



Councillor Craig Chung



Minister for Local Government
The Hon Paul Toole, MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

BY EMAIL: office@toole.minister.nsw.gov.au

16th November 2015

Dear Minister,

**RE: RESOLUTION OF MACQUARIE PARK FORUM –
DON'T SPLIT MACQUARIE PARK**

I am writing in my capacity as the Chair of the City of Ryde's Macquarie Park Forum to advise you of the deep concern expressed by members of the Forum at correspondence received by the City of Ryde from the Mayor of Parramatta Council to "take over" large parts of the City of Ryde, in particular, Macquarie Park, in its bid to become 'Fit for the Future'.

At the Macquarie Park Forum last week, the following resolution was passed unanimously by its committee members:

Macquarie Park Forum strongly rejects Parramatta's proposal to grab 50% of Ryde including the splitting of Macquarie Park and North Ryde. Macquarie Park Forum does not believe that Ryde should be split under the current reform proposals and that Macquarie Park and North Ryde should remain wholly within the current City of Ryde Boundaries. The Forum believes that the future demographic and geographic synergies for Macquarie Park and North Ryde are more appropriately aligned with other NSROC Councils

Clearly, the resolution does not support the Parramatta proposal, but leaves open contemplation of a future with other NSROC Councils.

Parramatta Council's proposal consumes two-thirds of Ryde in a revenue raising exercise. Of course the booming \$10 Billion business economy of the Macquarie Park business district is highly attractive to Parramatta, a Council that is struggling to create an effective CBD. The City of Ryde has worked hard with this business hub over many years to achieve its success.



This is not just about Ryde Council protecting its turf. We all know Parramatta has ruined its commercial core by promoting and allowing super-high-rise residential developments in the CBD. We do not want to see the same thing happen to Sydney's second largest CBD in Macquarie Park. Protecting the economy and preserving the 90,000 jobs in Ryde is our highest priority.

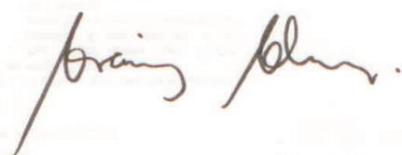
It is ironic that the proposal by Parramatta Council defies its own engagement with their community on this issue, as outlined in their submission to IPART, which stated that their proposed 'hostile take-over of Ryde' only had 15% of Parramatta residents supporting this option.

Yet they proceed to steam ahead with a recommendation that completely goes against the views of their own community.

Ministers Anthony Roberts and Victor Dominello have also publicly acknowledged the City of Ryde's track record in developing Macquarie Park to be the State's second largest business precinct. They have also stated that the City of Ryde should continue to control Macquarie Park's future and should not be split.

The City of Ryde is now calling on you as the Minister for Local Government to support the position of the Ryde community against the inevitable disintegration of their Council as a result of Parramatta Council's proposal.

Our residents clearly have pride in their history and unique identity, have confidence in the Council's financial and governance performance and have a strong desire to be in control of their future and under no circumstances want to see the destruction of their City.



Councillor Craig Chung
Chair of the Macquarie Park Forum
City of Ryde

cc. The Hon. Victor Dominello, MP