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<https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/rogue-nsw-liberal-mp-punished-for-crossing-the-floor-20180430-p4zciy.html>

## Rogue NSW Liberal MP punished for crossing the floor

By Alexandra Smith

1 May 2018 — 12:01am

Outspoken NSW Liberals MP Matthew Mason-Cox has been punished for his decision to cross the floor of Parliament and has been stripped of his position as chairman of a powerful committee.

Mr Mason-Cox was last week sacked as chairman of the upper house privileges committee, a position that attracts about an extra \$20,000 a year. It is understood he will also be removed as deputy chairman of the newly formed public accountability committee.

Matthew Mason-Cox has been stripped of his position as chairman of a powerful committee.

*Photo: Daniel Munoz*

Mr Mason-Cox embarrassed his Liberal Party colleagues in April when he refused to vote with the government and took the unprecedented step of crossing the floor. His actions allowed the Greens to successfully move a motion forcing the government to be compelled to release the full business case for the relocation of the Powerhouse Museum.

The government was required to release the business case last Thursday, but the critical documents were not produced because the government said they did not exist.

Just days later, the Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that Australia's largest planetarium would be built in Parramatta and there would be a new Broadway-style theatre and fashion and design museum in Ultimo.

The new, purpose-built museum in western Sydney would be the largest in NSW and a rival to the London Science Museum and the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

An artist's impression of the new Powerhouse museum to be built in Parramatta.

The overall cost of building, operating and moving the Powerhouse Museum to western Sydney will top \$1 billion but there are no plans to demolish the heritage-listed Ultimo site. But the Arts Minister Don Harwin has not ruled out selling the airspace rights or a partial sale and residential redevelopment on the 2.6-hectare site along Harris Street.

Mr Mason-Cox, who has also been a vocal opponent of the government's stadiums policy, said the state government had developed a "perverse culture of secrecy".

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Before the final decision was made on the Powerhouse relocation, Mr Mason-Cox said it was another case where the government had failed "to do its homework".

But Mr Mason Cox, who was chairman of the privileges committee for almost three years, said he accepted the Premier's decision to remove him from the position. "This was a result of me exercising my conscience and I accept that," Mr Mason-Cox said.

There had been suggestions that Mr Mason-Cox could be suspended from the Liberal Party room when it meets on Tuesday ahead of a parliamentary sitting week. One senior Liberal source said: "Ultimately Matthew is still a conservative member of parliament but the reality is we can never be sure now what he will do on controversial issues. There is no doubt that this could be an issue for us in the next year."

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**Voter**

**7 MINUTES AGO**

The NSW Liberals shall be paid back at the polling booths for this wrongful action on MP Matthew Mason-Cox in this democratic country and state!

**John Marshall**

**7 MINUTES AGO**

Good on him, a man with integrity. Now they will punish him for having that quality. Makes you wonder.

**BRRK**

**16 MINUTES AGO**

"took the unprecedented step of crossing the floor."

Sorry but is this guy the first person to ever cross the floor? How is this unprecedented?

**Demosthenes**

**19 MINUTES AGO**

The headline should read, "Rogue honest Liberal MP punished for crossing the floor". as he was the only one of his shameful party willing to take a stand against deceiving the public.

**Shire\_guy**

**22 MINUTES AGO**

You can see why whistle blowers in the general community get a hard time when a govt trying to

hide something hits out at one of their own members.  
Sounds like Mr Mason-Cox actually represents his electorate, wish there were more like him.

**TC**

**37 MINUTES AGO**

Ahh, did no one else notice this para?

The government was required to release the business case last Thursday, but the critical documents were not produced because the government said they did not exist.

Are you telling us that a \$1B project does not have a business case??????

**Zaphod**

**40 MINUTES AGO**

Get rid of Gladys. NOW! I will visit the Powerhouse a couple of times, before they shut it down. I will NEVER visit it at Parramatta. Moreover, why was this man punished for informing the public of how our money is to be wasted?

**Lisa**

**43 MINUTES AGO**

I won't visit it either. Too much out of the way.

I thought the Liberal party was a broad church and they believed in freedom of speech and action?

They are always criticizing Labor for punishing dissent.

**Mais51**

**43 MINUTES AGO**

Liberal Party board church

What a joke !

**Stephen Aseypr**

**49 MINUTES AGO**

Bigger than The Smithsonian? Dreaming. That shows just how ignorant this government is. People fly from all over the world to visit The Smithsonian. The boys watched by MOAC will have no idea what a museum is.

**Brainwashed**

**50 MINUTES AGO**

Cry me a river. He got what he deserved. Thanks to him the rectangular football codes have to put up with a half a job stadium refurbishment at ANZ and a new stadium no one wants at Moore Park.

Good riddance!!

**Steve H**

**56 MINUTES AGO**

And still no business case! Great to know that the State gov makes billion dollar decisions based on no research, evidence, thought etc. Makes the last gov look like a bunch of amateurs when it comes to serving the interests of the people (irony ++)

**Richard Fors**

**1 HOUR AGO**

We have always been told that the Liberal Party prided itself on the right of individual members to cross the floor and vote their conscience. Just like the myth of Liberal economic and managerial competence the right to cross the floor is another Liberal sham exposed as rubbish.

**gilt\_free**

**21 MINUTES AGO**

There is such a thing as party discipline. He broke it and got what he deserves.

**Protea**

**1 HOUR AGO**

Once again, more reasons to grog up - Get Rid Of Gladys.

**gilt\_free**

**18 MINUTES AGO**

I don't vote for the Liberals. but I think she is doing a damn good job. I may vote for her next time.

**Praetorian****1 HOUR AGO**

So let me understand this correctly, a democratically elected representative of the people, wants the public to understand the business case behind spending \$1B of OUR money, and he gets reprimanded and punished for his desire for transparency. Way to go liberals. What else are you hiding?

**Glenn Newton****1 HOUR AGO**

So this is what the Liberals mean when they talk about a broad church accepting a range views and supporting individual conscience.

**Richard Fors****39 MINUTES AGO**

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**Glenn Newton****40 MINUTES AGO**

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**DukeofWoyWoy****43 MINUTES AGO**

A State Liberal politician crosses the floor, something that the electorate has been repeatedly told the Liberal Party allows that freedom, and what happens, the roof caves in on him. Had he been from the A.L.P. then he would have been expelled from the party, but under the Liberals he had the right to do so without any punishment, but boy, was he punished just for following his own conscience. Other Liberal Party members have been expelled for talking to the media, not much of a free open broad church it seems, just the same as the Labor Party.

**Carole (in the Notley-Smith electorate)****9 HOURS AGO**

"It is understood he will also be removed as deputy chairman of the newly formed public accountability committee." ... for voting against a culture of secrecy on the part of the current government.

Anyone else see the irony in that? If you weren't a government desperately trying to hide something, he'd be the very person you'd WANT on that committee.

**Philodendron**

**9 HOURS AGO**

We all need to stand behind this guy. The State Govt is trying to run over him with a steamroller. He is a rare person in politics who stands up for the people he represents.

**benedict10999**

**9 HOURS AGO**

In a true democracy politicians are not required to vote for their parties. In fact there were no parties until relatively recently, when gangs of mates got together.

Kudos to Matthew Mason-Cox, he is a true representative of people, and therefore a politician who deserves his salary, unlike most of the others - especially the vested interests who punished him. I would like their names please.

Mr Mason-Cox, please consider becoming an independent, or joining a party like the Sustainable Australia Party.