



The Honourable Nuatali Nelmes  
Lord Mayor of Newcastle

11 December 2018

Via e-mail: [lordmayor@ncc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lordmayor@ncc.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Lord Mayor Nelmes,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our many members and supporters – including those in Newcastle – regarding your New Year's Eve fireworks display, with a suggestion that we hope will spark your interest: use only silent fireworks to create a stress-free environment for Newcastle's humans and animals.

Richer in colour effects and visual choreography than conventional displays, silent fireworks offer a peaceful celebration for noise-sensitive children, elderly people, and individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder – who are sensitive to and can be deeply disturbed by the noise of the explosives – and they don't put viewers at risk of sustaining hearing loss.

They're also more animal-friendly. Animal-rescue centres (often maintained by the council itself) see an increase in the number of lost dogs following conventional fireworks displays. Often, they go missing after they panic and jump over fences or break loose from leashes or tethers, and some even jump through glass windows in order to get away from the terrifying sounds. Many animals arrive at rescue centres with bloody paws and broken bones. Some are never reunited with their families, and others are doomed to an even worse fate.

Loud fireworks displays also scare wild animals, such as deer, causing them to flee onto roads, where they're highly susceptible to automobile collisions, in which they may be killed and can endanger drivers. The blasts have also been known to cause birds to fly into buildings, houses, and trees – and even to abandon their nests and young.

By using only silent fireworks in Newcastle, you'll be able to deliver all the flash without the frightening noise of conventional displays while improving the quality of life for all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Rice  
Outreach and Partnerships Liaison  
PETA Australia

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Australia

PO Box 20308  
World Square  
Sydney NSW 2002

08 8556 5828  
Info@peta.org.au  
PETA.org.au

Affiliates:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)