

-- PRESS RELEASE --

CHUNG TO BAIRD: MAKE IT MANDATORY TO LIVE STREAM COUNCIL MEETINGS

City of Sydney Councillor Craig Chung has called on Premier Mike Baird to make it mandatory for all local councils in New South Wales to live stream their meetings to the public.

“Confidence in government right across Australia is at an all-time low,” Cr Chung said.

“This is not just an issue of transparency, it is also an issue of equitable access to Government and the decisions we make.

“We need to make it easier for residents to be accessing and understanding what Council is doing. The reality of modern life means that people don’t have the time to attend Town Hall and sit through a long meeting; they’re working, they’re looking after the kids, they’re attending to their businesses”.

By calling on the NSW Government to legislate for all Councils to live stream meetings, Cr Chung is by-passing a hostile Lord Mayor Clover Moore who has rejected several proposals to live stream City of Sydney meetings.

“We are a global city serving more than 200,000 residents and 20,000 businesses, and making decisions that impact New South Wales and Australia, yet the Lord Mayor is leading a closed-off, non-transparent council that has limited accountability,” Cr Chung said.

“New York City, London, Wellington, Los Angeles, Chicago and many other global cities stream their meetings to the public. Sydney has fallen behind”.

Cr Chung said that some local councils in New South Wales have already adopted live streaming and that it was in the interests of openness, transparency, and community engagement, that it was mandatory state-wide.

“I look forward to working with Premier Baird and Minister Paul Toole to achieve a positive outcome on this matter,” Cr Chung said.

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