

Item 12.5

Notices of Motion

Oxford Street during Sydney Mardi Gras Festival 2021

By Councillor Scully

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) the City of Sydney is a major sponsor of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (Mardi Gras), as one way of demonstrating support for our LGBTQIA+ communities;
 - (ii) due to Covid-19 related restrictions, the Mardi Gras have moved the 2021 Mardi Gras parade to the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), instead of the traditional parade along Oxford Street;
 - (iii) this is an important move for safety and to ensure the event can continue despite the impacts of the pandemic, however there may be impacts on the retail and social activity enjoyed by businesses on Oxford Street and in surrounds;
 - (iv) in 2019, the Mardi Gras festival comprised more than 100 events over 17 days, contributed more than \$131 million to the NSW economy and attracted 617,000 attendees, 39 per cent of which came from interstate or overseas;
 - (v) the Mardi Gras festival includes a broad program of new and recurring events including - but not limited to - Sissy Ball, Mardi Gras Fair Day, Koori Gras, the Kaftan Party, the Laneway event and many others;
 - (vi) there is an opportunity for businesses and organisations to participate in the 2021 festival program, by submitting an application for their event to be an officially registered Mardi Gras event;
 - (vii) major events are a significant driver of demand in the visitor economy and a strong economic driver for Sydney businesses during the event period, and the City's hospitality, tourism and retail businesses are major beneficiaries of the event's economic footprint; and
 - (viii) the City's Retail Action Plan and Economic Development Strategy outline the City's commitment to strengthening the City's economy and local businesses by supporting retail activity and visitation to the City's villages; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to investigate how the City can work with local businesses, community and creative organisations to embody the celebration of the Mardi Gras Festival on Oxford Street and in the surrounds in 2021, and report back via the CEO Update.