

Thursday 28 June 2012

## Ryde Civic Precinct redevelopment on track

Ryde Civic Precinct - Council meeting 26 June 2012

The redevelopment of Ryde Civic Precinct is on track following the defeat of a rescission on Tuesday night, which would have seen the project stopped.

The defeat means that Council can now proceed with negotiations with Lend Lease, as the preferred development partner for the innovative development.

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Councillor Artin Etmekdjian welcomed Council's decision, describing it as a great win for the community.

"I am pleased Council has shown leadership by defeating the rescission motion, which means the redevelopment plan for the Ryde Civic Precinct can progress," said Clr Etmekdjian.

"Council is ready to deliver, subject to negotiations, with the first stage completed in three years, and the entire project completed by the end of 2017."

The redevelopment proposal includes:

- A 400 seat modern Performance Venue – suitable for concerts, plays, Ryde Eisteddfod, recitals, lectures, community events (and replaces the current Civic Hall)
- Three multi-function rooms for Council meetings and community use with total seating capacity of 255
- An open-air Public Square as large as La Piazza in Top Ryde shopping centre
- 86 additional car parking spaces
- Easier access to Parkes Street for vehicles and pedestrians
- Fully accessible community facilities.

"This is a vote for good value and commonsense with benefits for our community, our number one priority. It's important to note that:

- No rate increases are needed to pay for this project
- The development provides \$79 million of value to Council's balance sheet, putting us in a stronger financial position for the future.
- The new civic and administration facilities, including the land on which they are situated *remains in community ownership.*"

The Mayor said Ryde will be ready for its future with this project, which will deliver:

- A 5 Green Star rating which demonstrates the City of Ryde's commitment to environmental sustainability
- All buildings fully accessible (unlike the current facilities that do not meet accessibility standards).
- Improved civic facilities that address the failings of the current buildings and will lead to improved productivity.
- Local jobs and prosperity for local businesses
- Future accommodation needs.

"Our community is the big winner from a proposal that will provide much needed public facilities, at a fraction of the cost of maintaining and refurbishing our current building and with no rate increases," he said.

"For example, \$39.2 million of ratepayers' money would be needed to bring the current civic buildings up to Australian standards."

Under the proposal the Council Offices will be the first stage to be completed, enabling savings through a smooth transition of Council staff from the old building to new premises.

**ENDS**

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