

# HISTORY



**1870**  
The Municipality of Ryde was declared in November 1870 and held its first election in February 1871.

**1903**  
The first purpose-built Town Hall was opened in 1903 at the corner of Tucker Street and Blaxland Road.

**1922**  
Within a decade this was inadequate and in 1922 an additional building was constructed beside it.

**1950**  
Both buildings had become inadequate by the 1950s.



**1950**  
Council had a choice to re-develop its current location; go elsewhere away from the heart of Ryde; or build on the "Island Block".

**1962**  
In 1962 the Council announced the design of the Civic Centre on the "Island Block".

**1964**  
In spite of considerable controversy construction progressed and the building was opened on 15 August 1964.

**1970**  
In 1970 the Civic Hall was opened due to the community need for facilities and included the Ryde Centenary Library.



**2005**  
Redevelopment of the Top Ryde City shopping centre commenced.

**2007**  
Council was prompted to look at redeveloping the Ryde Civic Centre site during the Top Ryde Shopping Centre redevelopment.

**2010**  
The Top Ryde City Shopping Centre redevelopment was completed.

**2011**  
The Ryde Library moved out from under the Civic Hall to a new innovative community space in Top Ryde City Shopping Centre.



**2011**  
Plans to develop the Ryde Civic Centre site commences, with concepts released to the public.

**2011**  
The community were not supportive of increasing the height to 24 storey towers and selling the site to developers.

**2015**  
SafeWork NSW deemed the Civic Centre unsafe as a result Council resolved to cease occupying the building.

**2016**  
Council launched an International Design Competition to undertake a creative re-imagining of the site.



**2017**  
A feasibility study of the International Design Competition winner found the design was not financially feasible.

**2018**  
Community Strategic Plan identified a need for additional community facilities and requested less residential development.

**2019**  
The consultation for the cultural and social plans reiterated the need for community facilities, as our current City of Ryde venues are at capacity.

**NOW**  
After looking at a number of options and the feedback received to date, 'The New Heart of Ryde' proposal meets the community and civic needs and is financially feasible.