

Thursday 4 August 2016

MAYOR 'DISMAYED' AT BAIRD GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO TURN ITS BACK ON OPEN SPACE

A decision by Council to expand open space at Blenheim Park through the acquisition of three residential properties, has been thwarted by the Baird Government says Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale.

"Mike Baird had the option of going with the Council model for Blenheim Park that would have seen 2,000 square metres added to the parkland for use by the community, but instead he chose to side with the developer who proposes a 16-storey residential tower comprising of 120 dwellings.

"It is disappointing that the Baird Government has ignored the wishes of the Ryde community, who came out in force to protect the parkland and open space.

Late on Tuesday 2 August 2016, Council received advice from NSW Planning & Environment that it would refer the developer's planning proposal to the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel for review.

"Our entire organisation is dismayed and our community livid. North Ryde has been subject to hyper-densification so the need for accessible open space for families is critical.

"Council identified a once in a generation opportunity to create extra open space and Mike Baird has thwarted our decision. I call on the Minister and Premier to explain why their Government chose to side with a developer over the desires and needs of the community."

Blenheim Park in North Ryde is a multi-functional family park with a wide range of facilities, innovative play equipment and leisure spaces. It has both walking and cycling paths, barbeque and picnic areas, accessible toilets and a fenced dog off leash area.

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