



AGENDA

Council Chambers
7 October 2021

An **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of **Council** will be held at the Council Chambers, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney at 8:30 PM on Monday 11 October 2021.

The agenda is as follows.

Ken Gouldthorp
GENERAL MANAGER



North Sydney Council is an Open Government Council. The records of Council are available for public viewing in accordance with this policy, with the only exception being made for certain confidential documents such as legal advice, matters required by legislation not to be divulged, and staff matters.

1. Opening Meeting	3
2. Acknowledgement of Country	3
3. Apologies	3
4. Disclosures of Interest	3
5. Reports to Council	4
<i>5.1. New Years Eve 2021.....</i>	<i>4</i>
6. Closure	23

- 1. Opening Meeting**
- 2. Acknowledgement of Country**
- 3. Apologies**
- 4. Disclosures of Interest**

5. Reports to Council

5.1. New Years Eve 2021

AUTHOR: Joanna Gibson, Team Leader Events and Sandra Moore, Manager Communications and Events

ENDORSED BY: Margaret Palmer, Director Corporate Services

ATTACHMENTS:

1. ATTACHMENT A - Printed minutes 05102021 1700 City of Sydney - Extradordinary Council Meeting [5.1.1 - 7 pages]
2. ATTACHMENT B - Hon Stuart Ayres Ltr re NYE 2021 1.10.21 [5.1.2 - 3 pages]

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek direction and endorsement from Council for the proposed plans for the management of the North Sydney New Year's Eve (NYE) 2021-22 vantage points, in a COVID-19 safe way.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Sydney funds a NYE fireworks display which is operationally supported by multiple State and local government agencies. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, up to one million people viewed the fireworks live from the Sydney Harbour foreshore and an estimated one billion watch them on television and online. Temporary custodianship was given to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) for the 2020 event and for 2021 the City of Sydney has taken back planning and control of the event.

On 19 August, at the NYE Crowd Management Workshop, the City of Sydney advised stakeholders that its plan for NYE 2021, to ensure a COVID-19 safe event, was to follow the DPC's format from 2020 by proceeding with only the midnight firework show. The 9pm Family Fireworks, Harbour of Light Parade and Lord Mayor's Picnic events were to be cancelled.

On 22 September, after an email to the NYE Working Group was released to the media, the NSW Treasurer and the Premier proposed that the 9pm fireworks should proceed.

On 1 October, Mayor Jilly Gibson in consultation with the General Manager, sent a letter to The Hon Stuart Ayres, MP, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney seeking clarification of the NSW Government, as to whether the 9pm fireworks will proceed or if the event would remain as a midnight only event. In the event the 9pm fireworks proceed, the letter requested the NSW Government take full responsibility for the North Sydney foreshore areas as per 2020. The letter also sought assurance that NSW Police would continue to manage North Sydney vantage points that Council cannot actively manage. At the time of writing, no response had been received (Please see Attachment B).

On Sunday 3 October, the City of Sydney's Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, released a statement to the media that the 9pm Family fireworks were to be reinstated into the program after consultation with the NSW Government. The agreement to stage the 9pm fireworks was subject to a number of conditions to be met by the State Government (see Attachment A) at an extraordinary general meeting of the City of Sydney Council on Tuesday 5 October.

There is no COVID-19 Public Health Order (PHO) or Safety Plan currently in place for Outdoor Gatherings or Events for more than 500 people. On 7 October the Premier announced changes to the NSW roadmap, including that at 80% double vaccination up to 3,000 people will be permitted to attend controlled and ticketed outdoor events. It is not clear whether this is intended to be the limit for NYE.

As there is currently no confirmation of the 9pm fireworks proceeding, a PHO or COVID Safety plan available for events larger than 500, it is difficult for Council to plan the event.

The Events team is working around planning to ticket and manage the sites as per 2019. They are forecasting based on 4m² per person rule capacities at our ticketed sites with potential to move to 2m². The team is also planning to delay the release of tickets until further information is available. If the tickets need to go on sale before the 9pm fireworks are confirmed, they will be sold for the midnight only show but valid for the 9pm if it goes ahead.

Normally at this time, Events staff would have completed a number of tasks including; engaging suppliers for ticketing and infrastructure, negotiated arrangements with affected NSW agencies, negotiated arrangements with affected businesses and residents and finalised staffing and security. In the absence of a PHO staff have not been able to complete any of these tasks.

Bradfield Park, Quibaree Park and Blues Point Reserve are proposed to be managed ticket sites. Additional infrastructure; including traffic management, toilets, bins and lighting towers, will be provided at Cremorne Point, Kurraba Reserve, Waverton Park, Balls Head Reserve, St Peters Park, St Leonards Park and on Burton and Fitzroy Streets but there will be no active site management by Council. Council is not resourced to manage these additional vantage points in a COVID-safe way.

Based on the limited time frame to the event, it is proposed to follow the 2019 NYE vantage point management with a few minor changes including:

- opening gates to all ticketed sites at 9pm (midnight only fireworks) and 6pm (if there is 9pm and midnight displays)
- adjusting of road closures to later time where possible to reflect the reduced crowds and later crowd movement
- Reducing the capacity of sites in line with COVID safety plans and to allow for the large construction site compounds in Bradfield Park and Blues Point Reserve.

While Council is planning on facilitating NYE 2021/22 as described above, ultimately its ability to do so in a COVID safe way, is dependent on:

- The PHO in place at the time and capacity to establish a satisfactory COVID Safe plan in line with any applicable requirements and WHS obligations,
- Enhanced support from the State and State Government agencies, and
- Confirmation from contractors and suppliers.

Noting that no concerns were raised by members of the public or licensed venues after the public exhibition, the NYE Alcohol Free Zones and Alcohol Prohibited Areas will now be renewed from 2021 to 2024 as per Council resolution on 26 July 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The net budget for the management of the NYE vantage points for 2020/21 is \$266,584 (exclusive of NYE Officer salary). In addition to this was the anticipated income from ticket sales and stallholder fees of \$340,00. This allows for \$606,584. The income will be significantly reduced this year as the expected COVID restrictions will reduce the number of tickets that can be sold. Preliminary modelling indicates the cost of delivering NYE with four ticketed sites is \$450,000. With the reduced ticket income, this means NYE will be up between \$50,000 and \$100,000 over the net budget allocation.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** Council endorses ticketing Bradfield Park, Mary Booth Reserve, Quibaree Park and Blues Point Reserve for NYE 2021.
- 2. THAT** Council to seek urgent clarification of the PHO and COVID Safety Plan that will apply on NYE and assurance that the NSW Government will take control and management of the North Sydney's public space and vantage points if, in the opinion of the Mayor and General Manager, Council is unable to implement a satisfactory COVID safe plan or meet WHS obligations.
- 3. THAT** Council endorses the Events Team setting a capacity for the ticketed sites to manage the COVID safety of attendees and staff when the PHO becomes available.
- 4. THAT** Council resolves to charge \$10 per ticket (plus booking fee) at the four ticketed sites.
- 5. THAT** Council endorses the gates opening at all ticketed at 9pm if it is midnight fireworks only and 6pm if there is 9pm and midnight fireworks.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

4. Our Social Vitality

4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe

4.2 North Sydney is creative and home to popular events

BACKGROUND

The City of Sydney funds a NYE fireworks display which is operationally supported by multiple State and local government agencies. Pre the COVID-19 pandemic, up to one million people viewed the fireworks live from the Sydney Harbour foreshore and an estimated one billion watch them on television and online. The City of Sydney research undertaken at NYE 2019 indicates that 25% of people who attend the fireworks on the foreshore are international tourists. The fireworks contribute to Sydney's positioning as a global city. Given the current international and national travel restrictions, NYE 2021/22 will be a more local event.

Council's NYE responsibilities have grown in line with the event's popularity and status. Historically, Council's primary focus has been to manage the event to reduce its impact on residents. However, in recent years, the devolution of responsibility for crowd safety to landowners has placed greater pressure on Council to implement safety strategies.

In 2019, Council actively managed four reserves as ticketed, alcohol prohibited venues: Blues Point Reserve, Bradfield Park, Mary Booth Reserve and Quibaree Park. In addition, Council also provided toilets, bins and lighting towers at Cremorne Point, Kurraba Point, Waverton Park, Balls Head Reserve and St Peters Park. Additional toilets were provided at St Leonards Park and on Burton and Fitzroy Streets.

Food stalls/trucks were arranged for Bradfield Park, Blues Point Reserve, Quibaree Park, Cremorne Point and Waverton Park. Council also provided digital message boards and barriers for crowd and traffic management across the foreshore area. In 2019, Council was asked to provide a hostile vehicle mitigation plan and source heavy vehicles for its implementation. This was not budgeted for or supported for 2019 nor included in the 2021 budget.

Council originally allocated a budget of \$406,246 for NYE19. The total cost for NYE19 was \$564,714. The additional expenses above the budgeted amount were for the additional toilets, power and lighting, security, traffic, fencing and event staff required for the ticketed sites.

Total income for NYE19 was \$355,863, comprising primarily of \$338,140 from ticketing (34,000 tickets sold [Bradfield Park: 22,000, Mary Booth: 3,000, Quibaree Park: 1,000 and

Blues Point: 8,000]), as well as revenue from a temporary telecommunications land lease and food stalls.

While ticketing increased the cost to Council of providing the event, the additional revenue received reduced the overall final cost to Council from the budgeted amount of \$406,246 (exclusive of the NYE Officer's salary) to \$208,851.

At its meeting of 28 May 2018, Council resolved:

1. THAT Council endorse ticketing at Blues Point Reserve for 2018 at a cost set to recover the actual costs of conducting the event on the site.
2. THAT Council support the closure of Balls Head Reserve on NYE for 2018.
3. THAT a further report be provided to Council outlining options for cost recovery and revenue generating opportunities, together with a community engagement strategy.

At its meeting of 30 July 2018, Council resolved:

1. THAT Council endorse the NYE Community Engagement Strategy.

At its meeting of 24 September 2018, Council resolved:

1. THAT Council support partial cost recovery for the trial of ticketing at Blues Point Reserve for 2018 at the cost of \$40 for adults, \$20 for children (plus booking fee) and infants 0 to 2 free.
2. THAT the review of the ticketing trial at Blues Point Reserve include a review of the cost models and feedback from the community consultation.

At its meeting of 24 October 2018, Council resolved:

1. THAT Council open Balls Head Reserve to the public this New Year's Eve.
2. THAT the post NYE report makes specific reference to Balls Head Reserve.

At its meeting of 29 January 2019, Council resolved:

1. THAT Council acknowledges the difficulties encountered with paid ticketing in Blues Point Reserve on NYE 2018.
2. THAT Council's Events staff prepare a report to Council on the 2018 NYE Event and address alternative options of managing crowds at Blues Point Reserve for future NYE events.

At its meeting of 24 June 2019, Council resolved:

1. THAT Council resolves to ticket Bradfield Park, Mary Booth Reserve, Blues Point Reserve and Quibaree Park at a cost of \$10 (plus booking fee) in order to manage access to New Year's Eve 2019 at these sites.
2. THAT Council resolves to ticket the above parks and opportunity be given for residents to acquire up to 20% (6,800 tickets) prior to sale to the general public.
3. THAT the ticket system includes pass-out wrist bands to enable attendees to access local businesses and tickets will be issued to specific individuals and not transferable to avoid resale/scalping.

In September 2020, due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, custodianship of the NYE event was handed from City of Sydney to the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) to plan and deliver the event. On 2 October 2020, Council wrote to Tim Reardon, Secretary of the DPC, asking him to confirm that the DPC would take responsibility for managing NYE in the North Sydney LGA as it was doing in the City of Sydney. Mr Reardon responded to Council on 17 November and advised that the DPC would implement a suite of measures for NYE that included fencing most foreshore parks and reserves and closing them to public access, closing roads and undertaking a strong communications campaign advising people to celebrate at home.

A specific New Year's Eve PHO was established comprising green and yellow zones and incorporating North Sydney LGA, were enforced from 5pm on 31 December 2020. Green (restricted) Zones required an authorised pass to enter and Yellow (declared) Zones required people to have a legitimate reason for being in the area and gave Police the power to move on any people who gathered in the Yellow Zone on the night.

On 31 May 2021 during the monthly DPC Event Operations Group meeting it was confirmed that the City of Sydney had taken back control and planning of the NYE celebrations. Operational and creative updates were expected from the City of Sydney in late July 2021, however, the outbreak of the Delta strain of the virus in June delayed decisions about NYE.

The pandemic has changed the way that events are designed and managed, in particular major outdoor events. At the time of writing of this report, COVID-19 restrictions and a stay-at-home direction are in place for Greater Sydney, however, the NSW Government Road Map to recovery indicates that industry and restrictions will start easing from 11 October.

On 19 August, at the NYE Crowd Management Workshop, the City of Sydney advised stakeholders that its plan for NYE 2021, to ensure a COVID-19 safe event, was to follow the DPC's format from 2020 by proceeding with only the midnight firework show. The 9pm Family Fireworks, Harbour of Light Parade and Lord Mayor's Picnic events were to be cancelled.

On 22 September, after an email to the NYE Working Group was released to the media, the NSW Treasurer and the Premier proposed that the 9pm fireworks should proceed.

On 1 October, Council's Mayor Jilly Gibson in consultation with the General Manager, sent a letter to The Hon Stuart Ayres, MP, Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney seeking clarification of the NSW Government position on if the 9pm fireworks will proceed or if the event would remain as a midnight only event, further, if the 9pm fireworks proceed that the NSW Government would take full responsibility for the North Sydney foreshore areas as per 2020. The letter also outlined the logistical challenges of implementing the 9pm fireworks at this late stage and sought clarification that NYE will be limited to a single 12pm fireworks event, that the State will implement a strong public communications campaign reinforcing the message that people should celebrate at home unless they have a reservation for a local restaurant or venue, and that State agencies, including Sydney Trains and NSW Police, will maintain the full level of support that they have provided for NYE in previous years. At the time of writing, no response had been received (Please see Attachment B).

On Sunday 3 October, the City of Sydney's Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, released a statement to the media that the 9pm Family fireworks were to be reinstated into the program after consultations with the State Government. The agreement to stage the 9pm fireworks was endorsed at an extraordinary general meeting by the City of Sydney Council on Tuesday 5 October (please see Attachment A). The City of Sydney Council resolved that:

(A) Council note that the City will work towards delivery of a New Year's Eve event including 9pm and midnight fireworks, coordinated with the NSW Government, subject to:

(i) the City achieving agreement with NSW Government that should the requirements of any PHOs and/or the Covid Safe Plan for New Year's Eve not be able to be met by the City whilst also meeting Work Health and Safety obligations, then:

(a) the NSW Government will take responsibility for the delivery and management for all elements of the Sydney New Year's Eve event for 2021;
and

(b) the City will be responsible for the delivery of the fireworks displays including barges, pylons and lighting projections only;

(ii) the City continuing to seek advice from NSW Health and appropriate medical experts, including OzSAGE, to ensure all appropriate measures are being taken to protect employee and patron health and safety at the New Year's Eve event;

(B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Government, and Agency Agreements with relevant NSW Government Agencies, for the 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve event;

(C) Council note that if the above is not resolved before 4 December 2021, the City will continue with the delivery of the midnight fireworks display only; and

(D) Council note that the Chief Executive Officer will continue to provide regular updates as to the progress on the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding by way of CEO Update. '

There is no COVID-19 PHO currently in place for Outdoor Gatherings or Events for over 500 attendees, however, the NSW roadmap, announced on 7 October, stated that from 80% double vaccination up to 3,000 people will be permitted to attend controlled and ticketed outdoor events. The detail for what requirements make a COVID-19 Safe Outdoor Controlled Event has not yet been provided at the time of writing of this report

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Due to the late notification of the arrangements that will be in place, limited community consultation will be possible, however, all residents and businesses in foreshore areas will receive a leaflet advising them of the arrangements for their area.

DETAIL

NYE 2021/22

As an agreement between the NSW Government and the City of Sydney regarding the 9pm fireworks has not been confirmed and there is no PHO and COVID Safe plan for NYE, it is difficult for North Sydney Council to plan the event.

On that basis, the Events team is working around a 4m² per person rule with potential to move to 2m² crowd capacities. The team is also planning to delay the release of tickets until further information is available. If the tickets need to go on sale before the 9pm fireworks are confirmed, they will be sold for the midnight only show but valid for the 9pm if they go ahead.

Given the limited timeframe to the event, it is proposed to follow the 2019 NYE vantage point management with a few minor changes. These include:

- opening gates to all ticketed sites at 9pm (if midnight only fireworks) and 6pm (if there is a 9pm and midnight display)
- adjusting of road closures to later time where possible to reflect the reduced crowds and later crowd movement
- Reducing the capacity of sites in line with COVID safety plans and to allow for the large construction site compounds in Bradfield Park and Blues Point Reserve.

Bradfield Park, Mary Booth Reserve, Quibaree Park and Blues Point Reserve will be managed ticketed sites. It should be noted that capacities will need to be determined when the relevant PHO is released.

Additional infrastructure including traffic management, toilets, bins and lighting towers will be provided at the un ticketed vantage points; Cremorne Point, Kurraba Reserve, Waverton Park, Balls Head Reserve, St Peters Park and St Leonards Park as well as on Burton and Fitzroy Streets.

While Council is planning on facilitating NYE 2021/22 as described above, ultimately its ability to do so in a COVID safe way, is dependent on:

- The PHO in place at the time and capacity to establish a satisfactory COVID Safe plan in line with any applicable requirements and WHS obligations,
- Enhanced support from the State and State Government agencies, and
- Confirmation from contractors and suppliers.

The detail below will outline the proposed changes to the NYE 2021.

Reduced capacity

The footprint of Bradfield Park has been significantly reduced due to the construction site compounds for the Sydney Harbour Bridge and North Sydney Olympic Pool upgrades. The footprint of Blues Point Reserve is also reduced by the construction works for the Metro. Capacity in all reserves will reduced to take these site compounds into consideration and provide for COVID safety.

Opening times

It is proposed that the four ticketed vantage points of Bradfield Park, Mary Booth Reserve, Quibaree Park and Blues Point open at 9pm, if there is midnight fireworks only, and 6pm, if there is 9pm and midnight firework displays. Opening the sites at the later time will limit the time crowds congregate and assist with potential COVID-19 safety requirements.

Despite the later gate opening time, the parks will need to be closed and cleared from 8pm on 30 December. While this is not desirable, the parks cannot be cleared without Police assistance, and this is the only way to clear the reserves and establish them as event sites.

Road closures

The later opening time may allow for a later road closure time for some streets, which could reduce the impact on residents accessing their property. Road closures are considered in conjunction with the North Shore Police Area Command. There are also potential costs savings for the event with reduced staff and security requirements which can help offset the lower income generated if COVID-19 capacity limits are enforced.

Ticket price

At its meeting of 24 June 2019, Council resolved:

1. THAT Council resolves to ticket Bradfield Park, Mary Booth Reserve, Blues Point Reserve and Quibaree Park at a cost of \$10 (plus booking fee) in order to manage access to New Year's Eve 2019 at these sites.

This report proposes keeping the cost of tickets for NYE 2021 at \$10 per ticket. Due to the short timeframe and continuing uncertainty around what will be permitted under a COVID-19 Safety Plan, it is proposed that for 2021 there is no resident pre-sale

In order to still support local businesses around the vantage points pass outs will be permitted.



Council

Meeting No 9

Tuesday 5 October 2021

Notice No 9/1634

Notice Date 1 October 2021

minutes

Tuesday 5 October 2021

2

Index to Minutes

ITEM	PAGE NO
1. Disclosures of Interest.....	4
2. Sydney New Year's Eve 2021.....	5

Present

The Right Hon The Lord Mayor - Councillor Clover Moore (Chair)

Members Deputy Lord Mayor - Councillor Jess Scully, Councillor Craig Chung, Councillor Christine Forster, Councillor Robert Kok, Councillor Jess Miller, Councillor Professor Kerryn Phelps AM, Councillor Linda Scott, Councillor Professor Philip Thalys and Councillor Angela Vithoukias

At the commencement of business at 5.04pm, those present were:-

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Scully, Councillor Chung, Councillor Forster, Councillor Kok, Councillor Miller, Councillor Phelps, Councillor Scott, Councillor Thalys and Councillor Vithoukias.

The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Director City Projects and Property, Director People, Performance and Technology, Director City Planning, Development and Transport, A/Director Legal and Governance and Director City Life was also present.

Councillor Miller left the meeting of Council at 6.47pm, and did not return.

Remote Meeting

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) advised that the meeting of Council was being held via audio visual links, with Councillors (and relevant staff) attending the meeting remotely.

Opening Prayer and Acknowledgement of Country

The Lord Mayor opened the meeting with prayer and an acknowledgement of country.

Webcasting Statement

The Chair (the Lord Mayor), advised that in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Meeting Practice, Council meetings are audio visually recorded and webcast live on the City of Sydney website. The Chair (the Lord Mayor) asked that courtesy and respect be observed throughout the meeting and advised those in attendance to refrain from making defamatory statements.

Tuesday 5 October 2021

4

Item 1 Disclosures of Interest

No Councillors disclosed any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any matter on the agenda for this meeting of Council.

Item 2 Sydney New Year's Eve 2021

Moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Miller –

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that the City will work towards delivery of a New Year's Eve event including 9pm and midnight fireworks, coordinated with the NSW Government, subject to:
 - (i) the City achieving agreement with NSW Government that should the requirements of any Public Health Orders and/or the Covid Safe Plan for New Year's Eve not be able to be met by the City whilst also meeting Work Health and Safety obligations, then:
 - (a) the NSW Government will take responsibility for the delivery and management for all elements of the Sydney New Year's Eve event for 2021; and
 - (b) the City will be responsible for the delivery of the fireworks displays including barges, pylons and lighting projections only;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Government, and Agency Agreements with relevant NSW Government Agencies, for the 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve event;
- (C) Council note that if the above is not resolved before 4 December 2021, the City will continue with the delivery of the midnight fireworks display only; and
- (D) Council note that the Chief Executive Officer will continue to provide regular updates as to the progress on the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding by way of CEO Update.

Variation. At the request of Councillor Phelps, and by consent, the motion was varied such that it read as follows:

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that the City will work towards delivery of a New Year's Eve event including 9pm and midnight fireworks, coordinated with the NSW Government, subject to:
 - (i) the City achieving agreement with NSW Government that should the requirements of any Public Health Orders and/or the Covid Safe Plan for New Year's Eve not be able to be met by the City whilst also meeting Work Health and Safety obligations, then:
 - (a) the NSW Government will take responsibility for the delivery and management for all elements of the Sydney New Year's Eve event for 2021; and
 - (a) the City will be responsible for the delivery of the fireworks displays including barges, pylons and lighting projections only;
 - (ii) the City consulting with appropriate medical experts, including OzSAGE, to ensure all appropriate measures are being taken to protect employee and patron health and safety at the New Year's Eve event;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Government, and Agency Agreements with relevant NSW Government Agencies, for the 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve event;

Tuesday 5 October 2021

6

- (C) Council note that if the above is not resolved before 4 December 2021, the City will continue with the delivery of the midnight fireworks display only; and
- (D) Council note that the Chief Executive Officer will continue to provide regular updates as to the progress on the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding by way of CEO Update.

Variation. At the request of the Chair (the Lord Mayor), and by consent, the motion was further varied such that it read as follows:

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that the City will work towards delivery of a New Year's Eve event including 9pm and midnight fireworks, coordinated with the NSW Government, subject to:
 - (i) the City achieving agreement with NSW Government that should the requirements of any Public Health Orders and/or the Covid Safe Plan for New Year's Eve not be able to be met by the City whilst also meeting Work Health and Safety obligations, then:
 - (a) the NSW Government will take responsibility for the delivery and management for all elements of the Sydney New Year's Eve event for 2021; and
 - (b) the City will be responsible for the delivery of the fireworks displays including barges, pylons and lighting projections only;
 - (ii) the City continuing to seek advice from NSW Health and appropriate medical experts, including OzSAGE, to ensure all appropriate measures are being taken to protect employee and patron health and safety at the New Year's Eve event;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the NSW Government, and Agency Agreements with relevant NSW Government Agencies, for the 2021 Sydney New Year's Eve event;
- (C) Council note that if the above is not resolved before 4 December 2021, the City will continue with the delivery of the midnight fireworks display only; and
- (D) Council note that the Chief Executive Officer will continue to provide regular updates as to the progress on the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding by way of CEO Update.

The motion, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

X083142

Point of Order

During discussion of this Item, Councillor Scully raised a point of order, stating that Councillor Chung was not showing appropriate respect to the Chair.

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) upheld the point of order.

Adjournment

During discussion of Item 2, at 6.04pm, it was moved by the Chair (the Lord Mayor), seconded by Councillor Thalís –

That the meeting be adjourned for approximately 10 minutes.

A show of hands on the motion resulted in an equality of voting as follows –

Ayes (5) The Chair (the Lord Mayor), Councillors Kok, Miller, Scully and Thalís

Noes (5) Councillors Chung, Forster, Phelps, Scott and Vithoukás.

The Chair (the Lord Mayor) exercised her casting vote in favour of the motion.

Motion carried.

All Councillors were present at the resumption of the meeting of Council at 6.20pm.

Procedural Motion

At this stage of the meeting, it was moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

That Items 3.1 and 3.2 be withdrawn as the matters had already been dealt with at Item 2.

Carried unanimously.

At 6.48 pm the meeting concluded.

Chair of a meeting of the Council of the City of Sydney held on Monday 18 October 2021 at which meeting the signature herein was subscribed.



NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

1 October 2021

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

By email: stuart.ayres@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister

RE: MANAGEMENT OF NEW YEAR'S EVE (NYE) 2021

In recent days there has been mixed messaging in the media in respect to the conduct of NYE 2021. In 2020, the State took responsibility for managing the public harbour foreshore and NYE fireworks vantage points in North Sydney with a limited midnight-only fireworks display. This occurred with the State fencing off all primary harbour-front viewing areas to exclude public attendance and supporting this with strong messaging for the public to stay at home and watch the fireworks from the comfort of their loungerooms.

Attached for your information is a letter from The Secretary for Premier & Cabinet outlining the 2020 NYE arrangements.

North Sydney Council only has a very small team of events staff and is heavily reliant on pre-planning and mobilisation of contractors, together with Police support, for the management for public spaces on NYE. Prior to 2020, Council was progressively implementing ticketing arrangements at an increasing number of sites in accordance with a Police recommendation on the basis that the best way to control crowds on NYE is to limit numbers by discouraging non ticketholders from coming to the area. Planning for NYE commences in March and at this stage of the year, Council would normally have completed the following tasks:

- Requested quotes for ticketing, fencing, lighting towers, VMS, generators, toilets, site sheds, marquees, signage, security, first aid, traffic management and risk management.
- Appointed infrastructure suppliers and prepared a run sheet for the bump in and bump out of all infrastructure at the 12 sites.

200 Miller Street, North Sydney, NSW 2060
P (02) 9936 8100
E council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

All correspondence:
PO Box 12, North Sydney NSW 2059
ABN: 32 353 260 317

W www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
f facebook.com/NthSydCouncil
t twitter.com/NthSydCouncil
i [north.sydney](https://www.instagram.com/north.sydney)

- Appointed a ticketing provider, built the ticketing platform, prepared and implemented the marketing plan and released the tickets for sale.
- Appointed other service providers and finalised the transport control and traffic management plans.
- Negotiated arrangements with affected agencies including NSW Police, NSW Ambulance, Sydney Buses, NSW Ferries, Sydney Trains and the Transport Management Centre.
- Negotiated arrangements with affected businesses.
- Consulted resident groups, prepared community information and started dissemination through Council's website and social media.
- Conducted expressions of interest, selected and finalised stall holder arrangements, finalised the staff schedule and started internal and external recruitment of events staff.

Due to uncertainty on the prospect of the 2021 NYE event proceeding, uncertainty of the format and lack of clarity on the applicable health orders at the time of the event; the above tasks are yet to be finalised.

Notwithstanding the continued uncertainty on the reopening from the current Covid-19 lockdown and rapidly decreasing lead time, North Sydney Council has been moving forward on the expectation that the NYE 2021 fireworks event will be limited to a relatively short midnight fireworks and strong messaging from the State to only attend if you have a ticket or venue reservation. Even with this limited event scenario, Council's ability to facilitate NYE 2021 is dependent on significantly relaxed health requirements. For example, while Council can limit numbers in any ticketed area, on a 1:4m² or 1:2m² basis, it will not be able to maintain spacing as attendees compete for the best vantage points and congestion occurs at pinch points during access and egress.

The logistical challenges of reintroducing a second 9:00pm family fireworks event on NYE 2021 at this late stage should not be underestimated. The cross over of large crowds leaving the first event and another crowd appearing for the second, the increased tendency for a 9:00pm family fireworks crowd to start to congregate early in the day and the need to provide events, cleaning and security staff for this period of time; simply exacerbates the challenge of facilitating NYE 2021, beyond the capacity of Council with the limited lead available and continuing health risks.

Your urgent confirmation of the NSW Government position on the NYE 2021 event is requested. In particular, Council seeks clarification that it will be limited to a single 12:00pm fireworks event, that the State will implement a strong public communications campaign reinforcing the message that people should celebrate at home unless they have a reservation for a local restaurant or venue, and that State agencies, including Sydney Trains and NSW Police, will maintain the full level of support that they have provided for NYE in previous years.

In the event that the NYE event proceeds with both the 9:00pm and midnight fireworks and increased crowds, North Sydney Council seeks confirmation that the State will take full responsibility for management of the foreshore areas as they did in 2020.

Yours sincerely

Jilly Gibson
Mayor of North Sydney

cc: Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health and Medical Research
brad.hazzard@parliament.nsw.gov.au

6. Closure