

A 2023 wish list for our Sydney



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What a year it has been for Sydney. Like many cities around the world, Sydney has faced a very challenging time over the past three years due to Covid.

And this year has been compounded by rapidly rising interest rates and energy prices, staff shortages and inflation that has made doing business more and more difficult.

As we approach the New Year, it should also be noted that Sydney has been good this year but the pandemic has taken its toll and the CBD in particular is suffering long Covid.

On the bright side, the past few months have seen the city gradually regaining its mojo – especially on weekends – but there is still a long way to go.

Thanks to the NSW government, City of Sydney council, Destination NSW and the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner, Sydneysiders are rediscovering and again visiting the many wonderful experiences of retail, dining and entertainment that our CBD offers.

But more needs to be done, and on my New Year's wish list I am requesting 2023 brings us six special gifts.

First on my list is for more

workers to return to their CBD workplaces at least three to four days a week to support all the businesses in the CBD that are suffering, and improve the whole vibe of the city streets.

Secondly, Sydney needs a lot more affordable housing for the key workers like cops, cleaners, council workers, retail and hospitality staff who keep our city running.

Thirdly, we need a Homelessness Commissioner to co-ordinate all the groups that help house and support the hundreds who sleep rough on our streets every night.

Number four on my wish list is for the installation of all-weather synthetic playing fields at the Domain so that workers are able to play sport at lunchtime and after work all year round.

And fifth, Sydney needs an Arts & Culture Commissioner to co-ordinate and drive forward this important sector in our community, helping to promote and support it locally and internationally.

And, last but not least on the list, is for 2023 to send us more international tourists and students – especially from China.

Here's hoping.

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