

Friday 22 January 2016

OPPORTUNITY ARISES FOR NSW GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE A CRITICAL SCHOOL SITE IN MACQUARIE PARK

Local schools in the City of Ryde are at or near capacity, with some reports suggesting that lower North Shore schools have seen up to a 40 percent increase in enrolments over recent years.

Mayor Laxale said that “Council remains concerned that current education infrastructure will not meet the demand arising from significant population growth across the City of Ryde. “

The State Government’s two Priority Precincts at Macquarie Park and North Ryde will see the residential population in the immediate area increase from approximately 6,000 to more than 21,000 (an estimated population increase of 15,000). The area is a highly sought after location for families and there is already an increased demand for quality, local public schools.

Following the announcement from Woolworths that it intends to close its doors on Masters, the recently approved Masters Development Application at 144 Wicks Road, Macquarie Park, the former site of Peter Board High School, is now in question and the answer could be a new school.

“This is a great opportunity for the State Government to purchase the land of the proposed Masters Store and meet the increasing need for schools in this area that it did not address in its ‘*Plan for Growing Sydney*’” Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale said.

“With work well underway at the North Ryde Station Precinct and the Herring Road Precinct in the near future, the need for adequate regional infrastructure funding is critical. Developments in those precincts should contribute towards the cost of providing new schools in Ryde.”

The State Government’s 2013-14 budget allocated \$70 million to new School Buildings on the North Shore, and in 2014-15 a further \$400 million had been set aside for schools infrastructure across NSW.

Mayor Laxale said “This would be a great use of these funds and Ryde Council has identified an immediate opportunity for the State Government to get ahead of the development industry and purchase the site for the benefit of future generations.

I call on the local member, Victor Dominello MP to immediately put this opportunity before the Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli MP for his urgent consideration.”

ENDS.

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