

Tuesday 14 February 2012.

City of Ryde Mayor sets the record straight on YouTube Ryde Civic Precinct Redevelopment

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Artin Etmekdjian, has taken to YouTube to address Ryde residents and set the record straight about the Ryde Civic Precinct Redevelopment.

In the YouTube video, the Mayor clarifies two areas in relation to the proposal; the need to redevelop the site and the actual costs involved. The Mayor has confirmed that the Council is progressing with the proposal in the interest of all ratepayers.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Artin Etmekdjian, comments: "There has been a lot of misinformation in the community about this proposal. The fact is that the current civic building has been deteriorating for a long time and no longer meets the community's needs. It does not comply with modern Building Code standards and as such is expensive to maintain, costing an additional \$200,000 per annum. The Council estimates the maintenance of the building would cost the community \$12.5 million over five years."

To replace the current building, accommodate council staff and provide community facilities, including a much needed performance venue, will cost ratepayers more than \$78 million, which would translate into a 16 per cent rate increase over the next 20 years. The Council therefore proposes to sell a portion of the land to the private sector to finance and develop facilities and minimise the financial impact on ratepayers.

The process is in the early stages and there will be more opportunities for everyone to have their say.

Watch the 4-minute YouTube video here www.youtube.com/cityofrydecouncil