

# **Attachment A**

**City of Sydney to Department of Premier  
and Cabinet (30 June 2021)**

30 June 2021

Our Ref: 2021/297127  
File No: X080877

Mr Tim Reardon  
Secretary  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: 

Dear Mr Reardon,

### **Sydney New Year's Eve 2021**

I am writing in regard to the City of Sydney's New Year's Eve event.

In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the NSW State Government took over the management of the event as restrictions required to limit the spread of coronavirus meant that City of Sydney was no longer in a position to manage it. To allow the fireworks to go ahead without crowds gathering in the public domain, NSW Health released a specific Public Health Order for the event.

Planning is now underway for the 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve event, with both the City and State Governments committed to ensuring a fireworks display goes ahead to showcase Sydney to a global audience. The City is committed to managing the show, however under Covid conditions, we are unable to manage the public domain and ensure public safety. Restrictions on crowd numbers and density are likely to remain in place for the rest of this year and much of 2022, and as a result the NSW State Government is better placed to manage public safety.

The current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Sydney and New South Wales State Government for Sydney New Year's Eve will shortly come to an end. It is proposed that the new MOU clearly defines responsibilities of each party. This new MOU should be for a minimum of two years to cover ongoing uncertainty around public attendance.

Under the proposed MOU, the City will produce the show, including fireworks, barges, lighting supply and design, a Welcome to Country segment, pylon projections and broadcast. It will control organisational elements including show operations, the management of vantage points on the City's land, and drive marketing and promotion of the event.

The MOU proposes that the NSW State Government will be responsible for crowd management (including the Integrated Crowd Management Plan), transport management (including Traffic Management Plans), hostile vehicle mitigation (HVM) & counter-terrorism, harbour operations (including ensuring private and commercial boats comply with exclusion zones), crowd management services (including information booths and

volunteers to manage crowds in the public domain), public services (toilets, queuing, security, food trucks etc) and the coordination of agencies, landowners and stakeholders.

We note that work undertaken by various state government agencies for previous Sydney New Year's Eve events, as well as current planning for Covid-safe events, notably Australia Day and Vivid, provides a wealth of knowledge and experience within state agencies for the management of these elements of Sydney New Year's Eve.

Staff at Department of Premier and Cabinet have begun to schedule All Agency meetings required to ensure the safe delivery of the event by the City, agencies and all key stakeholders. The first meeting has been set for 20 July and we consequently require the NSW State Government's agreement on the delineation of duties for the event as soon as possible to provide clarity for all stakeholders.

We hope the proposed realignment of the Memo of Understanding will be agreeable to you. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with New South Wales state government to ensure the successful and safe delivery of Sydney New Year's Eve 2021.

Should you wish to speak with a Council officer about Sydney New Year's Eve, please contact Stephen Gilby, Executive Producer by telephone on 9265 9333 or by email at

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



**Monica Barone**  
Chief Executive Officer