

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

RYDE CENTRAL NEXT STEPS

The last instalment of my series on what has happened at the 1 Devlin St Civic Centre site takes me back to events that occurred only a week ago.

At the latest Council Meeting on 25 June, Council received a report on cost estimates for filling in the 'hole in the ground' and replacing it with open space.

Those estimates ranged from \$4.95 million for a base case with no remediation, no amenities and simple grass cover to \$14.3 million for a top tier case which would include remediation, plants, seats, minor structural covering, lighting, and other features.

At the meeting, Council resolved to neither building of the Ryde Central project nor the public open space option until the Office of Local Government (OLG) is satisfied that City of Ryde has a lawful and financially sustainable funding mechanism.

I have detailed over several weeks how the improper transfer of \$35.5 million from externally restricted reserves to an internal Ryde Central fund was stated by the OLG as illegal and, along with onerous Voluntary Planning Agreement obligations, put Council in a precarious financial position.

The subsequent rectification of those illegal transfers by this Council may have stymied the Ryde Central project, however the NSW Audit Office agreed and supported Council's action by providing us with an unqualified audit opinion – meaning our financial statements are completely true and accurate. Council also adopted a Cash Reserve Policy to ensure that no future transactions could occur where externally restricted reserves could be transferred to an internal fund, like Ryde Central. Further to this, Council is now preparing a submission to the OLG and the Independent Commission

Against Corruption (ICAC) to seek further advice and approval for other options to pay for a new Ryde Civic Centre that is lawfully and financially sustainable.

In doing so, we will reject any plan to put an unreasonable extra impost on City of Ryde ratepayers.

I want to stress that I am determined to forge a pathway to the construction of our much-needed Civic Centre that is bipartisan, viable, and in the best interests of our wonderfully diverse community.

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

I want to congratulate six outstanding City of Ryde citizens who were recognised in the recent King's Birthday Honours List.

Our award winners were: Brianna Casey (AM), Penelope Gillies (OAM), Henry Jones (OAM), Austin Kim (OAM), Judith King (OAM), and Peter Millington (OAM).

They have been recognised for a variety of wonderful



contributions in fields ranging from social welfare to education, the environment, Veterans assistance, multicultural work, and sport.

Sincerely,

Clr Trenton Brown – Mayor

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LIBRARY NEWS

INFOCUS: PLASTIC-FREE LIVING

WED
24
JULY

WHEN: Wednesday 24 July
TIME: 6.00 – 7.00pm
WHERE: Ryde Library



Learn how to best live a plastic-free life during Plastic-Free July, by joining us for a special information session at Ryde Library, in partnership with City of Ryde Circular Economy team. Plastic has infiltrated every aspect of our lives from packaging to food storage to skincare and clothes and has shown to have a negative consequence to our health and the environment. Learn how to eliminate household plastics with non-plastic alternatives to commonly used household products.

Book now: www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/plastic-free-living



EVENTS IN OUR CITY

City of Ryde

SPRING GARDEN

COMPETITION 2024

ENTRIES NOW OPEN!

SPONSORED BY:

eden
GARDENS
INDOOR & OUTDOOR

The City of Ryde's Spring Garden Competition is back again! It's free to enter and there are a wide range of categories to choose from.

To enter or for more information scan the QR code or visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/GardenComp

Entries close Saturday 31 August.

WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

City of Ryde

Winter SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

MONDAY 8 JULY – FRIDAY 19 JULY

City of Ryde provides a variety of FREE activities for young people aged 12-18 years during the school holidays.

To find out more scan the QR code or visit ryde.events/schoolholidays

City of Ryde

GRANNY SMITH FESTIVAL

19 OCT 2024

Join us at the 2024 Granny Smith Festival!

Applications are now open for parade participants, performers, stallholders and volunteers.

Apply now to be part of this exciting event. Scan the QR code or visit ryde.events/GSF

Applications close Sunday 4 August.