

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 26 February 2019

## **VENTURE CAFÉ TO DRIVE INNOVATION AT MACQUARIE PARK**

Venture Café Sydney has been officially launched in Macquarie Park, marking the arrival of the globally-recognised network to Australia.

Venture Cafe Sydney is the eighth and newest member of the Venture Cafe Global network, joining Boston, Tokyo and other international cities as Venture Café locations.

The aim of Venture Café is to promote innovation and foster collaboration through staging weekly programs and events that build relationships between students, start-ups, entrepreneurs, corporates, investors and other organisations.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Council was proud to be a partner of Venture Café given the benefits it will bring to Macquarie Park.

"Venture Café will add another layer to Macquarie Park's strong economic credentials by providing an outlet to attract local start-ups as well as new and innovative ideas that will lead to more commercial diversity and employment opportunities for the area.

"Despite some recent comments by NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian implying that Macquarie Park is 'not cool', the fact of the matter is that Macquarie Park has never been stronger. It is an economic powerhouse and a destination for 1,900 businesses and 62,000 employees," CIr Laxale said.

More information on Venture Café Sydney can be found at venturecafesydney.org.

The launch of Venture Café Sydney follows a number of new initiatives launched by the City of Ryde to improve the amenities and open space in and around Macquarie Park.

This includes upgrades to Wilga Park, which will feature new amphitheatre terracing, outdoor seating and public artworks, and the Smart Cities Project that will bring free public Wi-Fi and other technologies to areas of Macquarie Park.

Media Contact: Michael East, City of Ryde Communications p ● 9952 8083 m ● 0466 091 059 e ● meast@ryde.nsw.gov.au