

Item 12.6

Notices of Motion

Activating Oxford Street for Mardi Gras 2021

By Councillor Phelps

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) due to Covid-19, the 2021 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras will not take place on Oxford Street, and there will be no after party;
- (ii) this is a rational decision to manage public health in the midst of the Covid-19 global pandemic. However, it is a huge blow to small businesses on the Oxford Street strip, particularly those who are closely connected with the LGBTQI+ community;
- (iii) the weeks of the Mardi Gras Festival can account for a significant proportion of the annual turnover of some of the small businesses on Oxford Street; and
- (iv) while this is out of Council's control, the City is the capacity to take actions that will help to activate of Oxford Street during the Mardi Gras festival; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) liaise with small business owners and all other potential stakeholders in and around Oxford Street to investigate possibilities to activate Oxford Street, increase foot traffic and stimulate the night-time economy during the Mardi Gras Festival 2021 including, but not limited to:
 - (a) using the footpaths on and around Oxford Street as potential artistic canvases;
 - (b) under awning lighting, such as fairy lights, to add value and attraction to Oxford Street and its historical importance to the LGBTQI+ community;
 - (c) temporary street furniture, trees or floral displays; and
 - (d) the installation of temporary structures where these may form part of or the backdrop to creative artistic installations;
- (ii) investigate forming creative partnerships with small businesses, major lease holders, Arts and other creative Colleges, the Mardi Gras organisation and other interested parties to deliver the creative activation of Oxford Street during the Mardi Gras 2021 Festival; and
- (iii) report back to Councillors via CEO update.