

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
avithoulkas@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

2 July 2015

**SYDNEY RESTAURANT DECISION SETS DANGEROUS
'RED TAPE' PRECEDENT**

A restaurant that is part of a new development on Cleveland Street, Redfern, will become the first business that must develop, implement and report annually about its customers travel patterns and movements following the passing of a Development Application (DA) containing a Green Travel Plan by the City of Sydney Council on Monday night.

'This is concerning because it sets a new precedent which firmly places an outrageous level of compliance firmly on the shoulders of small businesses. Never before have restaurant owners been required to hire or nominate traffic plan co-ordinators to deal with gathering information about how people are travelling to and from their restaurant. Also, there's nothing to stop this monitoring and reporting requirement being rolled out across other small businesses in the City of Sydney LGA', Independent Councillor Angela Vithoulkas said.

Under the Green Travel Plan the restaurateur will be required to undertake the following as part of their tenancy:

- Collect baseline travel and mode split information 6 months prior to construction of the development.
- Develop an ongoing monitoring mechanism that would need to be agreed on (with Council) to ensure annual performance reporting.
- At a minimum provide mode split proportions by conducting a travel survey for train, bus, bicycle, walk, car share, car (as passenger & driver) motorcycle shuttle bus and other.
- Report annually on the number of person trips, how people are getting to the restaurant, what time of day they are travelling, why they are coming to the restaurant and where they have travelled from.

- Identify the position of a travel plan coordinator who is responsible for customer transport patterns, mode share targets and promote sustainable travel behaviour; initiatives to promote walking, cycling and use of public transport to staff and customers, set the targets that they need to achieve in relation to the modal splits between different travel modes

Councillor Vithoukaskas put forward an amendment to remove the Green Travel Plan requirement from the DA. The amendment was not supported by a majority of Councillors who voted against it.

'To expect a restaurant or food and beverage shop to formulate their business plan around having to promote, manage, survey and facilitate the travel options of their customers is bizarre. To then have to set the targets to measure and report back to Council flies in the face of the Small Business Friendly Councils memorandum of understanding (MOU) that the City of Sydney signed with the NSW Small Business Commissioner last September', Councillor Vithoukaskas commented.

For more information contact:

Angela Vithoukaskas: 0413 611 334

Joanne Ryan: 0421 059 866