

# Mayor Laxale Calls For The Immediate Abandonment Of Merger Plans

Published on 31 May 2016

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Councillor Jerome Laxale, has called for the immediate abandonment of the merger proposal of the City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils.

Mayor Laxale stated "It has been proven once again today, through the debacle that Strathfield, Burwood and Canada Bay Councils are now facing, that the Premier cannot be trusted to run this State effectively. Day by day we are witnessing the outcome of a flawed and farcical process to forcibly amalgamate Councils.

Today proves that Mike Baird couldn't organise a chook raffle. Right now, the best thing Mike Baird can do is halt all pending mergers and put his Local Government Minister on permanent gardening leave".

Councillor Laxale also reiterated a number of deficiencies that underpinned the Government's case for forced amalgamations.

"This process is more chaotic than a Tupperware cupboard" Mayor Laxale stated.

The State Government's own documentation used figures that were out of date. Instead of showing operating surpluses, they are showing deficits for the City of Ryde.

In the Government's merger proposal it projects an ongoing deficit from 2014/2015 of up to \$5 million by 2024/2025, compared to Council's audited figures that show a surplus on average of \$4.5 million.

How can the State Government make determinations on mergers when they have it so horribly wrong?

It's all smoke, mirrors and voodoo economics.

Mayor Laxale is now calling on the Premier to immediately shelve plans for the merger of the City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils and stop this charade once and for all.

# Council endorses extra funds to Grants Scheme

Published on 31 May 2016



*Community Christian Aid with the Mayor Clr Laxale*

## **COUNCIL ENDORSES EXTRA FUNDS TO GRANTS SCHEME**

City of Ryde Council is adding an extra \$40,000 to its community assistance scheme for a Social Support Grant to address social disadvantage in the city. A total of \$120,000 will be available to the organisations working in the local community.

The new Social Support Grant will be implemented through local community organisations and will come into effect from July 2017.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said: “The Council’s commitment to building a stronger and more resilient community is provided through its community grant program and these grants are made available through a variety of categories. They include grants for Seniors, Capacity Building, Sports and Recreation and Community Projects and this new grant category.

“The new grants will be available to a range of organisations including the three main community aid organisations – Christian Community Aid, North Ryde Community Aid and Hunters Hill/Ryde Community Services. These groups will continue to receive their current grant funding.

“Since becoming Mayor I have tried my hardest to make Ryde a fairer place to live. Extra funding for our Social Support, along with our Affordable Housing and Child Care policies will help achieve just that.”

For information on City of Ryde Grants Scheme go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/grants)

# Congratulations from the National Trust!

Published on 30 May 2016



*Image from NSW National Trust*

The City of Ryde publication, "Ryde Heritage Walking Trail" booklet has been awarded a Highly Commended in the Tours Category, at the Annual National Trust Heritage Awards.

The "Ryde Heritage Walking Trail" booklet was produced by the City of Ryde as a guide to exploring local significant and historic landmarks of post-European settlement in the area. The sites described are around Top Ryde City and along Victoria Road toward West Ryde and can be visited in any order.

The "Ryde Heritage Walking Trail" booklet was in competition against several high profile entries, including Japanese Mini Submarine Tour, South Solitary Island Helicopter Tours and Ghost of Courtney Puckey.

The booklet was created in consultation with the Ryde Heritage Advisory Committee and Council staff.

The 22nd Annual National Trust Heritage Awards took place on Friday 6 May 2016 at the Heritage listed, Doltone House, Jones Bay Wharf, Pyrmont. Quentin Dempster was the Master of Ceremonies. This prestigious event which is highly regarded in the Industry with the Minister of Environment and Heritage, Hon. Mark Speakman the keynote speaker. The event is the highlight of the National Trust Heritage Festival and was attended by 400 guests including heritage celebrities such as Jack Munday.

# Mayor TV Episode 12

Published on 26 May 2016



The Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Jerome Laxale visits local West Ryde Library and explores the exciting new attractions for kids.

# Visit Your Local Library And Find A Treasure Trove Of Surprises

Published on 23 May 2016

Libraries are amazing places, with a treasure trove of interesting and inspiring surprises.

From books, ebooks, magazines and music, to historic documents, toy collections, community classes and historical artifacts, there are amazing things to find in your local library every week.

Here's a sample of ten of the most unusual things you can find at your local Ryde libraries this week.

## Kids

1. Microscopes (West Ryde)
2. Curiosity Cabinet (West Ryde)
3. Dodos (West Ryde)
4. Dogs (Ryde)
5. Telescope (Ryde)
6. Giant Chess Set (Ryde and West Ryde)
7. Murals (West Ryde and Eastwood)
8. Plant Germination Kit (Ryde)
9. Science Workshops (Ryde and West Ryde)
10. Bugs (West Ryde)

## Adults

1. Grand Piano (Ryde)
2. Board Games Club (Gladesville)
3. Inspiration Wall (Ryde)
4. Anzac touchscreen (Ryde)
5. English Classes (Ryde and West Ryde)
6. Knitting (Gladesville, West Ryde, Eastwood)
7. Musical Morning tea (Ryde)
8. Banjo Patterson's Head (Ryde)
9. Tablet Classes (All Branches)
10. Sewerage Maps (Ryde)

City of Ryde has five local libraries at Ryde, North Ryde, West Ryde, Eastwood and Gladesville. Go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library) for details.

# Ryde Library's Grand Piano Hits The Right Note

Published on 23 May 2016

Ryde Library's Grand Piano has been selected as one of the Top 10 *#fabulousfinds* after a three months search and 131 entries in the Australian Library and Information Association annual Library Week celebrations (23-29 May).

Library Week's Top 10 *#fabulousfinds*

1. A surprise possum taking a nap in a wastepaper bin in Nerang Library (Qld)
2. A nine-chapter horror novella printed on toilet paper, University of Queensland Library (Qld)
3. Vial of penicillin from 1940 Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Adelaide (SA)
4. Jumping Castle, Alice Springs Public Library (NT)
5. Entrepreneur-in-residence Ian Reynolds helping people turn ideas into reality, State Library of Queensland (Qld)
6. 3D printer and tutorials, Karratha Public Library (NT)
7. Cowboy boots worn by actor Deborah Mailman from the film *Radiance*, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (ACT)
8. Australia's first Digital Lab, State Library of New South Wales (NSW)
9. **Grand Piano at Ryde Library where local performers are invited to 'tickle the ivories' (NSW)**
10. Love – Anthony and Cassandra found love at Max Webber Library in Bankstown NSW. Library staff helped Anthony set up the perfect wedding proposal at the place they first met.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said: "Part of our piano's attraction is that local skilled players can come to the Library and play on a Grand Piano for free. You never know when an impromptu performance might happen."

Ryde's Kawai Grand Piano has been a star attraction since 2011, providing professional and talented local players the chance to 'tickle the ivories' for library visitors, offering anything from popular classics, to jazz and show tunes.

Local musician Domenico Sepe who regularly performs at the library said, "It is a great piano to play – the sound and the feel of it. Performing in the library creates an atmosphere most pianists never experience with lots of light and open space. Library visitors can discover not just books at the library, but music too."

Ryde Library's Grand Piano will take centre stage at July's Musical Morning Tea on Monday 11 July (10.30-11.30am) when Conservatorium of Music student Gabrielle Hui entertains with classical and popular piano pieces. [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library)

# City of Ryde Kicks Goal With Three All-Weather Sports Fields

Published on 20 May 2016



City of Ryde will get three all-weather synthetic sports fields to keep pace with the growing demand on sports facilities and the need to provide all-weather playing and training surfaces for multiple sports codes.

The \$5.5 million upgrade to ELS Hall Park Field No 1 at North Ryde, and Fields 1 and 2 at Christie Park, Macquarie Park, follows a successful tender by Turf One Pty Ltd for the design, supply and installation of all-weather synthetic playing surfaces and a commitment from various sporting groups to contribute additional funds to ensure the project's viability.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said it was an investment in the future of sport in the area and a great outcome for Ryde and the sporting community. "I'm delighted that we finally got the ball over the line.

"When I became Mayor, I was determined to ensure that we locked in these fields before Mike Baird forcibly amalgamated our Council and placed us in the hands of an un-elected administrator. Last Tuesday night we did that.

"The upgrade deals with the short term demand for fields, particularly for winter sport, through a combination of new all-weather surfaces, additional lighting and

redesign, to address the current over-use of grassed playing fields. This will ensure safe conditions for players and create a sustainable and long lasting community facility.”

Council has undertaken extensive analysis of the sites and consulted with sporting codes, residents and synthetic field experts to maximise the use of the sports fields.

“The demand on sporting fields and facilities in the City of Ryde is severely testing the current capacity of Council’s grassed sports facilities, but we are planning for the future, with this sustainable solution.

“Despite what I would describe as un-necessary delays in the past, it was pleasing that this plan was supported by all Councillors. Eventually, everyone worked together to get this over the line.”

Work will commence in September 2016.

# Community Notice - Rebate Scam Alert

**Published on 20 May 2016**

There are reports of door-knockers in the Marsfield area offering residents a \$1,000 rebate from City of Ryde Council. We do not have any details of what would qualify the customer to a rebate.

Please be aware that this is a scam. The Council does not conduct business in this way and this is not a Council program.

If you have any information regarding this matter, please contact our Customer Service on 9952 8222 with details.

# Council Praises Former General Manager, Gail Connolly

Published on 19 May 2016

At an extraordinary meeting of Council on Tuesday 17 May 2016, the Council resolved to officially recognise the contribution of former General Manager, Ms Gail Connolly, and to express their shock at the State Government's action in relocating her to another council, without prior notice, as part of their forced amalgamation agenda.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said: "In the fifteen months Ms Connolly spent at the helm, she made a huge contribution to the stability, growth and expanded vision of the Council, at a critical time when the City of Ryde's very existence lies in the hands of the Baird Government.

"Along with her great leadership and communications skills, she inspired all who worked with her. She also gave Councillors frank and fearless advice, something that I personally found refreshing and honourable.

"Ms Connolly's departure was unnecessary and without notice. The whole episode shows how dysfunctional Mike Baird's amalgamation agenda is. The fact that our City's chosen General Manager will not be leading, what we assume to be a newly merged entity, makes no sense and will severely disadvantage our community."

Ms Connolly's extensive knowledge of NSW legislation, planning, environment, transport and infrastructure led to the implementation and completion of a number of complex, high-profile projects. These include the Joint Regional Authority and Merger Submission and Inquiry to the State Government, Design our Ryde Civic Hub international design competition, implementation of Special Rate Variation and the relocation of administration staff to new offices in North Ryde.

"On behalf of the Councillors, staff and community, we extend our good wishes to Ms Connolly in her future endeavours," the Mayor added.

Ms Connolly was appointed to the newly formed Georges River Council (formerly Hurstville and Kogarah Councils) as Interim General Manager as part of the Government's proclamations.

City of Ryde's Acting Director Corporate and Community Services, Roy Newsome, has been appointed Acting General Manager.

# Design Our Ryde Shortlisted Designs Announced

Published on 16 May 2016



Today the City of Ryde announces the shortlisted winners of Stage 1 of the International Design Competition.

The Jury consisted of (Chair) Peter Poulet, NSW Government Architect, Shaun Carter, President NSW Chapter, Australian Institute of Architects and Maria Atkinson AM, Sustainability Strategist and chose designs 392, 299 and 572.

Design 16 received the most votes from the general public as the People's Choice.

The following 4 entries are invited to proceed to Stage 2.

## **ENTRY 16**

**Team2 in collaboration with Arcadia Landscape Architecture**

Australia – St Leonards, New South Wales / Hawthorn, East Victoria and Pymont New South Wales

View the entry [here](#)

## **ENTRY 392**

**MORQ**

Australia and Italy – Perth, Western Australia and Rome, Italy

View the entry [here](#)

## **ENTRY 299**

### **Architensions**

USA – New York

View the entry [here](#)

## **ENTRY 572**

### **Beijing Institute of Architectural Design**

China

View the entry [here](#)

## **WINNERS OF \$100 GIFT VOUCHERS**

In conjunction with the Design Our Ryde Competition, the general public who participated in voting were pooled into a random draw to win 1 of 10 Gift Vouchers valued at \$100 each. The City of Ryde wish to congratulate the following winners who were randomly selected to receive a \$100 Gift Voucher:

- Ronald Bayan
- Victoria Baker-Smith
- Roseline Seeto
- Susan Hall
- Fiona Robertson
- Sonja Ginter
- Helen Penglis
- Mark Miltos
- Margaret Wilson
- Sandra Moodley

# Mayor Says Ryde Has Been Abandoned By Victor Dominello

Published on 12 May 2016

Today the Baird Liberal Government created 19 new mega-councils for NSW, with the City of Ryde's merger slated to go ahead pending the outcome of legal proceedings.

Surprisingly, a number of Council areas were saved from forced mergers due to heavy lobbying from their local MPs.

Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the Ryde community has been abandoned by its local member, Victor Dominello.

Mayor Laxale said: "If it is good enough for Kiama and Walcha to be saved, then why hasn't Victor Dominello achieved the same for his own community?"

"We see yet again, that Victor Dominello is more interested in saving his own career, than fighting for the people he is meant to represent.

"Victor Dominello has ignored the voice of the people. 81% of the Ryde community said loud and clear that they are opposed to forced amalgamation. He has ignored a Parliamentary report which recommends against forced amalgamations.

"He has ignored the facts that this merger will increase our rates and will be a bad deal for Ryde."

"Let there be no mistake, today's announcement is all about politics. These forced mergers have been designed by the Liberal party, for the Liberal party."

In addition, the City of Ryde has also been advised that its current General Manager, Gail Connolly, has been appointed as the interim General Manager of the newly formed Georges River Council.

"The loss of Ms Connolly has sent shockwaves across the organisation and our community. She was a real asset to Ryde, and her departure will hurt our City.

"Her appointment was without notice, and is proof of how dysfunctional this entire process has been," Mayor Laxale said.

Mr George Dedes will be the Acting General until such time as the Council formally appoints an acting General Manager at an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday, 17 May 2016, at 8.00pm.

# IPART's Review of the Local Government Rating System

Published on 06 May 2016

Residents are advised that IPART recently issued an Issues Paper in April, 2016 relating to its review of the Local Government Rating System.

Council intends lodging a submission by the due date, 13 May 2016.

[View the Issues Paper](#)

# West Ryde Urban Village Redevelopment Update

Published on 06 May 2016

The redevelopment of West Ryde Urban Village is in progress and will deliver a revived and vibrant town centre, with improved pedestrian environments and accessibility plus attractive public spaces for those who live, work and visit the centre.

## **WORKS COMPLETED TO DATE ARE:**

- Pavement Works
- Stormwater Installation on Anthony Road and Reserve Street
- Raised pedestrian Threshold (crossing)
- Driveway to West Ryde Hub
- Kerb and Gutter on Reserve Street

The works are scheduled to finish in early June 2016, subject to weather. The installation has been complicated by the presence of underground services and wet weather which has extended the April completion date previously advised. Construction is scheduled for completion in early June 2016.

## **WORKS REMAINING:**

1. Asphalt resurfacing on Anthony Road and Reserve Street – Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> of May
2. Granite Paving on Anthony Road – Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> of May
3. Linemarking - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of May

The work is being undertaken by the civil contractor BMD urban who is managing the site and traffic in accordance with an approved traffic management plan and safety plan.

# Awards Recognise Great Work of Volunteers

Published on 06 May 2016



*Image (L-R): Kevin Luu - 2016 Young Volunteer, Maria Sillers & Vicki Newstead (Ivanhoe Estate Tenant Group) - 2016 Volunteer Group of the Year, David Duval - 2016 Volunteer of the Year, Kim Phillips - 2016 Volunteer of the Year Special Commendation*

In a night of celebration, nineteen individuals and eight groups nominated by their peers for the annual City of Ryde Volunteer Recognition Awards, were honoured at a Civic Hall ceremony to thank them for their outstanding service to the community.

The Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale said the work of volunteers make our community better and stronger. “It is not an understatement to say that this army of volunteers are our unsung heroes. They are the lifeblood of many, connecting people, improving lives, extending a helping hand, or simply a warm smile.

“They give their time, skill and energy so generously to those in need, many the most vulnerable in our society, ensuring that services are delivered and that help is not far away.

“Volunteers improve the lives of countless fellow citizens, and strengthen the economic and social well-being of our entire community. It is an honour to be in their company.”

The Mayor also paid tribute to those who nominated the volunteers for the Awards, as without their action the work of individuals and groups could go unrecognised.

In making the announcements, the Mayor said that choosing winners from such a distinguished and deserving group was an unenviable task.

## **Winners of the City of Ryde Volunteer of the Year Awards**

### **2016 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - DAVID DUVAL**

David has been volunteering with Easy Care Gardening for 12 years and gardens every Tuesday. He is an enthusiastic and committed volunteer. Since joining the organisation he has given 2,763 hours on 841 separate occasions.

David keenly embraces training opportunities and asks insightful questions. He is very helpful with new volunteers generously sharing his time and knowledge. He is an enthusiastic networker and contributes to promoting and recruiting for Easy Care Gardening.

Volunteering provides an outlet for David's interest and skill in gardening. David volunteers because he wants to make a contribution to clients. He likes to see how the clients are happy, friendly and appreciative of the work of Easy Care Gardening. He enjoys being part of a team and having a valued role in the community.

### **2016 YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - KEVIN LUU**

Kevin is a volunteer at Royal Rehab assisting with brain injury clients in weekly sessions with the High Mobility Group.

Kevin himself is recovering from a Traumatic Brain Injury, which he acquired in May 2012 when he fell off his bike after hitting a pothole. His one-on-one work assisting brain injury clients enables him to build a sense of community, through sharing his story and theirs. He is a source of inspiration and motivation for those he helps rehabilitate and finds it rewarding to see the progressions and achievements of the clients he is assisting and especially finds it rewarding to share and their milestones.

In addition to his physio assistant role, Kevin is an Ambassador for both Royal Rehab and Fresh Tracks. Through these positions, Kevin has the opportunity to share his story, raise awareness of Traumatic Brain Injury and promote both organisations and the amazing work they do.

He shows further initiative through volunteering at events with Royal Rehab, Fresh Tracks and in South Australia at the Santos Tour Down Under when he was both a Tour Village Assistant and an Onsite Host.

### **2016 VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR - IVANHOE ESTATE TENANT GROUP**

The Ivanhoe Estate Tenant Group was founded in 2012 to help the tenants collectively communicate with all tiers of government and departments when faced with the relocation from their homes. They felt that collectively they would be more effective in liaising with stakeholders.

Many of the tenants the group represents are elderly, from non-English speaking backgrounds and suffer physical and mental illness. The impending move for many residents was distressing however the establishment of this group has provided stability in times of uncertainty.

Among their achievements, the tenants group has secured the use of a community centre complete with communal equipment to help alleviate isolation, undertake discussions on safety and security issues, and help tenants fill out forms and learn English.

## **2016 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR SPECIAL COMMENDATION AWARD - KIM PHILLIPS**

Kim has been a member of the Ryde District Historical Society. She is currently the Special Projects Coordinator for many years and has worked on The Spirits of Gallipoli Project for the past 16 years.

One of Kim's areas of expertise is in data and project management and she has created, collated and compiled databases for the Ryde District Historical Society's use. Over the past five years she has worked tirelessly on their WWI database and she is currently working on a new 'Mapping Ryde' project to create an interactive database from the Society's files linking maps, streets, photos, houses and people.

Kim has produced the Society's Journal/Newsletter "The Ryde Recorder" since 2012, and also formatted, for publication, the recent books "Women of Ryde" (2011) and "Ryde Goes to War" (2015). Kim is one of the Society's representatives on the City of Ryde Centenary of ANZAC and Commemoration of World War 1 Committee. All this has been done while researching, publishing and maintaining her own special WWI project, Spirits of Gallipoli.

Kim volunteers her time to help maintain the importance of Ryde's history and its relevance within the community today. Community involvement and access to information is very important to her and by volunteering with RDHS Special Projects she can help provide an interface between the Society's collection and the community.

# Dellina Palm Cottage to be listed on Ryde's Heritage Schedule

Published on 05 May 2016

As the City of Ryde prepares to celebrate Heritage Week, the Council is one step closer to saving Dellina Palm Cottage, a significant Federation-style dwelling at 87 Bowden Street, Ryde from demolition, by formally listing it as a Heritage Item.

The action follows the intervention by the Mayor which resulted in an Interim Heritage Order being gazetted on the property in February 2016.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said: "This is an important step forward and a win for common sense as we celebrate our local heritage during Heritage Week.

"Too much of our local heritage has been lost and it is vital, as civic leaders and a community, that we protect our history.

"It's not just about saving bricks, but about saving the architecture and layers of information and stories of those who have lived here before us that make our City so vital and such an enviable place to live."

In 2010, the Council at the time would not list properties within the Ryde Local Government Area as a heritage item unless the owner of a property agreed to its listing.

"It was short-sighted and left a significant number of historic items and properties in danger of being lost or irreversibly changed," the Mayor said. "It is important that we reset the direction to ensure the protection of our local heritage now and into the future."

As a result of a Mayoral Minute raised by Cllr Laxale at a Council meeting, the process to list Dellina Palm Cottage as a heritage item was successfully commenced.

A planning proposal to list the property in the Heritage Schedule of the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014, will go on public exhibition from Monday 9 May to Thursday 9 June 2016, [have your say here](#). The Mayor has encouraged citizens to have their say on this proposal.

The Ryde Heritage Walking Trail book is shortlisted for two awards in the National Trust's annual Heritage Awards to be announced on 6 May.

For more information visit [Heritage Week](#).

# Important Changes to Swimming Pool Regulations

Published on 04 May 2016

**A Swimming Pool/ Spa Certificate of Compliance is required for buying, selling or leasing a property with a swimming pool in NSW**

Drowning is a leading cause of accidental death in very young children in NSW. The most effective home pool safety measure is proper adult supervision at all times, but a well-maintained child-resistant pool barrier is also key to preventing small children's unsupervised access to backyard swimming pools and spa pools..

New laws introduced 29 April 2016 apply to the sale or lease of properties with a pool in NSW.

Under the changes, vendors will need to attach to contracts of sale a Certificate of Compliance or a Certificate of Non-Compliance that outlines what needs to be fixed. Homebuyers of properties with swimming pools will have 90 days from settlement to rectify noncompliant pool barriers.

These changes have been introduced to further protect the safety of young children around backyard swimming pools.

To book your inspection please contact Customer Service on 9952 8222 or download an [application form](#).

# Council funds NBN feasibility study to support small business

Published on 03 May 2016



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. It is on public exhibition from 4 May to June 14.