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**MEDIA RELEASE**

1 June 2015

**Councillor Angela Vithoukas announces new political party ‘*Sydney Matters Independent Team*’ and plans to contest 2016 election**

Independent City of Sydney Councillor Angela Vithoukas, today announced plans to form a new political team, the *Sydney Matters Independent Team*, and her plans to contest the position of Lord Mayor at the 2016 City of Sydney local government elections.

‘I’m announcing the formation of Sydney Matters today as the first step towards reinvigorating the City of Sydney LGA and restoring the balance of power in favour of residents, businesses, visitors and workers.

For too long there has been a lack of true community consultation from all levels of Government. The impact of policy decisions continue to play havoc with the lives of all groups in the LGA and the impending impact of light rail construction is just one example’, Councillor Vithoukas said.

The voting landscape in the City of Sydney is about to change. There are approximately 18,000 small businesses in the City of Sydney, yet last election less than 10% of them voted. Next election compulsory business voting in the LGA will go some way to giving small business owners the voice they deserve.

‘Residents, visitors and business owners continuously approach me at my café expressing concerns about the direction in which Sydney is heading. The Sydney Matters Independent Team will represent those people who are at the frontline of policy decisions and I’ll be calling on the people of the City of Sydney LGA to join me and get behind the Sydney Matters Independent Team over the coming months’, Councillor Vithoukas said.

**MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:**

[www.councillorangela.com.au](http://www.councillorangela.com.au)

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## ABOUT ANGELA VITHOULKAS

**City of Sydney Councillor**

**Award Winning Business Owner, Vivo Café Group**

**Master of Ceremonies, Keynote Speaker, Media Commentator**

For over 25 years Angela Vithoulikas has forged a successful career in public and corporate life as an award winning business owner, radio broadcaster, media commentator and Independent Councillor for the City of Sydney. In 2012 Angela became the first Australian Greek Woman to be elected to the City of Sydney, an achievement that was formally recognised by the European Council.

Her commitment to representing the interests of the community is reflected through her ongoing support and acknowledgement of the diverse needs of residents, youth, not for profit and community groups, business owners and visitors to the Sydney CBD and surrounding villages and suburbs.

Angela was recently elected as Deputy Chairperson of the City of Sydney Economic Development and Business Sub-Committee. This will see her responsibilities extend to encompass a wide variety of issues including economic development and strategy, global city relationships, trade and marketing, small business, village economies, tourism and more.

She is recognised as one of Sydney's leading female entrepreneurs, with awards including; City of Sydney Business of the Year, Café of The Year, NSW Entrepreneur of the Year as well as 2007 Telstra Women's Business Owner of the Year.

Angela's extensive career as a small business owner equips her with an in depth understanding of the challenges and opportunities that are an integral part of small business ownership. Since 2010 Angela has given hundreds of small business owners the opportunity to talk about their businesses and to share their knowledge through the Eagle Waves Radio network, which she established, broadcast and managed for a period of four years.