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HUB SET TO MAKE 'NEW HISTORY' IN PARRAMATTA

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Plans for a new Western Sydney Start-up Hub in Parramatta have been announced by Minister for Western Sydney Stuart Ayres.

A HISTORIC part of Parramatta will be restored and reinvigorated to create a hub for the jobs of the future, with a plan to create a "Startup Hub" in the Parramatta North Heritage Core now approved.

Emerging entrepreneurs and the local community are set to benefit from the revamp of three heritage buildings that form part of the circa 1876 Hospital Spinal Range Building and circa 1892 Kitchen Block in Parramatta.

Under the plans, there will be 1500sq m of “affordable co-working space” alongside a cafe and shared event space. The surrounding public area will also be upgraded.

Western Sydney Minister Stuart Ayres said the project would “respect and conserve” the heritage of the area while ensuring “its viable future as the heart of start-up business and innovation in Western Sydney”.

“The Western Sydney Start-up Hub will have a key role in giving emerging businesses the opportunity to be involved in that recovery,” Mr Ayres said.

“We are giving them the space to turn their ideas into commercial realities.

“We will employ best practice conservation methods to sensitively reinstate the national heritage-listed buildings for their future use,” he said.

Parramatta MP Geoff Lee welcomed the start-up hub approval, saying it would put Parramatta “on the start-up and innovation ecosystem map”.