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RYDE TO PARTNER WITH VENTURE CAFÉ TO DRIVE INNOVATION IN MACQUARIE PARK

The Macquarie Park Innovation District has received another boost with the City of Ryde becoming an innovation partner of the globally-recognised Venture Café.

Venture Café is a fast growing, global network of independent organisations that promotes innovation and collaboration through weekly programs and events. It currently operates in various locations around the globe including Boston, Rotterdam and Tokyo.

The network's first foray into Australia will be located and operated by Macquarie University.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Venture Café would help grow Macquarie Park's reputation as the leading innovation hub in Australia.

"Jobs are so important to our city. Becoming an innovation partner with Venture Café will strengthen Macquarie Park and its ability to provide employment for our community," Cllr Laxale said.

"Venture Café will provide a network for some of the sharpest and brightest minds to come together and enhance innovation in the City of Ryde."

Macquarie University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Engagement and Advancement) David Wilkinson said City of Ryde's partnership with Venture Café would lead to wide-scale activation of collaboration, innovation and incubation across Macquarie Park.

"There is a strong alignment between Council's vision to make the City of Ryde a smart, innovative and progressive city and the mission of Venture Café which is to connect innovators to 'make things happen'," Professor Wilkinson said.

"Venture Café will help attract start-ups to the local area, thus generate greater economic activity and diversity.

"It will also enhance the work we have done in establishing the Macquarie University Incubator, which is a dedicated space for students, entrepreneurs and start-ups to focus on developing their respective business ideas."

The City of Ryde will be an innovation partner of Venture Café for three years with the partnership to be reviewed in 2021/22.