

EDS

SYDNEY

## Council voting bill shot down

James Gorman

THE Shooters and Fishers bill to change business voting laws in the City of Sydney has been lambasted by the very businesses it claims to assist.

The bill, which proposes to give a mandatory two votes to local businesses in upcoming council elections, has been criticised not only by residents, councillors and MPs but also by some businesses.

Founder and director of Ruby Reports in Surry Hills David Service said he resented the idea of a being forced to vote.

"If businesses wanted to vote currently, they can," he said. "I imagine that if they were really concerned about what was happening and really felt like they needed to have a say in how the city was being run and who was being elected, then I think they would have registered to vote already."

"I don't really see what the point of putting this legislation through is; the cost of enforcing it, all the bureaucracy involved, it just seems like a waste of time and money."

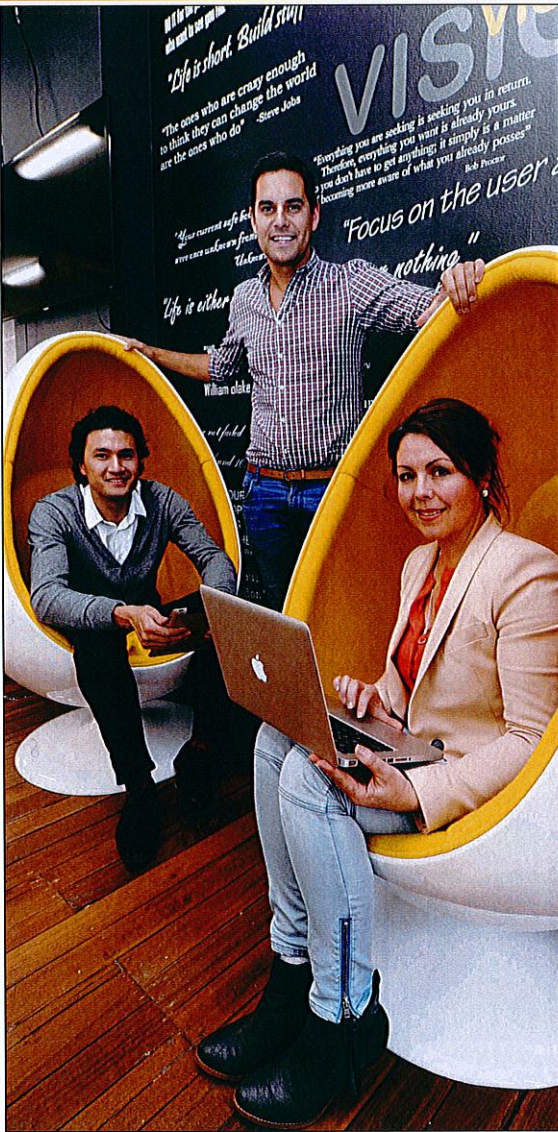
Owner of Masada Picture Cars, Alexandria, Jason Chapman said allowing businesses to have two votes created opportunities for disproportionate and compromised results.

"It should be one person, one vote; one ratepayer, one vote," he said.

"Otherwise you could end up with a disproportionate number of businesses having votes to residents.

"I think that leaving it to businesses that are registered in the area opens the scheme up to be somewhat compromised.

"For example, I own five different trading names in the one area but I only own three premises, so I think that is unfair against the residents who are just one house, one vote."



Ridesurfing's Manutea Dupont, Sydney Independent MP Alex Greenwich and School Business Register founder Amy Miller at Fishburners in Ultimo. Picture: CRAIG WILSON