

Attachment I

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



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE

24 September 2021

The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP
Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Minister

New Year's Eve 2021

I refer to your letter of 24 September concerning arrangements for Sydney New Year's Eve 2021.

I agree that Sydney New Year's Eve is an important and iconic event that showcases Sydney on the world stage. That is why we agreed to put on the midnight fireworks when the NSW Government declined to continue its temporary custodianship of the event for 2021.

As you would be aware, this significant event requires planning to commence many months out – which is why City staff have been engaging with NSW Government officials since May. I appreciate your update on the trajectory of vaccination rates in NSW, and I congratulate the Government for its remarkable achievement in rolling out the vaccine so quickly.

The Doherty Report modelling, upon which the NSW Government's reopening plan is based, indicates that once restrictions are progressively lifted when we get to 70% and 80% that there will be a surge in cases.

My concern about the 9pm fireworks is that they will encourage young children that are not currently eligible for vaccination to attend the event in the city. Crowds for both events will then intermingle on crowded transport services. The City is not able to ensure a Covid-safe event under these circumstances, particularly given this relies on the NSW Government's role in transport, policing and emergency services.

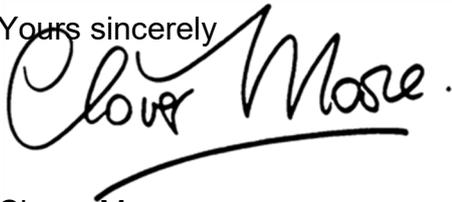
The NSW Government is best placed to manage these risks, given it has up to date health advice and control over health orders. That has underpinned my offer for the NSW Government to run the event.

I am proud that we have partnered with the NSW Government to run this event for so many years.

In the spirit of that ongoing partnership, and in light of the NSW Treasurer's announcement today, if the NSW Government takes over management and delivery of New Year's Eve 2021, I would be willing to seek Council approval for the City to fund the fireworks component of the event – covering both 9pm and midnight firework displays.

I have asked City staff to work with your officials and the Department of Premier and Cabinet to discuss this option. I hope we can meet in coming weeks to finalise these arrangements to ensure a successful and safe New Year's Eve 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the name.

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney