

# Businesses affected by Sydney's light rail to receive rent relief

Struggling small businesses along Sydney's light rail route will receive rent relief from the State Government after years of refusing to hand over a cent in compensation.

NSW Transport Minister Andrew Constance is prepared to help businesses who can prove they have had financial difficulty throughout the period of construction of the CBD and South East Light Rail.

9NEWS understands Mr Constance and Small Business Minister John Barilaro have been in contact with shopkeepers along the route over the last week and were shocked at the depth of trouble.

Angela Vithoukias, who owns VIVO Cafe on George Street, said it's a promising start. "Finally an acknowledgement from the government of the financial hardship some of these businesses are in," Ms Vithoukias said. "We still have no details on what the financial assistance actually looks like and for some people rent relief will be too little too late."

It comes after years of refusals from the government on compensation. NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has consistently pointed to the uplift and increased foot traffic they will receive when the light rail project is finished.

Business owners have argued their financial state will mean they won't last that long. The NSW Small Business Commissioner was supposed to pass on complaints from businesses onto Mr Constance. 9NEWS understands Mr Constance was surprised at how widespread the problem was.

## Questions:

1. Who is affected by Sydney's light rail construction?

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2. Which businesses will be helped by the NSW Transport Minister?

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3. What financial assistance will be received by business owners?

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