

ITEM 5.2 **MAYORAL MINUTE - ONGOING REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL EVENT FERRIES****Attachments:** **Nil**Submitted by: Councillor Stephanie Di Pasqua (Deputy Mayor)

MOTION

That Council write to Minister for Transport David Elliott requesting a plan for additional special event ferry services for Vivid Sydney and other major Sydney Harbour events.

BACKGROUND

Last week I was made aware of an issue surrounding local ferry services not meeting the demands of our residents wishing to travel to the Vivid Sydney festival.

For our community, one of the key benefits of living in our area is access to the Paramatta River. The City of Canada Bay has always advocated for appropriate ferry services to meet the needs of our residents.

The information I received from residents reflected a report in the Daily Telegraph which highlighted the issue of our local residents not being able to board ferry services to Vivid over the weekend of 4–5 June due to overcrowding.

Many residents were left waiting as services did not stop at our local wharves due to the ferries reaching capacity at earlier wharves.

While bus services are available to our local residents, one of the great attractions of the Vivid festival is arriving to Circular Quay by ferry under the Harbour Bridge. Furthermore, I have concerns that this ongoing issue may discourage the use of our public ferries, increasing reliance on private vehicles, further clogging our local streets, and impacting on our targets for community emission reductions.

With this year's festival coming to an end this week, Council should write to the Minister for Transport David Elliott to advocate for special event ferry services to be put in place for major Sydney Harbour festivals and events such as Vivid or Australia Day celebrations. These additional services should begin their journey further along the river to allow City of Canada Bay residents the opportunity to access ferries during special events.

**Stephanie Di Pasqua**

DEPUTY MAYOR