ITEM 11.2 Livestreaming Council Meetings

I, Councillor Conroy Blood hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

> "That Council publicly exhibits amendments to its Code of Meeting Practice to re-introduce Live Webcasting of Public Gallery Forums and Meetings."

BACKGROUND

At the commencement of this term of Council, Canterbury-Bankstown Council resolved not to include the optional provision of live webcast meetings in its Code of Meeting practice. Earlier this year, the NSW State Government made a new standard model for the Code of Meeting Practice, requiring that meetings be livestreamed, and accordingly, Canterbury-Bankstown Council adapted its technology so that meetings could be livestreamed.

However, last month, there was a rescission motion passed by Greens MLC Dr Amanda Cohn to rescind the new model passed earlier this year. The effect of the rescission motion is that the previous standard model is once again binding on all councils, and that our council must return to our old code. This rescission motion was made due to problematic provisions of the Code of Meeting Practice which were opposed by Local Government NSW including the harsh restrictions on joining by audio visual link, as well as the unintended consequences of the attempted ban on pre-meeting briefings. This rescission motion was not made with the intention of permanently returning the Code of Meeting Practice to its previous form, but to negotiate changes with the government to allow public briefings, to ensure Councillors have access to information necessary to perform their responsibilities under the Local Government Act, as well as lessen the restrictions on joining by audio visual link, which are particularly important in regional LGAs where Councillors may have to travel several hours to get to their Chamber. Provisions requiring live streaming are likely to be re-introduced in the next iteration of the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

However, it may take a few months for an updated code of meeting practice to be re-introduced. In the meantime, Council should return to livestreaming its meetings.

Whilst only a very small number of residents tune into livestreamed meetings, we should continue to livestream them, so that residents who have mobility issues, who may be interested in listening to the meeting can tune in. It also allows those who live on the other side of our very large LGA to tune in without giving up time and money to travel. It also is important for ensuring the public trusts our council and our processes, and that we uphold

principles of open justice. Given that we already have the technology to livestream meetings, we should continue to do so.

FINANCIAL AND STRATEGIC IMPACT

There should be no additional costs to continue livestreaming.