

SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS PARTY

8 October 2017

Small Business Matters Party in bid to contest NSW 2019 election

Small business advocate, campaigner and Independent City of Sydney Councillor **Angela Vithoukas** is establishing a new small business party to ensure that small businesses have representation at a state government level. Vithoukas is calling on small business owner's right across NSW to join the party that will seek NSW Legislative Council seats at the next election.

"I have already had a lot of interest from small business owners who are keen to ensure that their voice is heard at a State Government level and that they have true representation because it's pretty clear that Government at all levels doesn't get small business.

"Major parties are out of touch with the realities of running a small business on the ground and while they like to pay lip service by trotting out the well-worn line that 'small business is the engine room of the economy', their words are hollow", Vithoukas said.

The NSW Government has recently stated that 98% percent of businesses in New South Wales are classified as small businesses and over 50% of them are employing businesses.

"There are many issues that need more focus from Government and the devastating impact of light rail construction is a classic example of what can happen when that impact isn't considered as part of the planning process."

"It is only by having a small business representative involved in the legislative process that pro-active steps can be taken to address the negative impacts of Government decision making.

I have owned and operated many small businesses for the past 30 years. I am calling on small business owners throughout NSW to come forward and support the Small Business Matters Party so that we finally have a 'common sense' voice at a State Government level", Angela Vithoukas said.

Media Contact:

Angela Vithoukas | 0413 611 334

Joanne Ryan | Infodec Communications | 0421 059 866

SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS PARTY

What is Small Business Matters?

Small Business Matters is a new political party representing the perspective of small business owners in New South Wales politics. Small Business Matters is being formed to seek representation in the Legislative Council (Upper House) of the NSW Parliament during the 2019 elections.

Who is leading Small Business Matters?

Small Business Matters will be led by independent City of Sydney Councillor Angela Vithoukias, a small business owner and advocate who has most recently successfully campaigned for small business owners to receive rent relief to compensate for devastating impact of light rail construction in Sydney's CBD and surrounding suburbs.

What does Small Business Matters stand for?

For too long the major political parties have made decisions without considering the impact of small business owners, their employees and families right across New South Wales.

Small Business Matters will give small business a voice as part of the parliamentary process. We will make sure that Government considers the impact of their decisions on small businesses BEFORE signing off on large infrastructure projects or implementing more rules and regulations.

Why do things need to change?

Government does not understand small business. 98% of businesses in NSW are small businesses and they employ over 50% of all workers yet they are not represented by the major parties who are more interested in keeping the interests of big business and their supporters satisfied. Things need to change to ensure that small businesses can build, employ more people and get on with running their businesses.

How can you help?

To run for election, we need members so we can register a political party with the NSW Electoral commission. Please fill out the membership form and return it to us so that we can provide the NSW Electoral commission with the appropriate number of members to register the party. Note: Only people registered to vote in NSW can join the party.

What does membership mean to you?

Membership is free and we will keep you informed of the progress of our application and our activities in the lead up to the 2019 election. By supporting Small Business Matters you are giving small business a voice, creating more local jobs and helping build a future for our children and families in NSW. Thank you.

Send your completed form back to us:

Option 1: Scan and email to: pa@vivocafe.com.au

Option 2: Take a photo of the form, text it to 0411 012 712 or email pa@vivocafe.com.au

Option 3: Pop it in the mail: Angela Vithoukias c/o VIVO CAFÉ 388 George St Sydney NSW 2000