

Attachment L

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



The Hon. Stuart Ayres MP

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism
and Western Sydney

Ref: 20211002

4 October 2021

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

Dear Lord Mayor,

I refer to your letter today and our recent discussions concerning 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve.

Thank you for meeting with me and for the goodwill and understanding in our discussions. I am very confident we can work together to ensure a safe and successful New Year's Eve which is accessible to our communities, both in person and through the televised broadcast.

In relation to the four conditions outlined in your letter, I advise:

1. The NSW Government will deliver its critical contribution to support the safe and successful delivery of the event, including whole-of-government coordination and essential services including all appropriate transport, police, health and emergency services resources.
2. Should there be a significant departure from the announced Roadmap to Recovery for example the introduction of new Public Health Orders or restrictions adversely impacting the delivery of the event, the Government is willing to take over full responsibility and management of this year's event, but with the 9pm and midnight fireworks displays and television broadcast still delivered by the City, in close collaboration with the Government. Both parties will agree to the details that underpin this commitment and agree to consult early and in good faith.
3. Should there be a significant surge in Covid cases which necessitate severe restrictions or a lockdown for the Sydney CBD, the 9pm fireworks display may be cancelled by mutual agreement of the Government and the City. I note the Government will likely have taken over responsibility for management of CBD vantage points and crowds in such a scenario.
4. As always, the Government will liaise directly with government landholders and councils surrounding Sydney Harbour regarding planning of their events and precinct management on New Year's Eve. However, arrangements in other local government areas are the responsibility of those councils, as they are for a business-as-usual New Year's Eve, and it is not appropriate to address this in an agreement between the Government and the City.

Additionally, the Government requests the following:

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1. The City and the State will negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in good faith for 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve, to include Hallmark classification, government coordination arrangements, and support liaison with government agencies as required.
2. Other than matters agreed above, the starting point for the 2021 MOU and coordination arrangements should be the agreed terms of the 2016-2020 MOU between the City and the State for New Year's Eve which expired on 30 June 2021.
3. Representatives from the City and the State will first meet to broadly agree the principles, scope and format for this MOU before any drafting is commenced by either party.
4. The City and the State agree that any arrangements agreed by either party for 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve will not be regarded as a precedent for future events. The City and the State agree to meet again in good faith in 2022 to negotiate a new MOU for future years, the basis of which shall be the terms of the 2016-2020 MOU.
5. If the Government takes over responsibility for major elements of the 2021 event, the City will ensure full cooperation and access is provided to any City owned or managed land required for the event, including for viewing precincts, crowd management, operations and logistics, with no fees, costs or unreasonable conditions applied. The City will also provide full assistance to the Government on all matters to ensure a timely transfer of plans, documentation, novation of supplier agreements and similar elements.

I trust all of the above can be reasonably agreed, and trust that the City and State will work in good faith to negotiate the MOU and continue collaboration and planning for the event.

MOU arrangements will be managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. To discuss next steps or any of the above, your staff or delegate should contact Kate Meagher, Executive Director, Partnerships and Engagement at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Again, I thank the City for its collaborative approach and look forward to a successful New Year's Eve event in December 2021.

Yours sincerely



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