

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X092284.003 **DATE:** 17 February 2023

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.7 – Cancellation of Tender – T-2022-755 – Exemption from Tender and Contract Variations for Sydney New Year’s Eve

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Background

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 13 February 2023, further information was sought on the following:

Drone display as a possible alternative to fireworks

Drone shows are unable to proceed in rain, increasing the risk of a cancelled Sydney New Year’s Eve show. A fireworks display can continue in light rain conditions.

Drone shows are only tenable at much lower wind speeds than fireworks, further increasing the risk of a cancelled Sydney New Year’s Eve show.

To maintain and replicate the scope of the current show across Sydney Harbour, approximately 5,500 to 6,500 drones would be required.

The midnight display would have to be shortened, as the battery capacity of drones places limits on their flight time.

The current fireworks display costs approximately \$1 million of the overall \$5.86 million Sydney New Year’s Eve budget. Replacing the fireworks display with an estimated 6,500 drones would potentially increase the cost of the event by an additional \$5 to 6 million, for a total show cost of approximately \$11 to 12 million.

The feasibility of a drone show of this size and scale, in order to replicate the scope of the current show, presents as a significant risk as it is much larger than the current average drone show size.

Lighting display as a possible alternative to fireworks

Lighting and projection displays are already a significant feature of the event and include bridge effects and pylon projections. Lighting is also used by many on boats on the harbour adding to the overall effect. A lighting show without the fireworks would not have the same impact as the current display.

Possible future alternatives to fireworks that may be more environmentally sustainable

An Expression of Interest to invite new ideas and technologies for future events will be released later in 2023.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Director City Life

Prepared by: Sasha Baroni, Executive Manager, Creative City

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer