

Thursday 9 January 2020

## **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR THE NEW HEART OF RYDE**

The development application for The New Heart of Ryde has been referred to the Sydney North Planning Panel and will be placed on public exhibition next week.

The New Heart of Ryde is the new vision for the Ryde Civic Centre, delivering a four-fold increase in community facilities without the introduction of any residential development on the site.

The development application allows for the construction of a multi-purpose community and cultural building which will contain a hall seating up to 700 people, as well as activity rooms, meeting rooms, an art gallery and refreshment rooms.

It also allows for the construction of an office building which will accommodate City of Ryde staff (who are currently occupying leased premises at North Ryde) and two floors of commercially lettable space, an integrated public plaza, extensive landscaping throughout the site, 236 on-site basement car spaces, and space for food and beverage offerings. The capital investment value is estimated to be \$108 million which is within Council's budget parameters.

Council endorsed progressing with its plans for The New Heart of Ryde following the release of a report which identified 85% community support for the proposal.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said The New Heart of Ryde will address the chronic shortage of community space in the City of Ryde, whilst also providing first-class facilities for performances, meetings and cultural activities to take place.

"The New Heart of Ryde will deliver community space and facilities that the City of Ryde has been crying out for," Cllr Laxale said.

"As promised, the project has come in under budget and excludes any form of residential development.

"Under the plan, Council will retain 100% ownership of the site and the project will be funded without raising rates or reducing services. It is financially sustainable and for the first time, delivers what our community want."

The development application for The New Heart of Ryde will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days from Wednesday 15 January to 12 February.

During this period, the plans for the application will be available to be viewed on the City of Ryde website as well as Council's Customer Service Centre and North Ryde office.

All members of the public will be able to make submissions on the development application during the public exhibition period.