

Tuesday 23 June 2015

PARRAMATTA COUNCIL LABELLED 'PARASITIC MEGALOMANIACS'

Ryde Council is once again appalled at the gutless, arrogant tactics of another Council attempting to “take over” large parts of the City of Ryde in particular, Macquarie Park, in its bid to become ‘Fit for the Future’.

Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering said the ‘Fit for the Future’ initiative is descending into a farcical exercise of cash and land grabs. Parramatta Council in the stealth of night, has proposed a land and cash grab of the majority of Ryde without a single discussion with our Council.

Their obsessive desire for power is akin to that of a ‘megalomaniac on steroids. They are like parasites attempting to suck the life-blood out of the City of Ryde.’

Ryde is not western Sydney and Parramatta should focus on building the west, not trying to expand east where there are already well managed, mature economic zones such as Ryde’s Macquarie Park.

This is the act of a reckless, immature Council with no integrity which is simply proposing this alternative to the State Government as a revenue raising exercise for Parramatta Council in an attempt to build a proper CBD that they have failed at dismally over the past 50 years. They think that by simply expanding their boundaries that they have the initiative and capability of managing a thriving business hub like Macquarie Park.

Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said he was also shocked when looking at the proposed boundary expansion, that Parramatta Council thought they could better manage one of the State Government’s own pre-eminent sport and cultural centres, Sydney Olympic Park Authority. “I am certain that the NSW Minister for Sport, Stuart Ayres, would have something to say about that”!

It is disappointing to see that once again our neighbouring councils are mounting desperate last ditch bids to take over parts of the City of Ryde. Everyone it seems, wants a piece of Ryde, and in particular, the booming Macquarie Park business district. This ‘jewel in the crown’ has matured under the careful management of this Council and it currently contributes \$9.1 billion to the State’s bottom line.

“However, Ryde is not about ‘empire building’ – we prefer quality over quantity and we will always look after local interests and local residents.” Ryde, Lane Cove and Hunters Hill Councils have a superior option of a Joint Regional Authority which enjoys the support of our communities.

“Parramatta’s actions are not only counter-productive, they totally contradict the Office of Local Government’s *Fit for the Future* guidelines in respect of a hostile takeover” and I can’t believe that Minister Toole would condone any proposal that contravenes his own Fit for the Future criteria.

IPART has advised all Councils that if any hostile proposals are made and it is clear that the Councils affected had not agreed or discussed the matter, then that proposal would not be considered and automatically rejected.

“Let me state once again that Parramatta Council has had no discussion with the City of Ryde about these proposed boundary adjustments and I can see no evidence that they have bothered to ask their community either.”

Recently, Ministers Anthony Roberts and Victor Dominello publicly acknowledged the City of Ryde’s track record in developing Macquarie Park to be the State’s second largest business precinct. They also stated that the City of Ryde should continue to control Macquarie Park’s future.

The Mayor concluded: “It is ironic that everyone wants a piece of Ryde thanks to its outstanding success, strong leadership and desirable location.

“Parramatta Council has cherry picked parts of their surrounding LGA’s with no regard to the impact on their surrounding communities. They seem to be staking a claim on anything of value.

“Ryde Council has established a strong partnership over many years with businesses, developers and residents and we will not surrender any part of our City without a fight.”

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