

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



27 July 2016

History Made As Council Meets For Last Time At Civic Centre

Camden Council last night marked the end of an era and the beginning of an exciting new period of the local government area's history, with Councillors meeting for the final time at the Camden Civic Centre.

The next Council meeting will be held at the new Council Chamber in the administration building at Oran Park.

"This is a landmark occasion for Camden, as we move to a new level of service for the community while also continuing the proud history and traditions that make our area what it is," said Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak.

"Council meetings have been held at Camden Civic Centre since September 1986, and I will always fondly remember my time here and the many momentous decisions which have been made at this location for the benefit of the Camden community."

"I'm also very proud Council has not had to sell any assets to fund our move to Oran Park, and that the move has been carefully planned to ensure the town centres in Camden and Narellan are not disadvantaged."

"Council has entered into lease agreements for the properties we are vacating in Camden and Narellan. Because of the types of businesses moving into these buildings, I believe there will be even more activity at these locations than when they were occupied by Council staff. Plus, in the future, our ratepayers will benefit from revenue of around \$800,000 p.a. from these sites."

Both the Camden and Narellan office buildings are becoming medical centres, while historic *Macaria* in Camden will become an art gallery and made accessible to the public.

Council's new administration building and Council Chamber is located at 70 Central Avenue Oran Park, in the geographic heart of the local government area. The facility sits within a Civic Precinct which will also include a new Library/Community Centre, Civic Plaza and Town Park.

The building has been designed to ensure the community feels welcome in the space, and the Council Chamber can be used as a community meeting area at times when Council meetings are not held.

Technology at the new centre will mean increased customer service facilities for the whole LGA, while Camden and Narellan residents will be able to pay their rates, make general inquiries and bookings at Camden and Narellan libraries. More technical services, such as pre-DA meetings, will be provided at the Oran Park centre.

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Since being proclaimed on 24 April 1889, the Camden Council area has seen many changes culminating in it being one of the state's fastest growing regions. To celebrate this next phase of the area's evolution, the community is invited to join Council at the official opening of the Oran Park administration centre on Sunday 7 August from 12pm to 2pm. A barbecue, free activities, building tours and entertainment will be on offer.

Members of the public are also welcome to attend the historic first Council meeting at the new building on 9 August 2016.

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