CAMDEN COUNCIL Media Release



3 August 2015

SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Council welcomed the Small Biz Bus to Camden today and joined representatives from the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner to speak with Camden Town Centre businesses about the range of support services available to them.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak said the visits provided a fantastic opportunity for Council to further engage with and support local businesses, in partnership with the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner.

"Small businesses are the engine room of the Australian economy and need support from all levels of government. I am pleased that Council is working closely with the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner in providing valuable assistance to this important sector of our local economy."

"As our area grows, it is extremely important that Council has initiatives and strategies in place to support small businesses to grow and thrive in our community while retaining the heritage charm that makes Camden unique."

"We want to ensure that the Camden Town Centre is a distinct, prosperous, vibrant, accessible and connected town centre for all. This includes attracting more shoppers and visitors, making it easier to do business in Camden and establishing the right conditions for businesses to prosper."

"We are working hard to achieve this and I would like to thank local businesses for engaging with us and appreciate their support as we undertake enhancement works which will ultimately benefit Camden into the future by providing important infrastructure to supporting future growth," Cr Symkowiak said.

Today local small businesses were given the opportunity to talk with Council Officers about Council initiatives that support local small businesses and seek free advice from experienced business advisors aboard the Small Biz Bus.

NSW Small Business Commissioner, Robyn Hobbs said small businesses are the heartbeat of our communities, they service residents and visitors by providing essential goods and services that bring towns to life.

"The Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner is dedicated to working with small businesses and local councils to promote and support positive business environments across NSW.

"Camden Council is one of our 67 Small Business Friendly Councils and by bringing the Small Biz Bus, as well as our local Small Biz Connect business advisors and representatives from our team to Camden we are able to listen but also share the different types of assistance we can offer," she said.

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Camden Council's commitments through the Small Business Friends Councils Program include:

- Establishment of a business advisory group to foster and undertake actions to support economic growth and development in the area
- Development of an On-Time Payment policy to pay small businesses within 30 calendar days of receipt of an invoice for goods or services (has been adopted by Council)
- Implementation of an online DA information package and guide for local business owners
- Inclusion of a 'Business Page' on Council's website
- Implementation of new initiatives for engaging with small businesses in Camden

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