

Disclosure Log

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the GIPA Act)

Reference number	PD_A5894881
Description of information released	Lighting of the Sydney Opera House sails
Date of decision	23 November 2023
Availability of information	Refer attached

NSW / Federal Agencies Operational update: Israel conflict Briefing for the Premier

Issue

To provide the Premier with an update on operational issues relating to the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel

Background

On Saturday 7 October at approximately 0630 local time (1430 AEDT), Hamas and other militant groups including Palestinian Islamic Jihad launched a surprise attack against Israel from Gaza. The attack involved rocket fire towards southern and central Israel and coordinated incursions into southern Israel and attacks on towns. The IDF has confirmed that a number of soldiers and civilians have been taken hostage.

On Sunday 8 October, hundreds of people, waving Palestinian flags, rallied in south west Sydney reportedly celebrating the Hamas attacks on Gaza.

On Monday 9 October, the Sydney Opera House will light the sails blue and white in support of members of the Jewish community killed, injured, taken hostage and impacted by these terrorist strikes.

On Monday 9 October – a rally for a Free Palestine is being organised at Sydney Town Hall at 5.30pm and expected to march the Sydney Opera House.

NSW Government operational response

NSW Police are liaising with rally organisers to support a peaceful protest.

- 110 Police will attend the rally and facilitate the route: Town Hall, King St, Elizabeth St, Phillip St, Circular Quay and Opera House. 120 more Police on stand by.
- On arrival at the Opera House marchers will be cordoned into an area near the Royal Botanic Gardens.
- Jewish community leaders have urged community members to not attend the Opera House.
- Plans are in place to manage separating groups as needed.
- Transport for NSW is likely to terminate L2+3 light rail service at Town Hall at various points due to protest.
- NSW Police anticipate 1000 people could attend the rally at Town Hall and or/ rally at the Opera House.
- Police believe a number of right-wing groups may attend.
- The sails of the Opera House will be lit at 7.30pm.

- All Police Stations are on alert throughout key suburbs in South-West Sydney and additional Police presence will be deployed at Synagogues and Mosques.
- Police, Multicultural NSW and Premier's Department have been liaising with community leaders on both sides of the issue around the clock since the attacks began.
- A communications plan and advice will follow this brief.

Protest activity expected around the country:

- SYDNEY - 5:30pm, Monday 9 October - Sydney Town Hall
- CANBERRA - 5:30pm, Friday 13 October - Garema Place
- PERTH - 5:30pm, Friday 13 October - Murray Street Mall
- BRISBANE - 6pm, Friday 13 October - King George Square
- MELBOURNE - Time TBD, Sunday 15 October - State Library of Victoria
- ADELAIDE - 2pm, Sunday 15 October - Parliament House

Jewish community vigils are expected for Sydney on Wednesday 11 October.

Commonwealth Government agencies update

Irrelevant information (s 74)



Overriding public interest against disclosure



Irrelevant information (s 74)



Headline messages from DFAT

- Australia unequivocally condemns the attacks on Israel by Hamas
- including indiscriminate rocket fire on cities and civilians, ground incursions and attacks on Israeli towns, and the taking of hostages.
- We call for these attacks to stop and recognise Israel's right to defend itself.
- We also call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those taken hostage.
- Our thoughts are with those killed and injured and all others affected
- critical too that other regional actors opposed to Israel don't take advantage of the situation.

- As fighting continues, Australia urges the exercise of restraint and protection of civilian lives.
- DFAT is seeking to confirm the welfare of any Australians that may have been caught in the attack on Israel
- Australian officials are monitoring the situation closely and remain in touch with local authorities.
- Australians in need of emergency consular assistance should contact the Australian Government's 24-hour Consular Emergency Centre on +61 2 6261 3305 (from overseas) or 1300 555 135 (from within Australia).

Recommendations

- **Note** the brief

Approvals

Premier's Department final approver
Approval status: Approved: Deputy Secretary (Kate Meagher), 09-10-2023
Group Name: Community and Engagement Branch

Premier's Office final action due date
9 October 2023

Premier's comments	Date	Approved/Not Approved/Noted

Responsible Department Officer

From: [Kate Meagher](#)
To: [James Cullen](#); [Edward Ovadia 1](#); [Sarah Michael](#)
Cc: [Simon Draper](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Tuesday, 10 October 2023 5:50:10 AM

As discussed last night

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From: Malcolm Lanyon [REDACTED]@police.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 10:50 pm
To: Kate Meagher [REDACTED]@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au>; Simon Draper [REDACTED]@premiersdepartment.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: David Hudson [REDACTED]@police.nsw.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@police.nsw.gov.au
[REDACTED]@police.nsw.gov.au>
Subject:

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Good evening Simon and Kate,

Hope you're both well and further to my conversation with Kate tonight, please see the email below. I have worked through the email with Tony and was supportive of the strategy in order to minimise risk in the community from what is a highly emotive environment.

I have had regularly contact with David Orsipp, President of the Jewish Board of Secretaries who was very positive towards police activity.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Regards,

Mal

Police strategy:

On Sunday 08/10 the Palestine Action Group (PAG) advertised on social media an intention to hold a protest outside Town Hall at 5.30pm today (09/10). Unsuccessful attempts were initially made to contact the person who posted on social media. At 12.45pm today, Police spoke with the organiser, Lees who advised they would assemble at Town Hall but after 4 speakers, intended to march to the Sydney Opera House in response to the proposed lighting of the Opera House sails in the Israeli colours. The group is known to us and have been compliant in the past. Information at that time indicated approximately 500 persons intended to protest.

Considering their intent, risk for us was the group would move lawfully (without control) to the Opera House at some point, reform and conduct the protest. That provided us no control or ability to manage them into the area of the forecourt where SOH had indicated the PAG would be able to gather without impacting on the lighting or the general public.

In conjunction with the activity of the protest group, information was received members of the Jewish Community would also attend. Control of the protest group also provided us the opportunity to ensure there would be no coming together of the two groups which would likely have resulted in violence and/or breaches of the peace. Subsequent conversations with the CSG resulted in the CSG providing advice to members of Jewish Community against attending the Opera House to reduce the risk of conflict.

Even considering the protest was not authorised, intervention would not likely have improved our position or prevented the opportunity of the group to commit offences, cause disruption or create public order issues.

Managing the protest group as described provided us the best opportunity to prevent breaches of the police, potential offences and public order occurring during the rally at Town Hall and subsequent protest on the SOH. It is estimated that 1000 persons participated in the protest and were present outside the SOH. There was some antagonism between the protestors and police however no violence. Approximately 3 flares were discharged from within the crowd of protestors. CCTV and other video footage was taken of the event and investigations will

continue. The crowd dispersed approximately 9pm . A highly visible police presence is being maintained this evening to prevent conflict.

TC

Anthony Cooke APM

Assistant Commissioner

Commander, Central Metropolitan Region

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A5872424 - SOH lighting projection to support Israel

Briefing for the Premier

Issue

Approval is needed to light the sails of the Sydney Opera House on 9 October 2023 in support of Israel.

Background

On Saturday 7 October 2023 there was an outbreak of hostilities in Israel. The Premier has asked for the sails of the Sydney Opera House to be lit blue and white to show NSW and Australia's support for the community of Israel impacted by these hostilities.

The Sydney Opera House will light the sails with coloured gels over their existing lights, at a cost of \$10,000 to be funded Events budget within the Premier's Department.

Consultation

The Sydney Opera House has given permission and is activating the lighting.

Recommendations

- Approve the expenditure of \$10,000 to light the Sydney Opera House sails on Monday 9 October 2023.

Approvals

Premier's Department final approver
Approval status: Submitted for approval
Group Name: Community and Engagement Branch

Premier's Office final action due date
9 October 2023

Premier's comments	Date	Approved/Not Approved/Noted
<i>Verbally approved 9/10/23 (CM)</i>	<i>13/10/23</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Responsible Department Officer		
Alastair Lyall, Associate Director Events, [REDACTED]		