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NEW EASTWOOD CAR PARK TO SOLVE CHRONIC TRAFFIC AND PARKING ISSUES

The City of Ryde has resolved to develop a concept plan that would support the creation of a new shopper car park on the western side of Eastwood as well as a new public plaza and community facilities.

Under the concept plan, the existing Glen Street car park would be relocated to the Shaftsbury Road precinct at the edge of Eastwood town centre. The Glen Street car park, meanwhile, would be transformed into a public plaza, creating a more vibrant open space for the community.

The new car park could increase the number of off-street car parking spaces currently available on the western side of Eastwood from 450 spaces to approximately 600 spaces.

In addition, Council will engage in consultation with the relevant stakeholders to investigate the possibility of building vital community facilities in the vicinity of the new car park, which could include a new community hall, youth space and an occasional childcare centre. Options for temporary accommodation for these services while construction of the car park takes place would also be discussed with the stakeholders.

The move by Council to address the chronic traffic and parking issues in Eastwood comes after the release of the Draft Eastwood Traffic and Parking Study.

The independent study looked at several options for off-street car parking in Eastwood and found that moving the Glen Street car park to the Shaftsbury Road precinct would improve the traffic conditions in the area. The study also found that a weekday commuter car park would cause traffic grid-lock.

Given this, and in line with the study's commentary, Council also resolved to write to Transport for NSW encouraging the State Government to build a commuter car park in West Ryde.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the relocation of the Glen Street car park would be a win for local residents and businesses.

"In just over a year, this current Council has managed to do what others have failed to do and provide a clear pathway to opening up Eastwood town centre, providing logical, evidence-based traffic and parking solutions that will make it easier for shoppers to access and going a long way to boosting the local economy," Cllr Laxale said.

"This new vision for Eastwood will significantly reduce the chronic traffic and parking issues the local community has to deal with every single day in Eastwood, but also create a dynamic public space in the heart of the town centre.

“While Council gets on with the job of improving traffic and parking in Eastwood we will also be strongly encouraging the State Government to build commuter car parking in West Ryde. This will provide commuters with access to parking near a train station that is in fact closer to the city, while also avoiding the traffic grid lock that would be caused if such a car park was built in Eastwood.”

The finalised concept plan as well as the Draft Eastwood Traffic and Parking Study will be placed on public exhibition in early 2019, with a comprehensive consultation process to be undertaken involving residents, community groups and the local business community.

The new car park on the western side of Eastwood would be in addition to the new multi-storey short stay car park that Council will build at 53-71 Rowe Street, on the eastern side of the town centre.

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