

Thursday 12 September 2019

REFORMS TO PROTECT RYDE'S HERITAGE NOW ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Community consultation has now commenced on wide-ranging planning reforms designed to provide stronger protections for items and areas of heritage significance across the City of Ryde.

The reforms are proposed by Council in direct response to concerns raised by the community and detailed in the Community Strategic Plan for more to be done to protect the City of Ryde's heritage and character.

In addition, the proposed controls are designed to provide greater certainty to property owners and prospective buyers.

Under the reforms, 44 new heritage items will be created in the City of Ryde. This includes;

- Thirty properties comprising Federation cottages, Inter-war bungalows and Victorian Georgian villas
- Seven public parks and a reservoir
- Three street tree boulevards
- Two shops
- One licensed hotel
- One public school

Six new heritage conservation areas will also be created, while the former Squire's Brewery and Halvorsen's Boat Yard in Putney and the Glades Bay Baths in Gladesville will be listed as archaeological sites.

The reforms are based on the findings of a comprehensive heritage review commissioned by the City of Ryde.

Heritage items are provided with protections guarding them from inappropriate development as new works are required to be sympathetic to the character and style of the heritage item and/or the heritage conservation area.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, encouraged all residents to take part in the community consultation.

"Heritage items, whether they are homes, shops, schools, parks or even entire streets, enrich our City and contribute to the community's sense of place," Clr Laxale said.

"We know through our engagement with the community that heritage is of vital importance to the majority of residents many of whom have expressed concerns about the recent increase in development proposals that involved the demolition of buildings with heritage value.

"Conversely, there have also been concerns raised that property owners have no certainty under current planning controls.

“The proposed planning reforms address these concerns and that is why it is so important that everyone takes part in the consultation that has just commenced.”

Written submissions can be made:

- Online: <http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/heritage>
- Email: cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au
- Post: General Manager, City of Ryde, Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670

The community consultation will take place until 25 October.

For the past seven years, the City of Ryde has supported heritage property owners through an assistance fund to carry out conservation works and maintenance.

Corresponding with the reforms, Council has resolved to allocate an additional \$500,000 to its Local Heritage Assistance Fund and increase the size of individual grants available from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

The Local Heritage Assistance Fund was established by the City of Ryde to help with the cost associated with repairing and conserving privately-owned heritage-listed items.

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