range but October also had the highest index recorded (235), due to a localised fire. The EPA posted health warnings to persons prone to respiratory problems. Overall there was a decline in the quality of the regional air compared to the previous year.

Regional Air Quality Issues

Homebush Bay - Rhodes

Treatment of the scheduled chemical wastes continued at Homebush Bay North during 2000/2001. The EPA advises that no breaches of the licence occurred. This did not allay community concerns about future land remediation on the Rhodes Peninsula, and its impact on air quality.

Lane Cove Tunnel

The Hills Motorway (M2) has been open since 1997, and vehicle usage has steadily increased, except for seasonal fluctuations. This puts continuous pressure on the Gore Hill Freeway and Epping Road. Council continues to support the proposed Lane Cove Tunnel to extend the M2, subject to stringent environmental controls. Air quality issues surrounding the ventilation to the tunnel have yet to be resolved, but the Environmental Impact Statement is in progress.

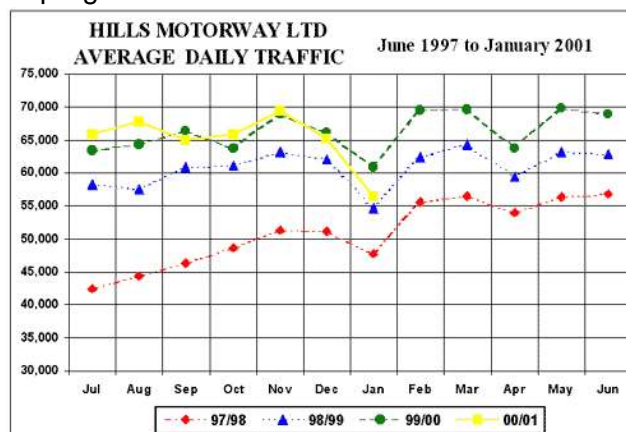


Figure 1 M2 Motorway

City Rail Passenger Journeys

Increased use of public transport would help reduce the impact of private vehicles on our roads and air quality. This is one of the anticipated benefits of the Parramatta-Chatswood Rail Link when outstanding issues have been resolved.

Eastwood Station continues to increase in passenger numbers, rising again in 2000-2001. However, numbers at West Ryde declined and Meadowbank regained only a proportion of passengers lost in the previous year.

Local Stations	1998 - 1999	1999 - 2000	2000 -2001	Trend
<i>Eastwood</i>	1,675,630	1,750,591	1,771,807	21,216
<i>West Ryde</i>	1,220,941	1,250,220	1,218,000	-32,220
<i>Meadowbank</i>	730,646	695,606	704,010	8,404
<i>Total</i>	3,627,217	3,696,417	3,693,817	-2,600

Table 2 Passenger Journeys

Response for Regional Air Quality

In November 2000 concerns about the regional impact of land remediation at Rhodes were taken up with the State Government. Council has called for an environmental baseline study prior to work being carried out on the Peninsula. Council also continues to pursue improvement to rail and bus links to reduce the impact of motor vehicles on air quality.

Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKT)

This is a direct indicator of the pressure from road transport on the environment. Since the 1950s the VKT by passenger cars in Australian urban areas has expanded fifteen fold. (2)

Another important factor contributing to total air pollutants is the congestion of our roads. Fuel consumption per vehicle in congested traffic is approximately twice that under free-flow conditions. Therefore, congestion has the potential to double the output of greenhouse gas emissions from a stream of traffic. (2)

The State Government's 'Action for Transport 2010' program seeks to arrest these trends through encouraging the use of public transport. (3)

'Action for Air'

The NSW Government's Environment Statement 2001 includes details of a "new \$6-million Clean Air Fund which will tackle local air pollution sources, such as wood heaters, a major cause of winter brown haze. This program will help councils to deal with localised pollution problems and householders to replace outdated wood heaters with cleaner alternatives."

Also included in the Statement is a "new three-year, \$5-million Cleaner Production Program which will aim for stronger environmental compliance by industry, strategic alliances with industry associations, grants to pursue best environmental practice and research into state-of-the-art production processes." (3)

Motor Vehicle Registrations

The greatest changes in registration in the previous 12 months are in leaded vehicles, with almost 1,200 less vehicles registered, and unleaded vehicles with 2,412 more vehicles on the road.

The overall increase of 753 is up again from last year (where the increase was 633 vehicles registered). The trend of decreasing diesel vehicles continues.

Fuel Type																
Number of vehicles per category /change from previous year																
Vehicle Type	Diesel		LPG		Unleaded Petrol		Petrol & LPG		Leaded Petrol		Unknown		Others		Total	
Buses	54	-25	1	NC	16	3	0	NC	4	-1	0	NC	65	18	140	-5
Motorcycles	1	NC	0	NC	766	88	0	NC	197	-9	6	-1	0	-1	970	77
Trailers	0	NC	0	NC	0	NC	0	NC	0	NC	0	NC	4,392	-119	4,392	-119
Plant	109	5	8	NC	6	NC	10	3	5	NC	6	1	3	1	147	10
Prime Movers	22	-10	0	NC	0	NC	0	NC	0	NC	0	NC	0	NC	22	-10
Rigid Trucks	608	-23	18	6	567	73	15	-5	148	-1	35	-10	1	NC	1,392	40
Passenger Vehicles	73	NC	88	11	40,502	1614	174	-7	4,889	-1028	1,018	-280	8	-28	46,752	282
Utilities & Vans	754	-13	37	7	5,358	634	78	-2	623	-129	77	-8	0	-11	6,927	478
Total	1,621	-66	152	24	47,215	2412	277	-11	5,866	-1168	1,142	-298	4,469	-140	60,742	753

Table 3 Motor Vehicle Registrations

Legionella Control

Inspection and auditing of all known cooling towers and other regulated systems was completed during 2000/2001.

Air Quality Complaints

The following table shows the complaints from residents to Council about air quality in the six years to June 30, 2001.

Number of Complaints						
Air Pollution	July 1995 June 1996	July 1996 June 1997	July 1997 June 1998	July 1998 June 1999	July 1999 June 2000	July 2000 June 2001
Total	37	47	67	55	49	39

Ryde's Local Air Quality Management Plan

The development of a Local Air Quality Management Plan is scheduled in 2001/2002.

While the State Government and Local Councils have important roles in ameliorating air quality, individuals can also play a part. As we drive to work, mow our lawns, light our fires, etc. we contribute to the total pollution load of the air around us.

We can consider reducing this effect, by walking or biking rather than taking the car for a short trip, or putting on an extra jumper rather than lighting the combustion heater.

References:

- (1) NSW Environment Protection Authority
Web site: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/
- (2) Bureau of Transport Economics
Urban Congestion Implications for Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2000
- (3) NSW Government
"Action for the Environment" 2001

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Natural Areas Management

The developmental plan for natural areas in 2000/2001 has been to actively assist the development of more skilful prioritisation of work practices/strategies employed by the bush regeneration contractors. This has proven to be beneficial both ecologically and financially. This is in some instances, challenging traditional bush regeneration methodologies.

Further, wherever possible, the 22 bush regeneration contract works are being coordinated with the works and plans of the local bushcare volunteer groups.

A Co-ordinator, Bushcare Volunteers, was appointed in May 2001. A structured program has commenced which will further broaden and strengthen the core activities which preserve the structural integrity of biodiversity in Ryde City.

Last year there were sixteen (16) registered volunteer bushcare groups, this year there are twenty-five (25).

Brush Farm Park Preservation Group and Council have devised a pilot noxious weed program. If successful, it will be a working community model to remove noxious weed on private property in areas surrounding bushland.

Number of Listed Threatened Species & Key Threatening Processes

There are currently 3 floral species listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSCA 95) which occur in Ryde:

Darwinia biflora

(Vulnerable Schedule 2)

Epacris purpurascens var. purpurascens

(Vulnerable Schedule 2)

Melaluca deanei

(Vulnerable Schedule 2)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Conservation Dependent: Southern Bent-wing Bat

Relevant Key Threatening Processes

[Www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/index.html](http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/index.html)

Predation by feral Cats (16 Jul 2000)

Predation by the European Red Fox (16 Jul 2000)

Competition & land degradation by feral Rabbits (16 Jul 2000)

Loss of climatic habitat caused by anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gasses. (4 Apr 2001)

Land clearance (4 Apr 2001)

Preliminary Determinations

Hooded Robin (sth-east. form)

Grey-Crowned Babbler

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The National Parks and Wildlife Service have written **Darwinia biflora (Cheel) Briggs Recovery Plan**. Council had no objection in endorsing the current exhibition of the draft recovery plan, for public authorities.

Area of Contract Bush Regeneration

This year work occurred in 22 bush regeneration contract areas, a marginal increase in contracted bushland sites, and the hourly rate charge has remained stable.

	Jul 97-Jun 98	Jul 98- Jun 99	Jul 99-Jun 00	Jul 00-Jun 01
Bush regeneration works continued from previous year (number of sites)	20	21	21	22
New bush regeneration contract works commenced this year		1	0	1
Contract Costs	\$200,500.	\$200,500	\$208,000	\$225,000
Average hr contract rate	\$24.6	\$26.3	\$27	\$27.20
Contract hours	8,211	7,681	7,481	8,261.6
High profile weed control	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$6,000
	300hrs Kittys Creek plan/ mapping	143 hrs	143 hrs	231 hrs

Table 1 Bush regeneration performed by Ryde City Council

Volunteer Bushcare

A successful Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) Grant has financed for twelve months the new position of Co-ordinator Bushcare Volunteers. A further 2002-2003 \$35,500 (NHT) grant has been applied for to extend the program another twelve months. Supplementary funding was also adopted by Council in the 2000-2001 Management Plan, totalling \$80,000. A logo for the Bushcare Program is being sought through a community competition. A comprehensive bushcare program has now been initiated, and promises an integrated co-ordination of on-ground bushcare and natural areas land management work activities within Ryde. A minimum total of 3,502 hours of Volunteer bush regeneration hours were completed. At a conservative rate of \$15 per hour, the value would total \$52,530 this financial year.

Noxious Weed Management

Council applied for a \$31,500 Sydney North Region Alligator Weed Control program. As a result, Ryde has received \$6,000 annually for three years. A further Federal \$10,500 alligator weed grant has been applied for by Council. A unique plan has been initiated which will re-establish both salt marsh and native grass foreshore areas of 18 parks, to limit alligator weed re-growth especially above the high tide mark. University supervisor/ students working with Council to study heavy metal/chemical content of the weed, final report due February 2002.

- ⇒ Completion of Land and Water Conservation and NSW Agricultural \$4,000 Grant for weed control in Field of Mars Reserve and Cemetery boundary.
- ⇒ Completion of 50 Westminster Rd, Gladesville Salvinia, Ludwigia (\$900)
- ⇒ Noxious Weed Committee Sydney North finalising the proposed unified regional Noxious Weed list and to include *Paspalum quadrifarium*

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- ⇒ Following completion of the \$5,000 grant, 'Paspalum quadrifarium removal' a further \$14,000 has been committed by government agencies owning land at the former Delhi Rd Park. These works are in progress now. Virtually total eradication of the weed has occurred in Pages Creek, under an RTA\$80,000 grant project.
- ⇒ Second year funding from NSW Agriculture for regional removal of the noxious weeds Ludwigia and Pampas Grass.
- ⇒ Ryde Council has employed an Environmental Monitoring Officer for twelve months, whose duties include noxious weed projects.
- ⇒ Local herpetologist has undertaken reptilian study in Field of Mars Wildlife Reserve, and working with Council staff to implement a further program/studies in the reserve.

Number of Foxes Baited

Six local Councils (Hornsby, Pittwater, Warringah, Ku-ring-gai, Willoughby and Ryde combined with Taronga Zoo and NPWS to undertake a "1080" fox baiting program. A special regional off-label permit was received from NSW Pest Animal Council. In May 2001, 3 bait stations were monitored in Field of Mars Reserve with 3 foxes recorded removing active bait. A further program took place May 2000, recording 1 fox taking active bait. It would appear that the number of foxes in the Field of Mars Wildlife Refuge has declined since commencement of the program.

Number of Hazard Reduction /Ecology Burns

The NSW Fire Brigades performed eight ecological/hazard reduction burns at various parks. The main focus of work occurred in Brush Farm Park, Barton Reserve, Forester Park, Pidding Park and Field of Mars. Ryde Council maintained fourteen firebreaks. The Hunters Hill, Lane Cove Ryde and Willoughby Bush Fire Management Committee in association with NSW Fire Brigades and NPWS have submitted the Draft District Bushfire Management Plan (Operations) and the Draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan to the Bush Fire Co-ordinating Committee for legal endorsement. Further ecological/hazard reduction burns are prepared for Field of Mars Wildlife Refuge, Glades Bay Park, Brush Farm Park and Denistone Park. The fire ecology data program 'Fire Tools' will assist Council in tracking potential build up of fuel levels in various areas.

Grant Funded Projects & Applications

- ⇒ Environmental Trust \$20,000 grant application for Terrys Creek Bush Regeneration Project.
- ⇒ Following the Stormwater Trust grant works at Brush Farm Park, further successful armament works have been completed to creek line demonstration stabilising structures. Further post-work field monitoring is being conducted.
- ⇒ National CommunityLink Volunteer Award 2001 \$15,000 grant applied for in collaboration with Brush Farm Preservation Group.
- ⇒ On-going development of the \$80,000 Stormwater Trust Stage 3 Grant undertaking comprehensive creek line drainage design and construction document, to create a naturally functioning creek line in Darvall Park and conservation of Blue Gum High Forest.

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- ⇒ Macquarie Hospital has made an annual commitment of \$2,000 to further the restoration of the Turpentine Ironbark Forest in the hospital grounds. Astra Zeneca donated a second \$5000 and their staff undertook another field day removing weeds and planting native seedlings. Telegraph poles define the boundary of the forest and link up with the boundary of the two water quality 'frog ponds' built in upper Kitty's Creek headwaters. The creek and adjacent grounds are a significant habitat area for native birds and animals, including a variety of frog species and wading birds. *Clean Up Australia* undertook a field day eradicating weed from the pond area. The staff/students from Ryde TAFE have undertaken weed removal and planting of local native grass and low canopy seedlings. The Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society have continued bush regeneration along a creek section of the grounds.
- ⇒ Completion of bush regeneration alongside the Ryde Council /RTA Bike Track through Lane Cove National Park and Ku-ring-gai Council bushland, linking Vimiera Rd, Ryde , Brown's Waterhole and South Turramurra.
- ⇒ On-going joint resident /Council bush regeneration project undertaken at 50 Westminster Road.
- ⇒ Stormwater Trust Stage 3, \$130,000 grant in the Field of Mars Wildlife Refuge, Buffalo Creek 'river flat' area is in progress.
- ⇒ Second year of a three-year project completed restoring the non-piped upper Pages Creek riparian area. Works at Pittwater and Epping Roads were funded by a \$78,000 RTA grant. These works have opened up the native bushland and creek line area. A Stage 4 Stormwater Trust Grant is being drafted for the hydrological/ecological rehabilitation of the creek line.
- ⇒ Council awarded \$62,989.00 Natural Heritage Trust grant, "Linking Ryde's Remnant Bushland Corridors and Volunteer Bushcare Groups".
- ⇒ Follow-up bush regeneration works at the Olympic Youth Camp 'Environment Day' Paul Street bushland in North Ryde. RTA has donated telegraph poles to define land, \$12,000 bush regeneration works completed.
- ⇒ \$13,000 on-going bush rehabilitation works at the edge of Boobajool Reserve, funded by North Ryde RSL Community Club. Further community-based works programmed to occur.
- ⇒ The Local Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council has fully endorsed the Aboriginal Heritage Walkway, Glades Bay, Bill Mitchell Park, Stage 2. Following community consultation and Council Report, work will commence with funding allocated in the 2001/2002 Management Plan.
- ⇒ A new bush regeneration contract commenced in the 2000/2001 financial year at Forsyth Park/Forester Park and additional funding awarded to Pembroke Park.
- ⇒ Northern Sydney Plan of Management for Alligator Weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* written by Council for NSW Agriculture. Council received second year \$6,000 funding.
- ⇒ Barton Reserve, \$60,720 Natural Heritage Trust Grant awarded. Stage 2 community and school bush training works commenced. Malvina High School students to undertake bush regeneration training program.
- ⇒ Ryde Community Grant Program application lodged by Rotary Club of Epping for assistance to build pedestrian bridge linking existing poorly formed walking track along Terry's Creek to improve community involvement/access to bushland.

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Improve community involvement/access to bushland.

Ryde/Hornsby Councils / Epping & Eastwood Rotary Clubs and Nth Ryde RSL, Work for the Dole and Sydney Water joint project.

- ⇒ Cultural Heritage Project Program grant applied for 'Glades Bay Aboriginal heritage Walk Stage II Construction.
- ⇒ National CommunityLink Volunteer Awards \$15,000 grant lodged to fund the Ryde Volunteer Bush Regenerators Network.

Council projects & related studies

- ⇒ \$14,688 secondary maintenance bush regeneration quote received for Shrimpton's Creek GPTs project. If accepted will greatly enhance the rehabilitation of creek line bushland aspect of the project.
- ⇒ A \$45,000 three year bush regeneration program at ELS Hall Park has been implemented and will commence shortly.
- ⇒ Bush regeneration program (\$5,000) at Meadowbank Park to restore small bushland component between tennis courts and Adelaide St. Primary regeneration works & hazard reduction /ecology burns undertaken.
- ⇒ A draft Lane Cove River Estuary Management study has been completed.
- ⇒ The Greening of Ryde Task Force have spent \$9,000 at Mallee Reserve on professional bush regeneration services, planting of provenance seedlings and mulch. Volunteers have undertaken further work at Mc Cauley Park. Two National Tree Planting Days were undertaken at Meadowbank Park (660 local native trees) and at the Olympic Youth Camp site (350 local native trees)
- ⇒ Drainage and bushland upgrade on Pittwater Road near the entrance to Field of Mars Wildlife Reserve.
- ⇒ Bush regeneration work at Martins reserve has uncovered buried stormwater outlet pipe needing drainage flow control works.
- ⇒ The Wellington Road Depot is closed and negotiations are in progress to reconstruct native vegetation on the site.

Transfer of Council Land to NPWS

A total of 29.72 hectares of bushland contiguous to Lane Cove National Park will afford rationalised land management practices.

Mosquitoes

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- Still Buzzing Around

State

In the 2000/2001 reporting period the total number of 834 human notifications for Ross River Fever (RR) and Barmah Forest (BF) was comparable with the previous year, although the figure for June 2001 had not been published at the time of data compilation for this report. The number of notifications was nevertheless below the average.

The table below contains the number of laboratory notifications of human RR and BF infections by Area Health Service (AHS) for NSW. Note that these are laboratory notifications and may not always represent infections from this season.

Arbovirus (RR and BF) Notifications according to Area Health Service (July 2000 — May 2001)

Month	CSA	NSA	WSA	WEN	SWS	CCA	HUN	ILL	SES	NRA	MNC	NEA	MAC	MWA	FWA	GMA	SA	Total
July		1					14	1		3	16		2	4	7	2		50
Aug			1		1	1	9	2		6	13	1	1	2	2	1		40
Sep							2	2	1	2	5			1	2		1	16
Oct							2			5	12	2	2	1	1	2	3	30
Nov		1					8	2		3	12	1	1			1	1	30
Dec							3			5	3	4	2	1	1		1	20
Jan		2	1				3	3	1	5	8	10	3	2	3	7	1	49
Feb		1	1		1		5	3		17	12	15	9	2	3	26	2	97
Mar					1	1	7	5	1	27	22	8	7	2	2	28	8	119
Apr	1	5	8	22		9	29	12	2	25	22	8	3	5	4	10	13	178
May	2	3	4	5		23	52	9	1	7	77	4	3		4	5	6	205
Total	3	13	15	27	3	34	134	39	6	105	202	53	33	20	29	82	36	834

CSA = Central Sydney Area, NSA = Northern Sydney Area, WSA = Western Sydney Area, WEN = Wentworth, SWS = South Western Sydney, CCA = Central Coast Area, HUN = Hunter Area, ILL = Illawarra, SES = South Eastern Sydney Area, NRA = Northern Rivers Area, MNC = Mid North Coast Area, NEA = New England Area, MAC = Macquarie Area, MWA = Mid Western Area, FWA = Far Western Area, GMA = Greater Murray Area, SA = Southern Area

Local Trends

A total of 23 complaints were received during the 2000-2001 mosquito season. This is the highest number since the 1997/1998 season when 47 complaints were lodged, the lowest number being 10 in 1998/1999.

Facts and Figures

A total number of 5,996 adult mosquitoes were trapped in the same six sites sampled in previous seasons. This is the highest figure since the 1997/1998 record of 7,860 mosquitoes trapped, the lowest catch being 1,070 in 1999/2000. The saltmarsh species *Aedes vigilax* and *Culex sitiens* constituted together 38.4 % of all mosquitoes trapped this season, contributing to the majority of complaints during their peak activity.

Larvicide usage increased to 1,370 ml compared to 360 ml in 1999/2000 reflecting an increase in mosquito activity.

Virus Detection

There was no arbovirus detected in mosquitoes trapped in Ryde during the 2000-2001 season. However one Ross River isolate was found in *Aedes notoscriptus* trapped in April 2001 in Newington across Parramatta River. No other arbovirus isolate was found in the Sydney Metropolitan area.

Despite extensive flooding in the northern region of New South Wales there were no outbreaks of Murray Valley Encephalitis within the State.



Mosquitoes

State of the Environment Report 2001

- Still Buzzing Around

Pressure

The change of management structures for the Homebush Bay area following the Olympics posed questions about long-term mosquito control at Bicentennial Park and Newington. Any shift in control policies or resources in these areas would impact on residents of Melrose Park and Ermington.

The trend from piped stormwater channels toward natural channels, sediment basins and wetlands in open areas, as well as more on-site stormwater detention on residential properties, increases the need for mosquito breeding surveillance by local government and state government agencies.

Response

Preliminary contact with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority indicates that mosquito control measures, including the use of aerial spraying, will be in place at Homebush Bay in the Summer of 2001/2002.

Ryde City Council will also be maintaining its own mosquito control program during the Summer months.

Waste Management

Waste Not -
Want Not

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State

During 2000/2001 Ryde City Council remained a constituent member of the Northern Sydney Waste Board.

Council has established a Waste Reduction & Procurement Plan which is currently in draft form. A Development Control Policy for Construction & Demolition Waste has been approved and new developments will now be required to operate under the "Waste Not" Plan.

Ryde City Council's domestic waste is still being disposed of at Lucas Heights Landfill site. However with the diminishing capacity on site, the Northern Sydney Waste Board along with Collex Waste Management have gained approval from the State Government to establish a new landfill/bio-reactor at Woodlawn. This will cater for all future waste disposal for the Northern Sydney region.

Recyclable products still go to Chullora Materials Recovery Facility for sorting. Due to the fall in market prices for these products, a "gate" price was established to cover processing. At this stage Ryde City Council remains exempt from this "gate" price due to our contract with Collex Waste Management.

Ryde City Council's Porters Creek Depot continues to recycle Council's excavated materials, bitumen, concrete etc from road works. These materials are crushed and stored before being re-used in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Council's roads, footpaths and drainage works. Council's application to exhibit a Draft Local Environment Plan (LEP) on the rezoning of the area to establish an integrated Waste Management Facility was rejected. Council will pursue community consultation on the development of this site later in the year.

Pressure

Domestic Garbage

Approximately 34,700 residences received a weekly garbage service and a bi-annual clean up collection. The drop in the number of domestic services compared to last year reflects a more accurate separation of domestic and commercial collections.

In 2000/2001 a total of 31,585 tonnes of solid waste was removed (average of 910 kilos per household).

Period	Tonnages	Kilo Per Household (per annum)
July 1994 - June 1995	31,759	945
July 1995 - June 1996	31,139	895
July 1996 - June 1997	29,547	832
July 1997 - June 1998	30,164	846
July 1998 - June 1999	32,145	892
July 1999 - June 2000	33,093	914
July 2000 - June 2001	31,585	910

Table 1 - Total Waste Tonnages July 1994 - June 2001

Note: These figures are based on data received from the North Ryde Waste Management Centre and the Collex Waste Management Greenacre Transfer Station.



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Recycling Service

Approximately 80-90% of residents continued to use the fortnightly recycling service. A total of 8,066 tonnes of recyclables were collected from 35,800 bins during 2000/01. This year the commercial properties were separated, thus the increase in total recycling tonnage collected as a percentage of the total waste stream increased from 19.67% for the year ended June, 2000 to 20.34% for the year ended June 2001.

Period	Garbage Tonnages	Recycling Tonnes*	% of Waste Recycled
July 1994 - June 95	32,880.60	3,904.47	10.91%
July 1995 - June 96	31,139.29	5,395.24	14.77%
July 1996 - June 97	29,546.86	7,459.97	20.16%
July 1997 - June 98	30,164.33	7,947.50	20.85%
July 1998 - June 99	32,127.26	7,917.29	19.77%
July 1999 - June 00	33,093.56	8105.98	19.67%
July 2000 - June 01	31,585.00	8,066.00	20.34%

Table 2 - Recycling Tonnes* as a % of total Waste Tonnes Collected

* These figures are based on data received from Waste Services, Collex Greenacre Transfer Station, and Waste Services Recycling Facility, Chullora.

Response

Garden Waste

The State Waste Advisory Council has still not approved the banning of greenwaste from landfill. Council has decided not to implement a separate greenwaste collection until that ban has been imposed or until the market for greenwaste materials improves.

Waste Education

A wormfarming and compost demonstration was held at Ryde TAFE, and classes were conducted with West Ryde and Eastwood Chinese community, East Ryde Korean community, and Putney Tamils community, on correct procedures for composting / wormfarming and recycling. These were well received, the aim being to encourage waste reduction in the home.

Council carried out a random recycling audit over a two week period, auditing 100 recycle bins each day. Certain areas were deemed to have a very high contamination level (in excess of 5%). The main problem was cross contamination, recyclables in plastic bags and a high percentage of glass fines. These areas will be targeted in 2001/2002 with an increased education program.

Council sent out a Resource Package on recycling to 27 schools in the area and carried out interactive discussions with children at 15 of these schools. These were accepted with great enthusiasm. Schools were also surveyed on their level of compliance with the new State Government Environmental Education Policy.

An anti-littering and composting day was held with the Olympic Youth camp at Shrimptons Creek in September 2000. Over 1,000 people from around the world took part.

Council conducted a number of displays on recycling during the year with the main event being an "Ecoliving" Display at the Gladesville Shopping Centre. This was conducted in conjunction with Hunters Hill Council over 3 days.

In another joint venture, Council in conjunction with the Eastwood Chamber of Commerce, was awarded a \$5000 EPA grant for a litter reduction campaign.

The Council continued its in-house recycling program with food scraps being composted in Council's wormfarm. The cardboard recycling bale system has continued with an average of 8 bales a month being collected.

Medical Waste Collection

The Council's Medical Waste Collection program has continued with 13 local Pharmacies taking part. A locked mobile garbage bin is provided at each location, to take syringes and dialysis tubing. This reduces a large quantity of dangerous items entering landfill. Approximately 545 kgs was collected during the year.

Commercial Waste

The collection of separate Commercial Waste data was established through the use of the Bintrak computer tag reading system. Council now invoices clients on a per lift basis obtained from the computer chips on each commercial bin. An average of around 80% of the 1700 commercial garbage bins were serviced each week with a total of around 1,200 tonnes collected in the year. The commercial recycling bin presentation was a lot lower with less than a 50% presentation rate. This represents around 110 tonnes of recyclables for the year for an average 420 recycling services.

Clean Up Australia Day - 2 March, 2001

Council supervised 20 Cleanup sites with two more primary schools (Putney and Truscott St) carrying out cleanups in parks around their schools. These sites were located around the foreshore and bushland/park areas. A large number of volunteers turned out on the day. About 37 tonnes was collected in "Clean Up Australia" bags and skips placed in various places.

Toxic Chemical Collections

The Waste Management Centre at North Ryde, continued to accept up to 20 litres of waste oil, paint, solvents and household cleaners free of charge from domestic households in 2000/01. Figures on quantities received are not available. Sydney Water in conjunction with Waste Services held 9 Household Chemical Collections within the Sydney region. Residents are encouraged to take their old household chemicals and poisons to these sites for disposal.

Annoying Noise

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Community noise which is a frequent source of complaint to Council includes barking dogs, air conditioners, amplified music, musical instruments/band practice, and burglar alarms.

Road Traffic Noise

Road traffic along the main roads which intersect Ryde continues to be a major cause of environmental noise. This is not reflected in the complaints received by Council as many people accept it as inevitable.

Response

A range of tools are employed by the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA), developers, and Council, to mitigate traffic noise, e.g. road construction techniques, noise barriers, site planning, acoustic design of buildings. Noise reduction can also be achieved through vehicle engine maintenance and sound driving techniques. This is largely a matter of driver education.



Domestic Noise

Barking dogs are the most common cause of noise complaint to Council, accounting for around 300 complaints a year. Other domestic noise sources in 2000/2001 are shown in Table 1. Air conditioning units were a significant cause of annoyance. It was found that in most cases, the problem was caused by external units being inappropriately placed adjacent to neighbouring dwellings.



Industrial Noise

Noise associated with industrial processes, construction works, "after hours" trade waste collections, and mechanical plant have been the cause of complaints to Council. (Table 1). No industries within the Ryde area have been granted licences related to noise production.

Response

Potential noise impact is considered when development applications are assessed. Notwithstanding that, when complaints arise investigations are undertaken and remedial action is pursued.

Aircraft Noise

There was no significant change in the aircraft noise situation as it affects Ryde residents in 2000/2001. Council rarely receives any direct complaints. Airservices Australia received a flurry of complaints from northern Sydney in March 2001, when wind patterns caused more aircraft departures to the north.



A final decision on the proposed Precision Runway Monitoring System (PRM) for landings from the north rests with the Minister for Transport and Regional Development.

Noise complaints to Council July 2000 – June 2001

Type/Source	01/07/00 - 31/12/00	01/01/01 – 30/06/01	Total
Construction commercial	2	3	5
Construction domestic	4	3	7
Activities commercial	18	19	37
Activities domestic	4	5	9
Music commercial	2	4	6
Music domestic	2	9	11
Alarms commercial	2	5	7
Alarms domestic	3	4	7
Alarms vehicle	3	1	4
Air Conditioning commercial	0	0	0
Air Conditioning domestic	4	5	9
Pool/spa commercial	0	0	0
Pool/spa domestic	2	2	4
Fireworks (unknown source)	0	1	1
Animals (excluding dogs)	2	3	5
	48	64	112

Table 1

Note: Total noise complaints (excluding barking dogs) fell by approximately 23% compared to 1999/2000.

State

The State Government through the Heritage Office of New South Wales, continues to ensure that Councils give non-aboriginal heritage adequate consideration in the planning process.

Ryde is fortunate to have a number of important houses which are of significant historic importance.

Pressure

Whilst Council owns a number of heritage items including Banjo Patterson Cottage, Brush Farm House, Addington and Willandra, there is pressure in the form of redevelopment in the vicinity of, and in respect of other heritage items.

Response

Council has introduced a Heritage Local Environmental Plan. The prime purpose of this planning instrument is to ensure that heritage items, including conservation areas are identified and protected. The draft Local Environmental Plan has been exhibited for a period of two months and a total of 345 submissions were received.

Of the total of 345 submissions, 282 were in relation to the conservation areas. These areas included the areas identified in the Ryde Housing Estate. These estates were established following World War II and were early examples in Sydney of the planned estate form of town planning. The design of these estates also received awards from many prestigious bodies including the A.R. Bluett Award for Local Government.

The submissions received are firstly being reviewed and will be referred to Council for consideration and determination. The Local Environmental Plan should be gazetted prior to the end of 2001.

The Hermitage

The Hermitage was constructed by John Blaxland in 1841. The house is on the Register of the National Estate and is on the State Heritage Register.

The owner of the land has entered into a legal agreement requiring the restoration of The Hermitage as part of the redevelopment of a smaller part of the site for 2 storey town houses and units. The Hermitage will remain on a separate lot of over 7000m².

The outcome in this instance is seen as being beneficial in that one of the oldest houses in Ryde will be restored as a residence. A medium density development will be constructed on an area of the site, and with provisions in place to ensure that the integrity of the Hermitage will not be jeopardised.



North of the Harbour

With the introduction of the Local Government (General) Amendment (Community and Social Plans) Regulation 1998, an Aboriginal Project Officer has written the Northern Sydney Aboriginal Plan. The regulation requires all local councils to develop a social plan looking at the needs of particular target groups. The development of a regional Aboriginal Social Plan has provided an opportunity for Council to work in a co-ordinated way with State and Commonwealth Government departments to address the social needs of Aboriginal people living in Northern Sydney. The full Aboriginal Paper 2000 document is available on www.ryde.nsw.gov.au Site Index, Ryde City Council, Site Map, Social Plan 2000, and copies of the Northern Sydney Aboriginal Social Plan are available from Community Services and Urban Landscape Services.

The Aboriginal Paper 2000 Action Plan and the Northern Sydney Aboriginal Social Plan has outlined the following strategies to achieve the recommendations of the report:

- ⇒ That a strategy is developed to ensure that the database of service and networks is maintained on an ongoing basis
- ⇒ That a directory of services and networks be created.
- ⇒ That the feasibility of mapping services electronically be investigated
- ⇒ Relevant organisations investigate opportunities for providing cultural awareness programs for staff of agencies and government departments.
- ⇒ Relevant organisations investigate opportunities to enable Aboriginal people in Northern Sydney to access organisations that can assist in the tracing of their family history and country
- ⇒ Northern Sydney Region who can support Aboriginal people affected by Stolen Generations
- ⇒ Relevant organisations liaise with housing services in the Northern Sydney Region to ensure services are culturally appropriate and accessible to local Aboriginal people
- ⇒ Relevant organisations continue to network with relevant housing service providers to ensure the provision of affordable housing options in the Northern Sydney Region for Aboriginal people.
- ⇒ Local councils develop a strategy for the ongoing promotion of Aboriginal Heritage and Culture in Northern Sydney
- ⇒ Continue to identify and protect Aboriginal heritage sites in their Local Government Area
- ⇒ Workers from relevant agencies (Department of Education, Local Aboriginal Education, Consultative Groups (LAECG's), Aboriginal Education Assistant(AEA's), Aboriginal Education Consultant) form a working group to develop a strategy to be implemented in the school community aimed at raising the awareness of the Aboriginal heritage and cultural issues
- ⇒ Relevant organisations lobby schools across the Northern Sydney region to work towards achieving those goals and outcomes stated in the Aboriginal Education Policy.
- ⇒ Hostel staff, local schools, housing services and other relevant agencies work together to ensure the housing and support needs are met of those students staying at Biala Hostel and following the completion of their studies. Relevant organisations investigate strategies for supporting Aboriginal students to enable them to remain at school and obtain a qualification.



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- ⇒ Schools, Aboriginal Education Assistants (AEA's), Department of Education, Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups (LAECG's) and Aboriginal Education Consultant work together to ensure the needs of Aboriginal students are met whilst attending schools in the Northern Sydney Region.
- ⇒ Relevant organisations work in partnership to collect data on the health needs of Aboriginal people Northern Sydney Region
- ⇒ Further consultations be carried out with local Aboriginal people concerning their health needs, in cooperation with local health services and networks.
- ⇒ Relevant organisations investigate funding opportunities to enable the employment of a permanent full-time Aboriginal Community Development Worker for Northern Sydney.
- ⇒ That following the endorsement of this social plan, that an action plan be developed involving all stakeholders to identify strategies, resources and timeframes.

Gamaraigal Tribal Scene

The Council continued to work closely with Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council's (MLALC) Senior Sites Officer to enhance protection and identification of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

Council staff worked on various projects with the MLALC's officer Allen Madden, at Darvall Park, Riverside Corporate Park, Richardson Avenue, North Ryde, and along the Parramatta River.

Various staff within Council are continuing the processes of updating the data on Aboriginal site locations. Currently the information on Aboriginal sites locations and descriptions are in many cases still in various forms and media. Verification of the data has involved NPWS staff, Heritage Consultants and members of the MLALC. Once verified, a number of these sites have now been listed on Council's Heritage Register and added to land already identified under State Environment Planning Policy No. 60 (SEPP 60), as Exempt and Complying Development. These actions mean that there is a statement indicating that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Item is located within the land parcel and that NPWS would be alerted to any development on the registered site. The long-term goal is to secure the management and preservation of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Ryde City.

Waluba Walking Track at Glades Bay

Preparation for the Stage 2 Construction phase has been progressing. A \$40,000 Cultural Heritage Projects Program grant has been applied for with Environment Australia. A preliminary stage of this project is the removal of introduced weeds, to create a more authentic natural setting. Large areas of woody weeds including privet and lantana have been cut, the stumps painted with herbicide and the NSW Fire Brigade undertaking a large broad acre burn. The Stage Two Construction works were listed in the 2001/2002 Management Plan.

Bennelong and Surrounds Citizens for Reconciliation

The organisation has had one of its most successful years this year with 'city bridge walks for reconciliation' occurring all around Australia and giving high profile publicity to the reconciliation process.

Passive Recreational Facilities

The popularity of the Parramatta River foreshores and parks is unabated. This remains due in part to Council's policy of improving access to, and quality of, recreational facilities. Continuing urban consolidation also contributes to increasing pressure on passive recreational facilities.

Sporting Facilities

The situation is similar with sporting facilities. Demand and use has continued to increase the maintenance and management costs on most sports fields, due to:

- ⇒ Fields remaining near maximum capacity with overuse by some sporting codes, especially concentrated training use for winter sports with high impact;
- ⇒ Expanding activity of sporting community with several high profile sporting associations at capacity for venues;
- ⇒ Increased community expectations of quality of facilities;
- ⇒ Poor playing surface conditions on a number of high use fields due to poor original construction and deterioration over 20 to 30 years and now requiring major reconstruction;
- ⇒ Wet weather conditions causing major structural damage to sporting facilities with poor field drainage. This situation will improve with progressive implementation of drainage works at Sports Fields identified in the Public Space & Recreation Facilities Plan 1998;
- ⇒ Increased sporting association memberships has occurred in the wake of the success of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Remnant Natural Areas

Environmental pressures described in previous SoE Reports are essentially the same:

- ⇒ Fragmentation and destruction of wildlife corridors and isolation of remnant plant communities;
- ⇒ Stormwater runoff from residential development and sportsfields creating erosion, siltation and continuing gross pollutants;
- ⇒ Poor water quality with high nutrient content feeding invasive weeds and reducing the natural tree canopy;
- ⇒ Recreational use causing wear and disturbance;
- ⇒ Illegal encroachments causing rubbish and weed problems.

Response

Council is responding to these pressures through:

- ⇒ Progress in development controls and water quality monitoring;
- ⇒ Continual review of Plans of Management for parks and reserves;
- ⇒ Specific embellishment and rehabilitation strategies have been developed for a number of environmentally sensitive natural areas (notably the Field of Mars, Brush Farm Park and the Parramatta River Foreshore Plans of Management);
- ⇒ Stage 1 of works in the Field of Mars has been funded in the current Management Plan (Buffalo Creek Stage 1) together with a Stormwater Trust grant from the EPA.



Land Acquisition

- ⇒ On-going purchases of properties within the Charity Creek catchment project occurred during 2000, together with their clearing, reprofiling and embellishment as passive open space. Additional purchases are scheduled for other sites in Charity Creek catchment and Buffalo Creek catchment;
- ⇒ The acquisition of additional open space, adjacent to Tasman Place and to link with existing open space in Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park is to be included within a broader transaction with the RTA;
- ⇒ Negotiations with the Waterways Authority has secured an additional 4,600m² of open space to link with Settlers Park and the Shepherds Bay foreshore. The transfer of the existing works depot, from the Department of Lands, is the subject of continuing negotiations;
- ⇒ The formal transfer to the NPWS of a number of Council's natural reserve areas contiguous to the Lane Cove National Park is progressing;
- ⇒ Planned acquisition of several residential blocks in Denistone East, North Ryde and West Ryde for development of embellished open space are identified in the Public Space & Recreational Facilities Plan 1998. These will be embodied within the review of Council's Section 94 Contributions Plan.

Land Drainage

Construction of the West Ryde Flood Management Project has been completed. Works included the installation of a gross pollutant trap, upgrade and drainage to 3 sportsfields at Meadowbank Park. Several creekline rehabilitation projects completed at the head of catchments which will assist with stormwater management further downstream, notably Shrimpton's Creek.

Parks Embellishment Program

- ⇒ Major park embellishment at Shepherd's Bay Stage 3 completed;
- ⇒ Playgrounds shade structures completed;
- ⇒ Anzac Park upgrade commenced;
- ⇒ Buffalo Creek Stage 1 commenced;
- ⇒ Yamble Reserve upgrade, planning commenced.

Sportsfield Management

- ⇒ Christie Park - installation of a Grandstand for use by Gladesville Hornsby Football Association completed;
- ⇒ Playground undersurfacing completed at various parks.

Creeklines, Bushland and Trees

Refer to Biodiversity Section of this report.

Community and Street Tree Programs

- ⇒ Co-ordinated Street Tree Planting Program underway with plantings established in some twenty-three streets across the City.

Council's role in environmental management is carried out through a variety of processes including:

- regulatory control and guidance of the activities of individual and corporate citizens;
- regulation of the built environment;
- monitoring of the natural environment;
- interaction with community sectors such as environmental groups, Chambers of Commerce, Progress Associations and Service Clubs;
- joint ventures with government and non-government organisations.

Our operational functions also include the provision of public works and infrastructure which alter or impact on the environment. For this reason, the activities of Council are subject to scrutiny by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. The Department of Local Government and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning are also State Government Agencies with oversight of aspects of Council's activities.

Throughout the year Council consults continuously with the community through focus groups, workshops, advisory committees, public forums, public hearings, publications, exhibited draft proposals etc. In relation to environmental management we particularly value the advice of a Community Environmental Management Strategies Group.

In order to further improve the effectiveness of general consultation processes, Council adopted a Consultation Protocol in June 2001. This sets out our commitment to consultation and explains when and how it will take place, as well as the community rights and responsibilities.

Council maintains a constant interest in regional developments which affect the City of Ryde. These range from major infrastructure developments such as the Parramatta-Chatswood Rail Link or the M2 - Gore Hill Tunnel, to the adoption of a common list of noxious weeds for the Councils of Northern Sydney.

With today's dynamic changing environment it is recognised that approaches to environmental management need to be constantly reviewed. Council is always interested in opportunities to maximise the benefits of information sharing with the wider community and feedback will be most welcome.

The need for environmental monitoring is abundantly clear as the world tries to grapple with problems arising from climate change, soil salinity, acid sulphate soils, acid rain, diminishing water resources, epidemic diseases, and many other issues.

The allocation of resources for monitoring and the appropriate direction of monitoring is topical at all levels of government. Whilst indicators and trends should be viewed in a broad context the following local observations are of interest.

- Number of development applications received decreased by 27% compared to previous year.
- Number of construction certificates received decreased by 22.3% compared to previous year.
- Decrease in leaded petrol vehicle registrations in Ryde continued.
- Increase in unleaded petrol vehicle registrations continued.
- Net increase of 753 vehicle registrations over previous year.
- Little variation in total motor vehicle accidents in past 3 years.
- 2000/2001 rainfall 17% less than average over past 28 years.
- Street cleaning program: tonnes collected down 8.0% on previous year.
- Material removed by gross pollutant traps increased from 11.1 tonnes in 1999/2000 to 42 tonnes in 2000/2001.
- Mosquito numbers and complaints at highest level since 1997/98.
- Mosquito larvacide use up by 380% from previous year.
- Slight decrease in average quantity of garbage collected per household.
- Average recycling collected per household virtually unchanged.
- Slight increase in recycling as percentage total waste collected.
- Chemical use on public open spaces down 20% from 1999/2000.
- Organic fertiliser use down 20% from 1999/2000.

Recommendations

for Management Plan 2002 and beyond

Based on a review of the 2001 State of the Environment Report it is recommended that Council takes into account the following recommendations when considering the Draft Management Plan for 2002/2005. Some of these are, of necessity, expressed in broad terms, but they foreshadow more specific recommendations when details are supplied during the preparation of the Draft Management Plan.

- Continued support for Sydney Orbital route and expedited link between M2 and Gore Hill Freeway.
- Continued safety improvement by appropriate traffic facilities for black spots and traffic calming.
- That Council seek funds to implement Top Ryde Retail Precinct.
- Continued support for the development of public transport facilities to reduce car dependency, pollution and congestion.
- That Council formulates strategies in North Ryde/Macquarie Park precincts affected by the Parramatta-Chatswood rail link.
- That Council continues to upgrade and maintain existing bicycle network.
- That Council seeks funds for the traffic calming of the precinct south of Victoria Road and east of Church Street.
- That Council continues to support the implementation of transport facilities in the Eastwood and West Ryde commercial areas.
- Continued implementation of measures proposed in Stormwater Management Plans.
- That indicators of climate-weather, stormwater management plans, water quality be monitored to provide data on change in water quality
 - type and condition of point source discharges
 - extent of riparian vegetation
- Continued installation of gross pollutant traps.
- Appropriate resources be allocated for sediment control and its enforcement.
- Provision of appropriate resources for replacement of collapsing stormwater infrastructure.
- That consideration be given to the implementation of a Local Air Quality Management Plan.
- That consideration be given to the allocation of resources for environmental monitoring.
- A Council Mosquito Control Program be funded again during 2002/2003.
- Council continues to work in partnership with the State Government to minimise the disposal of waste to landfill.
- In association with Collex Waste Management Service, Council continues the installation of the Bintrak system.
- Council continues investigations into the redevelopment of the Porters Creek site into a Waste Management and Recycling Park.
- Initiatives to secure funding for the restoration or conservation of Brush Farm House be pursued.
- Continue the comprehensive street tree management program.
- Impetus for improvement of regional public space facilities be maintained.
- Impetus for improvement of the carrying capacity of sports facilities be maintained.
- That planning, co-ordination, and resourcing of Council's environmental management strategies be holistically reviewed.

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North Ryde Residents' Group: Diane Michel

Brush Farm Park Preservation Group

Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society

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- Lane Cove Tunnel Overview Report-Roads and Traffic Authority/Hyder Consulting
- Stormwater Management Plans (Middle Parramatta River, Lower Parramatta River, Lane Cove River)-Ryde City Council
- Lane Cove River Estuary Processes Study-Patterson Britton & Partners
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
Web Site: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/
- Bureau of Transport Economics
"Urban Congestion Implications for Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2000"
- NSW Government
"Action for the Environment" 2001
- NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Vector Monitoring Program, Department of Medical Entomology, ICPMR, Westmead Hospital
- Ryde City Council Annual Mosquito Report 2000-2001
- "Waste Not" Model DCP and Local Approvals Policy, Combined Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils
- Ryde Heritage Study, 1988 Ryde City Council
- "For Now and the Future" (Draft LEP No. 99) Ryde City Council
- Plan First Review of Plan Making in NSW (White Paper) Public Space and Recreation Facilities Plan 1998, Ryde City Council