

# Council meeting summary - March meeting

Published on 31 March 2020

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 24 March 2020. Here is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

## Eastwood Small Business Hardship Fund

Council endorsed the \$500,000 Eastwood Small Business Hardship Fund to support the Eastwood business community that has been financially impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The fund will provide support grants of up to \$2,000 for eligible businesses in Eastwood that have experienced economic hardship since the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Australia in January.

It will also comprise a public relations campaign to support the local Eastwood economy. The public relations campaign will commence after the lifting of physical distancing measures in the City of Ryde.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Cancellation fees to be waived

Council waived cancellation fees for swim schools and school carnivals that were due to be held between January and March this year at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre as a way of supporting the community through the COVID-19 outbreak.

In addition, a proposal to waive cancellation fees for swim schools and school carnivals due to be held between April and June this year, as well as sporting field, park and other Council venue hire, will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

Council will also arrange a fast-tracking process for financial hardship applications in regards to the payments of rates.

## City of Ryde Local Housing Strategy

The draft City of Ryde Local Housing Strategy will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days. The strategy proposes key directions for the future housing supply in the City of Ryde.

The public exhibition will take place after the COVID-19 pandemic has been officially downgraded.

A primary aim of the strategy is to mitigate the impacts of the commencement of the Medium Density Housing Code by removing multi-dwelling housing from the R2 Low Density Residential Zone. A planning proposal to implement this direction was

endorsed by Council and has been submitted to the Department of Planning for Gateway Determination.

## **Draft ELS Hall Park Plan of Management**

The draft ELS Hall Park Plan of Management will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days. The plan will provide a roadmap to ensure ELS Hall Park meets current and future sporting, recreational and leisure needs for the Ryde community for the next 20 years, while protecting the natural environment.

## **Vale Dr Catherine Hamlin**

Council observed one minute's silence in honour of the passing of Dr Catherine Hamlin who passed away on 18 March 2020.

Dr Hamlin was raised in Ryde before becoming an obstetrician and gynaecologist. Dr Hamlin and her husband Reginald Hamlin co-founded the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia, which is the world's only medical centre dedicated to providing obstetric fistula repair surgery to poor women suffering from childbirth injuries.

## **Council to take steps to apply for NAIDOC Week grants**

The City of Ryde will take steps to formally apply for funding under the NSW Government's NAIDOC Week grants program. The program offers funding of up to \$3,000 to support events that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements.

## **Website live chat**

Council will investigate the possibility of establishing a live chat mechanism to offer online assistance to visitors of the City of Ryde website.

## **Origin Energy called on to stop fracking in the NT**

The City of Ryde will write to Origin Energy requesting that it cease all plan to conduct fracking in the Northern Territory and elsewhere due to its impact on climate, communities, water and the environment.

In resolving to write to Origin Energy, Council noted that it had a power purchase agreement with the energy provider.

# **Curbing and guttering project for Putney street to be included in works program**

A curbing and guttering project for McGowan Street in Putney will be included in Council's 2020/2021 works program.

## **Next meeting**

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 April 2020.

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

# Playgrounds, outdoor gyms and skate park closed

Published on 30 March 2020

All City of Ryde playgrounds, outdoor gyms and the Meadowbank Skate Park will close today until further notice.

The closures follow a direction from the Federal Government to ensure the health and safety of the community and limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The closures will take effect from Midday today (Monday 30 March). Signs will be placed at playgrounds, outdoor gyms and the skate park notifying the public of their closure.

Park visitors are also reminded that a new rule has also been announced restricting the number of people permitted to gather indoors and outdoors to two. This does not apply to people who live together.

[Click here](#) for more updates and information relating to COVID-19.

# Local government elections postponed

Published on 27 March 2020

The NSW Government has announced that the local government elections due to be held on 12 September this year will be postponed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The decision to postpone the elections was necessary to ensure the health and safety of voters, NSW Electoral Commission staff and candidates.

The NSW Government now intends to hold the elections in September 2021.

City of Ryde councillors will continue to hold their civic offices until the rescheduled local government elections are held.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, will also continue to hold office until September 2021 once the new election is gazetted.

[Click here](#) for more information.

# Australian Red Cross Lifeblood urgently needs blood donors

Published on 27 March 2020

Australian Red Cross Lifeblood is in critical need of blood donations as donor numbers have reduced due to concerns about spreading the coronavirus (COVID-19). They urgently require 14,000 healthy donors in the upcoming weeks to prevent a shortage of blood supplies.

Lifeblood's centres are taking all the [necessary steps](#) to ensure that their venues continue to be safe places to visit. In addition to adhering to their strict sanitation protocols, they have also implemented social distancing practices.

If you are healthy and have not travelled overseas in the last 28 days, help our community by donating blood. [Book an appointment](#).

# Council to further assist ratepayers and businesses during COVID-19 crisis

Published on 26 March 2020

The City of Ryde has announced a range of cash stimulus and financial assistance measures to assist members of the community cope with the significant challenges posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

A \$500,000 Eastwood Small Business Hardship Fund Program will provide support grants of up to \$2,000 for eligible businesses in Eastwood that have experienced economic hardship since the first case of COVID-19 was identified in Australia in January.

Applications for the fund will open next week after the proposal was placed on public exhibition and endorsed by Council. More than 160 submissions were received during public consultation and the majority of respondents provided supportive sentiments.

In response to the requirement for cafes, bars and restaurants to close their dining-in services, Council resolved to take steps to waive fees for outdoor dining over the next six months and also consider all applications for rent deferrals from café and restaurant owners operating from a Council premises.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the City of Ryde would be the first local government agency to implement a cash stimulus in the local economy as a result of COVID-19.

“Given the magnitude of this crisis, we have made the decision to act quickly and decisively to provide appropriate support to the local economy. This is likely to be the biggest economic challenge they will ever face, and it is clear that our community want Council to support them where possible,” Clr Laxale said.

“Council staff will get the ball rolling on the Hardship Fund so that we can get these funds directly to local businesses as soon as possible.”

To assist ratepayers, Council will fast-track a process for financial hardship applications to be received in regard to the payments of rates. Council will also review its other fees and charges.

In addition, Council will also waive cancellation fees for swim schools and swimming carnivals that were due to be held at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre between January and March this year.

Clr Laxale said Council will continually try and identify ways to support everyone in the community throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

"These are tough times for everyone, but I can assure you that Council will do everything in its power to provide support throughout the duration of this health and economic crisis."

[Click here](#) for more information on COVID-19.

# Customer Service Centre and libraries closed

Published on 25 March 2020

The City of Ryde Customer Service Centre and all five branches of the Ryde Library Service will close today until further notice to ensure the health and safety of the community.

The closures follow a direction from the Federal Government for a number of businesses, services and activities to cease operations to try and limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

While the Customer Service Centre at 1A Pope Street, Ryde, will close to the public at 5pm today, the City of Ryde call centre remains open.

Members of the public can contact Council by calling 9952 8222 during business hours. They can also email [cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au) or report issues [online](#).

Members of the public can also drop documentation intended for Council in the Ryde Library return chute, near the Pope Street entrance or mail them to City of Ryde, Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670.

Customers are also encouraged to visit the City of Ryde [website](#) where information and a variety of services are available online.

All five branches of the Ryde Library Service will close at 4pm today.

Library members are encouraged to use the [online library](#) resource and access the extensive eBooks and eAudiobooks available, as well as a number of other services.

Non-members can also use the online library to apply for a free temporary online membership to start accessing the online collections.

Effective from today (25 March) current loan periods on items have been extended to six weeks with the option to renew.

Library enquiries can also be submitted throughout the closure period by emailing [rydelibrary@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rydelibrary@ryde.nsw.gov.au).

The after-hours book return chutes will be open at Ryde, Eastwood and West Ryde branches.

[Click here](#) for more updates and information relating to COVID-19.

# Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre closed until further notice

Published on 23 March 2020

The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre will close until further notice to ensure the health and safety of the community and to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The closure follows a direction from the Federal Government for all indoor sporting venues to close.

All Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre memberships and multi-visit passes will be put on hold and extended for the period that the venue is closed.

Those currently booked into session 1 of Swim School will have the weeks of the session that are missed credited to their account.

The City of Ryde will provide updates as more information is made available from the Federal and State authorities.

[Click here](#) for more updates and information relating to COVID-19.

# Public health advice regarding event at Ryde Civic Hall

Published on 20 March 2020

NSW Health have issued a public health warning for anyone who attended the Sydney Church of Christ service held at Ryde Civic Hall, 1 Devlin Street on Sunday 8 March 2020.

Nine people who attended the service have been diagnosed with coronavirus (COVID-19) (Updated 22 March 2020).

NSW Health is asking the approximately 300 people who attended the event to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19 symptoms include fever, coughing, sore throat, fatigue and shortness of breath.

NSW Health have advised anyone who attended the event and feels unwell to seek medical attention as soon as possible. The National Coronavirus Health Information Line can be reached on 1800 020 080.

At no stage did NSW Health contact the City of Ryde to directly inform Council about the confirmed COVID-19 cases prior to today's media announcement.

The Sydney Church of Christ service was held prior to the Federal Government restricting the number of people at non-essential indoor events to 100 or fewer. The City of Ryde can also confirm that no other events were held at the Ryde Civic Hall on 8 March 2020.

Council staff have now spoken to NSW Health who have advised that there was an extremely low risk of infection for any subsequent event held at the Ryde Civic Hall after 8 March 2020.

Council is now contacting all the hirers who used the venue after 8 March 2020 to inform them about the situation.

The Ryde Civic Hall is closed until further notice.

The Ryde Civic Hall undergoes regular cleaning after each hire of the venue including disinfecting doors and handrails and will undergo a further deep clean, which will include stringent infection control procedures.

[Click here](#) for more information on COVID-19.

# Measures introduced to ensure operations continue during COVID-19

Published on 18 March 2020

The City of Ryde has endorsed new measures that will allow it to continue operating in the event that Council cannot meet due to the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

At an extraordinary meeting last night, Council resolved to delegate to the Mayor and General Manager limited authority to exercise Council's decision-making functions if the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on the operations of Council.

The delegation of authority has been implemented under section 377 the Local Government Act 1993.

Under the resolution, the temporary delegation of authority will only be put into effect if Council is unable to meet because of a lack of quorum due to councillors being affected by COVID-19, or if Council is unable to conduct meetings due to restrictions imposed by relevant authorities.

Council also endorsed replacements for the General Manager if he is required to take leave during the COVID-19 pandemic.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the measures were taken to ensure the continuity of Council leadership and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Last night's resolution of Council is a necessary step to ensure our community can continue to be served during the crisis," Clr Laxale said.

"I do not want any red tape or unnecessary restrictions hampering Council's ability to use its resources to protect and support our community during this extremely challenging period."

The temporary delegation of authority is a key component of the City of Ryde's Business Continuity Plan, which was invoked on Friday 6 March to ensure the continued operation of Council during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A new [COVID-19 section](#) has been established on the City of Ryde website which includes the latest Council updates, frequently asked questions, event status updates, as well as information and advice about COVID-19.

# Become a Justice of the Peace

Published on 16 March 2020

The Ryde City Branch of the NSW Justices Association is seeking to increase the membership of Justices of the Peace. Justices of the Peace (JPs) are volunteers appointed by the Governor of New South Wales.

## Guidelines to becoming a Justice of the Peace in NSW

JPs are volunteers appointed by the governor of NSW. The primary role of a JP is to witness a person making a statutory declaration or affidavit, and to certify copies of original documents. JPs come from all sections of the community and are available across NSW. Find out more on the [Communities & Justice website](#).

## Becoming a JP

You will need to:

1. Confirm your eligibility and register at [JP Online](#).
2. Complete the JP knowledge test at [JP Online](#).
3. Complete the JP appointment application on [JP Online](#). This includes requesting a NSW member of parliament (MP) to consider nominating you.
4. If successful you will be appointed for 5-year terms.

The cost of application for an appointment is \$132.

# Major City of Ryde events on hold

Published on 13 March 2020

The City of Ryde will cancel several upcoming major events following Government advice that events with 500 or more expected attendees should not take place. This is a precautionary measure for community safety.

Following a meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in Sydney on Friday, and advice of Chief Medical Officer, Brendan Murphy, Prime Minister Scott Morrison advised against any non-essential organised gatherings of 500 or more people from Monday 16 March 2020.

Major Council events to be cancelled in the coming weeks include Harmony Day, scheduled for 21 March, and the West Ryde Easter Parade and Fair, due to take place on 4 April. The 9 April Citizenship Ceremony will also be cancelled.

The decision to hold smaller events will be assessed on a case-by-case basis following the completion of risk assessments. Registered attendees will be notified if there are any changes to upcoming events.

In addition, any major events that can be postponed will take place at a future date as part of the City of Ryde's diverse programming. The community can go to our [Event Status page](#) for updates.

Council will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as soon as they become available.

# Council takes action in response to COVID-19

Published on 12 March 2020

The City of Ryde is taking steps to support its community and ensure that essential Council services can continue to be delivered during any coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

There have been a number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the City of Ryde since the outbreak was declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organization on 30 January 2020. This includes confirmed cases at Epping Boys High School in Eastwood, Ryde Hospital and Dorothy Henderson Lodge Aged Care Facility in Macquarie Park.

Council has established frameworks for a range of scenarios to ensure it can continue to operate with minimum disruptions and deliver effective services and support to the City of Ryde community.

These include:

- Lifting curfews for delivery trucks for two weeks in the wake of shortages of critical supplies at local supermarkets. This will ensure enough supplies can be delivered to restock supermarket shelves
- Improving hygiene protocols at all Council events, including citizenship ceremonies, pending further advice from Federal and State governments.
- Implementing social distancing measures at Council venues in line with government advice
- Cancelling or postponing events, including all events and programs held at our libraries. For more information visit our Event Status Update page at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/eventstatus](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/eventstatus). Some events will now be delivered online
- Ryde Library Service is offering extra renewals for most items. To renew please visit our [Renewing Items page](#) or contact library staff.
- Placing advertisements in multiple languages in local newspapers and Chinese and Korean media outlets
- Providing information and regular updates about COVID-19 to the community via Council's website and social media channels
- Casual staff members who are required to self-isolate will have their casual shifts honoured for up to two weeks

Council will continue to monitor the situation closely and be guided by state and federal government advice.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, expressed his sympathies on behalf of Council to all of those impacted by COVID-19.

“We understand the needs of our workers and we will continue to remove road blocks to isolation. I would encourage other levels of Government, and local businesses to consider a similar approach,” Clr Laxale said.

“This is an extremely challenging time for everyone, but it is crucial that we come together as a community and help one another. As a Council we will do all we can to ensure minimal disruptions to our services and to provide support wherever we can to those who require it.

“I would advise everyone to take precautions if you are healthy, self-isolate and seek medical advice if you think you have come into contact with COVID-19, but to continue on as normal wherever you can. Together, we will get through this.”

# New cyclist and pedestrian path to link North Ryde and Gladesville

Published on 05 March 2020

The City of Ryde has commenced construction on a new cyclist and pedestrian path that will provide an uninterrupted connection between North Ryde and Gladesville.

Once completed, the five kilometre cyclist and pedestrian path will run along Pittwater Road, and stretch between Victoria Road and Epping Road.

The funding for the \$10 million project will be partly funded by the City of Ryde and dependent on continued grant funding from Transport for NSW.

It follows the completion of a separate cyclist and pedestrian path on Epping Road, between Herring Road and Balaclava Road in Macquarie Park.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the project was part of Council's commitment to expand the bicycle network across the City.

"This project is one of the biggest transport projects undertaken by the City of Ryde and will add to our ever-expanding cycle network," Clr Laxale said.

"By making it easier for people to walk and cycle, Council is not only providing more opportunities for residents to live a fit and active lifestyle, but we are also reducing congestion on our roads."

The initial works involve the construction of a one kilometre section on Pittwater Road, between Rene Street and High Street in East Ryde. This section will provide safer cyclist and pedestrian access to the Field of Mars Reserve.

Works will also shortly commence on the section of the new cyclists and pedestrian path between Bronhill Avenue and Epping Road.

Meanwhile, Council will complete the detailed design for sections from Victoria Road to High Street and Rene Street to Bronhill Avenue this financial year.

The planning and development of the new cyclist and pedestrian path has been done in consultation with the non-profit community-based Bike North User Group, environmental organisations and local residents.

During construction, traffic control measures will be in place along Pittwater Road to allow works to be undertaken safely. These control measures will be implemented outside of peak hours to minimise disruption to traffic.

Construction of the cyclist and pedestrian path is expected to be completed in the next three years.

[Click here](#) to see the major cycle routes in the City of Ryde.