

Monday 5 February 2018

COUNCIL SEEKS ASSURANCES AROUND FUNDING FOR EASTWOOD UPGRADES

Following two council resolutions in 2017, the City of Ryde has sought an update about the status of a \$25 million grant pledged last October by Member for Ryde, the Hon. Victor Dominello, to build a new commuter car park and install sets of signalised pedestrian lights in Eastwood as part of the NSW Government's Transport Access Plan Grants program.

Council is still awaiting the details regarding the security of the funding since the October announcement. To date, Council has not received any of the funding and confusion surrounds what the grant can, and cannot, be used for.

Council has strongly supported the installation of traffic signals throughout the traffic network in Eastwood, having made multiple applications since 2009. Council remains reliant on the NSW Government funding and approvals to begin preliminary work on this project. Given Mr Dominello's public announcements, Council is also seeking confirmation that the proposed grant can be used for pedestrian lights. To date, no such confirmation has been received.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, met with a representative of Mr Dominello's office and staff from Transport for NSW last week to seek assurances that the grant funding had been approved, what the grant can be used for and when Council would likely receive the funding. Despite Mr Dominello setting the meeting time and place, he did not attend.

"Council requested the meeting because we have not received any further information about its specifics," Cllr Laxale said.

"Furthermore, the promises made verbally and in the local press by Mr Dominello, do not match what has been conveyed by Transport for NSW officials."

"Our residents and business owners deserve clarity on this promise. What is it for, and when will it be delivered? Once the Council has that, we will be in a much better position to finalise our preferred sites for pedestrian lights and increased parking

"Despite Mr Dominello's absence, I believe that the meeting finished on a positive note with Transport for NSW and ministerial staffers making a commitment to provide all the information requested by Council in writing."

Council will continue to proceed with the Comprehensive Traffic and Parking Study of Eastwood and surrounds, passed unanimously by all Councillors on 24 October 2017. The study is due to report back to Council in the first half of 2018.