

Attachment H

**Lord Mayor to Premier
(23 September 2021)**



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE

23 September 2021

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Premier

New Year's Eve 2021

I write to you about arrangements for New Year's Eve 2021, including suggestions that have been made in the media about delivering a 9pm fireworks event.

The involvement of NSW Government agencies is always critical in delivering this event, which is why we collaborate so closely with NSW Government agencies in planning it – particularly Police, Transport and Tourism, as well as your Department.

NSW Government officials indicated to the City of Sydney that they did not want to continue the temporary custodianship arrangements of the event for 2021.

City staff met with the Department of Premier and Cabinet in July to talk through the New Year's Eve event. Given the challenges and uncertain environment due to the Delta outbreak, the City agreed it would deliver an event similar to that produced by the NSW Government in 2020, consisting of a midnight-only fireworks display, and a reduced event footprint.

City officials also highlighted there was a requirement for a specific Public Health Order and a zoned ticketing system to manage access to the CBD, and that police support would be provided by the NSW Government.

I wrote to you in August confirming this agreement was reached between our officials, which you acknowledged on 2 September, confirming the NSW Government's belief in the importance of the New Year's Eve event and the need for it to occur in a COVID-safe way.

You referred my letter to the Minister for Tourism, to which I have yet to receive a response. I was waiting on the Minister's response before making any details public.

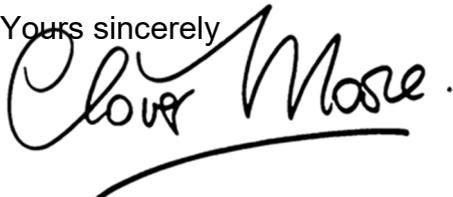
The City continues to have concerns about the potential for the event to be cancelled due to a further outbreak, and our capacity to absorb the associated costs, as well as ensuring New Year's Eve 2021 is COVID-safe. I note that the Doherty Report identifies the potential for localised lockdowns even as we open up when vaccination rates reach 70%.

A significant risk in relation to hosting a 9pm fireworks event in a COVID-safe way is the capacity of Transport, Police and emergency services to manage the two sets of large crowds entering and leaving the city, including the likely number of unvaccinated children that would come to any 9pm fireworks event.

In May 2021, the City wrote to the Department of Premier and Cabinet requesting that the NSW Government take over the management of crowds and event safety in order to deliver a full event. Your Department declined this offer and we agreed to the arrangements for a midnight-only fireworks event.

The NSW Government has the capacity to run both the 9pm and midnight fireworks events – and the associated crowds of both events – and I reiterate my offer for the NSW Government to take over management of the event to deliver this, with the support of the City.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

cc. The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney