

Tuesday 8 December 2015

### **LIGHT RAIL DECISION HAS LET RYDE DOWN, AGAIN**

City of Ryde's campaign to link Macquarie Park with Parramatta via Carlingford by light rail has been delivered a knock-out blow following today's Western Sydney Light Rail announcement by the NSW Premier.

"This is a huge loss for Macquarie Park and a massive shock to commuters in the region," Ryde Mayor, Jerome Laxale said.

"Premier Mike Baird and the Member for Ryde Victor Dominello had the chance to right the wrongs of the past, yet they have let Ryde down again

"Linking Macquarie Park and Parramatta makes sense. It is the missing link in our transport network, and will remain so due to this ill-considered decision.

"A link to Parramatta would help solve the significant traffic problems in Ryde and Macquarie Park by removing thousands of cars off our local roads."

"I am calling on Victor Dominello to support his City and have the Carlingford line extended to Macquarie Park."

The combined CBDs of Macquarie Park and Parramatta employ 97,500 workers, and this figure will rise to 130,000 over the next 10 years.

Connecting two strategic business centres, two universities, two hospitals and two residential catchment areas by light rail would reduce traffic congestion making it easier for everyone to get around and for business to thrive.

In June, Ryde Council joined forces with business and civic leaders to lobby the State Government to link Macquarie Park to Parramatta as part of the \$1-billion Western Sydney Light Rail Network project.

"According to the Government's own Metropolitan Strategy, the Macquarie Park-Parramatta route would service 10 times the passenger numbers of the Olympic Park option and offers the greatest potential for success," Clr Laxale said.

Chair of the Ryde Business Forum, Tony Abboud, said: "Macquarie Park, which is strategically located between the cities of Parramatta and Sydney, will now not have the infrastructure to accommodate one of the largest workforces in Sydney.

"A light rail connection between Parramatta and Macquarie Park would have a multiplier effect on job growth and security in the region."

"This initiative not to support the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars by the corporate sector in Macquarie Park is an opportunity lost and a blow to the future growth of the region."