

Friday 10 September 2021

## DEMOLITION OF RYDE CIVIC CENTRE COMPLETED

The City of Ryde's new community and civic hub is one step closer to reality with the demolition of the Ryde Civic Centre now complete.

The demolition works of the Ryde Civic Centre took less than six months to carry out and will allow for the construction of the new state-of-the-art facilities to soon commence on the site.

Known as The New Heart of Ryde, the new development will deliver a four-fold increase in community facilities without the introduction of any residential development on the site.

The centrepiece of the project will be a new multi-purpose and cultural building dedicated to community use. This building will feature the Edna Wilde Performance Hall, which will be able to seat up to 700 people.

The multi-purpose and cultural building will also include public activity rooms, meeting rooms, function space capable of hosting art exhibitions, amenities and food premises.

An additional commercial building will also be built on the site which will house Council staff as well as external tenants. Other features include a centrally located public plaza, extensive landscaping works, direct and accessible pedestrian links, as well as on-site basement car spaces.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said The New Heart of Ryde was proceeding with the overwhelming support of the community.

"Despite numerous setbacks including a developer-led stop work order and COVID-19 restrictions, we are progressing on schedule and on budget with this community-led project," Cllr Laxale said.

"Once completed, The New Heart of Ryde will activate this key part of Ryde and deliver the facilities residents, businesses, schools and community groups have been crying out for, all while retaining public ownership of the site and without residential apartments.

"Crucially, its construction will generate jobs at such a critical time for our economy."

Cllr Laxale added that a number of significant items from the old Civic Centre such as signage, coat of arms and a mosaic floor design will be incorporated into the new development where possible.

Council will retain 100% ownership of the site and the project will be completely funded without raising rates or reducing services.

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