

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

MISTAKES CORRECTED

In this instalment of my narrative looking at the history of the civic centre project at 1 Devlin Street, I will be detailing how Council acted quickly and decisively following the discovery of the improper internal funds transfer of \$95 million in 2022.

In collaboration with the Office of Local Government (OLG), Council developed and then successfully progressed an Action Plan to rectify the previous mismanagement of funds contained in Council's Restricted Reserves.

Although \$52.5 million had been spent on infrastructure and other worthy community projects, the Action Plan resulted in \$42.5 million of unspent funds, including \$35.5 million for Ryde Central, being returned to their correct accounts and for their intended purpose.

A new Cash Reserves Policy for the future utilisation of Council's Restricted Reserves Funds was adopted and an external review

of City of Ryde's Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA) was conducted to investigate the financial implications and liabilities on Council.

By March 2024, The Audit Office NSW (AO) had cleared City of Ryde's Financial Statements for the 2022/23 financial year, providing City of Ryde with an Unqualified Report – with no issues raised at the completion of its audit.

I am proud to say that Council disclosed all matters in an open, ethical, transparent manner and to the highest financial standards possible.

However, the improper transfer of funds for the Ryde Central Project has resulted in significant financial implications for Council's ongoing operations and viability to perform at our current levels of services, programs, and other projects across the community.

In voting to maintain public ownership of the Ryde Central site at the November 2023

Ordinary Meeting, Council deferred the construction of any new civic building at the site until sufficient funding can be identified. Staff are still working with the OLG, along with the ICAC, on the financial matters relating to this project.

Next week: the financial impact of Council's Voluntary Planning Agreements.

ARMENIAN FLAG RAISING

I was honoured to attend Kissing Point Park last week for the first of what will become annual ceremonies recognising Armenian Republic Day. This is a fantastic initiative that was brought to Council by Cllr Sarkis Yedelian, my predecessor as Mayor of this great City, and is a wonderful way of recognising and supporting our significant population of Armenian descent. The City of Ryde was the first local council to recognise the Armenian Genocide and we've continued our advocacy over many years.



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

LIBRARY NEWS

MUSICAL MORNING TEA: NORTHERN SYDNEY YOUTH SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

**MON
08
JULY**

WHEN: Monday 8 July
TIME: 10.30 - 11.30am
WHERE: Ryde Library



Join us for a cuppa while enjoying a hand-picked selection of orchestral musical pieces for our monthly Musical Morning Tea. Next month we feature the youth performers from the Northern Sydney Youth Orchestra. For 40 years, Northern Sydney Youth Orchestra (NSYO) has been a community-based, volunteer-run organisation.

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



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.

- 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

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD

7-14 JULY 2024

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia between 7-14 July, to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Find out more: www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/NAIDOC

PRAYER BREAKFAST

City of Ryde

Guest Speaker: **Simon Miller, Anglicare CEO**

The City of Ryde Prayer Breakfast has been held since 1992 and is a time to come together as one to promote goodwill throughout the community through prayer.

When: Friday 28 June 2024
Time: 7.00 – 8.30am
Where: North Ryde School of Arts, 201 Coxs Road, North Ryde

\$35 per person plus booking fee
 \$210 for a table of 6 plus booking fee
 Ticket price includes hot breakfast served and tea and coffee.

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