

MEDIA RELEASE

CLOVER'S WAR ON SECRECY SUFFERS MAJOR LOSS

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Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore has been forced to loosen her grip on the notoriously Secret Sydney after it was announced that all votes by Councillors would be electronically recorded.

Liberal Councillor Craig Chung said, "Clover's grip on Secret Sydney has loosened – residents will now have access to accurate voting records, but this is only the first battle in a long war on transparency."

Chung moved a motion in August 2017 seeking to introduce Live Minute Taking and Electronic recording of voting in Council meetings.

"The Mayor has done everything she can to reduce transparency. The investigation into recording votes took 12 months. 12 months to work out how to count how 12 people sitting around a table vote – it is yet another absurd move from the Mayor to ensure we are living and working in Secret Sydney," Clr Chung said.

"Residents and businesses in Sydney quite rightly want to know how each Councillor voted for matters before Council."

"I shouldn't have to introduce a resolution to Council to simply and accurately record which way Councillors vote – look at other councils, look at parliaments, look at board rooms – recording votes is important for transparency now, and important for electors so they know what decisions the people they voted for are making," Clr Chung said.

Clr Chung and his Liberal colleague Clr Christine Forster have a long track record campaigning for more transparency around City of Sydney meetings. Clr Chung's resolutions for live streaming of Council and Committee meetings have been knocked back by the Clover Moore Political Party time and again.

"After Clover Moore and her party voted against live streaming for the 10th time, I turned to the Local Government Minister to ask the State Government to introduce mandatory live streaming of council meetings," Clr Chung said. "Thankfully, the State Government is set to cement live streaming as a mandatory transparency measure for all Councils in NSW."

Mandatory Live Streaming is expected to be introduced into the Office of Local Government Model Code of Meeting Practice later in 2018.

End.

For further comment, please contact Craig Chung 0412 605 597