



Be Waste Smart

Achievements 2024

- Sustainability
- Waste
- Natural Areas
- Parks



Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Ryde would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Wattamattagal (or Wallumedegal) clan of the Dharug nation and their enduring connection to country and the care of our waterways and the natural environment

The City of Ryde would also like to pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A Year in Review

The 2023/24 financial year has seen some great achievements for the City of Ryde, by working together across departments and community, we've made major strides in addressing climate change, protecting the environment, and improving community wellbeing.

As part of our work towards the Ryde Resilience Plan 2030, addressing energy and water security, resource efficiency, biodiversity, and climate change preparedness, as well as health, transport, and emergency response, we continue working towards improving the health and sustainability of our urban areas. This year we continued community education for emergency preparedness especially focused on our vulnerable and culturally diverse communities, commenced our urban heat program and engaged with our business community to understand their resilience and risks.

One of our most exciting achievements was the progress and delivery for the Putney Beach Swim Site, set to open in early 2025. This project has been a long time in the making through partnership with Transport for NSW and the NSW State Government, for the construction at the Putney Park swim site. This project, restores swimming at one of Sydney's original river swimming locations from the 1920's and alongside the renewal of the Putney Park seawall, will revitalise the foreshore and provide our community with a place to escape the heat and cool off with a river swim for many generations to come.

The City Resilience team has been at the forefront of tackling climate change, strengthening our community's resilience, and helping the organisation adapt to new challenges conducting sustainability audits, and initiating projects for climate change mitigation and adaptation. We progressed on the Net Zero Emissions Pathway with a focus on improving our emissions capturing data, transitioning our assets from gas and improving efficiencies as part of the 118 actions aimed at achieving net-zero emissions for Council operations by 2035 and for the whole community by 2040.

Our Parks and Open Spaces team has been working to protect and enhance our natural environments. Efforts to preserve bushlands, waterways, and ecosystems have been a top priority. By managing our water catchments, we aim to improve water quality, reduce erosion, and maintain healthy ecosystems, ensuring a thriving natural landscape for future generations.

The Circular Economy department continues to deliver comprehensive and efficient waste services for our community with an average of 71,318 bins collected per week. Over 21,646 tonnes of waste were diverted from landfill through services such as kerbside collection, clothing collection bins, the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) and prebooked household cleanup collection. In addition to continuing to provide waste services, we explored opportunities for future service improvements and continued to embed circular economy outcomes into Council's operations. This year, we explored opportunities to increase at-home recycling opportunities for items beyond the recycling bin, including trialling a doorstep collection and recycling service for hard to recycle items such as soft plastics, small e-waste items, textiles, batteries, blister packs and polystyrene. Council also continued to deliver a range of events, programs, projects and workshops to empower residents to avoid waste and reuse, repair, refurbish and recycle items.

This year has been full of exciting projects, from infrastructure to environmental sustainability, and we're more committed than ever to building a Smarter, Cleaner, Greener and more resilient City of Ryde.

Regards,

**The City Resilience, Circular Economy and
Parks and Open Spaces teams**

Net Zero Emissions – Climate Action

Emissions reduction of 8,062 cumulative tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂) saved resulting in a **68 percent reduction** GHG across the organisation compared to the 2018/19 baseline.

Sustainable Concrete

In 2023/24 Council commenced work to tackle our largest source of emissions from our civil infrastructure works, concrete. Emissions from concrete are concerning as they remain as ‘embodied’ through the life of the product. Council worked across the organisation trialling different types of low emissions

concrete resulting in **30 percent less emissions** than standard concrete for two new footpaths in the City. The success of this trial will see Council increase the use of this product in future works and interest by the State Government in Ryde’s progress as part of a statewide trial program.



Using our Green Revolving Fund to Deliver Sustainability Initiatives

Our Green Revolving Fund, launched in 2023, uses savings from the delivery of sustainability projects to pay for future rounds of efficiency investments. The fund is helping to ensure Council continues to work towards meeting its operational target of Net Zero emissions target by 2035. In 2023/24 the Fund supported the installation of new solar panels for Eastwood Library and replaced gas hot water systems at the West Ryde Community Centre with an efficient electrical heat pump and electrical heaters.

This is the eighth solar system council has installed on our council buildings to date completing installations at all our large, council owned facilities.



Energy Use

We reduced our overall annual energy consumption for mains gas and electricity in 2023/24 by 9.5 percent compared to the 2018/19 baseline.



Fossil Fuel Divestment

Divestment from fossil fuel aligned companies in Council’s investment portfolio continues and is currently 46.9 percent of its total investment portfolio as of 30 September 2024.

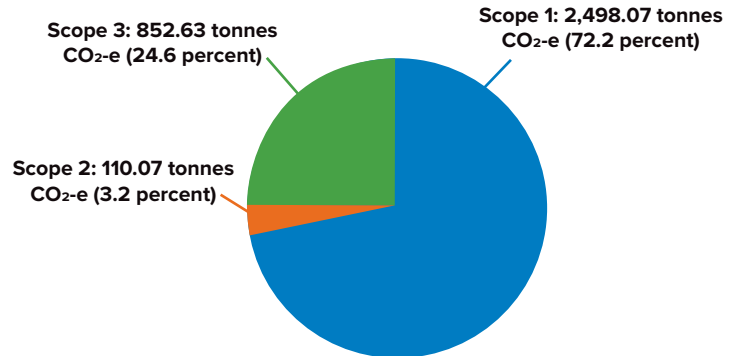


Enhancing our Environmental and Emissions Monitoring

This year Council has focused on improving the way we track and measure our carbon emissions through development and commencement of a new and enhanced, environmental data platform to improve its tracking of Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions and to become Climate Active ready. The 'scopes' captured will measure emissions from our energy and water use through to our physically procured supplies into the future so we can further track towards our Net Zero target for operational emissions.

Emissions by scope for City of Ryde

1/07/2023 – 30/06/2024



Reducing Emissions from Business

Engaging with businesses on emissions reductions is an area of great focus for Council as we seek to reduce emissions from all businesses towards the community emissions target of Net Zero by 2040. We held a **Net Zero for Businesses workshop** to demystify and empower local businesses to accelerate their transition towards net zero emissions while reducing their operational costs. This workshop explored renewable energy options for business transition and measuring carbon emissions.

Reducing Community Emissions Solar in our Community

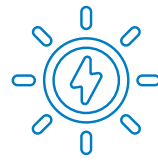
909 new residential installations and **233 new commercial installations** were completed in 2023/24 financial year.

23.9 percent of free standing and semi-attached houses in Ryde are now **powered by solar energy**. A 5.9 percent increase from 2022/23 financial year

Across the City **54,891 kW** PV systems has now been installed on **7,058 homes**, **394 commercial systems** and **eight registered power plants**.



Net Zero Emissions – Climate Action



‘Save Power’ Kits

To help community members take charge of their power consumption and energy bills, Council provides **10 free DIY ‘Save Power’ kits available for loan across all City of Ryde libraries**. These kits contain a thermal gun, power meter, thermometer, and stopwatch to measure energy efficiency in residents’ homes. They were borrowed 21 times during the year and not only assist to reduce the cost-of-living pressures from energy use but also contribute to emissions reduction across the City.



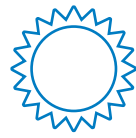
Home Waste and Sustainability Advisory Service

Our Home Waste and Sustainability Advisory Service provided **103 individual tailored assessments** in 2023/24, helping households to reduce their waste, energy and water consumption and carbon footprints.

This program also encourages recycling and composting to reduce waste placed in the household red lid bins. **52 percent of participants** are now using, or have taken steps to use, **composting or worm farming** to manage their organic waste.

The three winners of this year’s annual ‘Ryde Eco Home Challenge’ under the Home Advisory Service chose to improve the efficiency of their home and reduce their GHG emissions by installing a heat pump hot water system, solar panels and an energy efficient cooling system.

The service is free and open all Ryde residents including renters for a free assessment and advice. See: www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/HWSAS for more information.



SunSPoT

Solar Assessment Tool

City of Ryde continues to partner with the Australian Photovoltaic Institute (APVI) to take the guesswork out of installing solar for our community. The free online dashboard tool assists residents to make informed decisions about suitability of their home for solar installation, system sizing, reducing household energy use, living costs and Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Visit: www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/SunSPoT to try the tool and see if your home is suitable.



Community Education and Workshops

The City Resilience team engaged with over **100 attendees** at the Granny Smith Festival using everyday comparisons in a simple quiz to show how small changes in their homes and habits can have a huge impact on their carbon footprint. This quiz has since been distributed incrementally via the Smarter, Cleaner, Greener newsletter with **over 600 people** participating.

58 people attended three workshops including CALD Home Sustainability Workshop, Solar My Strata Workshop, and Apartments Go Solar and All Electric webinar.



Net Zero Emissions



2020 – 2024 COUNCIL TERM ACHIEVEMENTS

In May 2019, the City declared a Climate Emergency, and in response, the City Resilience team worked with the community to develop the **Net Zero Emissions Pathway**. This plan was officially adopted by the Council in October 2022. It includes 118 actions aimed at achieving net zero emissions for the Council's operations by 2035, and for the entire community by 2040 or sooner.

From the 1 July 2022, we achieved our **100 percent renewable energy target eight years ahead of schedule** thanks to a Power Purchase Agreement, which sources energy from three solar farms in New South Wales. This agreement is the largest energy contract (for electricity supply) ever made for local government in the state.

In November 2022, the Council adopted a **Green Revolving Fund (GRF)** to finance future energy efficiency projects to reduce emissions, with upgrades delivered at West Ryde Community Centre and Eastwood Library already completed since commencing in 2023. These projects were identified in an energy audit of council facilities.

In October 2023, the Council adopted a **Resource Efficiency Policy** to phase out all gas appliances by 2030. The policy also sets minimum energy and water standards for appliances and new buildings, and it requires reporting emissions from the materials used in civil works.

Additional initiatives towards Net Zero Emissions include introducing electric and hybrid vehicles to our fleet, installed energy-efficient LED lighting across our facilities and solar installed on eight council buildings.

To track and monitor our community carbon emissions, Council continues to partner with the 33 council Resilience program, Resilient Sydney using the Resilient Sydney Metro Carbon Platform. This dashboard enables all councils to track their emissions against a net zero target with the group working towards lowering emissions related to electricity, gas, waste, transport from residential and non-residential sectors.



Resilience

Resilient Sydney

The City of Ryde is one of the 33 metropolitan councils of Greater Sydney working in collaboration with Resilient Sydney to develop and implement a broader, metropolitan city-wide resilience strategy, first published in 2018. The next version of this Strategy – Resilient Sydney 2025–2030 is currently being developed through comprehensive research and Sydney wide engagement with stakeholders and community members.

To date, collective action by the group since 2018 has successfully generated interest from various State Government departments helping to inform their Net Zero and Electric Vehicle plans as well as assist individual councils for their own on ground and strategic plans.



Resilient Sydney Ambassadors – Strategy meeting (October 2023) – Customs House, Sydney.
Photo credit: Jacquie Manning.

Reducing Bushfire Risk

To reduce the risk of bushfire to both residents and local biodiversity, we reviewed our Ryde Draft Bushfire Risk Management Plan. The plan partners with Hunters Hill/Lane Cove/Parramatta to review and ensure that bushfire risk is actively monitored, while emergency planning considers latest data on fire preparedness and identifies safe spaces for members of neighbourhood communities to evacuate to in times of need.



Improving Stormwater Management

Addressing stormwater influences and infrastructure is vital in how our City can manage and safely move water in increasing flash or significant rain events. Council provides significant annual investment to limit risk to community and assets from these events through undertaking ongoing condition assessments of pipes, renewal and upgrade projects. To ensure the stormwater network remains functional and effective, we continue to use CCTV monitoring for assessing the network for identifying degraded sections for renewal and repairs to stormwater pits and replaced collapsed sections of pipework totalling **16 stormwater pits** being replaced.

We also participated in the Parramatta River Catchment Group's Stormwater Committee assessing private lot Water Sensitive Urban Design systems across the City as part of a 10 council project. Findings from this found that many sites did not know these critical water quality improvement systems existed or were poorly maintained. Works under this project are informing education programs to be rolled out in the coming year.

Our **draft flood study** was completed during the year. This study reviewed older versions across all catchments of the City to align using consistent data sets and approaches to modelling for the City to manage flooding and development assessment.

Resilience



Education



Engaging our Businesses

To support our business community, we presented to the Eastwood Chamber of Commerce on understanding business risk related to resilience, while two emergency management webinars focused on preparing business for unexpected emergencies or events, reducing down time, costs and returning to business as usual as soon as possible.



Engaging our Community

We engaged with **129 members of our community** on resilience and other issues at events and festivals throughout the year, including at the Sustainability Festival, Granny Smith Festival, Neighbour Day, Seniors Safety and Resilience Expo, Refugee Week Community Expo and the Intercultural Community festival. The Red Cross, SES and Fire and Rescue and NSW Police also provided practical information and answered questions to assist our community with emergency preparedness.

We met with vulnerable members of our community including seniors, new Australians and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members and provided information on how to prepare for heatwaves, storms, floods, bushfires and other emergency events. **57 residents** attended **three 'Resilient Ready Resident'** workshops held in collaboration with the Red Cross and State Emergency Service (SES) in 2023/24.



Emergency Preparedness

Promotion of the 'Prepare for an Emergency' and 'Get Prepared App: Are you ready for an emergency?' during Emergency Ready week supporting the Sydney wide Red Cross campaign. We saw **310 engagements** with the Council website and we continued to promote our 'Climate wise communities' residential resilience dashboard throughout the year helping residents develop a personalised local emergency plan for their homes.

www.climatewisecommunitiesryde.com.au

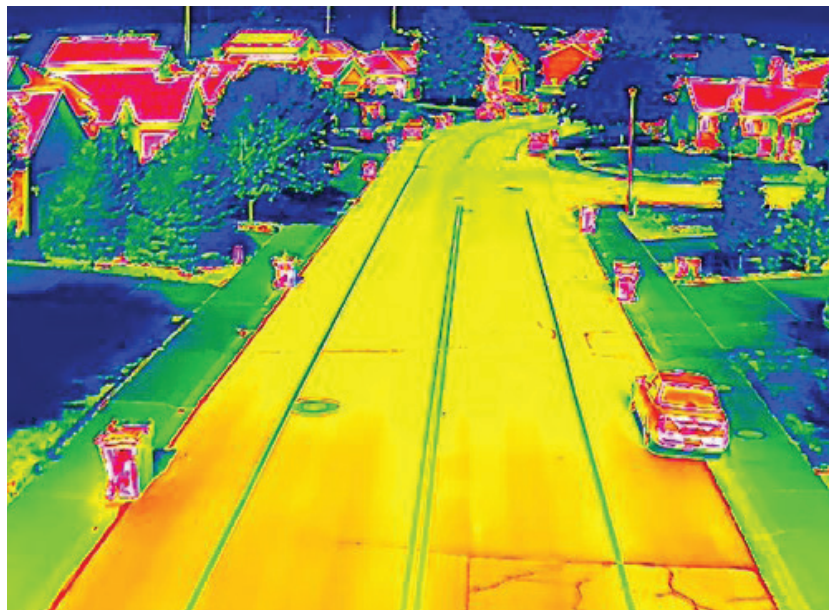


Take our quiz to find out

Cool places, Cool Spaces – Urban Heat Resilience Program

Citizen Science Project

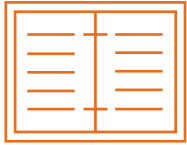
The 'Cool Places, Cool Spaces citizen science project' was developed in collaboration with the Field of Mars Environmental Education Centre aligning to support learning of Year 11 and 12 school's geography curriculums. This collaboration is a great opportunity for secondary students to gain real-world experience in the collection of data and investigation into strategies to mitigate urban heat island effects and increase community resilience. The data collected by students during fieldwork activities will support the City of Ryde to plan urban heat mitigation initiatives and community education around the impacts of heat, particularly for vulnerable members of the community.



Urban Heat Program Survey

Council initiated its first '**Cool Places, Cool Spaces**' Urban Heat Program survey' to understand how prepared our community are to cope with extended hot periods and heatwaves. We **received 145 responses** from community members. **78 percent** of respondents indicated that will stay indoors and limit their activities, closing their homes to keep the heat out and visiting friends or family who have cooler homes or just using a fan.





Library Extended Hours

West Ryde and Eastwood libraries trialled extended opening hours until 9.00pm on days temperatures exceeded 36°C from December 2023 to March 2024. This was to provide a space for community to escape the heat, however data did not show an increase in usage which is reflective of our communities' response to our heat survey with most people choosing not to go out but stay home, indoors during these periods.





2020 – 2024 COUNCIL TERM ACHIEVEMENTS

The City of Ryde adopted its first comprehensive Resilience Plan for local government in New South Wales on 1 September 2020. The Plan sets out a vision, goals and strategic directions for creating local urban resilience in the City and for our community, with actions that will enable our community to adapt, survive and thrive when faced with various shocks and stressors.

Energy Security

The Resilience plan set the stage for long-term actions to enhance energy security. In 2021, the Ryde led an initiative with the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) and Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC) to advocate for higher environmental standards, specifically targeting the inclusion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new developments increasing access for those living in high density apartments and supporting greater roll out of EV charging infrastructure.

In October 2022, Council committed to reducing emissions from energy by joining the 21 council Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement led by SSROC seeing a huge reduction in emissions from this source. In the same year, Council officially adopted the Net Zero Emissions Pathway, developed in consultation with the community, further cementing its commitment to energy sustainability.

Water Security

Efforts to improve water security began in 2021 when the City's advocacy to the State Government called to support higher Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) standards was integrated into broader resilience planning policy. These standards ensure that future buildings are not only thermally comfortable but also water (and energy) efficient.

The City continues to enhance its water security by updating flood and catchment studies across Ryde, ensuring they are in line with current legislation and advanced flood modelling technologies.

We also partnered with Sydney Water in 2023 for a smart sensor trial in several of our sports fields at Meadowbank Park. The trial was to effectively measure moisture and water within the grounds to assist with irrigation efficiency long term. The trial continues.

Resource Efficiency

In July 2021, the City of Ryde joined the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) 'Paving the Way' program, which focused on integrating recycled crushed glass into road construction materials. This initiative replaced natural sand, significantly reducing waste and contributing to sustainable procurement practices.

In line with the NSW Government's Plastics Ban, which came into effect on 1 June 2022, the Council updated its Single-use Plastics Policy. This update complements the ongoing implementation of the 2019-2024 Waste Management Strategy, which emphasizes waste diversion and recycling programs.

Ryde Resilience Plan 2030

Climate Change Extreme Weather Events and Natural Hazards

On 1 September 2020, the Ryde Resilience Plan was adopted to enhance the community's preparedness for extreme weather events and climate change. The City of Ryde continues to refine its approach to these challenges by reviewing flood and catchment studies using the latest modelling software, ensuring the community is better protected against the increasing risks posed by climate change and improve planning policy and controls to protect community and their homes and inform new stormwater projects.

Biodiversity and Natural Systems

In 2020 City of Ryde adopted a Local Biosecurity Weeds Policy and developed a Local Priority Weeds Management Plan that aligns with the priorities of the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Management Plan. Grant funding for the Weed Action Program enabled monitoring of high-risk pathways and significant bushland assets to detect and manage weed growth, thereby supporting local biodiversity and natural systems.

The Natural Areas team continued to deliver on the Ryde Biodiversity Plan increasing community awareness for conservation through signage, increased feral animal controls, corridor planting for biodiversity and increasing our Bushcare program volunteer base.

Transport and Connecting Our Community

In 2022, the City of Ryde adopted its first Sustainable Transport Strategy, covering the period from 2022 to 2032. This strategy is designed to improve connectivity within the community and promote the use of sustainable transport options, contributing to long-term environmental and social resilience. To date this Strategy has already delivered EV charging stations, introduction of EV's to council fleet, car share program expansion and policy.

Health and Wellbeing

To support community health and wellbeing, the Council developed a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP), which was endorsed in May 2022. The plan focuses on improving community connectivity and enhancing both mental and physical wellbeing to ensure the community is better equipped to respond to major shocks and chronic stresses. Council also continued its support for initiatives such as 'White Ribbon' day to raise awareness about the impacts of domestic violence which continues to rise with the cost of living pressures and post Covid-19.

Emergency Preparedness, Responses, and Recovery

The Ryde Resilience Plan 2030, adopted in September 2020, outlines a comprehensive 10-year strategy to strengthen the community's resilience to emergencies. Ongoing collaborations across various Council departments to ensure that resilience is embedded in policies and daily activities, enhancing the City's capacity for effective emergency response and recovery.

The City Resilience team has been working with the State Emergency Service and the Red Cross, amongst other providers, to inform our community on how they can be prepared for possible emergency and disaster events. As of the 30 June 2024 there are 886 Resilient Ready Residents and 14 Resilient Ready Businesses.

Governance with Direction, Collective Leadership, and Collaboration

Since adopting the Resilience Plan in 2020, the City of Ryde has worked closely with Resilient Sydney, Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Council's, Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG), and other councils to improve policies and environmental standards to protect our community and environment through leading advocacy and participating in programs to support change.

Sustainable Transport



Electric Vehicles

Council supported the Cities Power Partnership and Climate Council's campaign (2023) to the Federal Government to improve fuel efficiency standards for preventing Australia from becoming the 'dumping ground' for high cost, inefficient fuel-based vehicles and to increase electric vehicle supply for uptake by Australians that want to lower emissions and costs.



Electric Vehicle – Charging Stations

2023/24 was a very busy year for acceleration of electric vehicles in Australia. As more manufacturers entered the Australian market, community increasingly switched to the zero-emission transport mode.

Council continued to work with the State Government to provide advice and communication to improve their grants scheme to reduce the risk to Councils from having to own and manage street chargers and advocate for residents in multi-unit dwellings to receive greater support if they wanted charging installed.

For our Council owned Electric Vehicle chargers, we saw an increase in use as the numbers of EV's in the City rose. With the community using more than **29296 kWh** powered by renewable energy to charge their vehicles in three of our town centres with **2,809 electric vehicle sessions completed**.



Sustainable Transport



Car Share

With concerns over traffic congestion, parking and air pollution remaining a priority for our community, this year we increased community car share provider options and added **13 new car share spaces to the existing 26 council-operated carshare** spaces avoiding more than 2,000-ton Co₂ emissions annually and reducing on street parking demand through sharing.

The increase in carshare spaces has seen over 5,000 members accessing **83 car share spaces** across Ryde.



Shop Ryder

51,439 passenger trips were taken across the city using Council's Shop Ryder bus service. In FY24/25 Council will undertake a review of the service to assess capacity, user data and synergies with existing bus routes to cater for the grow in density being experienced in Ryde and impacts on the service.



Bicycle Workshops

In the past year, the Traffic Services team have strived to encourage bicycle usage throughout the City of Ryde. Over the year, they have held **six workshops**, with over **80 participants**. Five of those workshops were to teach children how to ride and refine their skills and the last was an Adult Essentials Skills and basic bike maintenance workshop.

Revitalising the Putney Park Foreshore

Council has been working hard to deliver the upcoming Putney Beach Swim Site opening in early 2025. In 2023/24 Council worked with landowners, Transport for NSW and the NSW State Government to negotiate the site establishment and finalise development approvals.

Contracts for both the netting and enclosure poles for the swim site were awarded for installation before the summer season begins. Construction of the swimming site will form one project at the site with the second project, the seawall renewal project to commence in 2025. The two projects will revitalise the Park foreshore, providing protection along the water's edge and offering cool, safe swimming for the community as our city grows. Water quality monitoring continues at the site and is available on Council's website – www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/WaterQualityMonitoring



The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG)

In celebrating 10 years of the PRCG's MASTERPLAN 'Duba, Budu, Barra'

The PRCG hosted a boat cruise on the Parramatta River with member councils inviting all Chief Executive Officer's, General Manager's, Councillors and NSW State Government delegates to visit proposed and built swim sites (including Putney).



First Nations Peoples of the Parramatta River and surrounding region

This publication was produced by the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) providing background research on the First Nations historical and continuing cultural significance of the Parramatta River catchment for the Designing With Country project. It is also intended as a standalone educational resource for local councils, libraries, schools, and the wider community encouraging all Australians, regardless of cultural background, to respect and care for this ancient land. It aims to foster a greater understanding of First Nations peoples' deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country, and the lasting impact of colonisation.



Water Quality Monitoring Program

In conjunction with the Streamwatch program, Sydney Water conducts water quality monitoring twice a year in five of the major catchments in the local government area, totalling 14 testing sites. In addition to the parameters that Streamwatch tests, macroinvertebrates, heavy metals and faecal coliform are also being tested. The Rapid Riparian Assessment is conducted every Spring, which generates a score to reflect the riparian health. All Sydney Water water quality monitoring reports can be found on our website.

We also continued our monitoring of Putney Beach for safe swimming. Findings from this monitoring can be viewed on Council's website via the Parramatta River Catchment Group's swim site dashboard.

Water

Education

Storms and Stormwater drain education was promoted as a part of the 'RiverAware' campaign with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG). At the Council's Sustainability Festival water quality testing demonstrations were held as a part of the bush adventures workshops, stormwater modelling was demonstrated as a part of the PRCG displays and Sydney Water promoted water conservation.



Streamwatch

The Streamwatch program has been implemented as part of the Bushcare program. 12 Streamwatch sites are tested on a monthly basis during Bushcare days. As part of the 26 March 2024 water quality monitoring blitz, 24 sites across nine catchments were tested, which included 12 Streamwatch sites, 14 Sydney Water sites with the addition of Mars Creek and Glades Creek.



Addressing Pollution in our Waterways

Get the Site Right

A total of **50 building sites** were inspected with **32 warnings and six penalty notices** issued as a part of a targeted campaign run in conjunction with the PRCG and Environmental Protection Authority to protect our waterways from erosion and sediment run off from building sites across the City of Ryde. Healthy waterways encourages biodiversity and supports our goal of making the Parramatta River swimmable by 2025.



'See it, Report it, Stop it'

As a part of our annual 'See it, Report it, stop it' education campaign on reporting water quality contamination events 9,615 flyers were distributed to residences in the Terrys creek and Shrimptons creek catchment areas.

Gross Pollutant Trap network

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring our waterways remain healthy, an investigation was undertaken into the management of organic matter in our drains, gross pollutant traps and street gutters, with Council resolving to increase servicing of the problematic hot spot areas, supported by regular street sweeping and stormwater pit servicing.



Potable water consumption was
DOWN 11.5 PERCENT
compared with the 2018/19 base year.

Community Programs



Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (SWAP)

City of Ryde's Sustainable Waste to Art Prize (SWAP) is an environmental art competition aimed at raising community awareness of waste, resource recovery, sustainability and other environmental issues.

Workshops were held to encourage participants to enter the SWAP competition. These workshops inspired creativity and imagination whilst using reclaimed and recycled materials.

The exhibition showcasing 79 artworks was held at See Street Gallery, Meadowbank and online as a digital tour.



625
physical
exhibition
attendees and

488
viewings of
the digital
exhibition

167
entries

79
artworks
selected and
exhibited

22
workshops
and

176
workshop
attendees



Clean up Australia Day

49 local groups from businesses, schools and the community participated in Clean Up Australia Day events this year. During February and March, City of Ryde provided help with additional equipment and collected 1,120 kg of rubbish cleaned up by volunteers from locations including Kissing Point Park, Macquarie Park and Buffalo Creek.

49 community groups
made up of

26
community groups

1,120kg
of litter

13
business groups

10
Schools

Community Programs

Schools

Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN)

The REEN network provides schools and their teachers with learning opportunities, tools, resources, ideas and support to embed sustainability across the school curriculum. This year, environmental education incursions were offered to schools on topics including saving water, sustainable energy, edible gardens and backyard biodiversity. 549 students benefited from attending these workshops run in collaboration with Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, Australian Environmental Educators and Edible Kids Gardens.



Schools Waste Education Program

Waste Education Workshops

Council runs schools waste education workshops in collaboration with Keep Australia Beautiful. In 2023/24 we had **942 students** from kindergarten to year 12 engaged in waste education workshops with topics including Composting/Worm Farming, Lunches Unwrapped, Sustainable Gardening and School Waste Audits.

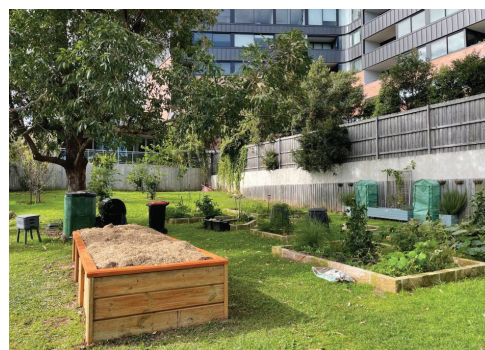


Edible Gardens in Schools

Council provides the Edible Gardens in Schools project to empower and educate Ryde schools to reduce their organic waste to landfill through composting, worm farming and sustainable gardening.

In 2023/24, edible gardens were constructed in **three schools** and **76 school champions** took part in a series of workshops including Composting/Worm farming, Habitat Building and Sustainable Gardening.

Council delivers this project in collaboration with Urban Veg, Urban Grow, Keep Australia Beautiful NSW and The Habitat Community Native Plant Nursery.



Get Grubby – Online Sustainability Curriculum

Get Grubby is available to everyone in our LGA wanting to learn about waste, recycling and sustainability. Council has sponsored access to the Get Grubby program for anyone living or working in the City of Ryde with a valid residential or business address. This includes schools and childcare providers.

The program includes sustainability units and resources such as videos, songs, games and activity ideas. Topics include recycling, composting, worm farming, saving water, growing food and getting grubby. The units are matched to the National Quality Standards and the Belong, Being and Becoming Early Years Learning Framework.



485 content links views	125 unit downloads	767 pages viewed online	15 preschool and early learning centres subscribed
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Environmental Education



Celebrating World Environment Day at our Sustainability Festival



Our Sustainability Festival is one of the most popular community events on our calendar each year. This year the event had to be relocated at the last minute due to wet weather but experienced overwhelming support and was attended by approximately **1,500 people**.

Attendees visited a range of interactive workshops, stalls and activities promoting best waste management practices, compost and worm farming, sustainable living and transport, biodiversity, water conservation and carbon emissions reduction knowledge.

- Participants at the event reported an **86 percent overall** satisfaction with the free day for families and those wanting to improve their sustainability knowledge.
- **93 percent** felt moved and inspired into action.
- **76 percent** said they will become more involved in the local community and environment after attending the festival.



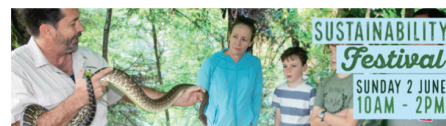
Smarter, Cleaner, Greener Newsletter

The Smarter, Cleaner, Greener e-newsletter is your one stop shop to learn about councils' sustainability, resilience, waste, and environmental news. It contains useful information including green living tips, weeds management, workshops, and council run events.

To sign up visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/SCGNews



3,513
subscriptions



SMARTER, CLEANER, GREENER | MAY 2024

Welcome!

Environmental Education



Community Workshops

The Circular Economy team provided **19 interactive face-to-face workshops with 498 attendees** to educate and inspire our community to reduce their waste and live more sustainably. Topics included composting, worm farming, cooking with leftovers, small space gardening, sewing and mending and waste to art.



Apartment Living

Over half of the residents in the City of Ryde live in apartment buildings. Apartments offer unique challenges in managing waste. We are continuing to work to improve resource recovery and waste collection outcomes in apartment buildings and increase engagement with building managers and strata members.

64 onsite meetings with building managers and strata members, including training and induction on best practice waste management. A collaborative partnership has continued to be fostered with Link-Wentworth social housing, in particular promoting bulk waste collections across their 22 apartment complexes.

64 onsite meetings with building managers and strata members



Educational Resources for Residents

The City of Ryde continues to provide a wide range of educational resources to our diverse and growing community. This year **75 requests were made for educational resources**.

Council **distributed 107 signs** to help residents in managing their waste and clean ups and avoiding illegal dumping. The signage was predominantly hand delivered by Council officers enabling further educational opportunities with onsite staff and residents.

480 bin stickers were provided to the community including recycling infographics, 'no plastic bags in recycling bins' and 'no advertising material'.

120 household recycling guides were sent to local real estate agents to provide to new residents.

Targeted letter box drops to illegal dumping hotspots with **1,000 additional household recycling guides provided**.

Waste and Recycling

Service Improvements

Online Forms

Council offers a competitive commercial waste service which uniquely includes garden organics recycling and co-mingled recycling. The commercial waste services have been streamlined to improve response times and make it easier for potential clients to request information. This enables Council to capture all the required information to prepare an informed quote while also encouraging customers to consider how they might improve onsite resource recovery.

Text Messages

Council improved customer satisfaction by digitising waste services with text message (SMS responses) for common requests such as damaged bins and missed services. This system enhances efficiency, improves communication, and will expand to more request categories soon.



Problem Waste Stations

Council provides **nine problem waste stations** to help residents to easily dispose of problem wastes for free. **2,728kg** of household problem wastes were collected through the drop-off stations and taken to the Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre (CRC) in Artarmon to be recycled.

Problem waste items collected	Kilograms/diversion from landfill
Batteries	1,911
Mobile phones and accessories	166
Ink cartridges	325
Light globes and bulbs	326



Trial of Doorstep Collection and Recycling Service for Household Problem Waste

City of Ryde engaged RecycleSmart for a 12-month trial of collecting and recycling hard to recycle items. RecycleSmart collect selected items from residents' doorsteps that can be recycled through specialised recycling processes. Since the start of the trial in December 2023, **8,635kg** and **5,222 bags of items** have been collected for reuse and recycling.

Items	Volume by percent
Soft plastics	70
Clothes	15
E-waste	5
Miscellaneous	10

5,222 bags of items
8,635 kilograms

Waste and Recycling



Clothing Bins

110,000kg

of unwanted clothing diverted from landfill via the clothing bins collection



Medical Waste Service

1,417kg

medical waste collected from

14

participating pharmacies



Community Recycling Centre

4,651

Ryde residents visited CRC Artarmon

75,384

estimated kilograms (combined materials) by Ryde residents



TV and Computer Collection Service

City of Ryde residents can take advantage of the on call electronic waste collection. This convenient service will collect from the household nature strip and transport it to the Community Recycling Centre. Over the last calendar year there have been

873

bookings

2,278

total items

45,428

kilograms of recycled electronic waste out of landfill



Second Hand Garage Sales

98

bookings



The Bower Collection and Rehoming Service

15

collections

953kg

diverted from landfill

Items	Total	
	No. items	Kilograms
Monitors	350	8750
Hard drives	24	562
Keyboards	73	36.5
Televisions	837	32355
Stereos	33	670
Other	961	3054



Chipping and Mulching Service

736 bookings



Composting and Worm Farming

Number of items sold

38 compost bins

19 worm farms



Household Chemical CleanOut

City of Ryde held its annual Household Chemical CleanOut drop-off day in March at Meadowbank Park carpark. Residents safely disposed of hazardous waste including chemicals, paint, oil and batteries, which cannot be recycled through kerbside bins or clean-up collection services.

784 people attended

25.54 tonnes total household hazardous items dropped-off



Household Recycling



7,443 tonnes of recycling from



56,359 households

Household Garden Organics



9,545 tonnes of garden organics from



56,359 households

Waste and Recycling

Over the past four years significant effort has been made to promote behavioural changes to reduce litter and waste, enhance recycling, and promote sustainability through various community initiatives.

Between 2020 and 2021, an anti-litter art competition was held for local children, with over 200 entries received and 12 winners selected. The winning designs inspired an anti-litter mural installed at Anderson Park.

In 2021, Council introduced a reusable health products program, offering free trials to residents, and updated its Reduce Single-use Plastics Policy in line with the NSW Government's Plastics Ban, which came into effect on 1 June 2022.

The Covid-19 pandemic posed challenges to City of Ryde's waste and recycling education efforts, as face-to-face workshops were no longer possible. In response, the City adapted by introducing the Waste Wise Ryde program in 2020, which helped participants reduce their waste by over 50 percent, with many becoming community leaders in waste reduction. A Household Waste and Recycling guide was also developed that year, based on community feedback, and is now available in three languages on the City's waste resources webpage.

In 2020, the Council launched a Waste and Recycling app to provide residents with collection day reminders, event details, and tools for reporting issues. Additionally, a series of educational videos titled Recycle Right and Reduce Waste was produced, reaching a wide

audience and encouraging proper recycling habits. City of Ryde signed up to the Get Grubby program, an online sustainability curriculum for everyone in our City wanting to learn about waste, recycling and sustainability. As part of our commitment to sustainability education, Council sponsored access to the program for residents and businesses in the LGA.

In response to feedback, the Council revamped its schools waste education program by creating the Edible Gardens project. This initiative, established in four local schools, promotes composting and worm farming. The project received positive feedback, with many students adopting sustainable practices at home.

Additionally, problem waste stations were set up across the local government area to allow easy disposal of items like batteries, mobile phones, and light globes. Over 20 tonnes of waste have been recycled through these stations, and one station at a local hardware store has since been replaced by a business-run recycling facility, showing the benefits of a Circular Economy.

In 2023, the Council received funding from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for a litter reduction project, leading to the installation of three solar compaction bins at Meadowbank Park and Kissing Point Park, resulting in a 27 percent reduction in litter in the area.

These programs reflect the City of Ryde's ongoing commitment to waste reduction and sustainability.



Natural Areas



National Tree Day 2023 – ELS Hall Park

National Tree Day was on Sunday 13 August. Even though it was postponed we still had a good turn out and was very successful overall. Over **80 enthusiastic volunteers** came together to plant over **800 native plants** at ELS Hall Park to contribute to this important wildlife corridor. A BBQ was provided by the 1st East Ryde Scout group and we had a few new volunteers sign up to our Bushcare program.



Protection of Bushland – Delineation at Symons Reserve and Marsfield Park

Bollards were installed at Symons Reserve to protect the critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest by restricting vehicular access into the park. At Marsfield Park bollards were installed and discussions took place with Riding for the Disabled Association to better protect the critically endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest from horses.



Bush Regeneration Program

Bush regeneration contractors contribute to the management of our bushland areas, which includes 50 bushland sites. Continued weed removal and regeneration of native species in parks and in different threatened ecological communities. As part of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, priority weeds such as *Alternanthera philoxeroides* and *Ludwigia peruviana* are being targeted as part of their bush regeneration contracts. New incursions of priority weeds have been found and mitigated throughout the year.

Natural Areas



Community Partnership Activities

Six Bushcare community partnership activities were held throughout the year with Tzu Chi, Fuji Film, Rotary Club of Ryde and POSCO International Corporation. Community members and students from St Ignatius College volunteered at the National Tree Day activities held at ELS Hall Park along Shrimptons Creek. These community partnership activities help to enhance our local biodiversity by either undertaking weed removal or planting of native species, with over 150 hours of combined volunteering hours.



Bushcare Hours

Volunteers have dedicated their free time every week to help restore Natural Areas. This year they have contributed to a total of 3,405 Bushcare hours restoring our parks and bushland areas by weed removal and planting of native species. Volunteers enjoy their time out in the bushland, learning about plants, seeing different animals and seeing a positive improvement in the park over time.



Spring Garden Competition – Best Bushcare Site Winners

Our Bushcare volunteers have dedicated their time to help manage our bushland areas by removing weeds and promoting native regeneration. These Bushcare sites follow best bush regeneration practices with goals to work towards. In this years' Spring Garden Competition, Kittys Creek Bushcare group at Lane Cove National Park won first place, followed by Martin Reserve Bushcare group in second and Pellisier Road Bushcare group in third.





Priority Weeds – Granny Smith Festival

At the 2023 Granny Smith Festival, a priority weeds stall was hosted by our Bushcare volunteers and Bushcare Supervisors. With over 20 specimens on display and weed booklets to take, community members learnt a lot about priority weeds. Many whom did not realise a lot of the plants they have at home were considered priority weeds at the City of Ryde. Advice on how to treat the weeds was explained on the day.



Feral Animal Control

14 feral animal control sessions were held throughout the year at Field of Mars Reserve, Kittys Creek, and Brush Farm Park. This is a continuation of the yearly feral animal control program that is conducted in our bushlands to minimise foxes and rabbits in our parks.

Natural Areas



School Holiday Guided Walk and Kids Planting – Brush Farm Park

Natural Areas collaborated with the Active in Ryde program with a guided bush walk and planting of native plants for kids at Brush Farm Park. The history of the area, native plants and animals found within the critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest community was explained as part of the walk. A total of 64 children and family members participated and over 50 native plants were planted.

Field of Mars Reserve Nature Trails Grant

The Field of Mars Reserve Nature Trails design has been completed and feedback identified through the stakeholder notification process has been incorporated into the final decision. Council has assessed the consultant's report and the review of environmental factors.

Planning Certificate Information

A new State Vegetation Type Map produced by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in 2022. The new map is an updated version to the older vegetation map by the Office of Environment and Heritage in 2013, which reflects each vegetation community within the Ryde LGA.

The Habitat Community Nursery and Garden

1,367

visitors

98

volunteers

3,824

volunteer
hours

10,744

plants
produced

6,358

plants
distributed



Greening our City

Working towards Council's 40 percent canopy coverage 2030 target, over 1,200 trees planted throughout Meadowbank, West Ryde, Eastwood and Denistone. Trees planted were a mix of native and exotic species suited to urbanised planting. We anticipate a greater success rate for establishment and growth of trees. Due to the additional community consultation that was conducted as part of this planting program.

Over
1,200 trees
planted



Spring Garden Competition

The winners of City of Ryde's 2023 Spring Garden Competition were announced during a gala ceremony at Eden Gardens, Macquarie Park. From courtyard balconies to large backyard sanctuaries, lush commercial oases and school gardens representing the many people and cultures that so beautifully reflect the City of Ryde.

As part of the Spring Garden Festival, **402 Junior Gardeners** participated in the children's seed growing competition, growing over **800 sunflower gardens** in schools, and on balconies throughout the City of Ryde.

402

junior gardeners

800

sunflower gardens



Parks

Active in Ryde

Supporting our community to become more active and to get everyone up and moving at fun, low-cost activities.



Active Seniors

Supporting our community to become more active and to get everyone up and moving at fun, low-cost activities.

- **Active seniors** Our Active in Ryde program includes intergenerational and age group specific activities like line dancing, park yoga and aqua aerobics, and hip hop. Active in Ryde is increasingly popular across all age groups, with seniors programs growing from six programs a week to 14, with 320 weekly participants.

724 seniors participated in Active Seniors Programs across 2023/24.



Active in Ryde School Holidays Programs

Active Kids and Active Youth, with activities including parkour, baseball, bike skills and theatre sports.

- **Active Youth** 92 percent increase in Participation in Youth Team Challenges
- **Active Kids** Active Kids experienced a **223 percent** increase within the first six months of Active Kids program with spaces per term increasing from 204 participants to 665.

Overall 1,425 kids and youth participated in active school holiday programs across the City of Ryde's Parks and Open spaces.

Family Friendly Events

Parks and Open Spaces also provided many family friendly events to encourage all members of the family to use our many parks and open spaces.



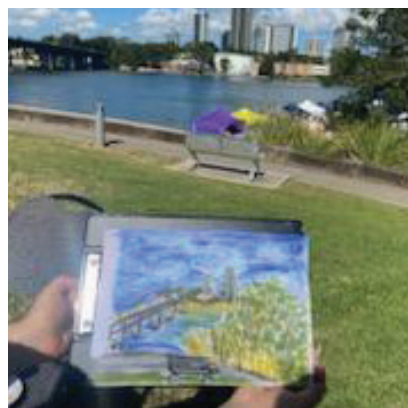
Guided Walks Program

Which hosted eight walks and had over 120 participants in both guided walks, and tree plantings.



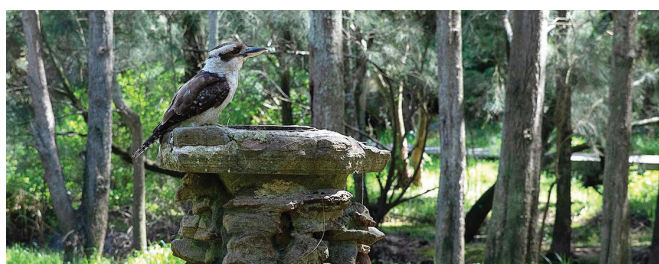
Kite Flying at Anderson Park

Which had over 100 participants collect a free kite at the park for International Kite Flying Day.



Art in the Park Program

Which invites local artists to join participants in the park for an art session. This has included, Watercolour Art, Neon Art, and Cartooning Native Animals. We have had over 200 residents join in our various Art In The Park Programs across 2023/24.



Strategic Direction

Our **Parks Building Strategy**, was finalised and will be gradually implemented, providing a framework for decision-making on park community buildings. It includes reviews, facility inventories, stakeholder engagement, and considerations of population growth to optimise building use and development.

Two stages of consultation were completed this year for the **Brush Farm Park Master Plan**. The plan will guide embellishment of the park over 20 years, considering community feedback, prioritising projects, and ensuring facilities meet community and user group needs.

A proposed Master Plan will be presented to Council for adoption in the first half of 2025.

The **Field of Mars Plan of Management**, adopted by council in late 2023, provides a framework for management of the City of Ryde's largest bushland reserve. It supports public recreation, conservation, and education of native flora and fauna, with significant environmental and biodiversity value.

The **Putney Park Plan of Management** was updated to meet the *Crown Lands Management Act 2016* and Ministerial approval has been sought to place the document on Public Exhibition. The 2024 draft, reflecting legislative and policy changes, proposes no major revisions. The park remains zoned for recreation and environmental conservation, serving as vital community space.

Community consultation was conducted to update the Integrated Open Space Plan, ensuring it will meet future community needs.





Be Waste Smart

 City of Ryde

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/SCGAchievements