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PRESS RELEASE

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City of Sydney business vote hysteria reaches fever pitch fuelled by misinformation and disdain for small business owners

Today's announcement by Alex Greenwich MP about a rally and petition surrounding proposed changes to the City of Sydney Act has pushed the hysteria and misinformation that continues to surround this issue to new levels.

'Last night when I voted for a community meeting to be held about the issue neither myself nor the public and fellow Councillors were informed that the meeting would be organised and promoted by GetUp! and that details of the event would be promoted via Alex Greenwich MP prior to Councillors being informed or even notified of the event', Cllr Vithoulkas said.

While Alex Greenwich MP calls for democracy the opening lines of his email really set the tone. The fact that it starts by calling on people to stop 'big business and big money' voting is a slap in the face for the thousands of small business owners that operate in the City of Sydney.

'This latest development in the drama that is the City of Sydney Act amendments has really gone too far. The script must be written in a way that reflects the truth as it relates to small business owners that pay rates, support the local community and provide thousands of jobs, so let's make it clear:

- The City of Sydney is not just about 'big' business.
- The City of Sydney is about the many small to medium businesses that actually want to be able to easily vote in local council elections.
- More than 80% of all businesses in the City of Sydney are defined as small business, employing over 100,000 people.ⁱ
- A small business is defined as having fewer than 20 employees and it may be in its formative stage or have operated for some time.

- Small business within the City is estimated to contribute over a quarter of our economic output – more than \$25 billion a year.ⁱⁱ

Continuing to fan the flames of so called democracy in the name of stopping the ‘big business’ vote is mischievous, simplistic and just plain wrong.’, Clr Vithoukas said.

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ⁱ <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/business/business-support/business-in-your-sector/cross-sector-themes/supporting-small-business>

ⁱⁱ ibid