

Friday 1 February 2019

OLYMPIC-SIZED ICE RINK CONFIRMED FOR MACQUARIE CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

In a huge win for the Ryde community, the owner of Macquarie Centre – AMP Capital – has today confirmed that any future redevelopment of the shopping centre will include an Olympic-sized ice rink.

The announcement comes just days after the City of Ryde held an extraordinary Council meeting in which it expressed its opposition to the proposed closure of the Macquarie Ice Rink and stated that any redevelopment of the shopping centre needed to retain an Olympic-sized ice rink.

During the meeting a large number of local residents and users of the ice rink voiced their disapproval of the closure of the community venue in front of a packed public gallery.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, welcomed the news from AMP Capital.

“This is a huge win for people power and will ensure the beloved Macquarie Ice Rink will remain a part of our community for generations to come,” Clr Laxale.

“It was simply not right that planning laws introduced by the NSW Government were going to allow for the demolition of the ice rink, in complete defiance of public opinion.

“Council was prepared to dig in and do all it can to protect this beloved venue, but thankfully AMP Capital has listened to the concerns of the community and has promised that any future redevelopment of Macquarie Centre will include an Olympic-sized ice rink.

“There is still a lot of work to do and I will continue to push for the retention of the rink in any Stage 1 redevelopment of the centre.

AMP Capital lodged a Stage 1 development application in December for the partial redevelopment of Macquarie Centre, which revealed that the current site for the Macquarie Ice Rink would be demolished.

AMP Capital subsequently put a pause on the development application to consult further with the community following widespread concern.

Despite the pause, public consultation on the development application is still ongoing, with Council resolving that the public consultation period be extended until 1 March 2019.

Timeline

September 2014 – NSW State Government changes the zoning requirements of the area where Macquarie Centre is located as part of its Herring Road priority precinct. These changes allowed for additional building heights from 10 storeys to 37 storeys.

September 2015 – The Ryde Local Environmental Plan was updated to reflect the State Government changes.

October 2016 – Council resolves to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with owners of Macquarie Centre, AMP Capital, to provide the community with a Library and Creative Hub as part of the redevelopment of Macquarie Centre. This approval was to enter into a VPA between Council and AMP Capital and did not constitute approval of a development application, as applications of this nature require approval by a Planning Panel convened by the NSW State Government.

November 2016 – A development application for the concept of the Macquarie Centre redevelopment was determined by the former Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel. The panel approved the Concept Development Application unanimously. This Concept Development Application did not approve demolition, building works or the final use of floor space in the centre, which would be subject to future development applications.

December 2018 – A development application is lodged seeking approval for partial works of the Macquarie Centre redevelopment. This application will also be determined by the Sydney North Planning Panel.

January 2019 – The application for partial works is placed on public exhibition. The developer puts a pause on the development application to consult further with the community. An extraordinary Council meeting is called on Tuesday 29 January 2019 to discuss the future of the Macquarie Ice Rink.

February 2019 – After Council expresses its opposition to the proposed closure of the Macquarie Ice Rink, AMP Capital announces any redevelopment for Macquarie Centre will include an Olympic-sized ice rink.

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