

**MM1/23 DONATION TO ASSIST THOSE AFFECTED BY THE
EARTHQUAKE IN CENTRAL TURKEY AND SYRIA - Mayor,
Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM****File Number: MYR/07/10/20 - BP23/75**

On 6 February 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern and central Turkey as well as northern and western Syria.

A second earthquake of nearly the same magnitude struck 9 hours later in a different location.

As of 16 February 2023, over 43,800 deaths have been confirmed. 38,000 of these have been reported in Turkey and 5,800 in Syria although actual numbers would be much higher.

Rescue efforts have been hampered by winter storms which have brought not only freezing temperatures but snow, making rescue efforts difficult and more time consuming.

Although rescue efforts continue, a dire shortage of food and shelter for the survivors is the next crisis facing those who have lost their homes and livelihoods.

Many residents of Ryde have family members or know of people, who live in the affected areas and the local community has been working hard to provide tangible assistance to those facing unimaginable hardship.

A recent telethon held to support relief efforts has raised in excess of \$100,00.00

I recommend that the City of Ryde donate \$10,000.00 to the humanitarian efforts in the affected areas from the Civic Service base budget – donations.

The funds should be provided through the Armenian Relief Society which is coordinating assistance relief in the areas of Aleppo and cities bordering Turkey and Syria.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council acknowledge the tragic loss of life and those injured in the earthquake which occurred on 6 February 2023 in Turkey and Syria.
- (b) That the City of Ryde donate \$10,000 to assist in the humanitarian efforts for those affected.

MM1/23 (continued)

- (c) That Council observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the victims of the earthquake.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM
Mayor