

Friday 14 September 2018

## **PARRAMATTA COUNCIL AND STATE PLANNING PANEL TURN BACK ON RYDE COMMUNITY AND RMS ADVICE WHILE OVERDEVELOPMENT WINS**

The Sydney Central City Planning Panel has approved three more applications in the Melrose Park precinct at Victoria Road and Wharf Road, which will result in 413 additional apartments and 419 car parking spaces.

The decision was made by the planning panel this week despite concerns lodged by the City of Ryde about the lack of consultation with all residents living in the vicinity of the development and the lack of adequate infrastructure.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the development at the Melrose Park precinct needed a regional approach because of its size and the fact it was on the border of the Sydney North and Sydney Central City Districts, the City of Ryde and Parramatta Councils, and the Ryde and Parramatta State electorates.

“While the development rolls on with approval after approval by the State Government appointed planning panel, there is no consideration of the impacts on our community in Melrose Park and beyond or any guarantees of appropriate infrastructure,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Of major concern is that this development was approved without a Traffic Management Action Plan (TMAP) in place and with Parramatta Council failing to provide appropriate notification.

“This blatant disregard for proper process should send alarm bells through State Parliament at a time when Parramatta Council is in ‘chaos’.”

The City of Ryde provided a letter to the planning panel and the Acting CEO of Parramatta City Council highlighting that the processes around advertising and notifying the relevant application were flawed and inconsistent with that council’s own notification requirements.

The City of Ryde subsequently requested that the applications be deferred to allow notification of the proposals to all residents whose amenity will be impacted by these developments including those in the City of Ryde. No response to the letter was received from Parramatta City Council.

“This is just another example where the local member Victor Dominello and the Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts spruik concerns about overdevelopment and the need for infrastructure to ‘catch up’, while development continues unabated with massive impacts on our local roads, schools and open space,” Cllr Laxale added.

“At a minimum no further applications in this precinct should be lodged or determined until the TMAP process is finalised, necessary infrastructure identified which includes funding and timing of delivery relative to the stages of development and density increases, as well a fair and comprehensive community consultation process discussed and agreed to between Parramatta City Council and the City of Ryde going forward.”

The City of Ryde will review the written decision of the panel and consider its position.