

Dominello merger deal leaves Ryde Residents facing up to 31% Rate Increase

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As part of its submission in response to the State Government's merger proposal, City of Ryde has received independent rates modelling on the likely impact on Ryde residents.

The modelling demonstrates that residential properties across the City of Ryde could experience rate increase ranging between 11% and 31% due to potential differences in rating structures between Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove. Examples are:

- West Ryde - 11% increase
- Ryde - 11% increase
- Tennyson Point - 16% increase
- Denistone - 28% increase
- Denistone East - 29% increase
- Melrose Park - 28% increase
- North Ryde - 30% increase
- Denistone West - 31% increase

The increase could come into effect once the four year protection period for rate increases, currently proposed by the State Government, is removed in 2020/21.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, has called on Ryde Member, Victor Dominello, to explain to Ryde residents how he could support such a rate hike when the majority of surveyed citizens are opposed to forced mergers.

"In October 2015, Victor Dominello publicly supported a forced merger for Ryde. He was quoted in the press saying, 'Obviously I am completely supportive of Local Government Minister Paul Toole and the need for reform, Mr Dominello said. I am 100% committed to the Government's stance on this ...'.

"Instead of fighting for Ryde, and protecting our citizens from an unjustified rate hike, Victor Dominello has been too busy protecting his own career and towing the party line.

"This forced merger is a deal that he cooked up and supported, and one that will see our residents slugged with rates upto 31% higher than they are now."

In its submission to the Boundary Review Delegate yesterday, Ryde maintained its argument to stand alone.

"Our citizens have told us that they do not want to be forcibly merged. In light of this shocking new evidence, it is now time for Victor Dominello to support our community and reject the merger proposal."

Historic Property Saved from Demolition with Interim Heritage Order

Published on 26 February 2016

An Interim Heritage Order has been gazetted today by the City of Ryde Council to save a Federation-style dwelling *Dellina Palm Cottage*, at 87 Bowden Street, Ryde, from demolition.

The move came after the Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, tabled a Mayoral Minute at the meeting of Council on Tuesday 23 February 2016, to reverse a previous 2010 Resolution of Council that had left properties like *Dellina Palm Cottage* without heritage protection.

The 2010 Resolution had meant that the identification of heritage significance and heritage listings were not the decision for the community, but controlled by individual land owners and developers.

The Mayor said: "The previous Council's resolution was short-sighted and left a significant number of properties which form part of our local history in danger of being lost or irreversibly changed.

"This is not an appropriate process to identify and protect the rich heritage of our City and I believed this issue needed to be redressed as a matter of urgency.

"As local leaders we must set the direction to ensure the protection of our local heritage now and into the future. Hopefully this is the start of a new era of taking our heritage seriously."

Several properties identified for heritage listing in the 2010 Heritage Study have already been lost and 14 have recent development consents for either demolition, substantial alterations and additions or new development.

The Mayor added: "It is vital that, as a City, we resolve to protect places of historical significance and I want to ensure that my kids can walk through Ryde and feel and breathe the history of Australia's third oldest settlement."

Council also resolved to list the Bowden Street property on the heritage schedule of Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014.

Mobile Phones Driving Pedestrians to Distraction, and Danger

Published on 25 February 2016



The next time you step off the kerb, think about all the facts your brain is computing – can I see a car, how far away is it, how fast is it going, will I get across in time? But what if you were texting, talking or listening to music? Chances are you could be seeing less, hearing less and reacting slower than when you are fully focussed on your surroundings. Now crossing the road just got a lot more dangerous.

In 2014 there were 1595 pedestrian casualties in NSW, 41 of these being fatalities.

As we continue to tune into technology while on the go, distraction is becoming an increasingly significant risk factor for pedestrians. Using mobile devices can be a major distraction to pedestrians and can increase the risks of being fatally injured.

Local councils are working together in a bid to make pedestrians aware of the dangers of distraction while using mobile devices when they are out and about.

7 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

- Head up. Phone down
- Don't walk and text
- Be especially aware in heavily trafficked areas

- If you do need to text, move to one side of the footpath, stop, then text
- Always use pedestrian crossings, if available
- Never assume an approaching driver can see you or will stop
- At intersections, check for turning vehicles before you leave the kerb.

DISTRACTED...? pedestrian safety campaign is a joint initiative of ten Northern Sydney Councils, including Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby, in conjunction with Roads & Maritime Services. The campaign includes print advertising, face-to-face promotions and various types of outdoor advertising designed to get the message across.

EPA Joins Our Living River Initiative

Published on 22 February 2016



The NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday formalised a strategic partnership with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG), signing a Statement of Joint Intent for the Our Living River initiative to make the Parramatta River swimmable by 2025.

NSW EPA CEO, MR Barry Buffier, said the partnership consolidates the EPA's commitment to working with local councils, state government agencies and community groups, for the benefit of the NSW community.

"We share the same goal; to maintain clean, unpolluted waterways. The EPA looks forward to helping develop compliance, monitoring and reporting systems that improve the Parramatta River's water quality."

PRCG Chair and Mayor of Ryde, Councillor Jerome Laxale, welcomed the EPA's membership.

"The Parramatta River Catchment Group has made great progress in the last year, and we are delighted to have the EPA on board as a member," Councillor Laxale said.

"The EPA's support and advice will be invaluable as we roll out the schedule to make the river swimmable again.

"We will soon finalise the selection of six pilot swimming sites along the Parramatta River to begin water quality modelling that will inform how we make the river

swimmable again, so there is no better time for this partnership with the EPA to be forged.

“I look forward to working together to address the challenges of restoring the river to its full potential.”

To find out more about the Our Living River initiative, visit the [Our Living River website](#).

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CCTV Work Begins at Eastwood's Glen Street Carpark

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Work has begun on the installation of CCTV cameras and additional lighting at the Glen Street carpark in Eastwood.

City of Ryde Council received \$200,000 from the Federal Government's Safer Streets Communities Grant to implement the project for CCTV camera installation in the Glen Street Carpark and surrounds.

Ryde Mayor Cllr Jerome Laxale said that this community safety project was a high priority for Council and that he was glad that the \$200,000 project was under way.

Mayor Laxale said: "A total of 13 CCTV cameras will be installed that will monitor all key access points throughout the carpark and its surrounds. This is a larger number of cameras than originally planned for and is a result of our determination to achieve the best value possible from this grant.

"A complete upgrade of lighting, including light poles, is also part of the project to improve security and sight lines through the carpark precinct.

"This project will deliver a safer environment for the Eastwood community and will assist in adding to the attraction of the town centre as an eating, shopping and social destination."

Everyone Welcome at the Community Information Expo

Published on 19 February 2016



Community Information Expo 2015

The City of Ryde Council is once again joining forces with Relationships Australia's *Ryde Community Hub* to present the annual Community Information Expo on Thursday 24 March at Eastwood Plaza, 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Part of Harmony Week celebrations, the Information Expo is billed as a celebration of inter-culturalism and community spirit. The multi-lingual one-stop-shop of Expo provides information on local services available to residents and new migrants, on aged/home and community care, housing, education, volunteering, as well as family and legal services. It also showcases some wonderful local talent, including community choirs, dance groups and more.

To cater to the more than 50 nationalities represented in the local community, information is available in a number of community languages including English, Korean, Cantonese, Mandarin, Farsi and Tamil.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said: "This Expo is a great demonstration of how welcoming a community we are. While it is primarily about information exchange and networking, the entertainment and social elements add a celebratory aspect and showcase the diversity and generosity of our community."

The morning program offers a combination of information, fun and entertainment and includes:

- Welcome to Country
- 30 information stalls
- Interactive fun
- Kids Corner
- Cultural performances
- Chai tea

Service providers at the Expo include:

- Benevolent Society
- Community Migrant Resource Centre
- Christian Community Aid
- Ryde Family Services
- Ability Links NSW
- NSW Police Force
- Department of Human Services
- NSW Health
- NSW Tafe
- Local NGOs and charities

For more information on the Community Information Expo, call Relationships Australia Community Hub Ryde on 9858 3029.

Design our Ryde lures strong International Response

Published on 15 February 2016

A strong response from the international design community to *Design Our Ryde* Civic Hub competition, has prompted Ryde Council to extend the registration date to 18 March 2016 to cater to architecture students and graduates following the holiday break.

Since it was launched in January the competition has attracted more than 258 registrations from 40 countries including Australia, France, Italy, Spain, the UK, Hong Kong, China, Peru, Russia, Mexico, Kazakhstan, India, Iran, Indonesia and the United States.

NSW Government Architect and *Design our Ryde* jury chairman, Peter Poulet, said: "We are delighted with the response from the international community.

"Similar competitions have also revealed previously undiscovered new talents and we hope the lure of \$150,000 prize money and the scope of the competition will also attract many young, emerging architects to test their ideas against more established industry figures."

Design our Ryde aims to transform the gateway Ryde Civic Hub Site (1 Devlin Street) with an iconic vision that will rejuvenate Ryde's civic, commercial and cultural heart from the best creative minds.

Design our Ryde will be conducted in 2 Stages with the general public asked to identify its preferred design to add to the independent jury's selection. In Stage 2, three or four shortlisted concepts will be exhibited for public comment and site name suggestions.

Entrants who are shortlisted will receive a grant to help them prepare for Stage 2, one of which will become the declared winner.

KEY DATES

The Competition is in two stages.

Stage 1 open competition

- Submissions: 11 January - 30 March 2016
- Submissions exhibited: 14 April - 5 May 2016
- Jury identifies 3 shortlisted entries and the Community identifies 1 shortlisted entry by 13 May 2016

Stage 2 invited competition for shortlisted entries

- Submissions: 14 May - 27 June 2016
- Exhibition: 11 July - 1 August 2016
- Jury identifies Competition Winner, and the Community names the site by 8 August 2016.

Jury Members

- **Peter Poulet** - Government Architect, New South Wales
- **Shaun Carter** - Founding architect of Carterwilliamson Architects and NSW, Chapter President, Australian Institute of Architects
- **Maria Atkinson, AM** - Founding Director of Maria Atkinson Consultancy, internationally recognised sustainability strategist.

Design our Ryde will be conducted in accordance with the Australian Institute of Architects 'Guidelines for Architectural Competitions' and the NSW Government's 'Design Excellence Guidelines'.

For more information, visit the [Design our Ryde](#) website.

Mayor TV: Episode 7

Published on 04 February 2016



The Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Jerome Laxale visits West Ryde Public School to chat about school road safety.

Mayor TV Episode 8

Published on 04 February 2016



Clr Jerome Laxale, Mayor of Ryde congratulates Clr Craig Chung on winning the 2016 Lunar New Year Cooking Competition and talks about the celebrations taking place in Eastwood during Lunar New Year.