

November 2020

## The exhibition of an amendment to the City of Sydney LEP 2012 to enable temporary outdoor events

This document answers frequently asked questions regarding the proposed State Environmental Planning Policy (**proposed SEPP**) changes to the *Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012* (**Sydney LEP**).

### What is this exhibition about?

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is exhibiting an Explanation of Intended Effect (**EIE**) for public comment. The EIE proposes a temporary amendment to the Sydney LEP to allow outdoor performances, arts and cultural activities to take place at Cathedral Square ([1 Cathedral Street, Sydney](#)) for three months.

### What are the outdoor events?

The City of Sydney Council (**Council**) has launched the *Making Sydney 24-Hour al fresco city program* which proposed to create an outdoor summer cultural experience with orchestra and theatre performances, live bands and festival activity. Being the Crown Land Manager of Cathedral Square, the Council has proposed a series of limited capacity events. The event stage, seating areas and temporary supporting infrastructure will be set up and remain in place from January 2021 for a period of three (3) months

### Why do we need the amendment?

The NSW Government is supporting this proposal, recognising that the arts and cultural sector may benefit from measures to help the industry to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Additional outdoor performance spaces will allow events to be held in compliance with any COVID-19 pandemic public health orders that are in place. The proposed SEPP provides a fast-track planning pathway for the Council to commence the events in January 2021.

### What is the proposed amendment?

The City of Sydney Council has sought an exempt development pathway to facilitate outdoor performances being undertaken in Cathedral Square over summer for a period of three (3) months.

A State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) is proposed to be made to amend the Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 to insert exempt development provisions to allow this to occur. The amendment will allow:

- the temporary use of the site for a series of events;
- the temporary construction/installation of an event stage, seating areas, toilets, fencing, signage, box office, front of house, audio and lighting equipment;
- temporary food and drink outlets, trading from 10am to 10pm on the days when performances run – noting that requirements under other legislation, including the *Liquor*

*Act 2007* and *Food Act 2003* will not be impacted by this change and will need to be complied with.

Performance times and set up activities will be restricted to avoid impacting the services and functions of St Mary's Cathedral.

## How will the potential impacts be managed?

Council will assess proposed events against their *Outdoor Venue Management Event Approval Process*, including considering issues such as noise, access, security, amenity and traffic. Following assessment and any approvals, the Council will remain in operational control of the events at all times.

## What happens after the events end?

The proposed exempt development provisions will cease to operate after three (3) months, after which the proposed exempt development provisions will no longer apply and the temporary infrastructure will be removed from the site. At this time, the Sydney LEP's existing exempt development provisions will recommence. The proposed SEPP will not affect the existing provision in the Sydney LEP, and other temporary activities may be carried out as exempt development for 52 days on this site for the rest of the year.

## When will the exhibition close?

The EIE is on exhibition for two weeks from 24 November until 7 December 2020.

## Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the use of Cathedral Square, or the proposed events, please contact the City of Sydney Council.

For more information on the exhibition of the EIE, please call our information centre on 1300 305 695. If English isn't your first language and you prefer an interpreter, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our information centre.

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