

Wednesday 30 January 2019

COUNCIL STANDS WITH COMMUNITY TO OPPOSE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MACQUARIE ICE RINK

The City of Ryde has expressed its opposition to the proposed closure of the Macquarie Ice Rink and will commence work to try and seek an interim heritage order be placed on the venue.

In addition, Council will attempt to facilitate mediation between AMP Capital and the tenants of the Macquarie Ice Rink to try and retain the important community facility. Council also called upon NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian to urgently intervene to save the venue

The resolution was passed by Council during an extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday night, during which a large number of local residents and users of the ice rink voiced their disapproval of the closure of the venue in front of a packed public gallery.

The extraordinary Council meeting was called after AMP Capital lodged a Stage 1 development application for the partial redevelopment of Macquarie Centre, which revealed that the current site for the Macquarie Ice Rink would be demolished.

AMP Capital subsequently put a pause on the development application to consult further with the community following widespread concern. Despite the pause, public consultation on the development application is still ongoing, with Council resolving to extend the public consultation period until 1 March 2019.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Council would do all it could to ensure an Olympic-sized ice rink is retained in Macquarie Centre.

“The resolution passed last night confirms Council’s position that an Olympic-sized ice rink must be retained in any redevelopment of the Macquarie Shopping Centre,” Cllr Laxale said.

“State Government zoning changes in 2014, allowing a maximum height of 37 storeys on the site, have jeopardised the future of our rink. The Premier must intervene to fix the mess they created.

“Council will also take first steps with the view to place an interim heritage order on the site, should the Premier fail to save the rink.”

Cllr Laxale encouraged all members of the community to make a submission on the Stage 1 development application.

“Every submission received will be forwarded to the developer so they understand how much the ice rink means to the community. Crucially though, every submission will also make its way to the NSW Government planning panel when it comes time for the panel to determine the development application.”

Cllr Laxale also encouraged members of the community to sign the [change.org](https://www.change.org) ‘Save Macquarie Ice Rink’ petition, copies of which will be made available on the City of Ryde website and at other Council facilities.

Timeline

September 2014 – NSW State Government change the planning controls of the area where Macquarie Centre is located as part of its '*Herring Road Priority Precinct*'. These changes allowed for additional building heights from 10 storeys to 37 storeys.

October – November 2016 – The State Government Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel unanimously approves AMP Capital's Concept Development Application. Council enters into an agreement with AMP Capital, to provide the community with a Library and Creative Hub as part of the redevelopment of Macquarie Centre.

December 2018 – A development application is lodged seeking approval for partial works of the Macquarie Centre redevelopment. This application is set to be determined by the State Government Sydney North Planning Panel.

January 2019 – The application for partial works is placed on public exhibition. After public intervention, the developer puts a pause on the development application to consult further with the community. An extraordinary Council meeting is called on Tuesday 29 January 2019 to discuss the future of the Macquarie Ice Rink.

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