
**MM8/24 PRECIS OF SERVICE TO CITY OF RYDE BY SARKIS
YEDELIAN OAM AS COUNCILLOR, DEPUTY MAYOR AND
MAYOR - Mayor, Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM****File Number: MYR/07/10/20 - BP24/168**

Tonight's Extraordinary meeting is my final City of Ryde Council meeting as Mayor.

Further, as I will not be contesting the September 2024 Council election, my time as a City of Ryde Councillor is coming to an end after twenty years.

I was honoured to be elected Mayor by my peers on 13 December 2022 when Councillor Jordan Lane MP stepped down as Mayor following his election to State Parliament as the Member for Ryde. It was a further honour for me to be re-elected as Mayor in September 2023.

As I prepare to leave civic life, I would like to briefly list some of the career milestones of my twenty years on Council.

I was first elected to Council in 2004 as an Independent Councillor.

In May 2010, I joined the Liberal Party team and having been re-elected at each local government election since 2004, now hold the title of longest serving Councillor at City of Ryde.

From September 2007 to August 2009 and from September 2021 to September 2022 I was Deputy Mayor and enjoyed contributing to the decisions shaping the local area.

I have been a member of numerous committees and advisory groups and have also been instrumental in gaining major initiatives such as the Top Ryder bus service and the development of the Top Ryde Shopping Centre.

During my time on Council I have chaired the following committees:

- Ryde Planning and Environment Committee
- Ryde Community Harmony Reference Group
- Ryde Economic and Development Advisory Committee

One of my first initiatives as a Councillor was to move that Council provide free entry to the RALC for Ryde pensioners. This scheme is still operational and has provided many years of passive relaxation and exercise to the senior members of the local community. I believe this has been a very worthwhile initiative.

To support Council in its efforts to develop a sustainable transport strategy, I moved that Council commence the operation of the Top Ryde Bus Service.

This service is still operating and provides a means for people who do not live on regular bus routes to travel to shopping hubs and medical appointments etc.

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The decision to approve the redevelopment of Top Ryde Shopping Centre has also had major benefits for the local community.

I am proud of my role in negotiating the redevelopment of a run down shopping centre to create not only a vibrant shopping and business hub, but to allow the provision of two pedestrian footbridges linking the shopping centre to the old Civic Centre site, pedestrian lifts and a tunnel system under the ground which will allow for future roadworks and development, all at no cost to Council. In all, approx. \$45m in infrastructure was provided at no cost to Council.

I am proud of my Armenian heritage and was the first elected Councillor in Australia of Armenian heritage.

In 2009 I was honoured to be awarded the OAM for service to Local government and multicultural communities.

I have always endeavoured to give back to my local community and in addition to my roles as a Councillor, have been active in the local SES since 2005.

I have enjoyed my time representing the residents of the City of Ryde and believe Ryde to be a wonderful area in which to raise a family and to live a happy and contented life.

Ryde is fortunate to have numerous open and green spaces, a national park of its border and first class facilities in terms of work opportunities and health care. It is truly a fortunate area.

I want to thank my fellow Councillors and the staff at City of Ryde for the support I have received during my term as both a councillor and Mayor and will continue to take a keen interest in the local area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the service of Mayor Sarkis Yedelian OAM as both a Councillor and Mayor be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM
Mayor