

Monday 28 May 2018

## **SINGLE-USE PLASTICS TO BE PHASED OUT BY THE CITY OF RYDE**

In a bid to protect the health of local waterways, the City of Ryde has committed to a complete ban of single-use plastic drinking straws as well as a phase out of other single-use plastics.

Councillors unanimously resolved to ban the use of single-use plastic drinking straws and phase out balloons, plastic bottles, plastic cups and plastic bags in all Council operations and Council-sponsored events.

Single-use plastics have become one of the biggest environmental challenges facing Australia, polluting waterways and threatening the health and safety of native flora and fauna.

Research from CSIRO shows that approximately three-quarters of the rubbish along the Australian coast is plastic. Straws, plastic bags, bottles and balloons are particularly harmful as marine wildlife is commonly found to have swallowed these items.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the phased out ban of single-use plastics underlined Council's commitment to protecting Ryde's natural areas.

"The City of Ryde has worked very hard in encouraging the community to take measures to reduce waste and landfill, so it is only right that Council does everything it can in stamping out its use of single-use plastics," Clr Laxale said.

"Anyone who has undertaken a clean-up around Ryde's waterways would see the damage and debris single-use plastics cause and as a Council we need to do all we can to tackle this.

"In addition to the Council phase out, the City of Ryde will also implement a waste education program to reduce the use of single-use plastics in our community, with a particular focus on local businesses.

"I am delighted that all Councillors supported this motion as it shows that the City of Ryde is committed to improving the environment and protecting the health of our waterways."

A report will be prepared for the Works and Community Committee on the planned implementation of the single-use plastic phase out.