

**MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - COMPULSORY BUSINESS VOTING IN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I would like to bring to Council's attention a recent "secretive" bill rushed through Parliament, making business voting compulsory in Local Government elections.

This bill was put forward by the Shooters and Fishers Party and supported by the NSW Government, with a complete lack of transparency and absolutely no consultation with Local Governments.

While this bill primarily impacts the City of Sydney, at this stage, it sets a dangerous precedent for similar actions impacting the 152 NSW local Councils.

Local Government NSW President, Cr Keith Rhoades AFSM said: *"Thanks to the Government's chosen method of informing councils via the media on the new voting rules, we now have a situation where the entire Local Government sector in NSW is in the dark about the changes slated to go before Parliament.*

How can a government justify ramming through changes in Parliament without any consultation whatsoever with the industry set to be significantly impacted?"

These rules will potentially impact processes, procedures and results for all local Councils without the courtesy of inclusion in process and calls into question the spirit of democracy.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council write to the Member for Drummoyne and the Minister for Local Government to seek the public release of the Bill and express our concerns about the non-existent consultation with NSW Local Government.