

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



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Media Release

## **Business and community groups unaware of wireless microphone switch-off in less than 10 days**

Councillor Angela Vithoukas said that countless small businesses, community and religious groups, conference facilities and theatres in the City of Sydney may be totally unaware of the impending changes to wireless spectrum on 1 January 2015 that are the result of spectrum clearing activities following the shutdown of analogue TV.

‘It certainly came as news to me when the person repairing my wireless microphone said it would not work after 1 January 2015. I’m sure I am not the only one who is unaware of these changes. While the analogue TV switch off was very well publicised I believe that the Government has overlooked the importance of letting people know about these changes.

Since looking into the issue I have become aware that wireless microphone users will be required to re-tune their devices or purchase new equipment. If they continue to use spectrum in the 700 MHz range they could be hit with fines of up to \$5000’, Clr Vithoukas said.

An earlier ABC media report about the issue indicated that volunteer groups would be thousands of dollars out of pocket to replace equipment and the cost of replacing equipment nationally could add up to \$200 million.

‘The City of Sydney has now placed information about the switch off on its website. But, there are many more people that will be impacted and unfortunately the cost of complying with the changes will once again fall on those who can least afford it’, Clr Vithoukas said.

Media contact:

Angela Vithoukas: 0413 611 334

Joanne Ryan: 0421 059 866