

MEDIA RELEASE

8th July, 2014



Chamber questions council transparency

Camden Chamber of Commerce & Industry President, Miriam Roberts, has questioned the lack of transparency and community consultation ahead of tonight's council meeting which proposes to endorse a range of works for Camden Town Centre.

'The council is proposing to endorse its report and then seek to consult the community. This would be like a restaurant asking a customer what would you like to eat but we only have bacon and eggs available?' Mrs Roberts said.

The chamber proposes to speak against the motion to endorse the initiatives at tonight's council meeting.

Mrs Roberts said 'The chamber is not critical of the proposed initiatives. How can we be when we have only been provided less than 2 working days by council to review their report? The initiatives may well be what are best for Camden – they may not. The only way to determine that outcome is for council to be transparent by engaging with its community before it endorses any key initiatives. That engagement process needs to ensure the community has ample time to consider, challenge and debate issues. After all it is our community.'

'To do otherwise is contemptible and disrespectful of our community.' Mrs Roberts said

Mrs Roberts said 'The solution is quite simple – council needs to be transparent and engaging with its community. The first stage of evidence of that approach would be for councillors to reject tonight's agenda item that is to consider the proposed report, make the report available for community feedback for at least 8 weeks and then convene a meeting for community discussion on the report and other matters the community feels should be part of the Camden Town Centre Improvements project.'

'We strongly urge Camden Councillors to reject Agenda Item 6 of tonight's council meeting'.
Mrs Roberts said

For more information, contact:

David Cadden

Phone 02 4640 9922

Mobile 0407 872 590

Email pastpresident@camdenchamber.com.au