

Friday 18 October 2019

CITY OF RYDE MAYOR ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW TREASURER

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, has been elected as Treasurer of Local Government NSW, the peak industry association that represents the interests of NSW councils.

Delegates from member councils voted for the position of Treasurer and the other board members during the Local Government NSW annual conference this week.

Cllr Laxale said it was an honour and privilege to be elected to the position of Treasurer.

“Local Government NSW has proven to be a very powerful voice in advocating on behalf of Local Government NSW members and I look forward to continuing that work in a leadership role,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Recently, Local Government NSW has achieved positive results lobbying all tiers of government on a range of crucial issues within our community. This includes increasing funding for our local libraries, ensuring council amalgamations are not re-introduced and calling for greater investment in waste and recycling services by the NSW Government.

“For the City of Ryde I think it is extremely beneficial that the community now has a presence on the Local Government NSW Board as the interests of both bodies align very closely. I look forward to working with President Cllr Linda Scott on achieving real outcomes for all member councils.”

The election of Cllr Laxale as Local Government NSW Treasurer came as a motion put forward by the City of Ryde calling on the NSW Government to declare a climate emergency was carried by member councils during the annual conference.

“The City of Ryde was one of the first in Australia to declare a climate emergency and it is extremely encouraging that the majority of delegates supported our motion and showed leadership in tackling climate change. It is clear the NSW Government urgently needs to lead a bi-partisan, clear, effective and unambiguous state wide approach to avert a climate crisis in NSW,” Cllr Laxale added.

The City of Ryde put forward three additional motions, all of which were carried. They were:

- Including a 10 day domestic violence leave provision in relevant Local Government Awards as soon as possible.
- Seeking an amendment to the *Companion Animals Act 1998* so that it is not an offence under the legislation if a dog rushes at or harasses a person or animal while behind a physical barrier.
- Seeking an amendment to the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000* that would enable councils to issue fines in amounts equivalent to NSW Health for smoking in a smoke-free area.