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RYDE CALLS ON PREMIER TO COOL DOWN ON DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN BUSINESS AT MACQUARIE PARK

The City of Ryde has hit back at claims by the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian that Macquarie Park is not cool enough to attract young technology entrepreneurs.

When announcing a taskforce to develop a new tech precinct near Central railway station last week, Ms Berejiklian was asked why the NSW Government would fund a new precinct when Macquarie Park already existed. In response, Ms Berejiklian said young, tech-savvy people “want to work somewhere cool”.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, refuted the claims, pointing to Macquarie Park’s phenomenal growth in recent years.

Macquarie Park employs more than 62,000 people, is growing at an average of 6.8% and generates \$9.8 billion in gross domestic product. It is home to major multinationals such as Microsoft, Panasonic, Astra-Zeneca and Johnson & Johnson and is due to have a further \$7 billion worth of private and public funding invested in the park over the next decade.

In addition, Macquarie Park recently became home to the Australian headquarters for the globally-recognised Venture Café organisation, which will provide a network for some of the sharpest and brightest minds to come together and drive innovation.

“Macquarie Park employs people, it educates people, and it entertains people. With its close relationship with Macquarie University and through the work of the Macquarie Park Innovation District it has also become a hub for innovation and new start-ups, attracting some of the best new talent to the area,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Ms Berejiklian is by all means welcome to go and announce new business parks, but she should not trash Macquarie Park, which has been responsible for so much of the state’s growth in recent years.

“What is certainly not cool is how Ms Berejiklian’s Government has imposed residential priority precincts in Macquarie Park and is also currently reviewing the rest of the park which may impose even more residential developments in the City of Ryde.”

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