

**MM25/23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW EXCELLENCE IN THE ENVIRONMENT AWARDS - Mayor, Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM****File Number:** MYR/07/10/20 - BP23/788

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The Local Government NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards aims to recognise outstanding achievements by NSW Councils in managing and protecting the environment.

Two Council projects were recognised at the prestigious awards event held on Tuesday, 5 December 2023.

**BEHAVIOUR CHANGE IN WASTE – Highly Commended**

This award recognises outstanding behaviour change initiatives in waste and recycling. The award incorporates, but is not limited to:

- innovative behaviour change programs with demonstrated waste outcomes such as waste avoidance, increased reuse and recycling, decreased recycling contamination, decreasing litter or illegal dumping.
- Other targeted education and awareness raising or capacity building programs to deliver improved waste and resource recovery outcomes.

The City of Ryde's Reusable Health Products Program encouraged the City of Ryde community to reduce their footprint on the environment by transitioning to reusable health products.

The program succeeded with 71% of participants advising they would continue to use the reusable health products, thereby reducing waste to landfill.

**INNOVATION IN PLANNING, POLICIES AND DECISION-MAKING – Highly Commended**

This award recognises innovation in the application of integrated environmental management and sustainability practices in planning, policies and decision making. This includes both local land use and strategic planning initiatives.

The award incorporates, but is not limited to:

- Plans or policies which integrate, protect or enhance environmental and sustainability outcomes for the built and natural environment. Examples include management plans for individual species, specific issues or areas, the use of planning instruments, and design approaches to achieve these outcomes.

**MM25/23 (continued)**

- Resources, tools or support materials to assist councils make high quality decisions to manage their natural resources and improve local environmental outcomes.
- Activities across local land use and strategic planning initiatives

The City of Ryde Urban Forest Strategy was developed to maximise the benefits of the City's greening actions and to align those actions with State Government and local canopy targets. The project was based on cutting edge modelling of tree planting opportunities and capacities.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That the Awards presented by Local Government NSW for Excellence in the Environment for Council's "Behaviour Change in Waste" and "Innovation in Planning, Policies and Decision-Making" projects be acknowledged.
- (b) That staff who assisted with development and implementation of the projects be congratulated.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

**Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM**  
**Mayor**