

Attachment I

**Minister Ayres to Lord Mayor
(24 September 2021)**



The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism
and Western Sydney

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney
Sydney Town Hall
483 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000

24 September 2021

Dear Lord Mayor

Thank you for your letter to the Premier dated 27 August and 23 September 2021 concerning arrangements for Sydney New Year's Eve 2021. The Premier has requested I respond on her behalf.

Sydney New Year's Eve is an important and iconic event which allows Sydney and NSW to shine on the world stage. Thank you for the update on current plans for this year's event. The NSW Government supports the 2021 event proceeding in a COVID safe way. The decision not to proceed with the 9pm Fireworks does look premature given the rapidly increasing rate of vaccination and suggest it would be prudent to take more time before finalising this decision.

As you would be aware, the NSW Government has recently released its reopening plan, which maps the settings and restrictions that will be eased as we achieve vaccination coverage in the community of 70%. Further restrictions will be lifted at 80% and there will likely be more changes as coverage rates increase beyond that. As such, it would be pre-emptive to seek to determine the necessary public health orders that may be required for New Year's Eve.

Based on the current trajectory of vaccination rates NSW will have well surpassed 80% vaccination by December 2021. We encourage the City of Sydney to consider this context in its planning for Sydney New Year's Eve.

Please be assured the Government will work closely with the City to ensure that appropriate COVID safety requirements, along with public services, systems and emergency services resources are in place to support the event.

Arrangements concerning the Memorandum of Understanding for New Year's Eve will continue to be managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). I understand discussions are continuing regarding this, including a simplified single-year approach for 2021 and a commitment for the City and State to work together in the spirit of previous agreements.

As always, the NSW Government is committed to providing appropriate support through Transport, Police and Emergency Services in order to deliver a safe and enjoyable Sydney New Year's Eve, however the organisation, ownership and authority of this event remains with the City of Sydney.

If the City's staff would like to discuss any of the above, they can contact Kate Meagher, DPC's Executive Director, Partnerships and Engagement at [REDACTED]

Thank you for raising this matter. I look forward to a successful Sydney New Year's Eve 2021, as a positive start to a hopeful and prosperous new year in 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart Ayres". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

cc The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW