

Attachment K

**Lord Mayor to Minister Ayres
(2 October 2021)**



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE

The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP
Minister for Tourism
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

Sydney New Year's Eve 2021

I refer to our recent discussions, about the range and extent of the 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve event.

As you know, the City has expressed concerns with staging the 9pm fireworks and it was our original intention to stage the midnight event only. Our advice from health experts is that congregating too many people around the Harbour could be risky in terms of pandemic spread.

Further, modelling from the Doherty Institute indicates that once restrictions are progressively lifted when we get to 70% and 80% vaccination rates that there will be a surge in cases of Covid-19.

The 9pm fireworks could also encourage young children that are not currently vaccinated or eligible for vaccination to attend the event in the City and surrounding Council areas. There will also be crossover between families attending the 9pm fireworks and others arriving for the midnight fireworks, which as you know creates significant overcrowding at vantage and access points, as well as on public transport.

However, the State is responsible for issuing health orders and you have explained that under the NSW Government's Roadmap to Recovery announced on 27 September 2021 that, as of 1 December 2021, vaccinated and unvaccinated people will be able to move freely with no restrictions and also attend large scale outdoor events.

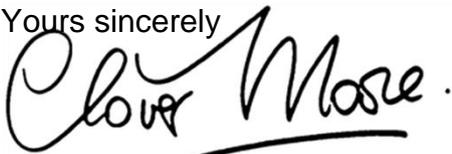
In line with these expressed intentions, your Government has requested that the City manage our usual aspects of the 2021 New Year's Eve event, including staging the 9pm and midnight fireworks, in a similar way to prior to the pandemic.

In response, the City agrees to stage both the 9pm and midnight fireworks, subject to Council resolution and a Memorandum of Understanding including, but not limited to, the following conditions:

1. The NSW Government will intensify its critical contribution to this Hallmark event, especially coordinating police and transport support, as well as necessary emergency services.
2. Noting that there is the potential for public health conditions to deteriorate, the City accepts your offer that should there be any element of the Covid Safe Plan that cannot be met by the City, or any change related to the Covid Safe Plan or departure from the announced Roadmap to Recovery, including any applicable Public Health Order, or the introduction of any additional restrictions affecting the community or the ability for us to meet our WHS obligations, the NSW Government would take over full responsibility and management of the event.
3. Should there be a significant surge in Covid cases necessitating severe restrictions or lockdown, then the event is able to be cancelled altogether.
4. The Government will extend its support to other Local Government Areas surrounding Sydney Harbour, and work directly with them and extend the offer for the NSW Government to take responsibility for events should a Public Health Order be imposed or should further restrictions on the event or the community be implemented beyond what has been outlined in the NSW Government's Roadmap to Recovery.

If your office would like to speak with a Council officer about this matter, they can contact Monica Barone, Chief Executive Office on 9265 9333 or at

Yours sincerely



Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

2 October 2021