

Thursday, 10 February 2011

RYDE COUNCIL TO FIGHT PLANNING MINISTER'S DIRECTION ON COMMUNITY RADIO TRANSMITTER

The City of Ryde will challenge a direction by the NSW Planning Minister Tony Kelly to approve a Development Application for public land that could end the operation of a local community radio station.

A 2RRR transmitter located for the past 26 years on Sydney Water land at Goulding Road in Ryde is at risk of forcible removal despite a recommendation by the NSW Government's own 'independent' body – the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP).

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Artin Etmekdjian, said most councillors were outraged that the Minister could ignore the ruling of his own panel which had been set up in the first place to override local authorities on development applications.

"The Minister can't even accept the ruling of his own panel to save 2RRR. This clearly is a case of ignoring the Ryde community and the valuable contribution made by 2RRR - particularly to members of our diverse community who receive local broadcasts in more than a dozen languages.

"Two of our councillors, Cllr Roy Maggio and Cllr Bill Pickering; the State Member for Lane Cove Anthony Roberts; along with the executive of 2RRR and community members, fought hard to save the 2RRR transmitter and even appeared before the JRPP. Why can't the Minister accept that the community won the debate."

The Council has resolved to seek a judicial review on the Minister's decision. Council will also write directly to the Minister asking for an explanation as to why the transmitter cannot to be retained in line with the recommendation of the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) he appointed. The local authority will also advise the Minister that due to the community belief that the JRPP recommendation would be accepted, that further community consultation needs to take place before Council can consider the matter.

Councillors also resolved that the City of Ryde write to the Ombudsman, the Anti-discrimination Board, and both State and Federal local members to request support for the community's call that the 2RRR transmitter remain.

Media contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8082