

Sydney Town Hall  
483 George Street  
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

GPO Box 1591  
Sydney NSW 2001 Australia

Telephone +61 2 9265 5909  
Fax +61 2 6265 9188  
avithoukas@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au  
cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



### MEDIA RELEASE

26 October 2016

#### **City of Sydney to share 'startup knowledge' with suburban and regional Councils across NSW**

Startup communities right across New South Wales, including those located in regional areas, will benefit from a knowledge sharing initiative passed by the City of Sydney Council last night.

A proposal by independent Councillor Angela Vithoukas, that the City of Sydney share knowledge and expertise to help startup communities in other Local Government Areas (LGAs) across New South Wales, was unanimously supported at the first Council meeting of the new term.

"There's no doubt that the City of Sydney is the startup capital of Australia with 64% of Australia's startups located in the LGA. The Council has done extensive work in supporting and nurturing that community including the development of the Tech Startups Action Plan that continues to guide our way forward. The knowledge we have gathered along the way should be shared with other Councils and Local Government Areas to continue to drive development and innovation right across NSW," Councillor Vithoukas said.

The Chief Executive Officer from the City of Sydney will work with Local Government NSW to share the City's knowledge, research and networks. Local Government NSW will then be able to promote these initiatives to all Councils across NSW.

"I am aware of many great initiatives that are currently being played out right across NSW. While technology is an enabler and there is no point in reinventing the wheel when it comes to supporting the startup community. The City of Sydney has shown strong leadership in this area and their knowledge should be shared and strong relationships developed right across NSW. I am looking forward to seeing the outcome of this initiative over the coming months," Councillor Vithoukas said.

See Notice of Motion - page 2

Media Contact:

Joanne Ryan, 0421 059 866

Support for Innovation in Regional Australia (S129267)

October 24, 2016

SUPPORT FOR INNOVATION IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA (S129267)

2. By Councillor Vithoukas

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) the City of Sydney has a strong and vibrant start-up community;
- (ii) the City of Sydney encourages collaboration and dialogue between start-ups as a way to share information and facilitate further innovation;
- (iii) as part of Focus and outcomes, the Tech Startups Action Plan that the Council has previously endorsed states: “Promote opportunity, and build on strong regional, national and global links cross-sector networks, to support the continued development of strong industry clusters.”;
- (iv) regional Australia has been experiencing the emergence of start-ups and entrepreneurial activities that increasingly use digital technology both in the R&D process and in furthering collaboration with local, interstate and international markets;
- (v) the Innovation in Regional Australia report notes that 150 regional areas have higher than average rates of innovative capacity that provide a foundation for spreading the ‘Ideas boom’; and
- (vi) regional councils, such as the City of Wagga Wagga, are supporting innovation in their local government areas; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) write to the General Manager of Wagga Wagga City Council congratulating them on their support for innovation in regional Australia; and
- (ii) demonstrate the City of Sydney’s leadership in supporting and promoting the economic and social impacts of tech start start-up ecosystems by meeting with Local Government NSW to share the City’s knowledge, research and networks to encourage Local Government NSW to promote these initiatives to all Councils in New South Wales.