



**VIVO Cafe** ABN 63 115 975 805

388 George Street Sydney NSW 2000

P 02 9221 1169 F 02 9223 6775 W [www.vivocafe.com.au](http://www.vivocafe.com.au) E [vivo@vivocafe.com.au](mailto:vivo@vivocafe.com.au)

9 June 2017

## **LIGHT RAIL CONSTRUCTION A \$2.2 BILLION TRAGEDY IN THE MAKING**

Vivo Cafe owner and Independent Councillor Angela Vithoukas is urging small business owners whose lives have been devastated by the impact of light rail construction to speak up and let the Government know they have reached crisis point.

She is also calling on State Government to provide financial compensation to individuals and their families as a priority.

“In the [Sydney Morning Herald](#) and [The Australian](#) this week it was reported that people are losing their businesses, their livelihoods and their homes. It’s extremely disappointing to see that while in opposition our current State Government called for small business compassion and compensation when businesses were impacted by the failed Rozelle CBD Metro project.

“Now that they are in a position to do something to help they are silent, and the Government continues to rule out compensation for those small business owners annihilated by light rail. To add insult to injury, Transport Minister Andrew Constance continues to publicly claim that no small business owner has ever complained to him or his office. The only comment from his office provided in response to this issue was “as with any major construction, there is some short-term disruption caused”.

“These are people who are often reluctant to speak up because of fears and ramifications from landlords, loss of face with customers or pride that they don’t want to let people know how bad things are. How bad do things have to get before the Government will take notice?” Angela Vithoukas said.

Angela Vithoukas, who owns a business impacted by light rail, is urging small business owners to put their fears aside and attend a special forum with the NSW Small Business Commissioner to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June. The forum is designed to provide local businesses with the opportunity to share their individual experiences and stories.

“I’m not sure what the NSW Government is waiting for. Small businesses and the individuals and their families behind them are an integral part of our city. While the NSW Government likes to trot out claims that small business owners are the engine room of the economy their actions in regard to light rail show that their words are just hollow political rhetoric,” Angela Vithoukas said.

**Business owners can to register to attend the Light Rail Forum by booking at**  
[www.lightrailforum.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.lightrailforum.eventbrite.com.au).

Media Contact: Angela Vithoukas – Phone: 0413 611 334 Joanne Ryan – Phone: 0421 059 866