

Monday 24 June 2019

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON 'THE NEW HEART OF RYDE'

Formal consultation on the new vision for the Ryde Civic Centre site commences this week, with the entire City of Ryde community encouraged to have its say on the new proposal.

Described as 'The New Heart of Ryde', the proposal endorsed by Council will deliver a four-fold increase in community facilities without the introduction of any residential development on the site.

The proposal is financially sustainable and will not result in increased rates or cuts to any services. Council will also retain complete ownership of the site.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said The New Heart of Ryde would have dedicated space for performances, concerts, art and functions. It will also feature meeting rooms and spaces for members of the community to utilise such as mothers groups and cultural groups.

"The New Heart of Ryde is one of the most exciting projects undertaken by the City of Ryde in decades. It will be built for the community and owned by the community, without any residential development," Cllr Laxale said.

"It will also activate the Ryde Civic Centre site and resolve the chronic shortage of community space that the City of Ryde currently faces."

Jessica Matthews, co-founder of Ryde District Mums, said The New Heart of Ryde had the potential to benefit everyone in the community.

"As a mother I know how hard it can be to find the appropriate space in Ryde to stage get-togethers for mothers groups. So to have new facilities where mothers groups can meet on a regular basis is terrific for the City of Ryde," Ms Matthews said.

"It will be great that certain community groups will also be able to access amazing facilities at subsidised rates as affordability is important to families in Ryde."

Cllr Laxale said it was important that all members of the community took part in the formal consultation which begins this week.

"All feedback submitted during the formal consultation period will help shape the final design and report that will be submitted to Council later in the year."

Formal consultation opens this Wednesday 26 June, where the community can provide their feedback up until Sunday 25 August. Submissions can be made:

- Through an online survey at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/heart](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/heart)
- By email at [cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au)
- By post to General Manager, City of Ryde, Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670.

In addition to receiving submissions, the City of Ryde will also undertake a wide range of communication activities during the formal consultation period including a community roadshow and displays at local shopping centres.