

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



19 September 2014

CAMDEN COUNCIL IS SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLY

Camden Council will be a part of the ground-breaking Small Business Friendly Councils Program (SBFC), launched this week by the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Paul Toole MP.

The SBFC Program was developed by the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner in partnership with the NSW Business Chamber to enable participating Councils to work proactively with, and support small businesses in Local Government Areas.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak, who was at the launch, is delighted that Camden Council has embraced this exciting initiative, which is the first of its kind in Australia.

“As a small business owner I understand the importance of positive working relationships with both Local and State Governments. Small business is the powerhouse and engine room of the Australian economy and needs every support from all levels of government,” Cr Symkowiak said.

“Through this program, my Council has demonstrated a commitment to work effectively and collaboratively with small business operators and their employees in the Camden Local Government Area.”

“Council recognises and values how important the local small business sector is to the community. We will review our procedures and practices in dealing with small businesses and explore new initiatives so that we can help to deliver the best outcomes possible for our small business operators.” Cr Symkowiak said.

Camden Council will be making five key commitments through the SBFC Program, including:

- Development of a Business Advisory Board in collaboration with key stakeholders from the Camden Local Government Area business community
- Reporting on business improvement processes and on-time payment policies in Council’s operational plans
- Implementation of new initiatives for engaging with small businesses in Camden

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This commitment comes as Council is promoting and delivering a range of business related events through its inaugural Business Month program. Council's inaugural Business Month was launched in early September by NSW Business Chamber CEO, Stephen Cartwright, and the program will continue over the next couple of weeks. This initiative promotes a range of workshops, seminars, training and networking opportunities for businesses across Camden.

"I am committed to ensuring that my Council takes an active role in the economic development of the Camden Local Government Area.

"We want to grow local existing businesses, attract new businesses to the Local Government Area, and enhance the opportunities for diversity of employment. Initiatives such as Business Month and participation in the SBFC Program will see this commitment fully realised" Cr Symkowiak said.

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