

Delivering an even brighter future for Ryde

Published on 29 June 2018

At its meeting on Tuesday 26 June, Council passed its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan, heralding an exciting new era of projects and activities that will benefit residents, local businesses, workers and community groups over the next 10 years.

These key strategic documents set out a roadmap for the City of Ryde's immediate and longer-term future. They also address the challenges of a growing population and resulting impacts on infrastructure and services, including roads and footpaths, recreational facilities and libraries.

The Community Strategic Plan, *Our Vision for Ryde 2028*, was finalised following extensive consultation with all sectors of the community. It sets out a long-term vision for the City of Ryde focused on seven priority areas - as determined by the community - and addresses ways to ensure the City is more vibrant and liveable, active and healthy, natural and sustainable, smart and innovative, connected and accessible, diverse and inclusive, and open and progressive.

Our Vision for Ryde 2028 sets the bar high for Council by providing a solid foundation for its 2018-2022 Delivery Plan with almost \$200 million in Capital Works to be delivered over the next four years.

Highlights of this include:

- \$156 million to be invested in better connections and access, representing a \$16 million increase over the last four years
- \$2.25 million on new books
- Close to \$1 million upgrading local libraries
- \$6.5 million on passive space
- \$4 million on playgrounds
- \$2.5 million on sportsground amenities
- \$300,000 on Ryde Youth Theatre
- \$200,000 on Ryde Hunters Hill Symphony Orchestra

City of Ryde Mayor Cllr Jerome Laxale said, "I would like to thank our community for providing such valuable and detailed feedback about what they value most about our City and consider top priorities for its future."

There is something for everyone in these plans, and I am proud to be leading a council that is delivering more services, infrastructure and programs in a diverse and growing City. I am looking forward to working with the community to do this effectively", he said.

City of Ryde joins Australia's biggest Council Climate Partnership

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The City of Ryde has joined Australia's largest network of local councils tackling climate action, becoming the newest member of the growing Cities Power Partnership.

The Cities Power Partnership is a network of 70 local governments that represents more than 7.5 million people. Local councils who join the partnership pledge to take five key actions across renewable energy, efficiency and transport.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Cities Power Partnership supports councils to take practical and effective steps to introduce clean energy technology, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and other climate solutions to their respective local communities.

"Across Australia, towns and cities are surging ahead with greenhouse gas reduction plans, switching to cleaner energy, building greener, efficient and more resilient communities. I'm pleased to say that the City of Ryde is playing an important part of this mission," Cllr Laxale said.

"Through the Cities Power Partnership we're joining forces with other local governments to transform the way we use energy in our community.

"Recent Council projects such as the installation of a solar PV system of more than 800 panels on the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, the North Ryde Library installation in 2017 and recently finished, Eastwood Community Hall, shows how renewable energy can be used to power local infrastructure benefiting our local community."

Climate Councillor and international climate scientist Professor Will Steffen said local governments were emerging as the frontline for tackling climate change in Australia.

“We are pleased to welcome the City of Ryde to the Cities Power Partnership,” Professor Steffen said.

“Councils have an opportunity to play a crucial role to in reducing Australia’s rising greenhouse gas pollution levels. Transforming the way cities and towns use energy could make up to 70% of the greenhouse gas emission reductions needed to limit worsening climate change.”

The 5 actions below have been chosen for Ryde to undertake for 2018/19:

1. Provide council resources to educate and support uptake of renewable energy.
2. Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on Council buildings
3. Roll out energy efficient lighting, particularly street lighting, across the municipality.
4. Encourage sustainable transport use through Council transport planning and design
5. Implement an education and behaviour change program to influence behaviour of Council Officers, local residents and businesses within the municipality to drive the shift to renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy transport.

City of Ryde wins eighth consecutive Gold Annual Report Award

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The City of Ryde has won an eighth consecutive Gold Award for its Annual Report at the 2018 Australasian Reporting Awards.

The awards are the leading benchmark in government and corporate reporting, with judging determined by each entrant's ability to achieve overall excellence in annual reporting, provide full disclosure of key aspects of its core business, address legislative and regulatory requirements and be a model for other peer reports.

A report that achieves a Gold Award is of such a high standard as to be a model for other organisations to follow. This latest Gold Award has been for the City of Ryde's 2016/17 Annual Report.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the eighth straight Gold Award underlined the strong governance protocols that Council had established and adhered to.

"The Australasian Reporting Awards provide organisations the chance to benchmark their reports against world best practice criteria in reporting. This means that by achieving a Gold Award, the City of Ryde's Annual Report satisfies that criteria to the highest possible standard," Cllr Laxale said.

"To achieve this recognition eight years in a row is an outstanding achievement. I would like to congratulate the executive team at the City of Ryde as well as all staff who were involved in the production of the 2016/17 Annual Report."

The awards are administered by Australasian Reporting Awards Limited, an independent not-for-profit organisation run by volunteer professionals from the business, government and not-for profit sectors, with the support of organisations concerned with the quality of financial and business reporting.

City of Ryde stands with #WithRefugees during Refugee Week

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The City of Ryde has shown its support for refugees across the world with Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, signing a joint statement of solidarity with refugees as part of Refugee Week.

The joint statement has been signed by the Refugee Council of Australia as well as other mayors across Australia who have committed their respective councils to become Refugee Welcome Zones.

The City of Ryde declared itself a Refugee Welcome Zone in 2013 and has since then undertaken a number of programs designed at assisting refugees in the community, including staging regular workshops, support programs and making vital information easily accessible.

Cllr Laxale said he was proud to stand with refugees and promote inclusion in Ryde.

“Ryde is one of Australia’s most culturally diverse communities, with more than 110 different nationalities living in our community, so it is only right that we do everything we can to welcome refugees with open arms,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Welcoming refugees creates opportunities for economic, civic and social growth, while the diversity of experiences and ideas refugees bring spurs creativity and innovation. Given this I am more than happy to sign the Refugee Council of Australia’s joint statement and continue to promote inclusion in the City of Ryde.”

A number of events have already been held this week to mark Refugee Week, with more activities remaining. This includes an evening with Robin de Crespigny who authored the critically acclaimed *The People Smuggler* on Thursday at Ryde Library.

There will also be a talk by Aya Mustafa, a young Iraqi refugee and community leader, Tuesday 26 June also at Ryde Library.

Throughout Refugee Week, the City of Ryde is also encouraging to post their support for refugees on social media with the hash tag #WithRefugees.

[Click here](#) for full details about the City of Ryde Refugee Week events.

[Click here](#) to view the joint statement signed by City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Laxale.

Cork and Fork returns in August Bigger and Better!

Published on 20 June 2018



The Cork and Fork Festival returns to Kissing Point Park in August this year, giving the Ryde community the chance to once again sample some quality food and wine right on the beautiful foreshore of the Parramatta River.

Now in its second year, this year's Cork and Fork Festival promises to be bigger and better with a larger event site to cater for the large crowd expected and a road closure will be in place directly in front of the park to accommodate additional stallholders.

There will also be some new and exciting stallholders including well-known and highly regarded wineries and craft breweries, as well as food trucks specialising in a number of cuisines.

Apart from a wide range of tasty food and wine stalls, the festival will also have entertainment across the day including acoustic soloists and jazz bands, as well as a number of kids' activities.

One of the highlights on the day will be a cooking demonstration from the 2018 edition of *My Kitchen Rules* contestants Josh and Nic, who will also have their Fritto and Co food truck on site.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Cork and Fork Festival had proved to be extremely popular with the community in its first year, and expected this year's event to be even bigger.

“The Cork and Fork Festival allows people to enjoy some quality food and wine while listening to some great music in one of the most picturesque spots in the City of Ryde. The first event held last year was a huge success and in just two years it has already become one of the major events in our community,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Events such as the Cork and Fork Festival create a buzz within the community and surrounding areas, while also giving a boost to the local economy.”

More information about the Cork and Fork Festival will be announced closer to the date of the event.

Shuttle buses will be running between Meadowbank Station and Top Ryde City shopping centre to ease parking congestion and encourage people to leave their car at home.

The Cork and Fork Festival will take place on Sunday, 19 August between 11 am and 4 pm.

New Award to Celebrate Inclusion in the Northern Districts

Published on 11 June 2018

The City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill Council and Lane Cove Council have come together to introduce a new award at the upcoming Northern Districts Local Business Awards that will recognise achievements in embracing inclusion.

The new Inclusion Award will celebrate local businesses that welcome people of all backgrounds and abilities. A business may be inclusive if it provides products or services in a way that accommodates the diverse needs of customers and staff, so that more people can participate.

Inclusive practices can include everything from the attitudes and practices of staff, to how people physically access the business.

The three Councils who introduced the award have made social inclusion a priority for each of their communities to undertake and have introduced a range of plans that promote social inclusion.

Inclusion benefits the whole community; however, it can be particularly beneficial for people with disability or illness, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and seniors or parents with young children.

To be eligible for this award, businesses must operate in the Ryde, Hunters Hill or Lane Cove local government areas. They must also demonstrate a commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for customers and staff and demonstrate how the business is adopting inclusive practices that go above and beyond.

Councils are committed towards championing fundamental values of social inclusion and diversity to develop a community where everyone belongs. These values also benefit organisations by increasing productivity, innovation, competitive advantage and reputation in the community. Businesses are encouraged to undertake a self-assessment of their diversity and inclusiveness by accessing the checklist on the [Northern Districts Local Business Inclusion Awards](#) page.

Nominations for the new Inclusion Award and all other Northern Districts Local Business Awards open on 11 June and close on 3 July. To nominate a business please download an application form on the [Northern Districts Local Business Inclusion Awards](#) page.

Entries Now Open for 2018 Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize

Published on 07 June 2018

Artists of all abilities in the City of Ryde are once again being asked to turn their “trash into treasure” and take part in this year’s Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (SWAP).

Entries for SWAP opened this week, with entrants invited to create artworks and design objects made from used or recycle material that relate to sustainable living or waste themes.

The aim of SWAP is to bring to attention how much waste the community throws away and educate residents about how they can become more environmentally sustainable.

A talented panel of judges will determine the winners of each of the five categories. The panel includes Dean of UNSW Sydney Art and Design Professor Ross Harley, co-founder and CEO of Take 3 Tim Silverwood and Archibald Prize winner Wendy Sharpe.

A total of \$4550 in prizemoney is up for grabs for the overall winners while all short-listed entries in this year’s event will also be showcased at a SWAP public exhibition at See Street Gallery, Meadowbank.

In the lead up to the exhibition, six workshops will be held to help teach budding entrants on how to turn plastic, coffee cups and other materials into imaginative artworks.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said it was great that a unique art event with such an important environmental message could take place in Ryde.

“The City of Ryde is working hard to teach the community how they can reduce the amount of waste they produce and SWAP is a terrific way to show the amazing concepts people can produce with trash,” Cllr Laxale said.

To be eligible for SWAP, entrants must either live, work, study or play in the City of Ryde. Entries close on Friday, 17 August.

For more information visit the [Sustainable Waste to Art Prize](#) page.

Ryde to cheer on Australia at World Cup Live Site

Published on 07 June 2018

Football fans will descend on ELS Hall Park in North Ryde on Saturday, 16 June to watch Australia play France in their first game of the FIFA World Cup.

The live site will broadcast the entire match on a big screen at ELS Hall Park, with plenty of family friendly activities taking place to complement the sporting action taking place in Russia.

The action starts at 6pm with a range of fun activities for the children including Dart Ball, Snooker Feet and face painting, prior to the World Cup match kicking-off at 8pm.

Food trucks will be in attendance, including Brades Burgers, Pizza Event and the Salvation Army Community Coffee Van. Patrons are also encouraged to bring their own drink bottle so that they can take advantage of the filtered water stations that will be on-hand.

In addition, a number of heaters will be on-site at the venue to ensure patrons can stay warm throughout the match.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said he was delighted that the Ryde community had the chance to come together and cheer on Australia in what is now arguably the biggest sporting tournament in the world.

"The growth in popularity of football throughout Ryde is clear for all to see, so it is only fitting that Council can put on this live site and provide people of all ages the chance to watch Australia begin their World Cup campaign," Cllr Laxale said.

"There will be fun activities for the kids, great food for everyone and of course some great football to witness, so I encourage everyone to get down to ELS Hall Park on Saturday, 16 June."

There is a contingency plan in place in the event of rain, with the live site to move into the indoor sporting complex, which is adjacent to the outdoor sporting field at ELS Hall Park.

Hundreds of trees to be destroyed and public areas devoid of sunlight

Published on 06 June 2018



The City of Ryde has raised serious concerns about the NSW Government's plans to build 3500 new dwellings on the corner of Herring and Epping roads at Ivanhoe Estate, warning that the new priority precinct will result in the destruction of endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and more traffic congestion on local roads.

In a 74-page submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment on the proposed redevelopment at Ivanhoe Estate, the City of Ryde also raised concerns about the size of the development, inadequate building separation, insufficient recreation open spaces and inadequate sunlight in key public areas.

The 3500 units set to replace the old Ivanhoe estate represents a 1250% increase on the 259 dwellings to be demolished by the NSW Government.

Member for Ryde, the Hon. Victor Dominello, has trumpeted the redevelopment of Ivanhoe Estate as a way for the Ryde community "to reap the benefits of community growth".

However, the concept proposal released by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment will result in the removal of 858 trees, a number the City of Ryde has

described as “totally unacceptable” and that will have a negative impact on an endangered ecological forest of Sydney Turpentine Ironbarks as well as drastically changing the landscape character of the area.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the proposed development at Ivanhoe Estate was a direct contradiction to recent statements by the NSW Government that Ryde had endured too much development in recent years.

“I stood side by side with the residents of Ivanhoe Estate and urged the NSW Government to reconsider its plans. This 3500 unit monster, supported by Mr Dominello, will decimate Ryde’s natural environment and will cause traffic chaos,” Cllr Laxale said.

“How can Mr Dominello be against over-development a few days ago, but also champion this application lodged by the NSW Government?

“A total of 3500 units, 858 trees destroyed, deficient in open space, over-shadowing, wind tunnels and a traffic disaster. This isn’t a bad dream, this is Ryde’s future if the NSW Government and Mr Dominello get their way.

“Mr Dominello says the right things in Ryde, but does the exact opposite in parliament. He is treating all of us like mugs.”

In its submission, the City of Ryde states that the proposal has a lack of regard to the urban design guide for the Ivanhoe Estate redevelopment provided with the tender, exceeds the allowable floor space ratio and has inadequate building setbacks between the surrounding streets and Shrimptons Creek.

In addition, the sheer size of the development could lead to “wind washing” – air movement that causes significant loss of heat flow – adversely affecting the pedestrian environment and mean a proposed town plaza would receive little direct sunlight in the middle of winter.

The submission also points to concerns about increased traffic congestion, with parts of the current development proposal likely to increase traffic in the area and also significantly underestimating traffic volumes during peak school runs in the morning and afternoon.

The NSW Government’s own departments have also raised concerns about the proposed development.

The Environment Protection Authority “notes with concern” the proximity of Shrimptons Creek to the development.

Meanwhile, the Office of Environment and Heritage points out that no details of a habitat assessment have been provided. It also states that the removal of trees may impact the native habitat including the population of Powerful Owls, which have been recorded a number of times in the vicinity of Ivanhoe Estate.

The City of Ryde recently resolved to call on the NSW Government to abolish the contentious priority precincts policy and restore balance into the planning system.

Ryde to Partner with Venture Café to drive innovation in Macquarie Park

Published on 04 June 2018



The Macquarie Park Innovation District has received another boost with the City of Ryde becoming an innovation partner of the globally-recognised Venture Café.

Venture Café is a fast growing, global network of independent organisations that promotes innovation and collaboration through weekly programs and events. It currently operates in various locations around the globe including Boston, Rotterdam and Tokyo.

The network's first foray into Australia will be located and operated by Macquarie University.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Venture Café would help grow Macquarie Park's reputation as the leading innovation hub in Australia.

"Jobs are so important to our city. Becoming an innovation partner with Venture Café will strengthen Macquarie Park and its ability to provide employment for our community," Cllr Laxale said.

"Venture Café will provide a network for some of the sharpest and brightest minds to come together and enhance innovation in the City of Ryde."

Macquarie University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Engagement and Advancement) David Wilkinson said City of Ryde's partnership with Venture Café would lead to wide-scale activation of collaboration, innovation and incubation across Macquarie Park.

“There is a strong alignment between Council’s vision to make the City of Ryde a smart, innovative and progressive city and the mission of Venture Café which is to connect innovators to ‘make things happen’,” Professor Wilkinson said.

“Venture Café will help attract start-ups to the local area, thus generate greater economic activity and diversity.

“It will also enhance the work we have done in establishing the Macquarie University Incubator, which is a dedicated space for students, entrepreneurs and start-ups to focus on developing their respective business ideas.”

The City of Ryde will be an innovation partner of Venture Café for three years with the partnership to be reviewed in 2021/22.