

CENTRAL SYDNEY

City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore rejects live-streaming council meetings

COULD hours of live-streamed council meetings be the most boring thing on the internet? One City councillor doesn't agree and is on a one man crusade to implement the technology.

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 A City of Sydney council meeting in progress. Picture: Rohan Kelly

COULD hours and hours of live-streamed council meetings be the most boring thing on the internet?

Liberal councillor Craig Chung doesn't agree.

In fact, he is on a mission to make sure City of Sydney broadcasts its hours-long meetings live online.

He has even described Clover Moore's team's blocking of the move a "war on transparency".

Live-streamed meetings have become commonplace in major cities across the world and in other councils across Australia.

But a spokeswoman for the Lord Mayor Clover Moore said the issue has "barely caused a ripple in the city community" despite media coverage and repeated attempts by the Liberal Party to bring the matter to council.



 Liberal councillor Craig Chung. Picture: Rohan Kelly

Clover team councillor Jess Scully said: “Even after a prolonged campaign by Cr Chung, we have only received three emails from the community and one tweet in support of live streaming.

“We represent the interests and needs of our community and investing in a live-streaming system so Cr Chung can audition for State Parliament is not something our constituents have asked for.”

However, Cr Chung said he has been carrying out surveys on the street and online, and said the response has been 100 per cent positive.

It comes after three defeats on the issue over six months to adopt the practice.

“The response to the surveys has been overwhelming,” he said. “People cannot believe that we’re not already doing it.”



 Clover Moore Independent Team councillor Jess Scully. Picture: Supplied

He said it would not be expensive to implement, pointing to Central Coast Council which, he said, paid a one-off fee of around \$3000.

“The City is working with a budget of around half a billion dollars — so this is a cost-effective way of improving our transparency,” he said.

“I’ve heard Clover’s team say that nobody is interested and nobody would watch it.”

The Lord Mayor’s spokeswoman hit back, saying: “It beggars belief that the Liberal councillors claim to be campaigning for transparency when their party is facing such serious allegations regarding political donations from foreign-owned companies who seek to influence political processes in Australia.”