

Wednesday 13 April 2016

STATE GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF SHORT CHANGING EASTWOOD COMMUNITY

City of Ryde Council has been forced to decline an offer by the State Government to lease land for a carpark in Eastwood for two cents per year for fifty years citing that it contravenes Mike Baird's own guidelines.

Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the whole affair was a joke: "Ryde Council has been in discussion for some time with Transport NSW over a proposed car park in Eastwood on the northern side of the railway line. We have bent over backwards to try and get a short-term car park built for our residents.

"The Government has offered ratepayers 2c a year for a piece of land that is valued in the millions. Even if we wanted to accept the offer, we would not be allowed to due to the Baird Government's own rules which came into force in January.

"Our stance has been confirmed by advice from the Office of Local Government, and by another letter signed by the Minister for Local Government. Furthermore, we have obtained legal advice which tells us we cannot proceed."

"I want a short term carpark. The community wants a short term carpark. We are willing to negotiate a fair commercial arrangement on behalf of our citizens, yet farcically Mike Baird's offer of 2 cents per year means that we cannot!

"It's a bit rich for the local member for Ryde, Victor Dominello, to accuse the Council of delaying tactics when clearly we are following correct procedures put in place by his own Government!

"The Baird Government's forced amalgamation fiasco is shaping up to be a real dog's breakfast."

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