Applause and tears of joy as Councillor Angela Vithoulkas successfully champions a home for Sydney Hellenic Lyceum

As many Greek Australians gathered to celebrate Greek Independence Day, the City of Sydney Council unanimously supported a motion put forward by Councillor Angela Vithoulkas for the council to investigate and find a suitable space for the storage and display of historic Hellenic Lyceum Greek costumes, jewellery and artefacts.

Angela Vithoulkas, the first Greek-Australian woman elected to the City of Sydney Council, called on fellow councillors to formally support and acknowledge the importance of finding a space to store and display the important collection that represents the local customs and traditions from different parts of Greece.

Angela Vithoulkas, who worked tirelessly for months on this important project said, 'I am so pleased that the Sydney Hellenic Lyceum now have a home, how wonderful that finally they can begin to receive the acknowledgement that they so rightly deserve, it is a cause for celebration and very fitting that this happened

on the 25th March, National Greek Independence Day. The Council Chambers was full of applause and tears of joy....'

'Greek Australians are one of the largest and oldest migrant groups in Australia. While Hellenic Greek Culture has significantly shaped and contributed to the City of Sydney since the 1850s, the cultural history of this diverse group has been lovingly collected and preserved by generations of immigrant women in Sydney since 1951'.

'Victoria currently boasts five Greek (Hellenic) museums, yet there are none in New South Wales. It was therefore important that a solution be proposed now to assist the Lyceum with a short term strategy while they organise a permanent, independent long term solution for the accommodation and display of these works. It is not only important for Greek Australians it is directly relevant to the cultural history of the City of Sydney', Angela Vithoulkas said.