

Council meeting summary - February meeting

Published on 28 February 2020

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 25 February 2020. Here is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

Proposal to heritage list the Macquarie Ice Rink

A Planning Proposal to heritage list the Macquarie Ice Rink will be forwarded to the NSW Planning Minister with a request for Gateway Determination.

On receipt of the Gateway Determination, the Planning Proposal will be placed on public exhibition. The outcomes of the public exhibition will be reported to Council as soon as practicable.

Plaque to commemorate Christopher Cassaniti

A plaque will be installed at Lachlan's Line in North Ryde in memory of Christopher Cassaniti, who tragically lost his life in a workplace accident. Council will consult with the Cassaniti family about the specific location and inscription for the plaque.

Westminster Park Masterplan adopted

The Westminster Park Masterplan 2020 was adopted by Council, which will result in a synthetic sports field installed at the venue. In addition, the amenities building at Westminster Park, in Gladesville, will be upgraded with a new community hall.

Proposal to waive fees during emergencies

Council will notify the public about a proposal to allow fees to be waived in the event that community facilities are required to be used to provide shelter, power, sustenance and/or hygiene services in times of an emergency.

Ryde Youth Theatre

The City of Ryde will explore a partnership with an established not-for-profit arts organisation to help deliver wider participation, opportunity and larger audiences for the Ryde Youth Theatre.

Taxi rank proposed for Bay Drive, Meadowbank

The installation of a taxi rank and/or a five-minute parking zone on Bay Drive in Meadowbank will be investigated by Council.

MOU between Council and local business chambers

The City of Ryde will commence discussions with local business chambers within the local government area with the view to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties.

John F Booth AM congratulated

The Weekly Times Managing Editor John F Booth AM was congratulated for his 88th birthday. Council also recognised his contribution to Ryde, including as an Alderman in the 1960s, a Ryde Citizen of the Year and as The Weekly Times Managing Editor.

Meeting to be arranged with Macquarie Gardens' residents

A meeting will be arranged between Council staff and residents of Macquarie Gardens strata complex in North Ryde to discuss ongoing parking and vehicular access issues.

Korea Town feasibility to be investigated

The feasibility of establishing an official and designated 'Korea Town' in the City of Ryde will be investigated.

Support during power outages

A report will be prepared for Council for the deployment of community support in times of extended residential power outages.

Council to lodge submission against proposed changes to F3 Ferry Service

The City of Ryde will lodge a submission to Transdev opposing the proposed changes to the F3 Parramatta Ferry Service. Under the proposed changes, the service will terminate at Barangaroo and amendments made to the frequency of services.

Comments condemned

The City of Ryde condemned comments made by commentator Bettina Arndt on 21 February 2020 in relation to the murder of Hannah Clarke and her children. Council will write to the Council for the Order of Australia recommending the cancellation of Ms Arndt's Order of Australia.

Member for Bennelong urged to support Climate Change Bill

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, will write to the Member for Bennelong, the Hon. John Alexander AO, urging him to support the Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Act 2020.

Lardelli Pond report

A report will be prepared identifying marine life that would be suitable for the Lardelli Pond in Putney.

Review of defibrillators at sportsgrounds

Sportsground users and members of the Sports Advisory Committee will be consulted as part of a review of defibrillators at sportsgrounds in the City of Ryde.

Clean Up Australia Day participants congratulated

Community groups that were due to take part in the Clean Up Australia Day activities on 1 March 2020 were congratulated by Council. In addition, a plaque will be installed at Kissing Point Park in Putney to acknowledge the years of service of the Fraternity in Truth Association in helping clean-up efforts across the City of Ryde.

Next meeting

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 March 2020.

[Click here for the minutes from the February Ordinary meeting.](#)

Nominate a woman who makes a difference

Published on 25 February 2020

Do you know a woman who is making a difference in the Ryde community?

If the answer is yes, then the City of Ryde wants to hear about her and share her contribution with everyone.

The nominations are part of International Women's Day celebrations and will help increase awareness of what women do in the City of Ryde to help build a better community.

You can either nominate yourself or a woman you believe should be acknowledged. To submit a nomination, you will need to provide a brief explanation of how the nominee has made a contribution to the Ryde community.

All eligible nominees will be recognised for their contributions at the City of Ryde [International Women's Day event](#) at the Ryde Civic Hall on Saturday 7 March.

[Click here](#) to complete the nomination form.

Ryde motion sees local government workers access domestic violence leave

Published on 25 February 2020

More than 45,000 local government workers across NSW will have access to up to 10 days paid domestic leave, after a proposal by the City of Ryde was accepted.

Local Government NSW confirmed that the Local Government Award (State) Award 2017 had been varied to make all fulltime local government employees eligible for paid leave if impacted by family and/or domestic violence.

The move fulfils a motion put forward by the City of Ryde at the Local Government NSW annual conference in October 2019.

The City of Ryde has already implemented 10 days of paid domestic leave for its staff members following a Council resolution in February 2019.

The 10 days paid leave is designed to assist employees dealing with the effects of domestic or family violence such as moving house, attending court, looking after children or seeking medical care.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said introducing 10 days of paid domestic violence leave recognised the immense toll domestic violence can have on its victims.

“Domestic violence is a scourge on society and while this move will not end it, it will provide the support victims need during these difficult circumstances,” Cllr Laxale said.

“I am proud that the City of Ryde is leading the way in taking a stand against domestic violence, and I would like to thank Local Government NSW for their support and the United Services Union for their tireless advocacy on the issue.

New facilities officially opened at Morrison Bay Park

Published on 24 February 2020



The new basketball court at Morrison Bay Park

Upgraded facilities at Morrison Bay Park in Putney have been officially opened with a special three-on-three community basketball event held on the weekend.

WNBL star player Brittany Smart was on hand for the official opening along with members of the Sydney Thunder cricket team and Inner West Bulls basketball team.

The extensive upgrades include a number of new and improved outdoor recreation facilities, such as:

- A new two-thirds basketball court
- Additional cricket nets
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- New pedestrian footpaths
- New pedestrian lighting
- New access ramps to and from the existing footbridge

The upgrades were undertaken by the City of Ryde, with funding assistance from the State Government's Stronger Communities Fund.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the new and improved facilities were part of the City of Ryde's commitment to provide more outdoor recreational opportunities for the entire community.

“The upgrades mean Morrison Bay Park now has first-class outdoor equipment and sporting infrastructure that is supported by a 1.3 kilometre fitness trail. In addition, the new pedestrian lighting along the existing foreshore and eastern footpaths will encourage more people to use the park during the evening,” Cllr Laxale said.

“I would like to thank everyone in the community who participated in the consultation process that helped shape this project, as well as the State Government for providing funding to Council to help complete the upgrade.”

West Ryde Plaza now a permanent Smoke Free Zone

Published on 18 February 2020



West Ryde Plaza

Smoking will be prohibited at West Plaza on a permanent basis, following the completion of a successful trial.

The City of Ryde undertook the six-month trial between 1 July 2019 and 1 January 2020.

During this period, Council received 15 individual responses to the trial, with 14 indicating support for West Ryde Plaza being designated a Smoke Free Zone.

Based on the positive response, the Smoke Free Zone at West Ryde will now be implemented permanently.

The City of Ryde will now consider expanding the Smoke Free Zones to other town centres and locations.

A section of Rowe Street East in Eastwood will be the next location to trial a Smoke Free Zone. This is anticipated to commence in March 2020.

Lachlan's Line bridge installation

Published on 17 February 2020

Landcom, the NSW Government's land and property developer, has advised that there will be further road closures in North Ryde as it completes the final stages of the Lachlan's Line pedestrian and cycle bridge installation.

There are two more sections of the bridge to install, which will require the temporary closure of lanes on Delhi Road and/or the M2 Motorway off-ramp and on-ramps to provide room for the crane and bridge segments to be lifted.

The closures will occur between 21 February and 24 February and 28 February and 2 March.

The full details of the road closures are as follows:

From 8pm Friday 21 February to 5am Monday 24 February

- Closure of M2 Motorway westbound on-ramp at Delhi Road and one Delhi Road eastbound lane. Motorists are advised to use the Herring Road on-ramp to access the M2 Motorway.

From 8pm Saturday 22 February to 1pm Sunday 23 February

- Closure of Delhi Road in both directions between Julius Avenue West and Epping Road. Motorists are advised to detour via the Pacific Highway and either Ryde Road or Epping Road.
- Closure of M2 Motorway eastbound off-ramp right-turn lanes (from 7pm). Motorists are advised to use Lane Cove Road exit ramp to access Epping Road.

From 8pm Friday 28 February to 5am Monday 2 March

- Closure of M2 Motorway westbound on-ramp at Delhi Road. Motorists are advised to use the Herring Road on-ramp to access the M2 Motorway.

The Lachlan's Line pedestrian and cycle bridge is expected to open in March/April 2020.

For more information visit the [Lachlan's Line page](#) on the Landcom website.

Council submits planning proposal to protect Macquarie Ice Rink

Published on 10 February 2020

The City of Ryde has prepared an urgent planning proposal to heritage list the Macquarie Ice Rink in an attempt to protect the iconic venue's future once again.

The move by Council comes after the NSW Government confirmed it had no intention to heritage list the ice rink, despite placing an interim heritage order on the venue just over a year ago, prior to the 2019 State Election.

The interim heritage order was placed on the Macquarie Ice Rink by the NSW Government after a development application to redevelop the Macquarie Centre and demolish the ice rink drew widespread condemnation.

Despite the interim heritage order, the State Heritage Register Committee concluded that the Macquarie Ice Rink was unlikely to be of state significance and recommended the NSW Government not proceed with listing the venue on the State Heritage Register. This is contrary to an independent report commissioned by Council that found Macquarie Ice Rink should be listed as a heritage item.

City of Ryde, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the decision by the NSW Government not to heritage list the Macquarie Ice Rink places its future at serious risk.

"The State Government promised to protect the Macquarie Ice Rink, but they have failed to follow through," Cllr Laxale said.

"This is despite Ryde MP Victor Dominello being quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald on 2 February 2019 as saying:

'The heritage order says we now recognise this (the Macquarie Ice Rink) as a place of significance - cultural or recreational significance - and if you want to modify it, you'll have to go to the NSW Heritage Council.'

"What makes this even worse is that Victor Dominello's political grandstanding meant that Council could not proceed with its own interim heritage order to protect the rink.

"The government's decision not to protect the rink now leaves the venue open to demolition despite their promises."

Cllr Laxale said the City of Ryde will proceed with its resolution from January 2019 to seek local heritage protection for the Macquarie Ice Rink under the Ryde Local Environmental Plan.

"The Macquarie Ice Rink is an icon of our City, and the community has told us over and over again that they want it saved. Council will now do everything in its power to achieve this."

The City of Ryde's urgent planning proposal to heritage list the Macquarie Ice Rink under the Ryde Local Environmental Plan is on the agenda of the Ryde Local Planning Panel meeting scheduled for Thursday, 13 February.

Advice about severe weather affecting our City

Published on 09 February 2020



Image: NSW SES - Ryde Unit

The severe weather is resulting in major flooding, fallen powerlines and other issues across our City.

Community advice

Our community is advised of the following:

- Call 000 for life-threatening emergencies.
- For emergency help in floods and storms, please call [NSW SES](#) on 132 500. NSW SES is advising people not to drive through floodwaters and to maintain a distance of 8 metres from any fallen powerlines.
- In case of power failure, fallen powerlines or electrical problems, please contact [Ausgrid](#).
- For the latest information on traffic incidents and flooding on roads, visit the [Live Traffic NSW website](#).
- For any Council-related queries, including stormwater issues, please call our Customer Service Centre on 9952 8222 between 8.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday (10.00am and 5.00pm on the second Thursday of each month). Outside of these hours, calls will divert to our After Hours service. For non-urgent reports, you can [report online](#).
- Visit our [Sportsground Status page](#) to get the latest information on sportsground closures.

- Due to a large volume of requests for Council assistance with fallen trees and branches, customers may experience delays in service. We apologise for any inconvenience.
- Book our [free chipping and mulching service](#) to put fallen branches to good use in your garden.
- Visit the [Transport for NSW website](#) for updates on public transport.
- View our [Storm Safe page](#) for more tips and advice.
- Visit our [Resilient Ryde page](#) for more resources and tips to help make your household and neighbourhood more resilient to unforeseen events.

Support for our community affected by power cuts

If your phone is in need of charging, we loan portable charging power banks to our Library members for in-library use. There are also power points throughout our [libraries](#) that people are free to use.

We also offer use of our showers and change room facilities to our [Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre](#) customers for a spectator fee of \$3.30 per person. Children under 5 years and eligible City of Ryde Pension Card holders are entitled to free access.

RMS advice about roadworks under Ryde Bridge

Published on 07 February 2020

Scheduled roadwork is being conducted by DM Roads on behalf of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) on Loop Road under Ryde Bridge, resulting in lane closures.

RMS has advised that the works are expected to be completed by 30 April 2020.

Customers are advised to check signage in the area and allow extra travel time.

For further queries and the latest information on diversions, please visit Transport for NSW's [Live Traffic NSW website](#) or contact DM Roads on 1800 332 660.

Council proposes hardship fund to support Eastwood

Published on 04 February 2020

The City of Ryde is seeking to establish a \$500,000 Small Business Hardship Fund to support businesses located in Eastwood town centre.

The fund is in response to the downturn in trade many businesses in Eastwood have experienced since concerns were first raised in January about the alleged risks posed by the novel coronavirus.

Under the proposed Council resolution, Eastwood businesses with annual turnover of less than \$2 million will be able to apply for grants of up to \$2,000 via the fund to help them cope with a reduction in customers.

The fund would also be used to create a 'Return to Eastwood' promotional campaign designed to encourage people to shop and eat in Eastwood.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said some businesses had reported between 50 to 80 percent drop in turnover since concerns about the novel coronavirus first emerged.

"The hardship fund that we are proposing will provide appropriate support to businesses as we work our way through this unprecedented level of community concern. It will also fund a new campaign promoting the wonderful attractions Eastwood has to offer," Clr Laxale said.

"I urge everyone to return to Eastwood, our community needs you."

The City of Ryde will also contact the NSW Health Minister, requesting regular and well broadcasted public health advice specific to Eastwood and Ryde.

"Unfortunately, Eastwood has been a target of misinformation about the novel coronavirus. This reiterates the need for accurate information about the risk posed by the novel coronavirus to be disseminated by NSW Health on a regular basis," Clr Laxale added.

City of Ryde Deputy Mayor, Clr Simon Zhou, said some small business owners have been forced to close their doors temporarily.

"If the current situation in Eastwood does not improve, the long term vibrancy of the town centre may never recover. The budget proposed for the hardship fund will ensure an effective promotion campaign can be undertaken that will encourage people to return to Eastwood and help local businesses get through this challenging period," Clr Zhou said.

Meanwhile in a separate resolution, Council is proposing to waive the cancellation fees for swim schools and swimming carnivals between January and March, while

also waive the notice period for cancellations at Council venues during the same time period.

Both resolutions will now be placed on public exhibition, as is required by the Local Government Act.

A report will then be brought back to an extraordinary meeting on 10 March 2020, where a determination on both resolutions will be made.