

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

RYDE CENTRAL MISMANAGEMENT

Today, I will be looking at the discovery in 2022 of financial mismanagement within Council that caused all work on the Ryde Central project to be halted.

The impact of that discovery has produced significant and ongoing issues for Council's financial position.

After the sod turning ceremony for the 1 Devlin Street site was held in October 2021, work commenced on planning and undertaking essential underground infrastructure for the project.

But in August 2022, the then new City of Ryde CEO Wayne Rylands was alerted by the Chief Financial Officer that \$95 million in funds from Council's Repealed Developer Contributions Plans and Other Externally Restricted Reserves was transferred to Internally Restricted Reserves.

Of this, \$35.5 million had been inappropriately allocated for the Ryde Central Project. Although another \$52.5m was spent, the majority of the money was allocated towards providing infrastructure and other programs which delivered a community benefit and was not required to be returned.

There was also inappropriate movement and/or use of funds (remaining balance of \$7m) in other externally restricted reserves, such as Voluntary Planning Agreements, and the Domestic Waste Reserve.

Following verification of the improper transfer of funds by forensic accountants, Nexia Australia, the CEO then reported the matter to the Office of Local Government (OLG), the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and the NSW Audit Office (AO).

The OLG described the transfer of the funds as "illegal" stating:

"There may have been, or may be potential for, significant waste of public money".

Next week: righting the wrong.

MEADOWBANK UPDATE

I attended the reopening of Constitution Road Meadowbank recently and was pleased to see the newly built footpath opened and traffic flowing in both directions again after three months of intensive construction work.

Council has completed stage one of this project, which is the rock cutting and footpath construction as well as a new pedestrian crossing, enabling safe pedestrian access to Meadowbank Station.

I appreciate the patience of our community while this project was completed. For further updates on our ongoing work at Meadowbank, go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/ConstitutionRoad



Sincerely,
Clr Trenton Brown – Mayor
 Email: mayor@ryde.nsw.gov.au
 Phone (via Customer Service): 9952 8222

LIBRARY NEWS

HSC LOCK-IN

**WED
26
JUNE**

WHEN: Wednesday 26 June
TIME: 5.30 – 9.00PM
WHERE: West Ryde Library



Join us at West Ryde Library for our annual HSC Lock-in for all your HSC essentials. There's FREE Wi-Fi, The Hive – our digital media lab – and a range of HSC resources at your fingertips.

Paws Pet Therapy will also be on-site from 5.30 – 6.30pm, to provide comfort with their therapy dogs for pats. Ease the stress of studying and discover all the support available at the library! Snacks will also be provided. Bookings essential.

Book now: www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/hsclockin

HAVE YOUR SAY

OPEN COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

You are invited to have your say about documents, projects and proposals that are currently on public exhibition, or provide feedback on services and concerns that affect the community.

- Buena Vista Avenue - Proposed Parking Changes During Waste Collection (Closes 19 June 2024)
- Proposed Stormwater Drain Easement Over Dunbar Park, Marsfield (Closes 23 June 2024)
- Economic Development Strategy and Night-Time Economy Strategy (Closes 30 June 2024)
- Draft Local Infrastructure Strategy (Closes 30 June 2024)
- Draft Media and Social Media Policy for Councillors (Closes 30 June 2024)

Want to find out more?

To find out more about one of the above projects or for information on how to provide feedback, please visit www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay or call Customer Service on 9952 8222.

EVENTS IN OUR CITY



RYDE
 Aquatic Leisure Centre

Book the July Holiday Program - get one lesson **FREE!**

This July School Holidays we have a fantastic offer when booking in the Holiday Intensive Program.

What is the Intensive Program?



5 consecutive days of swimming with repetition over consecutive days allows children to retain information and improve skills.



Excellent way to accelerate your child's swimming skills and increase confidence around water. Perfect skills or kick start your progress in a new level.



Children often have more energy in the holidays when less distractions around from school term.

Week 1: Monday 8 July – Friday 12 July (5 days, pay for 4 days) ONE LESSON FREE
Week 2: Monday 15 July – Friday 19 July (5 days, pay for 4 days) ONE LESSON FREE

We have lessons from 2 years and up and varied levels. Please call RALC on **8878 5111** for bookings.

GARAGE SALES

**SAT
16
JUNE**

Where: 89 Darvall Road, West Ryde
When: 9.00am