

NOTICE OF MOTION

SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR: Councillor R Baberowski

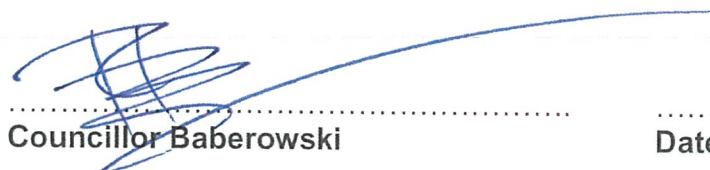
COUNCIL MEETING: Ordinary Meeting 14 November 2019

I hereby notify of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting to take place on Thursday 14 November 2019

That Council request the Chief Executive Officer to

(a) Prepare a report for Council's consideration that examines any regulatory and resource requirements to enable the live streaming and recording of Council's statutory meetings, including confidential parts and

(b) Present the report to the Ordinary Meeting of February 2020.


.....
Councillor Baberowski

..... 5/11/2019

Date

To all Councillors and Directors

I hereby notify that Councillor Baberowski intends to move the motion as shown above at the Ordinary Meeting to be held on Thursday 14 November 2019


.....
Chief Executive Officer

..... 6/11/2019

Date

COUNCILLOR COMMENT

I have been following the recent debates about council's alleged lack of transparency. While I believe that council's decisions to use confidential sessions have been for legitimate reasons, such as protecting the community's interests in commercial negotiations, I think it is important that the community can decide that for themselves.

I have also certainly been frustrated in wanting to publically discuss aspects of council decisions that I believe no longer have a reason to be confidential, but that I cannot talk about without breaking the law.

In a related issue, I have noticed that for understandable reasons, the public gallery in the chambers is often empty during meetings and little of the debate is reported in the media. This makes it difficult for residents to know how their councillors performed and what they stand for.

I am therefore putting forward this Notice of Motion.

Firstly, I am proposing making live video recordings of council meetings available online. In a digital age, Sunshine Coasters should be able to see council in action whenever they want to.

Secondly, I am requesting a report on how we use the same technology to record the confidential parts of meetings. Once the reasons for confidentiality have passed, the recordings should be made available to the public. For example once the commercial negotiations that a debate relates to have concluded, the video would be released. I believe the community would have a lot more trust in decisions made in confidential sessions if they knew they would eventually be able to see the meetings in full. This may require an amendment to the *Local Government Act 2009*. The report that I am requesting should detail this.

Finally, I would like to commend my fellow councillors and acknowledge their support for the inclusion of the appropriate technology in the new Maroochydore 'City Hall' chambers. However, given the current salience of this issue we should look at a modest cost effective solution in the current chambers. What that direction also doesn't do is make clear what appropriate governing mechanism is required to regularly 'declassify' confidential items, if supported this report will provide that advice.

I am of course open to suggestions about how to improve these proposals. I intend to work with the community, my council colleagues and council staff to work out how to secure the support of council for these changes.

Rick Baberowski,
Division 1 Councillor