

Wednesday 11 June 2014

COUNCIL TO APPLY FOR CCTV FUNDING

City of Ryde will apply for special funding under the Federal Government's Safer Streets Program to install CCTV and upgrade lighting in selected locations in Eastwood town centre, to improve community safety.

Contrary to recent comments on this issue, this was the first opportunity Council had to consider an application for this special funding, following a Mayoral Minute to Council's meeting on 22 April 2014. At that meeting Council resolved that staff investigate the costs of CCTV, including installation and maintenance costs.

The decision to apply for the \$200,000 invitation-only grant was unanimously endorsed by Councillors last night.

City of Ryde's Mayor, Councillor Roy Maggio, said: "A recent incident in Eastwood raised a number of community concerns and with the funding offer from the Federal Government, I recommended to Council that staff bring back a report on this matter.

"In response, Council staff undertook a safety audit in consultation with the local Police to fully assess the situation.

"The investigation showed that while official statistics for all types of crimes in the area are low, it appears that some retailers were reluctant to report break-ins and instore thefts to the Police.

"However, the well-being of community members is paramount and we have acted to ensure that the community feels safe and that all necessary safeguards are put in place," the Mayor said.

"We will continue to work closely with the Police, Chambers of Commerce, community leaders and retailers to promote better security awareness."

Work has already been undertaken to improve sightlines both in and out of Rowe Street carpark by pruning vegetation. Further works will be undertaken along the Glen Street Reserve path.