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-- PRESS RELEASE --

**VILLAGE ACTIVATION TAKES BACK SEAT AS
KINGS CROSS FESTIVAL CANCELLED**

Councillor Craig Chung has slammed the City of Sydney's decision to not fund the Kings Cross Festival for the first time in five years, causing organisers to cancel the 2017 edition.

"One of the Council's key responsibilities is to help businesses thrive in our villages," Councillor Chung said.

"By defunding great local projects like this, Council is letting village activation take a back seat.

"The Kings Cross Festival brought nearly 8,000 people to the area in 2016. This is an incredible boost to local businesses, and one that Council should be proud of facilitating.

"Activating our villages is also about what Council can deliver for residents. Kings Cross Festival adds to a vibrant community spirit that we want all of our precincts to experience".

Councillor Chung said that defunding Kings Cross Festival was just one example of how Council is moving away from focusing on supporting businesses and activating the City's villages.

"Council is currently reviewing key grant programmes that really help small businesses grow, as well as fund projects that bring people into our villages. All the signs are bad so far," Councillor Chung said.

"I am worried that Council's review will remove business improvement grants, and also steer away from partnering with the City's many business chambers and associations to deliver local projects".

Councillor Chung and his colleague Councillor Christine Forster are hosting a Chamber's Roundtable next week to discuss how Council can best work them to continue to deliver project that boost the local economy, and create vibrant villages to work and live.

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