

Council meeting summary - April meeting

Published on 30 April 2020

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 28 April 2020. Here is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

Financial Hardship Policy to provide additional relief

Approved Jobseeker and Jobkeeper applicants will be eligible for a \$400 council rate rebate as part of the City of Ryde's new Financial Hardship Policy.

In addition, eligible pensioners will receive an extra \$150 voluntary pensioner subsidy to supplement the \$250 statutory pensioner subsidy they already receive. The policy also allows Council to not charge interest or commence debt recovery on overdue rates for those who qualify for financial hardship.

The City of Ryde endorsed the new policy as part of continued efforts to support the community impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

[Click here for more information.](#)

City of Ryde adopts 100% renewable energy target by 2030

The City of Ryde has taken another major step in the fight against climate change with Council adopting a 100 percent renewable energy target by 2030.

A report requested by Council found that meeting a 100 percent renewable energy target was very achievable. The target would see Council source all of its electricity usage it is responsible for from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Four Year Delivery Program to be placed on public exhibition

The draft 2020-2024 Four Year Delivery Program was endorsed by Council and will be placed on public exhibition.

The draft program provides a comprehensive overview of the City of Ryde and its direction, detailing key projects and initiatives to be undertaken over the next four years.

Council calls for more support for local government during COVID-19

The City of Ryde called on the Federal Government and State Government to deliver financial support and stimulus packages to local government due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Council also commended both governments on their stewardship during the pandemic and thanked the NSW Government for the provision of funding it had already introduced to support the local government sector.

Ryde Resilience Plan endorsed

The Ryde Resilience Plan 2030 was endorsed by Council. The plan aims to build capacity to ensure the Ryde community can adapt and prepare to local and global events, pressures and uncertainties.

The plan will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days, with a report to be brought back to Council for adoption.

COVIDSafe app

The City of Ryde will promote the Federal Government's COVIDSafe app with signage in public spaces and through Council's media platforms.

Local organisations receive community grants

More than \$190,000 was allocated to more than 40 community organisations as part of the round one of the 2020 City of Ryde Community Grants program. The program is aimed at building community capacity and supporting innovation to address community need in line with the Ryde 2028 Community Strategic Plan.

Traffic study of Waterview Street

A traffic study of Waterview Street, Putney, as well as neighbouring streets, will be conducted by Council. Residents will be consulted as part of the study.

Vale Weena Mafi and Para Vasanthan

Council observed one minute's silence in honour of the passing of two City of Ryde staff members, Weena Mafi and Para Vasanthan.

Next meeting

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 26 May 2020.

[Click here for the minutes of the April Ordinary Council meeting.](#)

Council calls for public infrastructure to be fast-tracked

Published on 29 April 2020

The City of Ryde has called on the State Government to include vital public infrastructure projects as part of its decision to fast-track Stage 1 of the Ivanhoe Estate housing development in Macquarie Park.

Stage 1 of the Ivanhoe Estate – a development of 740 new dwellings – is one of 24 projects in NSW that will have its development assessment fast-tracked as part of the State Government’s attempts to boost the economy in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Stage 1 is part of a wider multi-stage plan for Ivanhoe Estate comprising up to 3,400 new dwellings.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said it was unthinkable that the State Government would proceed with such a major housing development without also fast-tracking vital public infrastructure projects that would cater for the additional levels of growth associated with the development in and around Macquarie Park.

These infrastructure projects include the promised Macquarie Park bus interchange on Herring Road, the creation of additional open space as well as upgrades to the key intersections.

“This matter has been before our community for years, and at every turn we have said loud and clear that you cannot have 3000 dwellings without investing in public infrastructure to support it,” Clr Laxale said.

“Covid-19 should not act as a free pass for developers. If the State Government is hell-bent on fast-tracking development, they must also fast-track the infrastructure to match it.”

The Federal Government announced an underground bus interchange in 2017, and intersection upgrades in Macquarie Park in 2018, neither of which have been identified in the first tranche of the fast-track announcement.

Spotlight on our Youth

Published on 23 April 2020



At the City of Ryde's special Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony, we were pleased to award Cosmin Luca the Ryde Young Citizen of the Year. We had a chat with Cosmin to find out about his passions and vision for young people in our City.

What are your main interests and passions?

To be perfectly honest with you, my interests change so frequently, that even I can't keep up with them. Maybe it's because I'm young, but one month I'm interested in video games, and the next I get into live music! It's always changing, and I'm always out there trying new things. I think the one thing that I've always been captivated by is politics, and generally trying to keep track of where the world is going.

Are there any issues or causes you are particularly interested in?

I'm particularly interested in facilitating the development of young people. While the public speaking program is still in development, I've been working on providing public speaking and confidence training to stage 3, 4, and 5 students. Besides that, climate change is probably the single most important issue which we should all care about.

What kind of work do you do in the community?

Last year, I was the Vice Captain at Ryde Secondary College, and it was an honour to work with my fellow prefects to bring mental health and youth poverty awareness to the forefront of discourse at our school. I've also been on the Ryde Youth Council for the past two years, and I'm very proud of the initiatives the team has put out over those years.

Why do you think mentoring is important and how have you been involved in mentoring young people?

I connect strongly with the idea that it takes a village to raise a child. Mentoring doesn't just make sure the next generation of young people are motivated and driven to change the world for the better, but it also gives them the confidence and skills needed to do so.

What has been the reaction to you winning Young Citizen of the Year? Would you recommend other people nominate next year?

My parents, of course, are very proud of me, even though I tell them they shouldn't be! I think everyone should go out into the community and do what they can to make it better, and I think that ultimately, every young person who has done something for their community deserves recognition. That's why I urge anyone reading this to think about the young people in their lives who work for good in Ryde, and I urge them to keep them in mind when nominations come around for Young Citizen of the Year 2021.

To any community volunteers reading this, you rock, and you have my upmost respect.

The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards recognise outstanding accomplishments by individuals in our community who have excelled in their chosen field. Find out more on our [Citizen of the Year Awards](#) page.

Live music from the comfort of your lounge

Published on 23 April 2020



Ryde residents Ryan and Chelsea from the Really Nice band

While we regretfully aren't able to deliver some of our flagship community events right now, our dedicated Events team has been busy behind the scenes coming up with innovative alternatives to support local talent and keep you entertained.

First off the rank has been our *Ryde-In: The Lounge Sessions*. Grab your favourite drink, put on your dancing shoes, and head on over to our Facebook page each Friday to tune in at 7pm for a livestream of local artists from their lounge rooms.

Ryde residents Ryan and Chelsea from the *Really Nice* band blew us away at the first session on 17 April, moving seamlessly between a range of musical styles and instruments as they played their own and others' songs. The audience response was phenomenal, with the community really getting behind this talented (and super friendly) duo.

Speaking about their experience on *The Lounge Sessions*, Chelsea said, "Working with Ryde Council on the lounge sessions was an absolute pleasure. The fact that they are thoughtful of artists and the community's need for arts entertainment in a time of such social isolation is a wonderful testament to their love of Ryde and support of its residents. We're very thankful to have the opportunity to play our music, and have people join in on that in our very own lounge room. I think the silver lining of this is that we're all much more appreciative of intimate moments like this one that was beautifully and carefully put together."

Ryan added, "Ryde Council are leading in the way, creating a sense of community for our local area, and beyond. As artists, there is nothing cooler than being invited to share our music with our city, and the world."

We've got more on the horizon – check out what's coming up!

Find out more at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/theloungesessions

Your City Autumn 2020

Published on 16 April 2020

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Your City Spring 2020

Published on 16 April 2020

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City of Ryde adopts 100% renewable energy target by 2030

Published on 16 April 2020



The City of Ryde has taken another major step in the fight against climate change with Council adopting a 100 percent renewable energy target by 2030.

A report requested by Council found that meeting a 100 percent renewable energy target was very achievable. The target would see Council source all of its electricity usage it is responsible for from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the 100 percent renewable energy target by 2030 was not only achievable, but would also deliver enormous benefits to the community in the long term such as reduced Council utility costs, reduced emissions and increased energy security.



City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, and Cllr Edwin Clifton at the West Ryde Community Hall

“By committing to a 100 percent renewable energy target, the City of Ryde is continuing its efforts in taking real action to tackle climate change. I would call on other authorities at all levels of government that have not committed to such a target to do so as soon as possible,” Cllr Laxale said.

“The common refrain that investing in renewables will result in increased costs for ratepayers is easily debunked. It actually delivers energy savings as energy that was once sourced from the grid at a cost is instead sourced for free from renewables, which will result in savings for our ratepayers over the long term.

“To date, the City of Ryde has shown time and again that investment in a cleaner and greener future provides long term economic and environmental benefits for our community. As an example, since 2018 Council has divested more than a third of its investment portfolio away from fossil fuel-aligned institutions, with no worsening of our financial position.”

The report into the renewable energy target based its findings on a review of the extensive work Council had already undertaken in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

In 2019, the City of Ryde was placed second for the highest number of kilowatts of solar installed across the northern region of Sydney councils and Council is already on track to source more than 60 percent of its energy needs from renewable sources by 2030 based on no further interventions taken.

The report found that by utilising a mix of interventions, including continuing with efficiency upgrades and projects, reducing energy demand and increasing solar energy production, the 100 percent renewable energy target could be achieved by Council by 2030.

Cllr Edwina Clifton, who proposed the report, said the 100 percent renewable energy target proactively supports Council’s declaration of a climate emergency last year.

“The bushfires that ravaged much of Australia last summer show the severe damage that can be caused when zero action is taken. As a Council, we simply cannot continue to wait while other authorities at all levels of government sit idle. That is why committing to this target is such an important step in Council’s efforts to tackle climate change,” Cllr Clifton said.

COVID-19 testing expands for Ryde and Macquarie Park

Published on 07 April 2020

Residents of Ryde and Macquarie Park who are displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are being encouraged by NSW Health to undergo testing.

Ryde and Macquarie Park are among a list of 13 areas in NSW which have had significant community transmission of COVID-19.

The other areas are Broken Hill, Byron Bay, Dee Why, Lake Macquarie, Manly, Manning, Nowra, Port Macquarie, South Nowra, Waverley and Woollahra.

Given the significant community transmission in both Ryde and Macquarie Park, NSW Health has expanded its COVID-19 testing to anyone in these areas who are displaying symptoms.

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

Residents who live in Ryde or Macquarie and are experiencing these symptoms should seek medical attention by calling their GP, Healthdirect on 1800 022 222, or visiting their nearest hospital emergency department.

As of 8pm on 5 April, the City of Ryde had 66 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 11 of which were locally acquired with an unknown source of infection.

Two active COVID-19 cluster investigations are being undertaken by NSW Health in the City of Ryde.

This includes a cluster of cases at Dorothy Henderson Lodge in Macquarie Park where 22 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed and the Sydney Church of Christ event at Ryde Civic Hall on 8 March where 19 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed.

[Click here](#) for more information on COVID-19 or visit the [NSW Health website](#).

Planning Proposal for 112 Talavera Road approved

Published on 06 April 2020

The State Government has approved a planning proposal which will allow for a 63-storey residential building at 112 Talavera Road in Macquarie Park, despite the City of Ryde recommending refusal.

The planning proposal – submitted by Meriton – sought to increase the maximum building height and floor space ratio for 112 Talavera Road. It was approved by the State Government after its moratorium on existing planning proposals in the Ryde local government area was allowed to expire.

At a meeting in December 2018, Council recommended that the State Government refuse the planning proposal for the following reasons:

- The proposal does not meet community expectations identified in the objections received during the exhibition period;
- There is a lack of supporting infrastructure provided by the State Government;
- The increase in height and density is not in the community interest noting the recent growth and development experienced in the wider Local Government Area;
- The proposal is not required for the City of Ryde to meet its housing target set by the Greater Sydney Commission's North District Plan.

Council also refused to enter into a voluntary planning agreement proposed by Meriton in association with the planning proposal at the December 2018 meeting.

The decision by Council to recommend refusal came after the planning proposal and voluntary planning agreement was placed on public exhibition. More than 400 submissions were received during this period of community consultation, of which the vast majority were against the planning proposal.

“This decision shows it's business as usual for this pro-developer Liberal Government. Despite the City of Ryde's recommendation of refusal, the Berejiklian Government have quietly approved this 63 storey monstrosity during the COVID-19 crisis. This is another dark day for planning in NSW. Why consult with local communities and councils if the Government are intent on ignoring us?” City of Ryde Mayor, Jerome Laxale, said.

New planning rules announced in response to COVID-19

Published on 02 April 2020

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has announced a range of new planning rules in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Construction hours extended

Under the new rules, construction sites will be able to operate on weekends and public holidays as a way of supporting the construction industry during the outbreak.

The department said the extension of hours for construction sites allows workers to abide by social distancing rules while keeping construction projects progressing by allowing building work to be spread across more days of the week.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Planning rules relaxed for food trucks and ‘dark kitchens’

Food trucks and ‘dark kitchens’ will now be easier to set up and operate under the new planning rules.

Food trucks will now be able to operate on any land, at any time, providing they have the landowner’s consent.

Dark kitchens will also be able to operate in any existing commercial kitchen, provided they can abide by social distancing rules.

Dark kitchens – also known as virtual kitchens, cloud kitchens or ghost kitchens – cook meals solely for delivery, rather than for eating-in.

These businesses are seen as a viable option to offer additional food delivery options for the increasing number of people working from home, or could be used to produce greater quantities of meals for people in quarantine, or in medical, health or aged care facilities.

[Click here](#) for more information.