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END OF THE LINE MENTALITY FOR MACQUARIE PARK TO PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL

City of Ryde Council and business leaders have expressed dismay at the omission of the Macquarie Park to Parramatta Light Rail route, describing it as the 'critical missing link' in the Western Sydney Light Rail Network announced by the NSW Premier this week.

Macquarie Park's booming \$10 billion a year economy grew by 6.8% last year, outstripping Parramatta (1.6%), Sydney (1.1%) and North Sydney (-0.2%).

"This is a huge loss for the Macquarie Park precinct, a blue chip hub described as the economic star performer, and a massive shock for the long suffering commuters in the region," Ryde Mayor, Jerome Laxale said.

"Connecting two CBDs, two universities, two hospitals and two booming residential catchment areas with light rail infrastructure that can move 10,000 passengers an hour is a no-brainer, and would remove thousands of cars from our roads.

"Macquarie Park to Parramatta is the only link in the Global Economic Corridor that does not have a current or planned mass-transit service."

Campaigners have long pushed for faster and more efficient services from Macquarie Park and Parramatta to boost the economy. Currently the only public transport system connecting the two CBDs is a bus service.

Macquarie Park Profile

- Current job numbers in Mac Park = 47,000 employees*
- Current student/staff numbers in Mac Park = 38,000*
- The Parramatta to Macquarie Park Light Rail corridor would connect the people of Western Sydney and Greater Parramatta to over 80,000 potential jobs in Macquarie Park
- It would also connect the people of Macquarie Park, City of Ryde and residents along the North Shore Rail line to over 53,000 potential jobs in Greater Parramatta.
- Anticipated future numbers (by 2031) of student / staff = 50,000*

*<http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/Business-and-Development/Town-Centres/Macquarie-Park-Corridor/Connecting-the-Future>

The NSW Government's Metropolitan Strategy states that the Macquarie Park – Parramatta route would service 10 times the passenger numbers of the Olympic Park option and offers the greatest potential for success.

Chair of the Ryde Business Forum, Tony Abboud, said: “Macquarie Park, which is strategically located between the cities of Parramatta and Sydney, will now not have the infrastructure to accommodate one of the largest workforces in Sydney.

“A light rail connection between Parramatta and Macquarie Park would have a multiplier effect on job growth and security in the region.

“This initiative not to support the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars by the corporate sector in Macquarie Park is an opportunity lost and a blow to the future growth of the region.”

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