

Media Release

Lifeline for 700,000 Small Businesses in NSW

Launch of New Political Party Small Business Matters

Independent City of Sydney Councillor, Angela Vithoukas hopes to give small business a voice by securing a seat in State Parliament at the next election after launching her own political party *Small Business Matters*.

As a small business owner of Vivo Café on George Street, Councillor Vithoukas has spearheaded a campaign for local businesses affected by the light rail works, resulting in compensation to those who could prove they had financially suffered from the project.

“I’ve realised there needs to be someone in State Government fighting for small business when decisions are actually being made, otherwise it’s too late,” said Councillor Vithoukas.

“There are 2.2 million small business operators in Australia and they are responsible for the employment of 45 percent of private sector jobs so it’s crucial we support them and they have a Party championing their concerns.

“Small businesses want progress just as much as the State Government with their big infrastructure projects, but they don’t want to be collateral damage,” she said.

“When government alters and removes parking, tears up footpaths and eliminates loading zones they tear away customers from small business and once people change their habits they never come back.

“This is what’s happened on George Street Sydney and in Newcastle’s CBD where the light rail construction has been underway for some time. I have similar concerns the same is about to happen to small businesses in Parramatta.

“Small business faces many challenges. Even setting up a business can take 12 months to get through all the paperwork, often lodging duplicate forms to different government bodies, DA compliance and red tape – there is no one-stop-shop for small business when there should be.

“Yet, in the name of progress, the State Government has been bulldozing small business which is why we need a small business owner, like myself, to have a voice at the political table where the decisions are being made. We need to make sure small business is not forgotten.”

Small Business Matters will seek NSW Legislative Council seats at the next election in 2019 and, if elected, Councillor Vithoukas will not be required to immediately step down from her position on Council.

About Angela Vithoukas

Angela Vithoukas is the founder and leader of the new Small Business Matters political party. Angela is also a small business owner, twice elected independent City of Sydney Councillor and small business advocate. Recently, Angela successfully campaigned for small business owners to receive rent relief to compensate for the devastating impact of light rail construction in Sydney's CBD and surrounding suburbs.

<http://angelavithoukas.com.au/join-small-business-matters/>

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High res images available on request