

Wednesday 24 June 2015

NO BUTTS ABOUT IT - EASTWOOD PLAZA TO BE SMOKE FREE ZONE

Ryde Council will trial a 'No Smoking' ban in Eastwood Plaza as part of its ongoing campaign to address the adverse effects of smoking.

Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said Eastwood Plaza was a vibrant town centre with a well-established café culture.

"Ryde Council is committed to addressing both the health and environmental issues associated with smoking and this decision further endorses our philosophy of creating cleaner, healthier and happier spaces for people to visit, eat and shop.

"Smoking within four metres of any public building is already banned as well as a no-smoking zone around outdoor dining. Making the entire Plaza a smoke-free zone creates a consistent, positive health message in this busy community hub."

City of Ryde was an early adopter of the Smoke Free campaign when it endorsed its Smoke Free Outdoor Dining Policy in 2010. More recently, No Smoking banners were erected at local sporting fields to promote the smoking ban for both covered and uncovered spectator areas while they are being used for organised sporting events.

The Eastwood Plaza trial has the support of the community through responds to a Council survey on the subject. Eighty-five percent of respondents supported a 'No Smoking Zone' either during designated hours or at all times in Eastwood Plaza. Seventy-five percent supported the Plaza being Smoke Free 'at all times'.

The six month trial will be promoted through signage and a community awareness campaign. During the trial, Rangers will request smokers to move out of the plaza if they wish to continue to smoke. Fines could apply if these requests are not followed.

The focus of the campaign will be on education and encouragement to butt-out. Council is looking to support the local community and help make Eastwood an even more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The trial coincides with new NSW Outdoor Dining Smoke Free Zone Laws which come into effect from July 1. Other Councils who have adopted similar smoking bans include Lane Cove, City of Sydney, Manly, Willoughby and Wollongong.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Monday 29 June 2015, 4.00pm, Kiosk Eastwood Plaza.

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