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COUNCIL CALLS FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE FAST-TRACKED ALONG WITH HOUSING AT IVANHOE ESTATE

The City of Ryde has called on the State Government to include vital public infrastructure projects as part of its decision to fast-track Stage 1 of the Ivanhoe Estate housing development in Macquarie Park.

Stage 1 of the Ivanhoe Estate – a development of 740 new dwellings – is one of 24 projects in NSW that will have its development assessment fast-tracked as part of the State Government’s attempts to boost the economy in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Stage 1 is part of a wider multi-stage plan for Ivanhoe Estate comprising up to 3,400 new dwellings.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said it was unthinkable that the State Government would proceed with such a major housing development without also fast-tracking vital public infrastructure projects that would cater for the additional levels of growth associated with the development in and around Macquarie Park.

These infrastructure projects include the promised Macquarie Park bus interchange on Herring Road, the creation of additional open space as well as upgrades to the key intersections.

“This matter has been before our community for years, and at every turn we have said loud and clear that you cannot have 3000 dwellings without investing in public infrastructure to support it,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Covid-19 should not act as a free pass for developers. If the State Government is hell-bent on fast-tracking development, they must also fast-track the infrastructure to match it.”

The Federal Government announced an underground bus interchange in 2017, and intersection upgrades in Macquarie Park in 2018, neither of which have been identified in the first tranche of the fast-track announcement.

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