

State of the Environment

2017-2021

City of Ryde



Lifestyle and opportunity
@ your doorstep

This report details the progress of the environmental goals in City of Ryde Community Strategic Plan.

The City of Ryde Community Strategic Plan



Community Vision

The City of Ryde's open spaces and natural areas provide breathing spaces. People can easily access protected catchments and waterways. The built environment retains local character and heritage while providing contemporary energy and resource savings and sensible waste solutions.

INTRODUCTION



Parks and Reserves

205 hectares of natural areas distributed over 71 parks and reserves



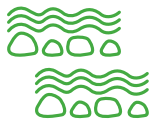
Waterways

Two major rivers, five main creeks/ waterways and 14 discrete stormwater drainage catchments, with a total area of more than 4,000 hectares



Vegetation

22 different vegetation communities have been mapped, with over 570 species of native plants recorded in Ryde bushland



Rivers

Five regional and seven local biodiversity corridors connecting to major rivers



Reserves

40 reserves that contain threatened ecological communities

With the exception of Macquarie Park, the predominant land use is urban residential, which is characterised by low- to medium-density development. There are more than 53,000 privately held properties across the City of Ryde, which include about 57,000 dwellings. More than 53 percent of these dwellings are medium to high density.

Achieving the Community's vision for the City

Over this decade, the changing climate and forecast population growth will continue to increase pressure on the City of Ryde's natural and urban environment. Our growing and changing City requires considered urban renewal that enhances and protects its natural assets and encourages sustainable living that proactively reduces our carbon emissions and resource use from water and energy use, and waste.

Our community has told us that the City's natural environment, green open spaces and parks are the things they love the most. People want Council to show leadership in environmental and sustainability behaviour and initiatives.

Our priority over the next 10 years will be to protect and increase natural areas, open space and parklands and minimise the impacts from climate-related and resilience-based challenges impacting our natural ecosystem services and people from extreme weather patterns, heat, bushfires and flooding.

This requires Council to work with the community, non-government organisations, State agencies and neighbouring councils to plan for sustainable growth and change. Better shade cover and green spaces throughout the urban environment to keep our City liveable and healthy as we grow and integrate new developments with transport so that people rely on their cars less and actively connect to our places and spaces are key priorities for our City's future.

Three key priorities were identified to help achieve the community's aspirations for the City



Sustainable Planning

Reducing our environmental footprint and protecting our natural and built environments



Protecting natural areas

Reducing our impact on our natural systems and strengthening the health of our natural corridors



Resilient Infrastructure

Managing infrastructure to reduce risk and impacts



Sustainable Planning

Reducing our environmental footprint and protecting our natural and built environments

- Being active environment leaders in all that we do and leaders in ecologically sustainable development
 - Using planning controls to encourage developments that use less water and energy and maximise recycling
 - Innovating our waste and recycling services to achieve the highest level of resource recovery
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What Council is doing

Council has a significant program of policy development, planning, management and reporting for the City of Ryde's natural and urban environment. These protect and enhance the City's natural areas, including our bushlands, waterways and ecosystems, and improve the overall environmental performance of our built environment. Our work includes improving our corporate and community-based environmental reporting practices and ensuring that we remain a responsible corporate leader in ecologically sustainable development and managing climate change risk, adaptation and resilience measures in partnership with the corporate and community sectors.

Council also delivers a comprehensive range of domestic and commercial waste services for the City of Ryde, including facilitating recycling and disposal services as well as providing educational resources and workshops to reduce waste to landfill.

Vegetation cover

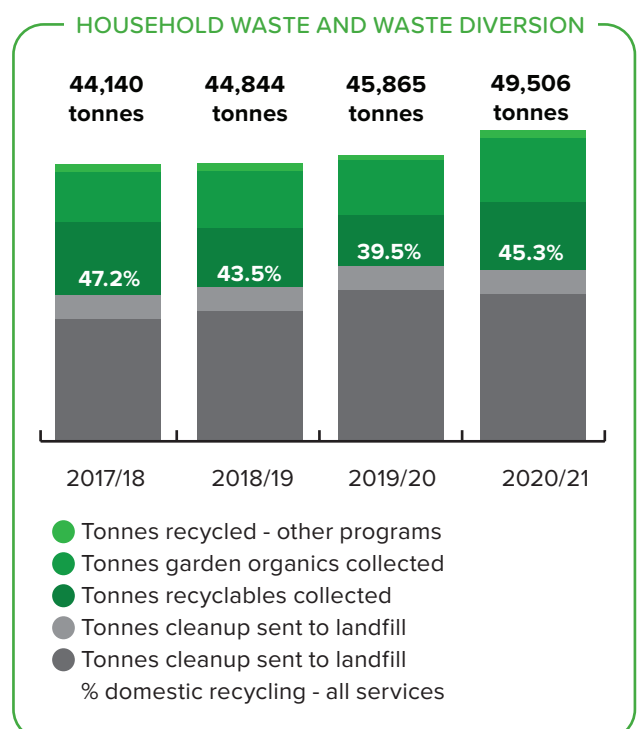
The City of Ryde's population has increased by about 25 percent over the past decade and is projected to rise by another quarter by 2036. Rising numbers of residents and dwellings adds pressure to existing green spaces, their preservation, the cooling effect they have on our City and the critical connections they provide for fauna. The creation of additional housing through development on private land, particularly large development projects, is also seeing a significant impact on vegetation coverage and connection to natural areas, often replacing them with hard surfaces which increases local heat impacts over the long term. In coming decades, increasing canopy cover and all forms of vegetation will become increasingly important to counter the effects of urban heat islands that occur when trees and vegetation are replaced with hard pavements and structures.

Waste diversion and resource recovery

Waste diversion from landfill is a key focus of the City of Ryde. Waste management is an essential service that Council provides to the community. With a growing population, the challenge is how to manage the City's waste effectively and efficiently while limiting as much as possible, any adverse impact on the environment.

Council's target of 48 percent of the total tonnage of waste collected being diverted to recycling was not achieved over the past four years.

A steady reduction in recycling was experienced year-on-year due to a combination of reduced collections of garden organics resulting from severe dry weather conditions during 2019 and 2020, and the introduction of the NSW Government's Container Deposit Scheme. This scheme has had an impact on existing recycling contracts and diverted recyclables from recycling bins to Return and Earn facilities.



Key highlights over the previous four years include:

Implementing major plans for the City

The City's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), updated in 2020, has a major focus on ensuring the City of Ryde's collective ecological footprint will be reduced in ways that contribute to the liveability of the community. This will be supported by well-planned infrastructure that is responsive to future needs of residents and our natural environment, and provides actions to reduce our individual and collective ecological footprint.

The LSPS complements the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP), which sets out the local environmental planning provisions for land in the City of Ryde. One of the key aims of the LEP is to protect and enhance the natural environment, including areas of remnant bushland in Ryde, by incorporating principles of ecologically sustainable development into land use controls and preserve and improve the existing character, amenity and environmental quality of the land throughout the City.

The adoption of the Ryde Resilience Plan 2030 in September 2020 underscored the City of Ryde's commitment to City-wide resilience planning for its operations and its people as we grow and change over the next 10 years. We are the first council in NSW to create a local resilience plan. Delivery of the plan has commenced with a strong focus on addressing the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic within our community, and building climate risk and resilience vulnerability and mitigation strategies into all local policies and plans.

The City of Ryde Biodiversity Plan was adopted in 2016. This plan surveyed our whole City to assess current flora and fauna, threats and opportunities to provide a plan for increasing and ensuring the protection of these natural systems and corridors. The plan provided a set of recommendations to deliver on these priorities and has been delivered annually since its adoption through a dedicated officer.

The Parramatta River Masterplan 2025 'Duba, Budu, Barra' was adopted by Council in 2019 and provides a blueprint for improving the living health of the Parramatta River towards future 'swimmability'. The masterplan outlines 10 key steps towards improving pollutant entry, stormwater run-off impacts, community involvement and education, ecological health, monitoring and reporting and governance. The masterplan was the product of several years of key studies and a cooperative approach among 10 councils.

Tackling climate change

– Councils making a difference

The City of Ryde joined the Cities Power Partnership, which is Australia's largest network of local councils tackling climate action. A network of 160 local governments representing more than 65 percent of Australia's population, the partnership supports councils to take practical and effective steps to transform the way cities and towns respond to climate issues.

Council developed a community program for household risk and resilience planning — the 'Climate Wise Communities' website. The free online tool enables residents to locate their home, assess against possible risk such as flood, fire or heat and be provided with tools to minimise this risk into the future. The service has been promoted at community workshops and other events.

In 2017 Council joined the Australian Photovoltaic Institute's 'SunSPot' to provide residents free access to 3D solar mapping software to assist households to navigate solar options, map their house and possible benefits in installing a future system.

Growing our City's canopy cover

Council is actively working to boost tree coverage across the City of Ryde. We committed to a target of 40 percent canopy coverage across our City by 2030 in the Ryde Resilience Plan 2030. Up to a thousand trees and shrubs are planted each year in the City's bushland areas, parks and streets through Council's tree planting and community plant giveaway programs. Other initiatives and Council projects add more trees and vegetation to this total every year.

Additionally, planting events are conducted regularly as well as plantings in creek lines and catchments as part of restoration works. For example, our annual National Tree Day events attract on average almost 150 to 200 community members to assist us in planting up to 1,000 plants in our reserves and bushland areas to build on our corridors for fauna and connecting bushland spaces. Also as part of our creek restoration projects we incorporate revegetation to support adjoining riparian buffer zones to assist water quality fauna corridors and assist to prevent erosion.

Expanding waste recycling options in the City of Ryde

Through funding under the Community Recycling Centres Grant Program, Council is establishing a Community Recycling Centre for problem waste at Porters Creek, which will provide residents with the ability to recycle paints, oil, batteries and electronic waste.

Council is continuing to identify opportunities to 'close the loop' in the waste industry, by exploring opportunities to buy back recycled products, including glass fines for road base, compost for field remediation and paper with recycled content.

A major development in 2021 saw the City of Ryde join the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils 'Paving the Way' major tender program for reducing landfill.

The program aims to create a market for approximately one-third of Council domestic glass collections (equivalent to 70 million glass bottles per year) by replacing natural sand with recycled crushed glass in asphalt, non-structural concrete and pipe bedding. Paving the Way is the largest joint local government-led procurement to initiate the use of recycled glass in local roads in NSW to date.

Recycling challenges

During 2018/19 our recycling tonnages were lower than in previous years due to a combination of reduced garden organics resulting from extremely dry weather conditions and the introduction of the NSW Government's Container Deposit Scheme, which diverted recyclables from recycling bins to Return and Earn facilities.

In addition, the China National Sword Policy initiated a widespread ban on the importation of recyclable materials from Australia into other countries. This, along with the lack of end markets for these materials, created uncertainty in the waste industry. Our existing regional waste disposal was also detrimentally affected by the revoking of licenses for mixed waste organic material application on agricultural, forestry and mining land.

Getting the community engaged — living sustainably, reducing waste and improving recycling

Council actively promotes the value of recycling in our local community and has a number of education programs to help reduce waste, reduce contamination levels and improve the overall quality of the recyclable material stock.

Council also runs a broad education program helping residents to reduce waste and live more sustainably, with around 60 workshops delivered to the community, early learning centres, primary schools and Macquarie University every year and pop-up education stalls at local libraries and shopping centres celebrating major events. The Ryde Environmental Education Network (REEN) program helps teachers to embed sustainability education across the school curriculum. Around 20 local schools participated in the program every year with curriculum-based support, new initiatives and council supported events for their schools to improve their ecological footprints.

The City of Ryde's annual Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (commonly known as SWAP) is now in its eleventh year and continues to raise community awareness about waste by asking entrants to enter artworks made from reused and recycled material.

Improving recycling rates from residents, managing waste reduction, illegal dumping and contamination in multi-unit dwellings is a key issue. Council is working with strata managers to deliver educational resources to residents and tenants to reduce cross-contamination and improve the correct disposal of household waste in apartment buildings (more than 50 percent of domestic properties in the City of Ryde are multi-unit dwellings).

Initiatives like the Our Common Ground program have been introduced to multi-unit dwellings to help encourage food waste reduction through the introduction of community gardens and increased composting opportunities.

The City of Ryde's war on waste gained momentum with Putney's five cafés joining the BYO coffee cup call to action, making it Australia's first Responsible Café suburb. It is estimated 3 billion hot drink cups and lids that cannot be recycled end up in landfill every year.



Protecting Natural Areas

Reducing our impact on our natural systems and
strengthening the health of our natural corridors

- Continuing investment in programs that protect and enhance City of Ryde's natural areas including our bushlands, waterways and ecosystems
 - Collaborating with volunteers, businesses and the community to care for and enhance our natural areas
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What Council is doing

Council has an active program of protecting and enhancing the City of Ryde's 205 hectares of natural areas and bushland, waterways, catchments and ecosystems. A major part of this work involves collaborating with volunteers, businesses and the community who contribute their time to help restore and enhance our natural areas.

Council also manages, upgrades and maintains the City's water catchments, stormwater drainage networks and foreshore infrastructure and assets. This includes working to improve water quality in local waterways through restoring and rehabilitating local creeks and wildlife corridors and floodplain management, reducing risks to the environment and community from flooding, reducing the use of water and energy through stormwater harvesting and reuse, and improving and maintaining seawalls and other foreshore infrastructure (including wharves, jetties and boat ramps) to ensure that they continue to protect our coastlines from erosion and provide a satisfactory level of service for the community.

The condition of our natural areas

Protection and management of our natural spaces is increasingly challenging due to issues such as climate change and urban population growth. To protect these spaces we continue to deliver bush regeneration contracts for management across our City. These contracts ensure our ecologically sensitive sites are protected and improved while other areas are maintained, supported and enhanced where we can.

Managing weeds, our asset protection zones and feral animals is another area of focus to ensure these spaces are protected, risk minimised and populations are controlled to protect species. We do this through delivering community education programs, a residential biosecurity engagement program, operational asset protection delivery and through feral animal monitoring and control.

We also monitor these spaces and collect auditing data to continuously improve where we can, adjusting on-ground projects and increasing broader community education and awareness. This is delivered through tailored education programs and through our ongoing Bushcare program that works with more than 160 local residents in these natural spaces.

Water quality

Council has maintained a consistent water quality monitoring program across the City of Ryde since 2004. This program measures water quality in five main creeks, testing macroinvertebrates (water bugs or other taxa), physiochemical and riparian (adjoining waterway vegetation) health of these natural systems.

Monitoring is conducted twice per year with data indicative of peri-urban waterways which are highly modified and generally impacted by urban development from stormwater, pollutants, run off and other drainage impacts.

Data is provided to the community via Council's website to assist interested community and students while also assisting Council to plan future creek and catchment based education and capital works improvement projects.

Since 2017, Council has designed and delivered creek and riparian restoration projects in Terrys Creek (in partnership with Hornsby Council), Jim Walsh Park, Shrimptons Creek, Portius Park and Barton Park. For improving catchment water quality Council has built several water sensitive urban design projects which capture stormwater for treatment through natural systems (wetlands, bioretention basins, swales or tree pits). These have been delivered across the City including at Santa Rosa Park — Council's largest bioretention system supporting creek health at Shrimptons Creek.

Council's development controls also support improved water quality to ensure large developments install natural filtration systems on their lands to limit pollutants that damage our waterways long term.

Key highlights over the previous four years include:

Protecting biodiversity and restoring our natural areas

Significant restoration works across City of Ryde bushland and natural areas have been achieved over the past four years. Bush restoration work is undertaken in multiple parks and reserves over an area totalling between 50 and 100 hectares every year. This includes over 4,000 hours volunteered by our community every year through programs like Bushcare, partnering with all ability social enterprises like Bushlink, through our community nursery The Habitat, community planting days and engagement with local schools and businesses.

Further to this, Council also undertakes a broad range of activities to help protect and restore our natural areas, including:

- Delineation works protecting native saltmarsh vegetation communities and critically endangered bushland areas
- Conducting flora and fauna studies in over 60 bushland parks and reserves to better understand our local biodiversity, flora and fauna
- Introducing new wildlife protection areas in the City to protect native fauna from domestic pets
- Council's feral animal control program targeting rabbit and fox populations within bushland and community lands
- Updating bushfire prone land mapping with the assistance of the Rural Fire Service, assisting residents to plan for bushfire protection and inform design considerations for homes identified as being prone to the impacts of fire.

Managing invasive weeds is also a key priority for Council, including conducting surveillance of high risk sites and activities, and working with property owners to identify and control high priority weed incursions and addressing incursions before they become established. This is provided under a biosecurity grant awarded to Council by the Department of Primary Industries.

Improving the condition of our waterways

The City of Ryde became the first council in Australia to adopt a 'Zero Litter to River' target by 2030. A range of other initiatives to reduce and control the amount of litter and other pollution that arrives at our waterways have also been introduced. These include:

- Our Living River. A range of projects were completed as part of our commitment to the 10-council Parramatta River Catchment Group Masterplan 2018. These include working to activate Putney Beach, undertaking water quality testing, community education and developer education programs about pollutants and reducing the risk of sewer overflows
- Joining the NSW Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and 17 councils ensuring compliance with soil erosion and sediment control at construction sites around the Parramatta River under the 'Get the Site Right' program
- Improving the effectiveness of gross pollutant traps, currently preventing hundreds of tonnes of pollutants (such as litter, silt and vegetation) from entering the waterways every year through undertaking a comprehensive audit of these systems
- Banning single-use plastic drinking straws as well as a phase out of other single-use plastics used by our community and local businesses across the City.

Improving the amenity of our foreshores

We partnered with the Parramatta River Catchment Group and Sydney Coastal Councils Group to develop a new Coastal Management Program. The program will be the largest Council-led initiative of its kind and will result in a whole-of-Sydney-Harbour coastal catchment plan including 20 councils focused on managing threats to water quality from their catchments. The group was awarded a NSW Coastal and Estuary Grants Program for \$274,000 to develop Stage 2 of the Program.

Delivery of this program will assist in improving waterway health towards making the Parramatta River swimmable again.

Restoring and rehabilitating our creeks

We continue to monitor our five major creeks for water quality and health including assessing the state of the riparian zones (bank areas) and identifying opportunities for future works programs. Over the past four years Council has completed a number of major rehabilitation and restoration projects along our five major creeks. This work includes:

- Rehabilitating and revegetating over 700 square metres of corridor space with over 1,500 plants planted along Shrimptons Creek, improving habitat for small native birds and other fauna and helping to connect canopies and improve biodiversity through Macquarie Park
- Completing the final section for the Terrys Creek Walking trail upgrade, a two kilometre trail from Epping Road north to the M2 motorway to improve connection to Lane Cove National Park
- The Bill Mitchell Park Stormwater Harvesting Project – we installed a stormwater capture tank that collects upper catchment stormwater which is then treated and stored, providing irrigation for the park and gross pollutant capture for a 41 hectare area from Victoria Road in Gladesville to the Parramatta River
- Improving the existing drainage and creek line along Kittys Creek including weed and rubbish removal, stabilisation of bank slopes, fencing and revegetation
- Rectification works at Barton Park creek line following illegal clearing, stabilising the creek banks and riparian plantings to provide stability and contribute to natural bio-filtration.

Preventing littering and illegal dumping: Zero Litter to River

Council has implemented proactive measures to combat litter and illegal dumping, including regular inspections of dumping hotspots and the deployment of CCTV surveillance.

Signage on litter and recycling bins located in streets, town centres and parks, has been updated. Banners and footpath decals directing residents to litter bins and cigarette butt bins are also being rolled out across the City to help deter littering.

Bus shelter 'Hey Tosser' advertisements and drainage decals also educated the community on the importance of keeping our drains just for rain. To supplement these works we also launched our 'See it, Report it, Stop it' waterway litter education campaigning. To date we have targeted 36,146 households towards stopping litter pollution entering our waterways across several catchments. This aligns with the Parramatta River Catchment Group's Masterplan objectives of improving the health of the river and stopping pollutants from entering our waterways.

We have also continued to monitor, install and review our current gross pollutant traps for efficacy and for targeting hot spot areas. We undertook an audit of the pollutant traps to review capture and program rectification works looking to improve these systems and minimise waste from entering our waterways.

Eastwood was identified as a littering hotspot with eight times more rubbish and 20 times more cigarette butts than elsewhere in our local government area. In response a program of measures have been put in place in Eastwood town centre to help prevent litter escaping from bins in the area and to encourage the correct disposal of cigarette butts.



Resilient Infrastructure

Managing infrastructure to reduce risk and impacts

- Building the City's resilience to natural hazards and working to reduce long term and immediate climate related risks and impacts
 - Upgrading and managing stormwater, drainage and seawall infrastructure to improve service levels and reduce risks to the environment and the community
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What Council is doing

As our climate continues to rapidly change with impacts exacerbated by urban development and growth, ensuring what we build considers risk from natural hazards will be vital in ensuring our development controls, infrastructure and systems are resilient to withstand and bounce back from shocks and stresses.

We do this through reviewing our risks, planning for minimising and mitigating and where we are unable to avoid, seek to adapt through planning and delivery across Council. Our Ryde Resilience Plan and supporting planning controls work in parallel to respond to shocks and stresses felt by our community and infrastructure. It also ensures planning for new infrastructure takes these factors into consideration.

Safeguarding our future

In recent years, Sydney and other parts of eastern Australia have experienced a sequence of natural disasters that have put great strain on the community and the infrastructure that it relies on. In response, Council has made it a priority to increase the resilience of its infrastructure so that it can withstand the impacts of natural disasters, while also recover from such occurrences. Guided by the Ryde Resilience Plan 2030, Council continues to proactively take steps to achieve and continuously improve this across its infrastructure portfolio, including its stormwater, transport, open space and recreation infrastructure assets. Council is partnering regionally with other Sydney metropolitan councils under joint programs, tenders and in advocating to State agencies to strengthen community resilience outcomes long term in areas of planning and development and in reducing our footprint in our civil works contracts and energy.



Key highlights over the previous four years include:

Building a resilient city

To meet the requirements set out in the Greater Sydney Commission's Greater Sydney Region Plan – A Metropolis of Three Cities and the North District Plan, Council completed a review of its Local Environmental Plan.

Following a multi-stage community engagement program, Council also completed the Ryde Resilience Plan 2030, a 10 year resilience plan for the City and its people. Developed in response to community concerns about current and future issues impacting resilience in our City, the plan sets out actions to help support and equip the community with the tools required to become more resilient and build capacity and ensure the Ryde community, local businesses and Council can prepare for local and global events, major shocks and emergencies in the future.

As an Ambassador Council to the (former) 100 Resilient Cities, Sydney program, the City of Ryde helped develop the Resilient Sydney Strategy, which will help build resilience across all 33 metropolitan Sydney councils.

The Resilience Plan was selected as a finalist for the NSW Local Government Excellence Awards in 2021.

In 2019 Council also partnered with our insurer in updating our 2016 Climate Risk study. The study utilised up-to-date climate data and assessed possible risks to assets, systems, services and operational delivery across our City as related to climate change such as sea level rise, fire, heat, rainfall and temperature, with the goal of developing an action plan for Council. At the time of development the City of Ryde was one of the first councils in NSW to undertake a comprehensive risk assessment of this kind and worked with Local Government NSW to encourage and assist other councils to develop their own.

Managing stormwater, preventing flooding

Council has restored and replaced thousands of metres of stormwater pipelines in the City's stormwater drainage network.

Targeted projects were also undertaken, providing essential drainage upgrade works in order to improve existing flooding problems at sites throughout the City and to cater for significant flooding events. These projects provide significant community benefits by reducing the risk of inundation of private properties located in upstream catchments.

Protecting our foreshores

We managed the development, delivery, remediation, improvement and maintenance of our foreshore infrastructure and assets (including wharves, jetties, boat ramps and seawalls).

The City of Ryde continues to be an active member of the Parramatta River Catchment Group. The group is leading efforts to improve the health and condition of the Parramatta River and its tributaries by improving their environmental management. Recently the group focused on the impact of private development and upper catchment stormwater on river water health, and developing new coastal management programs to replace current coastal estuary zone management plans.

Council has constructed a new seawall at Banjo Paterson Park to prevent erosion and stabilise the foreshore embankment and also completed works on the Morrison Bay Seawall. An in-river seawall has also been constructed at Putney's Bennelong Park to minimise erosion of the beach area as well as reduce exposure of underlying bedrock and protect existing mangroves. Design of additional seawall upgrades and repair works have also commenced for future upgrades of the seawalls at Putney Park, Kissing Point Park and Looking Glass Point to address overtopping and erosion behind the existing walls caused by passing ferries and future sea level rise.





Council's Priorities

Council has a longstanding commitment to being a responsible and sustainable organisation, and takes pride in its commitment to responsible and environmentally sustainable management of our resources and consumption. We have established longstanding targets to limit energy and water consumption across our Council facilities measuring against a consumption baseline of 2003/04 levels and have been successful in holding consumption of energy and water around these levels over many years.

Cutting our energy consumption

We consistently track and monitor this usage across our assets and work to consistently improve the way we manage our resources long term and contribute to city-wide emissions reductions.

Council's sustained effort to reduce energy consumption and lower greenhouse emissions has paid dividends.

By 2020/21 renewable energy met 46.9 percent of Council's energy requirements, and we lowered our greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent compared to our 2003/04 baseline, as a result of our continuing solar photovoltaic (PV) installation program, procurement of renewable energy and other efficiencies across council operations.

Council now has 383.4 kW of solar PV system capacity installed across five facilities, generating a total of 302,329 kWh of renewable energy. These installations now provide a substantial proportion of the energy requirements for their respective sites.

Council has been recognised for its efforts. Our Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC) Solar PV project was selected as a finalist in the 2019 Cities Power Partnership Awards for the Renewable Energy Award. The 300.33 kW system is estimated to reduce electricity consumption by 366MWh for the RALC facility producing an approximate annual saving of \$35,000 in costs and saving over 315 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

We also continued our participation in Southern Sydney Region of Councils renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) PEERS 1. The PPA supplies a total of 20 percent renewable energy from direct investment into the Moree Solar Farm project. In 2021 we started looking to increase this renewable investment under a new program which is due to commence in late 2022.

To support our continued efforts to reduce carbon emissions and demonstrate leadership to the community, in 2020 we adopted a renewable energy and resource efficiency targets for 2030 for all Council assets.

Water use

Our commitment to being a responsible and sustainable organisation also includes a 'no net increase in potable water supply' above a 2013 baseline for use including in our parks and sportsfields. To support this Council has installed several stormwater harvesting systems to date, which provide a low to no cost solution to keep our fields operating and green. We have also put in place systems to monitor our water systems and proactively detect leaks and we regularly seek improvements to limit potable usage.

