

City of Ryde Council meeting summary - September 2020

Published on 30 October 2020

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 22 September 2020 and reconvened the meeting on 20 October 2020. Here is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

Clr Dr Peter Kim elected as Deputy Mayor

Clr Dr Peter Kim was [elected as Deputy Mayor](#) of the City of Ryde for a one-year term.

Clr Dr Kim and Clr Christopher Gordon nominated for the Deputy Mayor role. Both councillors received six votes each, with Clr Dr Kim elected as Deputy Mayor after a draw by lot was undertaken.

City of Ryde shows support for Armenian-Australian community

The City of Ryde [acknowledged](#) its long connection with, representation of and advocacy for the local Armenian-Australian community following the resumption of hostilities in the Republic of Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh.

The City of Ryde also called on the Federal Government to request an immediate ceasefire and end to the hostilities. Council also held a minute's silence in honour of those who have lost their lives in the conflict and resolved to donate \$5,000 to Himnadram.org for the purposes of humanitarian aid.

Focus on electric and hydrogen vehicles

The transition from fuel-based cars to electric vehicles (EVs) and hydrogen cars will be made easier after Council resolved to investigate the feasibility of installing vehicle chargers across the local government area.

Surveys undertaken by the City of Ryde have found that the community finds that the lack of charging infrastructure to be one of the biggest impediments to EV and hydrogen car uptake.

In response, Council will prepare a report identifying funding options and possible locations for public electric and hydrogen vehicle chargers. The report will consider the possibility of installing charging sites in town centres, publicly accessible Council-owned land and Council-owned car parks at sportsgrounds and parks across the City.

Community Garden approval process to be created

A dedicated community garden approval process will be created by Council to make it easier for residents to create new community gardens on public and private land. A draft Verge Gardening policy will also be developed to allow residents to plant on the verge while maintaining pedestrian, vehicle and utility access.

Changes to committee meetings

The Ryde Central Committee has been abolished, with any major matters concerning Ryde Central to be reported to councillors. In another change, the Finance and Governance Committee was given the same level of delegation as the Works and Community Committee.

Annual Rate Receipt System

A summary of the City of Ryde's 2020/21 budgeted income and expenditure will be provided to all ratepayers via the 2020 November Rates Instalment Notice. The summary will also be made publicly available on the City of Ryde website.

Updates to the code of conduct

Updates to the Council's Code of Conduct have been adopted following the release of a new Model Code of Conduct and Procedures by the Office of Local Government. The updates relate to standards of conduct by councillors and council officers as well as changes to the complaints procedure.

Friendship Agreements policy

The City of Ryde will maintain its current [Friendship Agreements policy](#) for the immediate future following a review.

The City of Ryde currently has an active friendship agreement with the City of Jongno-gu in South Korea and a partially active agreement with the Central Darling Shire in Far West NSW. Any future agreements under the policy will be considered by Council on a case-by-case basis.

Community Grants Program to be advertised in cultural newspapers

Council's 2020/21 [Community Grants Program](#) will be advertised in cultural newspapers following an increase in the number of applications submitted from culturally specific groups.

In addition, the Community Grants Program web page on Council's website will be made available in common community languages.

Planning Proposal seeks to amend Ryde LEP

A planning proposal to amend the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP) has been forwarded for Gateway Determination.

The proposed amendments implement actions outlined in the Planning Ryde: Local Planning Statement 2020. They include the provision of new controls for design excellence in town centres, the protection of the threatened ecological Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest community on and adjoining the Ivanhoe Estate.

The planning proposal also seeks to address administrative issues identified in the operation of the LEP.

New fee for Dunbar Park use

A new fee of \$7.40 per hour will be charged to City of Ryde based groups for half-field use of [Dunbar Park](#) in Marsfield for athletic activities. A fee of \$14.80 per hour will be charged to groups based outside the City of Ryde.

The new fee was established after a period of community consultation and following discussions with the Ryde Athletics Club.

Council reaffirms commitment to asylum seekers and refugees

The City of Ryde reaffirmed its commitment to all asylum seekers, including political refugees. Council will write to Prime Minister Scott Morrison and other Federal Members of Parliament encouraging them to put the interests of refugees and asylum seekers at the heart of a renewed immigration policy.

Register of interest to be published on website

Council resolved to publish the councillors' register of interests on the City of Ryde website.

Study to look at feasibility of a new pavilion at Ryde Wharf Reserve

A feasibility study of the construction of a potential pavilion-style venue at Ryde Wharf Reserve in Meadowbank will be undertaken by Council. The study will also look at the possibility of increased parking at Parsonage Street public car park.

The Weekly Times recognised for centenary

A City of Ryde recognition of service plaque and framed certificate will be presented to The Weekly Times to acknowledge 100 years of local reporting.

Next meeting

The next Ordinary Council meeting took place on Tuesday 27 October 2020.

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

Council extends rate rebate, commits to more COVID-19 support

Published on 29 October 2020

The City of Ryde will extend the one-off \$400 council rate rebate for approved JobSeeker and JobKeeper applicants to March next year as part of Council's ongoing support for those within the community impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The extension means JobSeeker and JobKeeper applicants will now have until 31 March 2021 to apply for the rate rebate.

The one-off \$400 rate rebate was first endorsed by Council in April this year as part of a new COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy with applications initially closing on 30 September 2020.

The extension of the rate rebate – endorsed by Council this week – recognises the ongoing financial struggles some within the community are still experiencing while also aligning with the Federal Government's extension of the JobSeeker and JobKeeper package.

In addition to the rate rebate, the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy also allows Council to not charge interest or commence debt recovery on overdue rates for those who qualify for financial hardship.

Since the policy came into effect, more than 320 applications for financial hardship have been registered, amounting to almost \$600,000 in deferred rates payments.

Council has also committed to providing further assistance to local businesses, with a focus on those in town centres.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began Council has waived \$112,000 in fees for businesses and \$76,000 in deferred lease payments for commercial tenants of Council.

Building on this ongoing support, Council will develop new small business initiatives with the input of each local Chamber of Commerce. These new initiatives will complement programs Council has already launched such as the Shop Local: Love Your Community campaign which is encouraging residents to shop locally through various promotions and offers.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy shows Council remains committed to providing targeted help for those in need during the COVID-19 recession.

"This week's unanimous resolution endorses our plan to continue to support local ratepayers, while helping grow businesses in our vibrant and much-loved town centres" Clr Laxale said. [Click here](#) for more information.

New campaign encourages residents to 'Shop Local'

Published on 29 October 2020

The City of Ryde has launched an exciting new initiative that will boost the economic recovery by encouraging residents to shop with local independent businesses.

Many businesses in the City of Ryde have been hit hard by the economic downturn and restrictions imposed since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic began in early 2020.

The [Shop Local - Love Your Community](#) initiative will use marketing and promotional tools to highlight the benefits of shopping local.

These benefits include:

- Convenience and Savings - Shopping locally can save you time and money
- Personal Service - You will experience enhanced customer service & customer care
- Better Variety - You will enjoy and experience more unique or boutique style businesses in your neighbourhood
- Support community - Your local small businesses typically support the local community (e.g. local schools, sports clubs etc)
- Improve your local economy - When you shop local, the majority of the money stays in your community
- Job Creation - Your local small businesses are typically big employers of local residents in your community

In addition, local businesses will offer special promotions such as discount vouchers as part of the initiative.

The initiative will begin in West Ryde in November before gradually expanding to all parts of the City of Ryde.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Shop Local initiative was part of Council's commitment to support local businesses and get the economy back on the road to recovery.

"Shop Local will highlight our terrific local businesses at a time when they need it the most. By shopping local, not only will you be supporting local businesses and creating jobs, but also purchasing high-quality goods and services," Cllr Laxale said.

"Since the start of the year, the City of Ryde has been determined to support local business as they navigate through the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In addition to the Shop Local campaign, we have implemented a Small Business Support Package, which has seen Council waive more than 40 different fees and

charges and provide rental relief to commercial tenants that have suffered a downturn in trade.”

[Click here](#) for more information about Shop Local - Love Your Community.

City of Ryde shows support for Armenian-Australian community

Published on 22 October 2020

The City of Ryde has acknowledged its long connection with, representation of and advocacy for the local Armenian-Australian community following the resumption of hostilities in the Republic of Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh.

As part of a Council resolution, the City of Ryde:

- Condemns the military aggression launched on 27 September 2020 by Azerbaijan and Turkey against the right of self-determination of the indigenous Armenian population of Artsakh, who have lived on those highlands for millennia;
- Condemns the indiscriminate shelling and missile attacks on the civilian population and infrastructure of Artsakh, including Ryde City's sister city in Artsakh, being the capital city Stepanakert, as well as the Holy Saviour Armenian Cathedral in Shushi, in complete violation of international law;
- Calls on the Australian Government unequivocally to join the City of Ryde in the above condemnation and to call on Azerbaijan and Turkey to respect the OSCE Minsk Group peace process for the Karabakh / Artsakh conflict, in particular the non-use of force and the right to self-determination;
- Notes that the international recognition of the Republic of Artsakh and its population's right to self-determination is the only permanent solution to the conflict, to avoid further attempts of such military aggression, and calls on the Australian Government to recognise the Republic of Artsakh.

The City of Ryde also called on the Federal Government to request an immediate ceasefire and end to the hostilities. Fighting has continued in Republic of Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh despite a Russian-brokered ceasefire coming into effect last Saturday.

Council also held a minute's silence in honour of those who have lost their lives in the conflict and resolved to donate \$5,000 to Himnadram.org for the purposes of humanitarian aid.

The latest resolution follows a unanimous decision by the City of Ryde in 2018 to recognise the right to self-determination of all peoples including those of the Republic of Artsakh.

In 2019, Council also unanimously resolved to form a Friendship City relationship with Stepanakert, which is the capital city of the Republic of Artsakh.

"The City of Ryde stands united with our local Armenian-Australian community," City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said.

“As a sister city of beautiful Stepanakert, the City of Ryde condemns what Turkey and Azerbaijan are doing and request that the Federal Government stand with us in condemnation of these actions.

“I would like to thank all councillors who supported this resolution, in particular Clr Sarkis Yedelian OAM for all his work in representing the interests of the Armenian community in Ryde, and for raising awareness about the devastation that is being caused as a result of this unnecessary conflict.”

Clr Yedelian OAM said: “The Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression against the indigenous Armenian population of Artsakh along with the loss of lives is an avoidable tragedy that has deeply impacted the Armenian community in the City of Ryde

“Turkish and Azerbaijani forces should immediately cease hostilities and work with Armenians towards self-determination for the Republic of Artsakh. I request that the Federal Government now stands with the City of Ryde in condemning the actions of Azerbaijan and Turkey.”

Sydney Water night works

Published on 22 October 2020

Sydney Water is renewing the water main along Herring Road in Macquarie Park and is expecting to carry out site investigation work on Wednesday 28 October 2020, weather permitting. The works will take place between 8pm and 6am.

The work will be done at night to reduce the impact on daytime traffic flows along Herring Road, near the intersection of Epping Road and Herring Road.

For more information, [contact Sydney Water](#).

Council launches the new Ryde Wharf Market

Published on 21 October 2020



Pictured at Ryde Wharf Reserve (from left) is City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale, Cambridge Markets Director Madelienne Anderson, Cambridge Markets Curator Rebecca Fox and Clr Penny Pedersen (Cambridge Markets will host the new Ryde Wharf Markets)

A brand-new outdoor market is coming to the City of Ryde, with the Ryde Wharf Market to showcase a variety of delicious food, fresh produce, arts, craft and other popular offerings right on the picturesque Parramatta River foreshore.

Commencing on 8 November, the Ryde Wharf Market will take place between 8am and 2pm on the second Sunday of every month at Ryde Wharf Reserve next to Anderson Park.

There will be 70 stalls and food vendors in operation providing marketgoers with the perfect place to pick up a gift, grab a bite to eat or simply browse what is on offer.

Not only will the market have a stunning backdrop, but it will also be in close proximity to Meadowbank town centre as well as transport links such as the Ryde Riverwalk, Meadowbank Ferry Wharf and Meadowbank Train Station.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Council had delivered on its promise to provide more regular markets that the entire community could enjoy.

“The new Ryde Wharf Market will be the place to be this Summer by creating a vibrant and exciting atmosphere along the beautiful waterfront location next to Anderson Park,” Clr Laxale said.

“While these markets will be on the doorstep of Meadowbank residents, its accessible location at Anderson Park will mean everyone in the City of Ryde will be able to take part in them.”

The Eastwood Night Markets will also return in November, featuring some new and exciting food vendors and stallholders.

Starting on 7 November, the revamped night markets will operate every Saturday between 4pm and 10pm at Eastwood Plaza and assist in Council’s effort to revitalise Eastwood’s town centre.

“The return of the Eastwood Night Markets is very timely and will provide another welcome boost to Eastwood’s economic recovery by encouraging shoppers to return to the town centre in a safe environment,” Clr Laxale said.

“Both the Ryde Wharf Market and Eastwood Night Markets will deliver on Council’s commitment to activate our public spaces, boost the local economy and provide residents with a fun and social outing in a safe, open environment.”

The Eastwood Night Markets and the Ryde Wharf Market will operate with COVID-Safe plans to ensure the health and safety of everyone. Market stalls will be adequately spaced out, enhanced cleaning of the sites will be undertaken, adherence to the four-square-metre rule will be monitored and hand sanitiser will be available for all members of the public to use.

The Eastwood Night Markets and Ryde Wharf Market will be designated Waste Wise Events.

Denistone artist wins SWAP People's Choice Award

Published on 14 October 2020



Local artist Debby Sanurryta has been named the winner of the People's Choice Award as part of the 2020 Sustainable Waste to Art Prize (SWAP).

Ms Sanurryta, who lives in Denistone, won the award and the \$250 prize for her design 'Fairy Dress', which is an eye-catching outfit made from raffia strings, net fruit bags, baking paper and string.

Originally from Indonesia, Ms Sanurryta said the fairy dress reminded her of the beauty of nature.

The People's Choice Award is determined by members of the public who vote for their favourite artwork or design object during the SWAP exhibition. 'Fairy Dress' received 62 out of a total of 584 votes to win the award.

Meanwhile, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School in Gladesville has taken out the Schools Participation Award, which is awarded to the school with the highest number of SWAP entries.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School submitted 18 entries from their Year 5 and Year 6 students and will take home \$200 for winning the award.

SWAP is a unique competition in which artists who live, study, work or play in the City of Ryde produce artworks that are made from repurposed waste material. This year's competition attracted more than 130 entries which transformed waste into

artworks and objects inspired by our natural environment, ocean pollution, the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and more.

The full list of 2020 SWAP award winners and commendations is as follows:

Open Category

1st place: 'Telefashion' by Nicole Williams

2nd place: '2020 Vision' by Leanne Cowie

Highly commended: 'Sustainability, Creativity and Nurture combined is Mindfulness' by Rekha Joshi

Highly commended: 'The Western Star' by Martin Watson

YEP – Youth Environment Prize (open to people aged 14 to 17)

1st place: 'Everlasting Bouquet' by Charlotte Hill

2nd place: 'Natural Flare' by Emma Whitmore

Junior YEP (open to people aged 10 to 13)

1st place: 'Too late to say I'm sorry!' by Stephanie Wilcock

2nd place: 'The Mask of Waru' by Anushua Dutta

Highly commended: 'The Great Wave of Rubbish' by Gladesville Public School

Highly commended: 'Patterns of COVID (Bakery Treats)' by Ineke Joscelyne

Functional Award

1st place: 'Plarn Products' by Clover Barnard

2nd place: 'Recycle Reef' by Sue Stafford

Schools Participation Award

1st place: Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School, Gladesville

People's Choice Award

1st place: 'Fairy Dress' by Debby Sanurryta

The 2020 SWAP exhibition can still be viewed online at ryde.rocks/SWAP.

The City of Ryde would once again like to acknowledge all the people who made this year's SWAP competition and exhibition possible including Meadowbank TAFE, Council staff and the expert judging panel which was comprised of artists Rox De Luca and Shane Forrest, and co-founder and Director of Good For The Hood, Jo Taranto.

Work begins on new Rowe Street East car park

Published on 13 October 2020



Pictured (from left) Belmadar Junior Site Engineer George Bannayan, Belmadar Project Engineer Sam El-Choufani, Belmadar Managing Director Alf Marrocco, City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale, and Belmadar Business Development Manager Michelle Uhlhorn.

Work has begun on the new shopper car park on Rowe Street East in Eastwood, which will address the parking demand for shoppers in the area and assist the local economy.

The new multi-level car park will provide 146 spaces (including accessible car spaces), entry/exit points via Rowe Street, an additional exit via Rowe Lane, a passenger lift, CCTV security system and an electric vehicle charging station.

Once completed, motorists will be able to park in the car park for two hours free before incurring any charges.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the new car park will be a game-changer for Eastwood.

"This car park will fix chronic parking shortages and encourage people to shop, eat and meet in Eastwood," Clr Laxale said.

"Crucially, it will also be a shot in the arm for Eastwood's economy which has been hit hard by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"Since the COVID-19 pandemic began at the start of this year, the City of Ryde has been determined to invest in key projects that will help the local economy and the new Rowe Street East shopper car park is a prime example of this."

Belmadar Pty Ltd is constructing the new car park after being awarded the tender in August.

As part of this project, Council will also be converting some of the existing unrestricted parking in Ethel Street and May Street to two-hour parking (8.00am-6.00pm Monday to Sunday) between October 2020 to July 2021 to accommodate the short term parking demand for local businesses and residents.

Council has also created an additional 32 commuter car spaces on East Parade (south of First Avenue) by formalising the street parking to 90 degrees.

Work is expected to be completed by mid-2021.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Creative Spotlight | Tom Fuble

Published on 13 October 2020



Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make

I am an artist and music producer that writes songs about my own revelations and emotional experiences. My songs often explore complex issues of modern life; such as our relationships, our outlook towards societal standards and our addictions to technology.

I draw my music influences from lo-fi, pop and EDM (electronic dance music) genres. I love to experiment with different sounds and blending genres to create unique music. My favourite sounds to use are warm synths and atmospheric vocals.

Whereabouts do you look for creative ideas? Who or what inspires you?

I get most of my creative ideas from my experiences and conversations with people. I think people are supremely interesting and their unique perspectives really help spark my own creativity.

Once I settle on an idea that I am happy with I start looking at it from different angles and perspectives. It's really important to me to tell story that is relatable yet unique. In this process I primarily draw inspiration from my own life experiences and other creative works such as music, films and art.



Are there any special processes, techniques or tools you use to make your creative work?

As an artist and music producer I like to try a bunch of different techniques to help me reach my creative vision. These strategies include:

- Taking the song to a piano or guitar. This helps me get a better feel for the natural dynamics in the songwriting process
- Producing a demo track on my laptop with two or three possible lead melodies. I audition these options to see which melodic rhythm best captures the song's message.
- Changing my environment and the times that I sing, such as day or night, in the car, in my bedroom and of course in the shower (where my best work happens). For us singers, the vibe is everything. For example, if I'm singing a happy uplifting song I will record my vocals in the morning in a sun-lit room to help me capture that emotion.
- I ask other musicians and music producers for their feedback and advice. Music is all about collaboration. There are always different and unique approaches that other people may suggest that could help elevate my creation.



Do you have any top tips for emerging artists and creatives just starting out?

The craft is everything. While networking, marketing and building a following are all very important aspects of being an artist, we must never forget about the craft. I believe all emerging artists would benefit greatly from really honing-in on their artistry and focusing less on how many followers or listeners they have on social media. Artists should focus on furthering their education. The more they invest in themselves, the more elevated their creations will become.



Where can we find out more about your work and get in touch?

Instagram: [@tomfuble](https://www.instagram.com/tomfuble)

Website: tomfuble.com

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com>

Creative Spotlight | Nim Gholkar

Published on 12 October 2020



Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make

I'm an author, international speaker and life coach specialising in leadership and communication skills. I have written three popular books: Unravelling Anjali: Diary of an Immigrant Bride, Unlock The Real You and A Little Wiser, A Little Happier. My fourth book is scheduled for release in mid-November 2020. I also have a YouTube channel which currently has 100+ videos on topics exploring personal and professional development as well as a blog 'Nim's Niche' which I started in 2011.

How does your personal history, culture or experience inform your creative work?

My first novel Unravelling Anjali: Diary of an Immigrant Bride explores the concept of romantic love within the framework of an arranged marriage. My own arranged marriage has given me a deep insight into this institution which in turn informed many of the underlying themes in the book.

Whereabouts do you look for creative ideas? Who or what inspires you?

I'm a keen observer of everyday life and experiences and these insights provide a plethora of ideas and insights that help me write my books, blog and articles.

Do you have any rituals or routines that help you to be more creative?

My approach towards handling what is popularly known as 'writer's block' helps me harness creativity and be productive. One of the biggest reasons people give in to writer's block is the need for perfection. When we write words that seem imperfect, the mind freezes and cannot create new output until we've fixed what's written. When I sit down to write, I give myself permission to write mediocre stuff and

switch off my internal critic. As I continue writing without judgement, the true gems start appearing.

What is a creative project that you've worked on that you're really proud of?

Why?

While I'm incredibly fond of all my creative projects, my very first book Unravelling Anjali: Diary of an Immigrant Bride occupies a special place in my heart. The story's protagonist is a product of her times and embodies an era and mindset long gone. I enjoyed exploring the intricacies of arranged marriages and how love is often a learned skill.

Do you have any top tips for emerging artists and creatives just starting out?

Set aside a specific time each day to work on your creative project. Persistence and resilience far outweigh talent. Resist the temptation to 'micro-manage' your project. By that I mean, avoid evaluating the output every step of the way. For example, if you're working on a short story, write as much as you can without stopping after every couple of sentences to edit and fix. Create several drafts.

What creative project are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently working on my fourth book which belongs to the self-help, motivational genre. It explores strategies to build confidence, harness productivity and discover the elusive concept called happiness.

Where can we find out more about your work and get in touch?

Website: nimsniche.com

Facebook: facebook.com/NimGholkar

Linkedin: linkedin.com/in/nimgholkar

COVID-19 alert - Eastwood and North Ryde locations

Published on 11 October 2020

NSW Health is alerting the public to the following locations visited by new cases of COVID-19.

Anyone who attended the following venues is considered a casual contact and must monitor for symptoms and get tested immediately if they develop. After testing, they must remain in isolation until a negative test result is received:

- S-mart Eastwood, Rowe St Eastwood - 5 October, 7.30pm to 7.45pm (see [NSW Health public health alert](#))
- Aldi Eastwood - 6 October, 11.00am-12.00pm (see [NSW Health public health alert](#))
- Macquarie University Sports and Aquatic Centre outdoor pool area at North Ryde – 7 October 2020, 5.30am-10.30am (see [NSW Health public health alert](#))

Passengers on the following trains are also considered casual contacts and should monitor for symptoms and get tested if any develop:

- Train from Eastwood at 8.15pm arriving Parramatta 8.49 on October 6
- Train from Parramatta at 4.50pm arriving Eastwood 5.21pm on October 6
- Train from Eastwood at 8.14am arriving Parramatta 8.49am on October 7
- Train from Eastwood at 12.18pm arriving Kings Cross 1.07pm on October 7
- Train from Parramatta at 4.31pm arriving Central 5.02pm on October 7
- Train from Central at 6.05pm arriving Eastwood 6.36pm on October 7
- Train from Kings Cross at 9.35pm Eastwood 10.34pm on October 7

Locations linked to known cases, advice on testing and isolation, and areas identified for increased testing can be found at the [NSW Health update page](#).

Please note that information is correct at time of publication. Seek official advice from NSW Health.

Council steps up efforts to reduce contamination in household bins

Published on 08 October 2020



Suez Contamination Officer, Louise Anger

Suez Contamination Officer, Louise Anger, has become the City of Ryde's latest asset in trying to reduce contamination in yellow-lid recycling bins and green-lid garden organic bins.

Contamination in recycling bins and garden organic bins is a serious environmental issue. Recycling and garden organic collections with high contamination rates are rejected by processing centres, meaning they end up in landfill.

Ms Anger's role involves identifying "hot spots" for high contamination levels in various parts of the City of Ryde as well as reviewing the data provided by the waste trucks.

Ms Anger will conduct random checks of household bins in identified hot spot areas when they are put out for collection.

Bins that have no contamination will receive a green tag, while those with contamination items identified will have a red tag placed on their bin advising the resident what the issue was. In the rare event where more than 30 percent of a bin's contents is contaminated, a yellow tag will be issued, the bin will be taped shut and not collected.

Ms Anger said the most common items that contaminate yellow-lid and green-lid bins are plastic bags, bagged recyclables, soft plastics, polystyrene items and disposable coffee cups.

Ms Anger said the purpose of her role was to educate residents about what can and cannot be put in the different household waste bins.

“The vast majority of contamination is done inadvertently and is not a deliberate act. The purpose of my role is not to punish, but to educate as we all have a role to play in reducing waste contamination and in turn reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill,” Ms Anger said.

In addition to issuing tags, Ms Anger will also distribute waste education packs to households which either have high levels of contamination found in their bins or have been found to have contamination in their bins on multiple occasions.

City of Ryde Waste Project Coordinator, Emma Tang, said monitoring for contamination was just one of the many tools Council was adopting to educate residents on what items can and cannot be placed in each household bin.

Ms Tang said it was the responsibility of everyone in the City of Ryde to do their part to reduce contamination.

“The important thing to remember for all residents is ‘if in doubt, leave it out,’” Ms Tang said.

“Understandably the messaging around recycling can be confusing due to the sheer amount of information that is out there regarding recycling, on top of that there are also a lot of different terminologies that are thrown around which can also cause confusion,” Ms Tang said.

“With this in mind, it is important to keep things simple and try to only place the following items in the yellow recycling bin:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Steel and aluminium cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles and containers.

“Alternatively, residents can check Council’s A – Z guide to waste and recycling available on Council’s website. This provides a detailed list of what can and cannot be put in [household bins](#).”