

Thursday 21 January 2016

DESIGN COMPETITION ANNOUNCED FOR RYDE CIVIC HUB SITE

The City of Ryde is inviting the world's most talented and creative architects to enter *Design our Ryde*, an international design competition to reimagine the iconic Ryde Civic Hub site (1 Devlin Street, Ryde).

Design our Ryde aims to transform the gateway site as the premier civic, commercial and cultural heart of the City and will include community involvement in choosing the winning concept and the site name, plus attractive prize money for the finalists.

City of Ryde Mayor Cllr Jerome Laxale says the site presents great possibilities to enhance the civic and cultural qualities of Ryde. "It is pleasing to see that community involvement is one of the key objectives of this competition. On such an iconic site for our City, it is vital that our citizens are involved in choosing a design for the site."

Design our Ryde will be conducted in 2 Stages with the general public asked to identify its preferred design to add to an independent jury's selection. In Stage 2, three or four shortlisted concepts will be exhibited for public comment and site name suggestions.

The Mayor also hopes the scope of the competition will attract younger, emerging architects to test their ideas against more established industry figures.

The Ryde Civic Hub site is located on a prominent ridgeline running through the Ryde town centre. It offers panoramic views of the Sydney metropolitan basin, from the Blue Mountains to the coast, and the call for design solutions presents an opportunity to create a new role for the high profile site that respects and builds upon its significant cultural history and location.

There are seven design objectives:

- Civic and administrative functions
- Multi-functional indoor spaces for community and private hire
- Public open space
- Commercial space to help pay for the community facilities
- New housing including key worker dwellings
- Improved pedestrian connectivity to surrounding precincts
- A bus interchange.

NSW Government Architect and *Design our Ryde* jury chairman, Peter Poulet, said the vision is for 'blue sky thinking' from the international and local design community. "Great architecture can rejuvenate a city and it takes creative minds to imagine and shape a new place.

“We want ideas with ‘flair and innovation’ to guide the development of this famous site, for the benefit and pride of future generations.

“Already there is a buzz within the architectural community and we are very excited about what will eventuate.”

Entrants who are shortlisted will receive prize money to help them prepare for Stage 2, one of which will become the declared winner. The winning entry will receive \$150,000.

Design our Ryde Key Dates 2016 (2 stages)

Stage 1 Open Competition

Submissions 11 January – 30 March

Public Exhibition for People’s Choice community polling 14 April – 5 May

Jury identifies 3 or 4 shortlisted entries by 13 May

Stage 2 Invited Competition for shortlisted entries

Submissions 14 May – 27 June

Public exhibition for community polling 11 July – 1 August

Winner Announced 8 August

Jury Members

(Chair) Peter Poulet, NSW Government Architect

Shaun Carter, President NSW Chapter, Australian Institute of Architects

Maria Atkinson AM, Sustainability Strategist

Design our Ryde will be conducted in accordance with the Australian Institute of Architects ‘Guidelines for Architectural Competitions’ and the NSW Government’s ‘Design Excellence Guidelines’.

For more information go to www.designourryde.com.au