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COUNCIL FUNDS NBN FEASIBILITY STUDY TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

The City of Ryde Council will explore the feasibility and cost of providing start-ups in Macquarie Park with Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) internet infrastructure.

The feasibility study, part of Council's Four-Year Delivery Plan 2016-20, is another way Council is progressing Macquarie Park's reputation as a centre of innovation and growth potential.

City of Ryde Mayor, Jerome Laxale, said: "The roll out by NBN Co planned for later this year will only deliver Fibre to the Node. For Macquarie Park, that simply isn't good enough.

"Council is committed to supporting new and existing Macquarie Park businesses and creating an environment for a long term, sustainable economy. The provision of Fibre to Premises telecommunications infrastructure for start-ups would support an incubator style environment to foster growth and innovation in the precinct.

"If Governments are serious about innovation, then nothing short of a full FTTP roll out for Macquarie Park is essential. I am glad that Council is leading the way on this matter."

Macquarie Park is a strategic centre that forms part of the global economic corridor with world class commercial, education and research entities. It is the second largest business district in NSW and is set to double in size over the next 20 years to become the fourth largest CBD in Australia, delivering over 40,000 more jobs by 2031.

Stefan Sojka, Creative Director of Cyrius Media Group, said there is huge potential for new businesses to be created solely on the strength of fast internet. "Any online business model with HD video or multichannel audio, or that uses large files, such as 3D modelling, high resolution graphics or large data sets will be impossible to operate without very fast broadband. It is critical to our economic future in the 'age of innovation' to have the world's best digital infrastructure."

The success and prosperity of Macquarie Park exemplifies the many benefits of Ryde Council's approach to strategic leadership and forward thinking.

- In 2004 Macquarie Park employed 29,000 people and was growing at a rate of 800 jobs a year. In 2015, thanks to the successful implementation of the City's Master Plan, Macquarie Park employs over 45,000 people.
- In 2013, Macquarie Park became the fastest growing commercial centre in NSW with a growth rate of 6.8%.
- Modelling released by accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2014 found that Macquarie Park's economic output was \$9.1 billion in the previous financial year, having doubled in a decade. It is the tenth biggest location in Australia for economic output.
- Council is also funding a Night Time Economy Study for Macquarie Park.

Have your Say on the City of Ryde Draft Four-Year Delivery Plan 2016-20 and Draft Operational Plan 2016/17 at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay. It is on public exhibition from 4 May to June 14.

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