

11 DROUGHT RELIEF - Councillor Jordan Lane

File Number: CLM/19/1/1/6 - BP19/1419

MOTION:

- (a) That Council note:-
- (i) NSW is experiencing one of the most severe droughts on record, with the Central West, Far West and North West regions the worst affected to date.
 - (ii) following a resolution at the August 2018 Extraordinary Council meeting, the City of Ryde donated \$20,000 to Rural Aid's 'Buy A Bail' initiative.
 - (iii) there have been extreme low inflows (the amount of water entering the river and its storage's) – the past six months have seen the lowest recorded inflows in history. Without imminent inflows, the lack of water will continue to impact water quality and the riverine environment, while curtailing agricultural production.
 - (iv) the drought crisis is having devastating effects on regional and rural communities in NSW, the impacts are being felt in all parts of the regional economy, including retail trade and small businesses; and
 - (v) The NSW Government recently launched a 'Buy Regional' campaign that promotes purchasing Christmas presents from regional retailers. It is an online hub that showcases regional shops and sellers together in one place, to make it easy for shoppers to find the perfect Christmas gift and support regional NSW.
- (b) That the City of Ryde donate \$20,000 to the Country Women's Association of NSW Drought Aid appeal, sourced from the 2019/20 General Revenue.
- (c) That the General Manager develop and implement a comprehensive communication plan to advise residents and visitors of how they can assist regional NSW. This will include:-
- (i) using the City of Ryde's on-line communication channels to promote the 'Buy Regional' Campaign in the lead up to Christmas.
 - (ii) promote upcoming regional NSW events through the City of Ryde Events team.