

# Media Release

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Wednesday 22 May 2019

## Council recognised at inaugural conference supporting local business

Camden Council was formally acknowledged by Ministers Victor Dominello and Damien Tudehope, for offering the NSW Government's *Easy to do Business Program* to local businesses.

The NSW Government program aims to make the process of starting a new business easier, by reducing the time required to go through government requirements and regulations.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, said, since launching in Camden in August 2018, the program has helped more than 16 people start their own business in the Camden area.

"We're dedicated to helping create the right conditions for small businesses to thrive because Camden is an area of exciting opportunities," Cr Fedeli said.

"We are the fastest growing local government area in the country at the moment, welcoming more than 100 new residents every week. Residents look at the Camden area and see they are able to build their dream home, to spend time at state-of-the-art facilities, to send their children to brand new schools and to turn their passion into a successful business.

"And it's become a reality for many people. There are more than 8,000 businesses within the Camden area – 62 per cent more than there were just five years ago. From construction to health care, retail to arts, Council will continue to help make Camden the area for business opportunities."

Council was presented with a trophy at the inaugural *Small Business Friendly Councils* Conference, held on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 May. Camden was one of 69 NSW councils to attend the conference, joined by business leaders, mayors and experts from across the country.

NSW Small Business Commissioner, Robyn Hobbs, congratulated Council for embracing the *Small Business Friendly Councils* initiative and for their commitment to supporting the growth of Camden.

"Small business is the backbone of our economy and local government plays a key role in supporting businesses to start and grow," Ms Hobbs said.

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Council runs, and supports, a number of other events, programs and initiatives to support local businesses, including:

- The celebration of Council's annual Small Business Month, which offers a number of seminars and workshops on business development; and
- Business advisory sessions with local Business Connect Business Advisors, located within the Camden Region Economic Taskforce office at Narellan.

For more information about the *Small Business Friendly Councils* initiative, visit [smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au](http://smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au)

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