

# *Ramadan Nights Lakemba – 2025 Event Changes*

## **Community Engagement Report**

**Date:** 21 November 2024

**Written by:** Community Engagement Team



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## Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Canterbury Bankstown acknowledges the traditional country of the Daruk (Darag, Dharuk, Daruk, Dharuk) and the Eora People.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land and acknowledge they are of continuing importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living today.

# Executive Summary

The Ramadan Nights Lakemba – 2025 Event Changes project was exhibited from Wednesday 23 October to 9am Thursday 21 November 2024, following the 22 October 2024 ordinary meeting.

At the 22 October 2024 meeting, Council endorsed the following four changes:



- **Change 1** - A reduction in the number of days of the week the event runs, from seven days to four days. The new event days will be Thursday-Sunday, and stalls will trade from 6pm to 2am on those days.
- **Change 2** - The renaming and rebranding of the event to 'Lakemba Nights'.
- **Change 3** - A revised stallholder layout with stalls to be relocated from the footpaths onto the roads.
- **Change 4** - An adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 to be paid directly to Council and exhibition of this.

These changes are an effort to help reduce the event's negative impacts. For example, significant disruption to local residents, with concerns including noise management, safety, rubbish disposal, smell issues, sleep and other lifestyle disturbances. Also, disruptions to the local Muslim community, such as challenges in accessing mosques during the event and concerns from some that the 'commercial' nature of the event is not aligned with the values of Ramadan.

Council also resolved to investigate extending the map of the event stallholder layout to include shops 154-176 Haldon Street, Lakemba. These businesses have historically been part of the event and if outside of the event layout, they may not benefit financially as much as others within the event site. However, they are located directly opposite the highest density residential area in Haldon Street. Therefore more residents are likely to be negatively impacted by an extension.

This exhibition sought feedback on the fees adjustment, informed the community of all four changes and provided an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the other changes.

Engagement methodology and promotion included:

- A Have Your Say (HYS) page (<https://haveyoursay.cbccity.nsw.gov.au/ramadan-nights-lakemba-2025-event-changes>) with a survey to gather community feedback on the changes.
- A community pop-up at the Lakemba Senior Citizens Centre.
- The distribution of over 6700 flyers.
- Targeted social media on Council's Instagram and Facebook accounts.

Key findings were:

- **Change 1:** Mixed feedback on the reduction of days.
- **Change 2:** The majority do not support the name change.
- **Change 3:** Mixed feedback on the layout change and range of other stallholder issues raised.
- **Change 4:** 50% supported or partially supported the fee adjustment, 50% did not support the fee adjustment. Of those that identified as businesses and/or stallholders, 18% did not support the change.

Engagement reach was over 10,000 and a high volume of feedback, including 205 submissions on the HYS site, was received. This feedback should be considered in its totality, including reviewing the appendices.

It should be noted that the exhibition closed at 9am 21 November 2024. Consequently the Community Engagement Team have made their best efforts to report the feedback as accurately as time allowed.

## Engagement snapshot



**4,375**  
Have Your Say  
website views



**205**  
Have Your Say  
submissions



**1**  
community  
pop-up



**29**  
conversations

# Project Background

Ramadan Nights Lakemba is a month-long event held during the month of Ramadan. The event provides people an opportunity to break their fast in a vibrant, community environment. It also attracts new visitors to Lakemba, which helps to boost the local economy for businesses and provides visitors with a unique cultural experience.

The event has grown significantly over recent years and is one of Sydney's most popular and culturally diverse events, with more than 1.57 million people attending in 2024. Council recognises that while Ramadan Nights Lakemba has economic and other benefits, it also has other impacts, including:

- Significant disruption to local residents, with concerns including noise management, safety, rubbish disposal, smell issues, sleep and other lifestyle disturbances.
- Disruptions to the local Muslim community, such as challenges in accessing mosques during the event and concerns from some that the 'commercial' nature of the event is not aligned with the values of Ramadan.
- Escalating costs to Council. As the event has grown by over 500% between 2019 to 2024, costs have increased significantly (e.g. paid police, traffic control, waste management, crowd management and security fees).

Ramadan Nights Lakemba is complex and Council continues to review the event and consult with impacted stakeholders. Often, stakeholders who are most affected have competing views (e.g. businesses may benefit from increased income, but local residents may feel disrupted by the event). Previous consultations have included stakeholder meetings in late 2023 and a stakeholder meeting in May 2024. The May meeting involved representatives from community groups, external contractors and Council staff.

This consultation project was initiated due to the council resolution at the 22 October 2024 ordinary meeting to endorse the following four changes:

1. A reduction in the number of days of the week the event runs, from seven days to four days. The new event days would be Thursday-Sunday, and stalls will trade from 6pm to 2am on those days.
2. The renaming and rebranding of the event to 'Lakemba Nights'.
3. A revised stallholder layout with stalls to be relocated from the footpaths onto the roads.
4. An adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 to be paid directly to Council and exhibition of this.

This exhibition sought feedback on the fees adjustment, informed the community of all four changes and provided an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the other changes.



Image 2: Ramadan Nights Lakemba 2025

## Engagement Methodology and Reach

The below table summarises the methodology and reach from the activities implemented directly by the Community Engagement Team.

Engagement Method	Date and / or time	Reach Details	Total Reach	Notes / Comments
<b>Pop-up, Lakemba Senior Citizens Centre</b>	14 Nov 2024, 5pm-7pm	28 attendees representing businesses, stallholders and residents.	28	Conversations were held with each attendee and flyers were distributed in English, Urdu, Arabic and Bengali.
<b>Have Your Say (HYS) page</b>	23 Oct – 21 Nov 2024, 9am	2,936 visitors viewed the project information 4,375 times. Total engagement time was 4 days, 10 hours and 35 minutes.	2,936	The HYS page used Localize for translations into 10 languages (Vietnamese, Greek, Arabic, Indonesian, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu, Italian and Hindi).
<b>Online submissions</b>	23 Oct – 21 Nov 2024, 9am	205 submissions (contributions) received via the online submission form on the HYS page and 10 direct submissions received separately.	215	Submissions via HYS are captured in the HYS visitors above and not counted as part of reach here, as people will have visited the HYS page in order to make a submission. Direct emails are counted.
<b>Direct email</b>	30 Oct 2024	Direct emails sent to those who had participated and/or submitted feedback during the Oct 2023 consultation, participants from the May 2024 stakeholder meeting, business in the 2025 proposed event site, businesses at 154-176 Haldon Street, previous event stallholders and/or those who have expressed interest in having a stall in 2025.	270	
<b>Flyer letterbox drop</b>	11 Nov 2024	6000 flyers distributed to premises (e.g. businesses) within the event site and also nearby residential streets.	6,000	Flyer in English, Arabic, Urdu and Bengali was distributed by external company.
	12-13 Nov 2024	300 flyers delivered to premises in the proposed 2025 event site.		Flyer in English, Arabic, Urdu and Bengali was distributed by Council staff. Not counting in the reach as this was a delivery to

				the same location, the intention being to ensure those in the event site (i.e. most impacted) have the information.
<b>EDM to HYS members</b>	23 Oct 2024	353 people received EDMs.	353	Automated email sent to HYS members with an interest in projects in Lakemba.
<b>Flyer distribution</b>	6-8 Nov 2024	690 flyers delivered to Bankstown Customer Service Centre, Campsie Customer Service Centre, Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre and Lakemba Library and Knowledge Centre.	740	Flyer in English, Arabic, Urdu and Bengali.
	14 Nov 2024	A further 50 flyers were delivered to the Lakemba Library and Knowledge Centre.		
<b>Meeting at Civic Tower, Bankstown</b>	19 Nov 2024, 3-3:45pm	Council staff met with 5 members of the Lakemba business community.	<b>5</b>	These businesses operate in Railway Parade, Lakemba.
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>10,342</b>	

NB. it is noted that there may be some double counting as people may participate via more than one method (e.g. view HYS page and attend a pop-up).



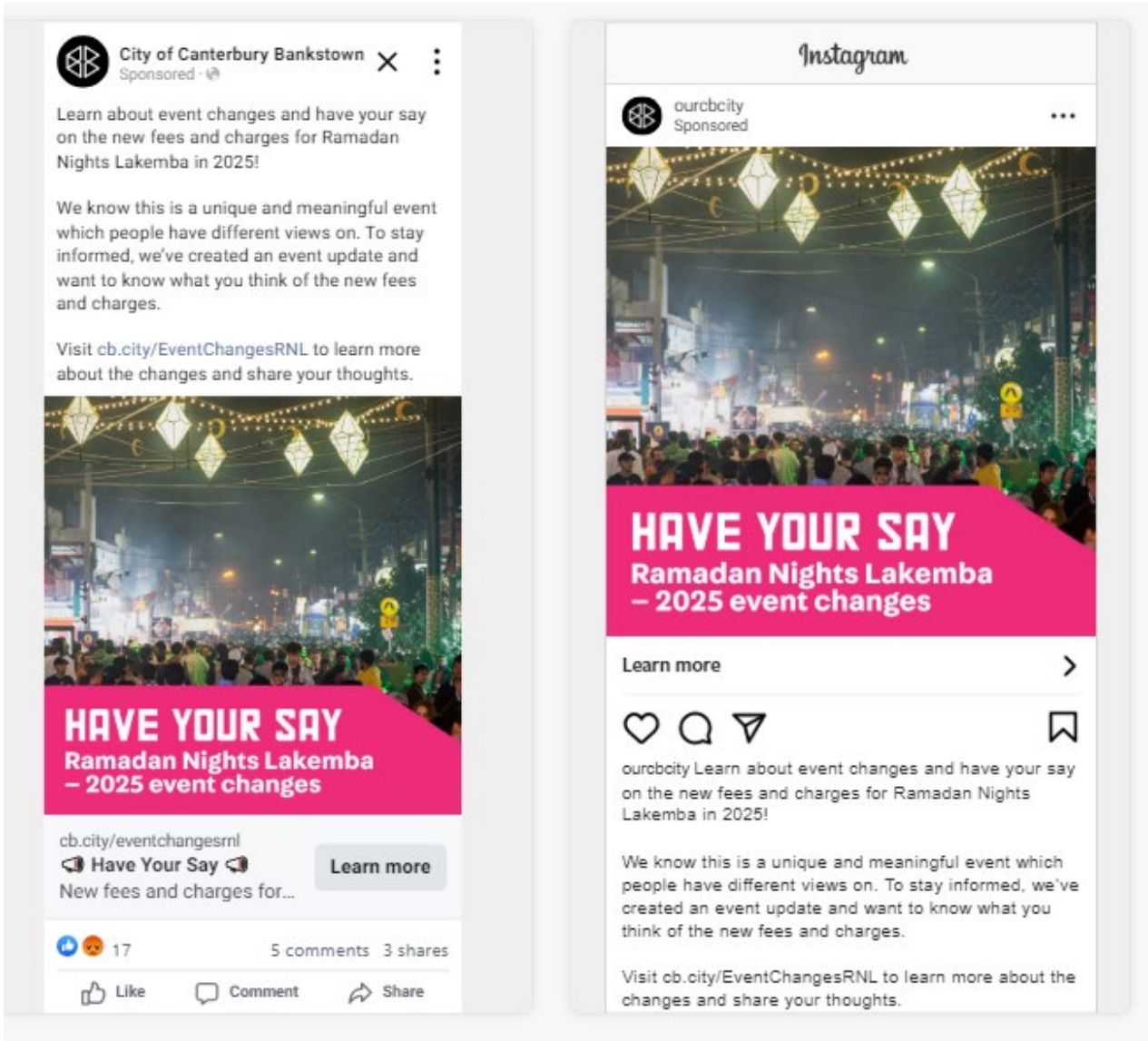


Image 4: Social media posts

# Engagement Results and Analysis

## Part 1: Have Your Say

The HYS page described the four changes and requested feedback. Feedback was requested on the fees (i.e. did people support, partially support or not support this change) and then the option was provided for people to submit any other comments regarding the fees. See screenshot below.

### Feedback

Step 1 of 3

Let us know what you think of the adjusted stallholder fees and any other feedback you have on the event. Your feedback will help inform Council's decision-making on the event planning.

**For the adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night In 2025 to be paid directly to Council:**

**I would like to provide the following feedback regarding this adjustment.**

Image 5: HYS feedback 1

Further, the HYS page provided the opportunity to give other feedback on the event (e.g. the other changes). See screenshot below.

### Additional feedback

Step 2 of 3

**I would like to provide the following additional feedback for Council to consider.**

Image 6: HYS feedback 2

## Demographics

The table below provide a summary of key demographic data from the 205 contributions made via HYS:

<b>Gender</b>	Female	94
	Male	101
	Non-binary	1
	Prefer not to say	9
<b>Age</b>	Under 18 years	1
	18-24 years	12
	25-34 years	51
	35-44 years	84
	45-54 years	36
	55-64 years	11
	65 years and over	5
	Prefer not to say	5
<b>Which of the following best describes you?</b>	I am a resident of Lakemba	99
	I own a business in Lakemba	20
	I have had a stall at Ramadan Nights Lakemba	14
	I am interested in having a stall at Ramadan Nights Lakemba 2025	29
	I live in Canterbury-Bankstown	98
	Other	35

### CHANGE 1 - Reduction in the number of days of the week the event runs, from 7 to 4 days

**A total of 52 HYS contributions provided feedback regarding the proposed change of reducing the number of days of the week the event runs, from seven to four days.**

This feedback has been broadly categorised as supporting the reduction, partially supporting the reduction (or having mixed feedback) and not supporting the reduction. See the tables below. All comments are verbatim.

	<b>Supported this proposal</b>
1	<p>Change 1: A reduction in the number of days of the week the event runs, from seven (7) days to four (4) days. The new event days would be Thursday-Sunday, and stalls will trade from 6pm to 2am on those days.</p> <p>✓ the event has got his popularity increased due to the 30 days. Turnaround of event. A festival of lights and food in Lakemba. Still reducing the days shouldn't be a problem. Everyone can adjust to their requirement and visit and enjoy the festival.</p> <p>Change 2: The renaming and rebranding of the event to 'Lakemba Nights'.</p> <p>✓ as already mentioned above it. The nights got its popularity as Ramadan nights and changing or rebranding the name to Lakemba nights should be okay that's not a problem.</p> <p>Change 3: A revised stallholder layout with stalls to be relocated from the footpaths onto the roads.</p> <p>✓ the stall holder layout which has been using for past so many years is in the perfect order and shouldn't be changed because the existing layout uses the maximum area. People enjoy working on the road with no traffic at all. Everyone can enjoy the broad space. In in case of</p>

	<p>rain in any weather conditions, there is no place to go so it's better to keep the stalls under the shed within the business area.</p> <p>Change 4: An adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 to be paid directly to Council</p> <p>✓ council must support the businesses with reducing the prices every time each year. In this case increasing the price to 600 per day will not going to help the business as it will reduce the popularity because of very few businesses will participate in the event to make the event popular, you need to gain the business confidence which can be done by helping the businesses in each and every way.</p>
2	<p>Noise is an issue. Timings can be limited. Name of the event to be changed to a generic name.</p>
3	<p>Increasing council fee will increase the food cost to the consumer. \$400-450 is reasonable I guess. I am happy about the reduction of the number of days as well as the name change.</p>
4	<p>Agree with the changes, perhaps even Thursday - Sunday nights would be sufficient</p>
5	<p>Everyone knows the stigma and discrimination against Islam that exists even today. I shouldn't even have to explain the value the word "Ramadan" holds in a well-known event that is open for everyone. It is how we demonstrate the spirit of Ramadan and Islam itself. I'm sorry I don't see any Christmas markets having "Christmas" removed from it, and Christmas is commercialized everywhere you look.</p> <p>If locals are being disturbed by the noise, then I support the reduction of days. I do NOT however support the increased fee? I'm sorry but you aren't providing me enough information about the council's services that justify charging stallholders an extra 4.8k? That's outrageous.</p> <p>These workers are already spending around this amount on zakat (charity that is compulsory in Islam) for the holy month.</p> <p>Next thing you know is you'll be charging citizens entry. The markets were fine as is thank you very much.</p>
6	<p>While I can understand the reduction of days to minimize noise for surrounding neighbourhoods and other maintenance issues...and understandably this will be difficult for local residents especially those who do not adhere to the Muslim faith, I believe the Ramadan nights has been wholly hijacked by the council. Seems the council has waited for it to be successful and piggy backed on the Muslim led initiative which started at iftar time in Ramadan (which was the initial reason the nights ever came to be), and now they want to move what was made by the Muslim community and for the Muslim community into a completely separate commercial venture. Then why is this even happening in Ramadan to begin with? If you want to change the name then change the timing also remove it to a time outside the holy month. You can't have it both ways.</p>
7	<p>Condensation should be made for the resources and management of the stalls impact.</p>
8	<p>I support Change 1 and 3. I don't support Change 2 and 4.</p>
9	<p>I agree with the time change proposal; however, I strongly oppose the rebranding. This event is linked to the Ramadan celebration, historically it was started as a Ramadan celebration. I don't think it will be wise to take off the Ramadan from the event branding. I think by keeping the word Ramadan in the celebration gives more respect to multiculturalism. So many people now know what Ramadan is.</p>
10	<p>Excessive and is positioned to make the markets grow. They don't need growth. Rather, they need to be scaled down.</p>
12	<p>The proposal put forward by the council is meaningful and also is considerate towards the residents in close proximity to the event. It also good to limit number of days as well as the hours noting the clean up as well as other costs. The sensible proposal to leave the footpath clear as well as not allowing cooking on the footpath is timely noting that, not only the oil spill but also potential fire hazard to the properties and more importantly to the visitors that include children. Totally support this meaningful proposal.</p>

13	<p>If the Council feels a rebranding is necessary to focus on broader commercial goals, it would be more appropriate to reschedule the event to a different time of the year. Holding it during Ramadan under the new name 'Lakemba Nights' would feel disingenuous and it will be perceived by the community that you're trying to erase the visibility of the Muslim community. Additionally, I noticed last year that the inclusion of elements such as stalls from other religious groups which was jarring. While I appreciate the desire for inclusivity, it felt out of place for an event explicitly tied to Ramadan. The goal of the event needs to be clear, as this clarity will help Council make informed decisions moving forward. It is impossible to accommodate every group within a single event; doing so risks diluting the focus and impact. I encourage Council to undertake a review of the intent and objectives of the event and to articulate these goals clearly, as this will enable more effective community engagement. While I understand the workload involved, a reduction in the number of event nights is reasonable. However, the nature of the event must be aligned with the timing. Council must decide: either it is 'Ramadan Nights' during Ramadan, or it is 'Lakemba Nights' outside of Ramadan, with participation open to all groups. Trying to achieve both will dilute the authenticity of the event.</p>
14	<p>I would like council not to do any extension as this will put a lot of pressure on local residents and other patrons to come in and out. As due to metro project Lakemba train station is closed. There is not enough parking in a close vicinity there are so many praying places, people will be going to mosques and coming out of mosques will not have enough place which can have a chance of stampede. There is no emergency protocols. So no extensions as it will make life hard for the locals as cleaning will take place very late at night noise pollution and food pollution from the smoke of food and all the other things have already made life miserable shop owners screaming to attract customers has already made it look like a cheap selling techniques. There is no inspection of food that what kind of food being supplied to customers Hygienity has always been compromised.</p> <p>Council should give stalls to new people instead of giving it to shop owners who already own shops . Proper policing should be done to make sure footpath are clear from hindrances. We have seen greedy shop owners selling food due to high demand without even proper cleaning or counting. Please as a responsible council do the right thing and proper and secure food and environment should be given to customers who are spending money. Proper parking spots should be allocated to because fines have been issued for illegal parking either council should make a designated parking place and buses should be organised from there for visitors.</p>
15	<p>Some changes are welcome including reducing the event to 4 days and moving stalls off the footpath. If the event is now classed as commercial then why does it have to be held during Ramadan and why does it still need to run for a month. Also some businesses do not close till 6pm but stalls open at 6 which means roads will be closed at 4 or 5 impacting those businesses. The ratepayers are paying for council losses on this event so who is benefiting. The restaurants, stall holders and food trucks and a lot of them are not local anyway. This event has negatively impacted residents and some shop keepers for years. If it is going to be run as a commercial venture then it should be run at a profit.it needs to be scaled back even further.no other food festival in the country goes for this long.</p>
16	<p>Change 1 - Market running 4 days now instead of 7.</p> <p>This change is fine as long as an appropriate level of marketing is done where the populace clearly understands the days the market is open. There was a huge miscommunication in the 2024 markets. We ideally need more influencers and advertisements this year.</p>

	<p><b>Mixed feedback</b></p>
1	<p>I do not support this proposal and this event. So much of our taxpayer's money is spent on this event every year when there are potholes the size of craters in and around our roads in Lakemba and Belmore. Belmore has not had any Christmas decorations for many years and it is time we get some recognition. It is absurd that every year funds go into this event, rubbish is strewn on our doorsteps, our bins are moved out of the way on bin nights and are not accessible by the garbage trucks because cars are partially parking on our driveways. Not to mention cars are parking illegally on the footpaths etc. I also do not support this event</p>

	<p>given the metro railway is currently in construction. Lakemba is already overcrowded with even more cars and buses due to this.</p> <p>I have no issue with this event being held but it should not be a yearly event. It should be at every two years for a short period as proposed now to allow for the overwhelming affects it has on our infrastructure etc not to mention some Christmas recognition for our members of the community.</p>
2	<p>A reduction in the number of days of this event is certainly a welcome change, but concerns remain. 6pm until 2am is still a very long, noisy night for an area that is mainly residential and single-storey, low density shopping. Year after year, residents face noise, parking, and confrontational issues with attendees of the event. In fact, council themselves have admitted that rangers have been targeted by patrons being aggressive and violent around parking. Can council advise what they will be doing to combat this sort of behaviour, as well as managing the residential parking issues? It should be pointed out that this is the only event of its kind in the state; one that is right in the middle of a residential area, and also that there are perfectly acceptable nearby areas that could conceivably be used for this event (e.g. Belmore Oval). Whilst these changes do seem as if they may be beneficial, it remains to be seen if they appropriately manage all facets of health, safety, parking, religious respect, public interest and profitability of such an event.</p>
3	<p>Can we just have this event for 2 nights? No parking for our visitors, it's very noisy &amp; everywhere rubbish left on streets.</p>
4	<p>One key thing missing is the clean-up. Council needs to do a deep clean of the footpaths and streets as it is filthy after the event. The footpaths are dirty and greasy for months after!</p> <p>Initially I did not support the name change, though as you've consulted with the Muslim community, I would support that. As an atheist living in Lakemba, I enjoy being part of and learning about the community I live in. I like the 'Ramadan Night Markets' as I feel it connects me to the community, though I support whatever the community in their name change.</p> <p>I support the reduced hours, although it is really nice having a festival like atmosphere every night! I fee reducing the days will cram more people in.</p> <p>Expanding to include other local business is great. Fully support that.</p> <p>In terms of raising stall fees, this will raise the cost of goods. One great thing about the night markets is it's relatively cheap. There's lots of families around here and it's wonderful to see them out and about. More expense likely equal less locals and more tourists. Additionally, I fear the local businesses won't be able to afford and more outside CB food trucks selling overpriced non authentic food will make their way in. The beauty of the night markets is supporting the local business and community and showcasing the authentic and diverse make up of where we live.</p> <p>Surely the OLG has some grant funding to support lower entry costs.</p> <p>Thank you! I look forward to 2025 :)</p>
5	<p>I don't agree with the entirety of the market and duration but if it is to happen then council should benefit</p>
6	<p>This adjustment might be fair for smaller stalls to run only a couple of nights but is unfair for those that want to stay for the whole duration, upping the price for less nights is unreasonable and defeats the whole purpose of the event. There should be a cap of \$6,000 if last year's cost was \$6,000. If council wants to charge more, provide more value. It is unreasonable to charge more and provide less.</p>
7	<p>Adjustments are not good enough. This must be stopped and relocated. For whole month residents of Lakemba suffer and money makers and outsiders enjoy in the name of so-called Lakemba/Ramadan nights. Such a small space and narrow street is NOT suitable for month long party. Kids needs to go to the school in the morning, people need to go the work. Torturing from Thursday to Sunday again? Why don't the decision makers arrange similar month-long festival in front of their house and street in the name of holiday night, summer nights whatever. Let's see how you feel as a local resident.</p>

8	I strongly suggest to please stop this event. If not at least please reduced this event only for two nights Friday & Saturday nights only. As a local resident we suffer our normal life due to heavy traffic of road closures, heavy noise pollution, Garbage bins near event is always full and car parks are full of garbage, we can not do our shopping at night (workday time) due to road closure and no parking.
9	I partially support this adjustment as the days that selected are the most auspicious days in whole month of Ramadan. Thursday and Fridays...or just make it weekend as event days, if cannot cancel the complete Ramadan events. This will help the Muslim community to respect their one of the most important months of Islam and focus on its attributes rather than moving into the events. 4 days whole night is going to ruined the peace of many homes. Better to just allow sat and sun (weekends only) Otherwise due to all respect we completely boycott Lakemba in month of Ramadan as we don't support such events that will drag our community from main purpose of Ramadan to other worldly purposes.
10	While I can understand the reduction of days to minimize noise for surrounding neighbourhoods and other maintenance issues...and understandably this will be difficult for local residents especially those who do not adhere to the Muslim faith, I believe the Ramadan nights has been wholly hijacked by the council. Seems the council has waited for it to be successful and piggy backed on the Muslim led initiative which started at iftar time in Ramadan (which was the initial reason the nights ever came to be), and now they want to move what was made by the Muslim community and for the Muslim community into a completely separate commercial venture. Then why is this even happening in Ramadan to begin with? If you want to change the name then change the timing also remove it to a time outside the holy month. You can't have it both ways.
11	it shouldn't be a weekly event, you be restricted only to 1 weekend in the month or 4 days, like they did at Parramatta recently. Having this too often detracts from the purpose of the month
12	As I shared with you earlier about the name, my vote is for "Lakemba Nights". I also mentioned that each of the shops must contribute a lumpsum amount for Gaza. Five days is better except Friday. Barak Allahu Feek.
13	Five days in a week except Friday. Each shop must contribute for Gaza
14	Relocate to another location in open ground if needed To be organised other then holy month of Ramadan and in case of event, only one day after Ramadan is finished
15	I do not support this proposal and this event. So much of our tax payers money is spent on this event every year when there are pot holes the size of craters in and around our roads in Lakemba and Belmore. Belmore has not had any Christmas decorations for many years and it is time we get some recognition. It is absurd that every year funds go into this event, rubbish is strewn on our doorsteps, our bins are moved out of the way on bin nights and are not accessible by the garbage trucks because cars are partially parking on our drive ways. Not to mention cars are parking illegally on the footpaths etc. I also do not support this event given the metro railway is currently in construction. Lakemba is already overcrowded with even more cars and buses due to this.  I have no issue with this event being held but it should not be a yearly event. It should be at every two years for a short period as proposed now to allow for the overwhelming affects it has on our infrastructure etc not to mention some Christmas recognition for our members of the community.
16	Changing from 7 days to 4 days doesn't impact anything. In 2024 it was declared the event will run 4 days (Thursday to Sunday) but in practical the road was closed 7 days and stalls were open every day. It was like Council did cheat with the residents. It's clearly anticipating, same thing will happen in 2025 again. Secondly, unless until the venue is relocating to another place or nearest park the negative impact to the residents will not change. Thirdly, by changing the name without changing the date is look like putting the same Bear in different cup.

	<p>If the Council is too respectful to local Muslim community, Council should consider the event date other than Ramadan month.</p> <p>Fourthly, changing the stall from footpath to the road doesn't reduce the negative impact to the residents around.</p> <p>Therefore as a local resident we have strongly denied the proposed changes and urging Council to change the venue to the nearby park.</p>
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	<b>Didn't support this proposal</b>
1	The stall holder fee which is \$600 is too much per night, as the number of nights is decreased as well. For stall holders it would be hard to manage.
2	I strongly believe that stall should be prioritised to the business owners across the street and the council fee should be similar to last years. The business has an opportunity but a lot of investment and expenses every day, \$600 everyday would only burden the stalls also it's a 4-day event, so you don't get customers every day. I suggest making it a 7-day event and keep the fee to a maximum of \$300. please ensure all the existing businesses interested should get a stall before anyone else.
3	<p>I do not support the rebranding of the name. I think the name "Ramadan night" has its significant to non-Muslim people will help increase harmony in the community and awareness. It also helps promote our multicultural society.</p> <p>I support the stall to be moved from footpath to the road to help ease foot traffic and continuation of existing business.</p> <p>I think the number of nights should remain same as 30 days. There're lot of people who doesn't like visiting this event on weekends due to overcrowding. Keeping the night open to weekdays will help spread the crowd across the week. Reducing means crowd will have no choice but go on one of those days only which will Make the matter worse.</p> <p>Could it should also think of charging less to the stall holder on Mon-wed and charge more on remaining 4 days.</p>
4	Wanted the event to last for more days as Thursday to Friday be peak periods and there might be lot of people and it would be difficult to move around.
5	<p>I don't like it calling Lakemba nights.</p> <p>I don't want it to be 4 days. 30 days have its own charm. Don't ruin this.</p>
6	<p>These councils recently have initiated these food festivals I.e. parramatta lanes and Liverpool food festival all in inspiration of Ramadan festival.</p> <p>So I am and surely a lot of others are also against the change of name.</p> <p>We fast 30-31 day and cutting off the opportunity for many to access these food stalls to break and open their fasts is also not okay.</p> <p>This also allows more access of funds to the council as every single day is busy.</p> <p>Closing the roads and getting people to use footpath will not work due to the amount of people that come to the festival. The roads are the best way to manage this traffic. Bringing people on the footpaths will make it harder for people to move around</p>
7	Changes in items 2, 3 & 4 totally agree
8	Please keep the event name to Ramadan nights and no changes to event days and timeline. As a Muslim and local resident of Lakemba, I don't think that you need to change the name of the event or reduce the days or opening hours!
9	It should be open 7 days, as we Muslims have Ramadan 7days (29-30days) and not only on weekends.
10	Do not change the name of Ramadan Night Markets. Do not reduce the days. Put more events on that spread the crowds around the council area
11	<p>I don't like the idea of 4 days trade a week as we the local fast 7 days and usually eat around 4am before starting our fast for the day.</p> <p>I don't go for the idea for name change as member of the Muslim community I feel more nostalgic and more of a belonging with Ramadan Lakemba nights.</p>

12	Ramadan nights are special because of its relation to Ramadan and the holy month. To reduce this name to Lakemba nights is unjust and unfair. Additionally, as a regular visitor Ramadan night is special as it runs every night in Ramadan- it will be chaos if it is only on weekends
13	Ridiculous form of revenue hoarding and should not be implemented under any circumstance. Not only are you decreasing the day/time a stallholder can be open for but you intend to charge them 3x more. By limiting who can set up stalls you will be diluting the essence of this event.
14	The community started this event for Ramadan and so it should remain titled Ramadan nights. You are taking away the spirit of you take Ramadan out of the title. The number of days should not change. Reducing the number of days actually makes the event more stressful and the volume of people in 4 days will be a consolidation of that in 7. Not a good idea. Making an extra buck off the vendors is unfair. It also means that the price increase would be passed onto attendees.
15	I believe that you forgot the reason that the purpose of these food stalls is to cater for the Muslim communities who have been fasting from sunrise to sunset which means limited retail foods opening after sunset especially the next 12 years of the Ramadan will head towards summer which means longer days and more less retail food openings. It's great to see that non-Muslim are participating in this event and creating a great atmosphere disappointing that the Muslim community leaders have not seized on this or failed to understand the purpose of the night food eating. Do not wish to go to the old days of when most food retail close after 5pm and as the fasting gets longer till 9pm and nothing for Muslims to eat but limiting the food service from Thursday to Sundays when the holy month of Ramadan is 30 days of fasting
16	Please consider the needs of the Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan and the needs for them to have available retail food after sunset. Days will get longer so will fasting and retail food needs to open late for 30 days not 4 days a week
17	So we have one of the most vibrant successful street festivals in Sydney and Council are reacting by scaling it back and trying to reduce demand for stallholders. Seems to me that this is the antithesis of how a Council should be behaving.
18	Again, this is one of the most successful street festivals in Sydney. Council have responded to this by trying to scale back the event and by trying to discourage stallholders. How on earth is this the way Council should be behaving? Racism pure and simple, this wouldn't be happening if it were a catholic festival.
19	The Ramadan Nights festival being drastically scaled back next year to a few nights a week with reduced hours and increased cost for stall holders makes one question how this is consistent with the state government's direction towards transforming Sydney into a vibrant night economy. What was previously a fantastic example of a nighttime economic activity is now a victim of its own success and in typical Sydney fashion must be restrained and reduced. It also disregards the current cost of living crisis which with increased stall costs ultimately resulting in pricier food options. It also shows large inconsistencies in state and local government policy making. It is no wonder Sydney struggles to reach its potential when there are so many obstacles to overcome to become a truly global city.
20	The stall holder fee which is \$600 is too much per night, as the number of nights are decreased as well. For stall holders it would be hard to manage.

## CHANGE 2 - The renaming and rebranding of the event to ‘Lakemba Nights’

A total of 67 HYS contributions provided feedback regarding the proposed name change to ‘Lakemba Nights’.

This feedback has been broadly categorised as supporting the name change, partially supporting the name change (or having mixed feedback) and not supporting the name change. As can be seen, the majority do not support this change. See the tables below. All comments are verbatim.

	I support this proposal
1	Those all sound like excellent changes.
2	<p>Change 1: A reduction in the number of days of the week the event runs, from seven (7) days to four (4) days. The new event days would be Thursday-Sunday, and stalls will trade from 6pm to 2am on those days.</p> <p>✓ the event has got his popularity increased due to the 30 days. Turnaround of event. A festival of lights and food in Lakemba. Still reducing the days shouldn't be a problem. Everyone can adjust to their requirement and visit and enjoy the festival.</p> <p>Change 2: The renaming and rebranding of the event to ‘Lakemba Nights’.</p> <p>✓ as already mentioned above it. The nights got its popularity as Ramadan nights and changing or rebranding the name to Lakemba nights should be okay that's not a problem.</p> <p>Change 3: A revised stallholder layout with stalls to be relocated from the footpaths onto the roads.</p> <p>✓ the stall holder layout which has been using for past so many years is in the perfect order and shouldn't be changed because the existing layout uses the maximum area. People enjoy working on the road with no traffic at all. Everyone can enjoy the broad space. In in case of rain in any weather conditions, there is no place to go so it's better to keep the stalls under the shed within the business area.</p> <p>Change 4: An adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 to be paid directly to Council</p> <p>✓ council must support the businesses with reducing the prices every time each year. In this case increasing the price to 600 per day will not going to help the business as it will reduce the popularity because of very few businesses will participate in the event to make the event popular, you need to gain the business confidence which can be done by helping the businesses in each and every way.</p>
3	<p>Noise is an issue.</p> <p>Timings can be limited.</p> <p>Name of the event to be changed to a generic name.</p>
4	<p>At list name should be changed from Ramadan nights to Lakemba nights.</p> <p>This is the minimum request to show respect to the religious month is Ramadan.</p>
5	<p>It should no longer be called Ramadan nights because it has nothing to do with Ramadan.</p> <p>Utterly disappointing.</p>
6	<p>Get rid of the name. Has nothing to do with Ramadan.</p>
7	<p>As I shared with you earlier about the name, my vote is for "Lakemba Nights". I also mentioned that each of the shops must contribute a lumpsum amount for Gaza.</p> <p>Five days is better except Friday. Barak Allahu Feek.</p>
8	<p>I definitely agree with rebranding the name due to Ramadan holding religious significance. Also to change the time of the year as it also disturbs worshippers during the holy month c</p>
9	<p>Increasing council fee will increase the food cost to the consumer.</p> <p>\$400-450 is reasonable I guess.</p> <p>I am happy about the reduction of the number of days as well as the name change.</p>

	<b>Mixed feedback</b>
1	<p>If you are changing the name from Ramadan nights to lakemba nights you should also change the dates. As this gathering can be held at any time of the year- as it does not coincide with the values Of what Ramadan actually stands for.</p>
2	<p>Interesting that council only identifies specifically feedback on increased costs.... Additional feedback regarding the other changes from me are: Relief that the exhausting nature of a 30 daylong event from 4pm till 4am each day has on the working residents of Lakemba has been acknowledged. I would prefer the event days were again reduced to Fri, Sat and Sunday, to further reduce the impact on sleep for myself and other working residents in Lakemba. I am in support of the name change, but it does raise the question of why the event is occurring at all if it does not reflect the desires of the Muslim community. If the event is purely a financial opportunity for council it could be rebranded and held during the day, at any time of the year like every other food or cultural festival. Other changes to stall sites seem logical.</p>
3	<p>One key thing missing is the clean-up. Council needs to do a deep clean of the footpaths and streets as it is filthy after the event. The footpaths are dirty and greasy for months after!</p> <p>Initially I did not support the name change, though as you've consulted with the Muslim community, I would support that. As an atheist living in Lakemba, I enjoy being part of and learning about the community I live in. I like the 'Ramadan Night Markets' as I feel it connects me to the community, though I support whatever the community in their name change.</p> <p>I support the reduced hours, although it is really nice having a festival like atmosphere every night! I fee reducing the days will cram more people in.</p> <p>Expanding to include other local business is great. Fully support that.</p> <p>In terms of raising stall fees, this will raise the cost of goods. One great thing about the night markets is it's relatively cheap. There's lots of families around here and it's wonderful to see them out and about. More expense likely equal less locals and more tourists. Additionally, I fear the local businesses won't be able to afford and more outside CB food trucks selling overpriced non authentic food will make their way in. The beauty of the night markets is supporting the local business and community and showcasing the authentic and diverse make up of where we live.</p> <p>Surely the OLG has some grant funding to support lower entry costs.</p> <p>Thank you! I look forward to 2025 :)</p>
4	<p>I think it is fair for the stall holders to pay directly to the council. But my feedback is geared more towards the purpose of the event rather than its detailed working.</p> <p>This event makes the streets of Lakemba too loud and busy in the month in which Muslim residents are trying to increase worship, pray and contemplate. The event has broken the Ramadan spirit of charity and fasting, it is more suitable to hold this event annually at another suitable time of the year rather than during Ramadan. As this event does not represent Ramadan in any way.</p> <p>Changing the name to "Lakemba Nights" doesn't mean that worshippers and residents won't be disturbed during Ramadan due to it. Quite the contrary. Hence it is more advisable to hold this event as a spring or autumn fair rather than in Ramadan each year.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>
5	<p>While I can understand the reduction of days to minimize noise for surrounding neighbourhoods and other maintenance issues...and understandably this will be difficult for local residents especially those who do not adhere to the Muslim faith, I believe the Ramadan nights has been wholly hijacked by the council. Seems the council has waited for it to be successful and piggy backed on the Muslim led initiative which started at iftar time in Ramadan (which was the initial reason the nights ever came to be), and now they want to move what was made by the Muslim community and for the Muslim community into a completely separate commercial venture. Then why is this even happening in Ramadan to begin with? If you want</p>

	to change the name then change the timing also remove it to a time outside the holy month. You can't have it both ways.
6	If you wanted to change it to "Lakemba nights" then it should be moved to another time of the year that will not impact residents. You should also consider closing all businesses while the locals come to pray, or have the street closed off to allow people to attend prayers in the street.
7	Changing from 7 days to 4 days doesn't impact anything. In 2024 it was declared the event will run 4 days (Thursday to Sunday) but in practical the road was closed 7 days and stalls were open everyday. It was like Council did cheat with the residents. It's clearly anticipating, same thing will happen in 2025 again. Secondly, unless until the venue is relocating to another place or nearest park the negative impact to the residents will not change. Thirdly, by changing the name without changing the date is look like putting the same Bear in different cup. If the Council is too respectful to local Muslim community, Council should consider the event date other than Ramadan month. Fourthly, changing the stall from footpath to the road doesn't reduce the negative impact to the residents around. Therefore as a local resident we have strongly denied the proposed changes and urging Council to change the venue to the nearby park.
8	If the Council feels a rebranding is necessary to focus on broader commercial goals, it would be more appropriate to reschedule the event to a different time of the year. Holding it during Ramadan under the new name 'Lakemba Nights' would feel disingenuous and it will be perceived by the community that you're trying to erase the visibility of the Muslim community.  Additionally, I noticed last year that the inclusion of elements such as stalls from other religious groups which was jarring. While I appreciate the desire for inclusivity, it felt out of place for an event explicitly tied to Ramadan. The goal of the event needs to be clear, as this clarity will help Council make informed decisions moving forward. It is impossible to accommodate every group within a single event; doing so risks diluting the focus and impact. I encourage Council to undertake a review of the intent and objectives of the event and to articulate these goals clearly, as this will enable more effective community engagement.  While I understand the workload involved, a reduction in the number of event nights is reasonable. However, the nature of the event must be aligned with the timing. Council must decide: either it is 'Ramadan Nights' during Ramadan, or it is 'Lakemba Nights' outside of Ramadan, with participation open to all groups. Trying to achieve both will dilute the authenticity of the event.
9	If you change the name, change the dates so that it does not fall on Ramadan
10	What to change the name change the dates. Don't do it in the month of Ramadan. It's never been an issue and it isn't now. Welcome to multicultural Australia they say.
11	If you are removing ramadan from the name which was bringing cultural and religious awareness then please change the whole date. Leave Ramadan to us Muslims to celebrate and the Lakemba nights can be held on a different date.
12	If the council wants to change the name and remove any religious affiliation to it, then have the courtesy of changing the dates and not continue to hold in in the holy month of ramadan.
13	If you want to change the name, then please change the date.

	<b>I don't support this proposal</b>
1	Do not remove the Month of Ramadhan from this festival... it will make no sense whatsoever anymore! People are attached to it and it brings unity to the Muslim community because it brings together everyone for this Islamic month. Would you no longer call the Easter show - the Easter show?! Makes no sense to me and I see this as a direct attack on the Muslim community in the area - and the significance of Islam to them... And please don't over involve yourself in this community matter - it was so innocently and peacefully existing for years until the council got itself involved... instead of facilitating the

	<b>I don't support this proposal</b>
	event for the community (and it is open to all others as well) - to the community it looks like the council is just putting up barriers, becoming controlling and wants to take over the community event.
2	The Ramadan night markets started out to honour the month of Ramadan, now it has become popular with the non-Muslim community, Council is trying to take away the word Ramadan and profit off it.
3	The name of the event should not remove Ramadan from the title. This event is intrinsically tied to the festival and month of Ramadan and was created for the Muslim community. To remove Ramadan from the name is erasing the cultural identity of the event. It would be akin to removing "Easter" from the Royal Easter Show. That is still a commercial event but is historically tied to a religious holiday.
4	I do not support the rebranding of the name. I think the name "Ramadan night" has its significant to non-Muslim people will help increase harmony in the community and awareness. It also helps promote our multicultural society. I support the stall to be moved from footpath to the road to help ease foot traffic and continuation of existing business. I think the number of nights should remain same as 30 days. There're lot of people who doesn't like visiting this event on weekends due to overcrowding. Keeping the night open to weekdays will help spread the crowd across the week. Reducing means crowd will have no choice but go on one of those days only which will Make the matter worse. Could it should also think of charging less to the stall holder on Mon-wed and charge more on remaining 4 days.
5	The name must remain Ramadan Nights as usual as this is going to be held only in Ramadan each year no matter what. The festival held was being a hindrance in the normal lives of the residents of Lakemba (specially Haldon Street), in terms of sound, smoke and access to the medical and chemist facilities. In those days there is no parking to access the different services due to the amount of people visiting. We need multiple large multi-storeys to cater to the incoming public like in Auburn, Liverpool, Bankstown etc. The festival must end at 2am, as it may disturb the sleep of the residents. 12am is the max anyone can stay up and must have peaceful sleep after that at least for 7 hours to be able to go to work/school next day.
6	I don't like it calling Lakemba nights. I don't want it to be 4 days. 30 days have its own charm. Don't ruin this.
7	These councils recently have initiated these food festivals I.e. Parramatta lanes and Liverpool food festival all in inspiration of Ramadan festival. So, I am and surely a lot of others are also against the change of name. We fast 30-31 day and cutting off the opportunity for many to access these food stalls to break and open their fasts is also not okay. This also allows more access of funds to the council as every single day is busy. Closing the roads and getting people to use footpath will not work due to the amount of people that come to the festival. The roads are the best way to manage this traffic. Bringing people on the footpaths will make it harder for people to move around
8	The name should be Lakemba Ramadan Night. You cannot be removed the Ramadan from it. The main purpose of this event based on Ramadan. So, the other religion has some understanding the spirit of Ramadan  Thanks
9	Scrap the whole thing or call it what it is (Ramadan nights) and do not charge nothing
10	Please keep the event name to Ramadan nights and no changes to event days and timeline. As a Muslim and local resident of Lakemba, I don't think that you need to change the name of the event or reduce the days or opening hours!
11	It is absolutely terrible and disgusting to want to change the title to "Lakemba Nights". Lakemba started this festival specifically for the Muslim community during the month of Ramadan. It is the best thing to happen to the Muslim community in terms of publicity. Changing its name erases our identity. It doesn't need to be inclusive - keeping it as Ramadan nights continues to attract non-Muslims to the area to see what Ramadan all is about and mingle with the Muslim community. Stop trying to erase us!

	<b>I don't support this proposal</b>
12	The stall fee is too much and the name should be "Lakemba Ramadan Nights", because that's what it is.
13	<p>Everyone knows the stigma and discrimination against Islam that exists even today. I shouldn't even have to explain the value the word "Ramadan" holds in a well-known event that is open for everyone. It is how we demonstrate the spirit of Ramadan and Islam itself. I'm sorry I don't see any Christmas markets having "Christmas" removed from it, and Christmas is commercialized everywhere you look.</p> <p>If locals are being disturbed by the noise, then I support the reduction of days. I do NOT however support the increased fee? I'm sorry but you aren't providing me enough information about the council's services that justify charging stallholders an extra 4.8k? That's outrageous.</p> <p>These workers are already spending around this amount on zakat (charity that is compulsory in Islam) for the holy month.</p> <p>Next thing you know is you'll be charging citizens entry. The markets were fine as is thank you very much.</p>
14	<p>Do not change the name of Ramadan Night Markets. Do not reduce the days.</p> <p>Put more events on that spread the crowds around the council area</p>
15	Change the name back to Ramadan nights
16	<p>I don't like the idea of 4days trade a week as we the local fast 7days and usually eat around 4am before starting our fast for the day.</p> <p>I don't go for the idea for name change as member of the Muslim community I feel more nostalgic and more of a belonging with Ramadan Lakemba nights.</p>
17	<p>The name should stay Ramadan nights, this is a holy month of fasting from sunrise to sunset giving charity, prayer, Reflection and community. The 9th month on the Islamic calendar. Ramadan nights sounds like a nightclub.</p> <p>Not all stall holders are busy So 600 sounds a bit steep however I am not as concerned about the FEE but more about changing the name moving the stalls onto the street sounds OK as it's hard to get around with a pram. Thankyou</p>
18	The name shouldn't be changed it should be Ramadan nights as originally as it was known.
19	While I can understand the reduction of days to minimize noise for surrounding neighbourhoods and other maintenance issues...and understandably this will be difficult for local residents especially those who do not adhere to the Muslim faith, I believe the Ramadan nights has been wholly hijacked by the council. Seems the council has waited for it to be successful and piggy backed on the Muslim led initiative which started at iftar time in Ramadan (which was the initial reason the nights ever came to be), and now they want to move what was made by the Muslim community and for the Muslim community into a completely separate commercial venture. Then why is this even happening in Ramadan to begin with? If you want to change the name then change the timing also remove it to a time outside the holy month. You can't have it both ways.
20	<p>Changing the name to simply "Lakemba Market" erases the specific cultural and religious context that makes this event unique. The Ramadan markets have become an iconic community gathering, where Muslims and non-Muslims alike experience the beauty of Ramadan traditions, cuisine, and celebrations. The Muslims community has and is still to this day vilified and kept out of spaces. This was created as a safe space to own our religion and culture. This change not only dilutes the market's identity but also an attempt to make it more "neutral" or "mainstream," which is exclusionary to the Muslim community.</p> <p>By renaming it, the organizers may be attempting to appeal to a broader audience, but in doing so, they risk alienating the community that created and fostered this space. This echoes a larger pattern where minority customs or spaces are rebranded to make them more "palatable" to the majority, often to the detriment of cultural heritage. Such moves can also reinforce negative perceptions, suggesting that Muslim-centric events need to be modified to be acceptable or accessible.</p> <p>Furthermore, removing "Ramadan" from the name erases the educational and cultural exchange element. It strips away an opportunity for others to understand the significance of Ramadan, and it misses a chance to promote inclusivity and respect for diverse traditions.</p>

	<b>I don't support this proposal</b>
21	<p>As a Muslim, I don't think the event name should be rebranded. It initially began as a way to start and break out fast during the month of Ramadan with good food. The timings are of religious significance so how can you separate it from that. The annual event has also brought so much awareness into the Muslim faith and Ramadan.</p> <p>If adjustment to stallholder fees is being made, then it's important to look into the cost of food and drinks the attendees are having to pay. The 2024 Ramadan prices were ridiculously expensive with some drinks being sold for \$17-18.</p>
22	<p>I support Change 1 and 3. I don't support Change 2 and 4.</p>
23	Keep the name as Ramadan Night Markets
24	The stall cost is too high. Keep the name as Ramadan Night Markets.
25	<p>I agree with the time change proposal; however, I strongly oppose the rebranding. This event is linked to the Ramadan celebration, historically it was started as a Ramadan celebration. I don't think it will be wise to take off the Ramadan from the event branding. I think by keeping the word Ramadan in the celebration gives more respect to multiculturalism. So many people now know what Ramadan is.</p>
26	<p>I would prefer the Ramadan nights brand retained. I think it is important to reflect the cultural nature of this event rather than the geographical location of it. Maintaining Ramadan in the name reminds attendees (and potential attendees) that we live in a society where the celebration of the wide variety of cultures and religions is a key part of who we are. We attend as it is a celebration of Ramadan and that is important to reflect in the name.</p>
27	<p>Whitewashing and romanticising an event that is held by the Muslim community to appease the greater public is not appropriate.</p> <p>This is not Alladin and Jasmine and people aren't walking into a fairytale or theme park. The event is made directly for Muslims and other people attend. That is fine.</p> <p>The name "Ramadan" should remain in the title of the event and is useful to bridge barriers between the Muslim community and the general Australian community.</p>
28	<p>DONT CHANHE OR RENAME THE FESTIVAL</p> <p>KEEP IT LAKEMBA RAMADAN NIGHTS</p> <p>AS IT HELD DURING RAMADAN ONLY AND ITS SOMETHING MUSLIMS WOULD LOVE TO SHARE AND TEACH OTHERS ABOUT OUR RELIGIOUS CULTURE ALSO THE VARIETY OF FOOD BREAKING THE FAST AND ALL OF THIS IS RELATED TO RAMADAN PLEASE DONT TAKE OUT RAMDAN FROM THE NAME</p>
29	<p>I don't agree with a change of name. It's been Ramadan Nights for more than a decade. It's the original name and should be kept. Lakemba Nights doesn't have the same meaning. People come and see how wonderful the community is. It gives the Islamic Community a positive image.</p>
30	<p>This started as a traditional event inside of Ramadan. If there is an event insuring Christmas/haunika/easter etc and people didn't like this name it would not be considered to change. Why do we have to continue to change our traditions?</p>
31	<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I write to express my opposition to the proposed rebranding of 'Ramadan Nights Lakemba' to 'Lakemba Nights,' particularly if the event will continue to be held during Ramadan. The intention to dissociate the event from Ramadan's religious significance while still hosting it in this sacred month undermines its original purpose and appears to capitalize on the spiritual essence of Ramadan without proper acknowledgment or inclusion of the Muslim community.</p> <p>The Ramadan Nights have historically provided an opportunity for Australia's Muslim communities to showcase their cultures, faith, and hospitality, while also supporting local businesses through pop-ups and market stalls. This organic celebration has allowed both Muslims and non-Muslims to engage meaningfully with the spirit of Ramadan and foster a sense of community.</p> <p>The rebranding and distancing from explicit Muslim visibility reflect a troubling shift toward a 'sanitised' version of the event that prioritises commercial gain over cultural authenticity. It</p>

	<b>I don't support this proposal</b>
	<p>risks erasing the identity and contributions of the Muslim community while continuing to profit from the month's significance.</p> <p>If the Council believes a rebranding is necessary to focus on commercial aspects, then the event should be rescheduled to another time of year. Hosting it during Ramadan under a non-religious banner feels disingenuous and dismissive of the historical roots of 'Ramadan Nights Lakemba.'</p> <p>I urge the Council to reconsider this proposal and engage meaningfully with the Muslim community to maintain the integrity and intention of the event.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>
32	The removal of "Ramadan" from the name is disrespectful and erases the history and meaning of the night markets. These markets were part of the community well before the council came on board and were the purpose of coming together for Ramadan, it's an absolute disgrace that you would now consider this name change.
33	I think that changing the name is not beneficial to keeping with the spirit of why the Ramadan night markets started. I think keeping the previous name of the 'Lakemba Ramadan night markets' preserves the heritage and spirit of why it started in the first place.
34	Absolutely do not change the name to Lakemba. The significance is Ramadan. It's like getting rid of Christmas or Easter. Utterly disrespectful
35	It's called Ramadan nights because it's in Ramadan. At night. You can't randomly call it something else. It's like saying that you don't want to call a Christmas market a Christmas market as it's mixing religion with commercialism. Muslims are entitled to have their celebrations recognised and to participate in their own festivities without people censoring their existence. There is a big backlash against changing the name all over social media. Whatever you might claim that Muslims have told you. Enough censorship of non-white people's place in society.
36	While the council's claimed intention in changing the name appears to be coming from a genuine place, it serves as erasure of the Muslim identity of the event, and thus the Muslim community. Night markets are common during Ramadan in Muslim countries and localities. They can't be divorced from the context.
37	<p>The community started this event for Ramadan and so it should remain titled Ramadan nights. You are taking away the spirit of you take Ramadan out of the title.</p> <p>The number of days should not change. Reducing the number of days actually makes the event more stressful and the volume of people in 4 days will be a consolidation of that in 7. Not a good idea.</p> <p>Making an extra buck off the vendors is unfair. It also means that the price increase would be passed onto attendees.</p>
38	Keep the name to Ramadan nights. For Christmas carols in Bankstown is not call Bankstown carols or Easter show in not called Homebush show. There is a religious identity behind it don't pick and choose when you want to remove a cultural or religious identity
39	Don't change the name. Keep Ramadan in the name
40	Don't change the name. Keep Ramadan in the name
41	<p>It's insulting to think that during these political unrest and attacks on Muslims in the middle east and with a council that has Muslim councillors representatives, it coincidentally now believes the 'Ramadan nights' should change to 'Lakemba night'.</p> <p>The event is to celebrate Islamic calendar festive month of RAMADAN.</p> <p>No qualm with whatever council wants to charge stall holders as council always is seeking some financial incentive etc and timing hours etc is important as it affects other residents in the area.</p> <p>But to change the name....</p> <p>What an absolute farce.</p> <p>If you want to change the name, change the date.</p> <p>Make it 3 day or 1 week festival post Ramadan and call it a cultural celebration.</p> <p>This event as Ramadan nights has generated worldwide positive attention for the region. We always get negative feedback on our community and the one event that brings Australians from all walks of life is being changed to meet the political and power brokers influence from</p>

	<b>I don't support this proposal</b>
	<p>outside region, State level and even Federal level to take away the enjoyment of a wonderful multifaith and multicultural even that UNITED us as Australians through food, acts of worship and diversity. A very inconsiderate decision that is a MASSIVE SLAP IN THE FACE TO OUR COMMUNITY.</p> <p>So out of touch and missing the purpose of unification and solidarity that this event was creating as it was known as RAMADAN NIGHTS.</p> <p>In simple terms let's also just take Christmas carols in the park away and call it happy holidays carols or even worse Bankstown carols or Paul Keating park carols.</p> <p>Don't stop there, let's call the Easter show the Royal show why don't we...</p> <p>Absurd decision making process.</p> <p>See the stupidity in such name change for an event that attracts 1 million Australians to Lakemba.</p>
42	<p>(this is in regards to rebranding/renaming)</p> <p>Why is the event held during these dates? Because it is the month of Ramadhan - very silly to remove the main reason for the stall in the first place from the name. Why don't we have this festival in October? December? June? Why does it move every year?! All of this is because it is directly connected to the month of Ramadhan!!!</p> <p>Please don't change something that was there every year based on what you think might be good for the people... consult the actual community!</p>
43	<p>The Ramadan night markets started out to honour the month of Ramadan, now it has become popular with the non-Muslim community, Council is trying to take away the word Ramadan and profit off it.</p>
44	<p>The name of the event should not remove Ramadan from the title. This event is intrinsically tied to the festival and month of Ramadan and was created for the Muslim community. To remove Ramadan from the name is erasing the cultural identity of the event. It would be akin to removing "Easter" from the Royal Easter Show. That is still a commercial event but is historically tied to a religious holiday.</p>
45	<p>If you want to change the name to the event then change the dates! It started off as Ramadan nights inside of Ramadan so it should stay this way as it is in Ramadan. If community members do not like the name then don't attend.</p>

### **CHANGE 3 - A revised stallholder layout with stalls to be relocated from the footpaths onto the roads**

**A total of 25 HYS contributions provided feedback regarding the proposed stallholder layout change.**

This feedback was mixed and has been broadly categorised as supporting the layout change, not supporting it or having other stallholder feedback. See the tables below. All comments are verbatim.

	<b>I support this proposal</b>
1	<p>Moving stall on to the road is a good initiative from the council</p>
2	<p>I do not support the rebranding of the name. I think the name "Ramadan night" has its significant to non-Muslim people will help increase harmony in the community and awareness. It also helps promote our multicultural society.</p> <p>I support the stall to be moved from footpath to the road to help ease foot traffic and continuation of existing business.</p> <p>I think the number of night should remain same as 30 days. There're lot of people who doesn't like visiting this event on weekends due to overcrowding. Keeping the night open to weekdays will help spread the crowd across the week. Reducing means crowd will have no choice but go on one of those days only which will</p> <p>Make the matter worse.</p> <p>Could it should also think of charging less to the stall holder on Mon-wed and charge more on remaining 4 days.</p>
3	<p>I support Change 1 and 3.</p> <p>I don't support Change 2 and 4.</p>
4	<p>Some changes are welcome including reducing the event to 4 days and moving stalls off the footpath. If the event is now classed as commercial then why does it have to be held during Ramadan and why does it still need to run for a month. Also some businesses do not close till</p>

	6pm but stalls open at 6 which means roads will be closed at 4 or 5 impacting those businesses. The ratepayers are paying for council losses on this event so who is benefiting. The restaurants, stall holders and food trucks and a lot of them are not local anyway. This event has negatively impacted residents and some shop keepers for years. If it is going to be run as a commercial venture then it should be run at a profit. It needs to be scaled back even further. No other food festival in the country goes for this long.
5	Change 3 - Stalls moving from footpaths to roads This is fine. Please consider the stalls on the other side of Haldon St - that are adjacent to Railway Parade. Usually this side's road is kept open for the buses. The stalls on this side should have the opportunity and priority to move to the other side of Haldon St where the roads are closed and most of the visitors are. This would help existing businesses by a huge margin and would mean a lot to them.

<b>I don't support this proposal</b>	
1	Ramadan shop needed to operate in front of the shop. Not in the street. It's the traditional system for every shop doing for long time.
2	<p>Change 1: A reduction in the number of days of the week the event runs, from seven (7) days to four (4) days. The new event days would be Thursday-Sunday, and stalls will trade from 6pm to 2am on those days.</p> <p>✓ the event has got its popularity increased due to the 30 days. Turnaround of event. A festival of lights and food in Lakemba. Still reducing the days shouldn't be a problem. Everyone can adjust to their requirement and visit and enjoy the festival.</p> <p>Change 2: The renaming and rebranding of the event to 'Lakemba Nights'.</p> <p>✓ as already mentioned above it. The nights got its popularity as Ramadan nights and changing or rebranding the name to Lakemba nights should be okay that's not a problem.</p> <p>Change 3: A revised stallholder layout with stalls to be relocated from the footpaths onto the roads.</p> <p>✓ the stall holder layout which has been using for past so many years is in the perfect order and shouldn't be changed because the existing layout uses the maximum area. People enjoy working on the road with no traffic at all. Everyone can enjoy the broad space. In case of rain in any weather conditions, there is no place to go so it's better to keep the stalls under the shed within the business area.</p> <p>Change 4: An adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 to be paid directly to Council</p> <p>✓ council must support the businesses with reducing the prices every time each year. In this case increasing the price to 600 per day will not go to help the business as it will reduce the popularity because of very few businesses will participate in the event to make the event popular, you need to gain the business confidence which can be done by helping the businesses in each and every way.</p>
3	To the respected council, I would like to feedback that let the festival keep going as it has been always. The proposed new stall layout will not go to benefit anyone and rather it'll be a problem as in set up and dismantle everything in getting it away each and every day. Please keep the businesses on priority to get this event successful not only this year but every year. Let people come and enjoy from all the corners of Australia.
4	On a street I don't think you can fit as many businesses as you do now. With every store have a stall plus additional stalls on the street will make the fest more beautiful and successful for all. You have to have so many options for people. Only say 20-30 marquee on the street would not invite them again to the fest
5	These councils recently have initiated these food festivals i.e. Parramatta lanes and Liverpool food festival all in inspiration of Ramadan festival. So, I am and surely a lot of others are also against the change of name. We fast 30-31 day and cutting off the opportunity for many to access these food stalls to break and open their fasts is also not okay.

	This also allows more access of funds to the council as every single day is busy. Closing the roads and getting people to use footpath will not work due to the amount of people that come to the festival. The roads are the best way to manage this traffic. Bringing people on the footpaths will make it harder for people to move around.
6	This will be a huge setback for new and small businesses to operate during the festival. The fees should factor in space and staff required to run a stall.
7	My concern regarding the recent increase in fees. While I appreciate the services the council provides, this fee increase is quite significant and will create a financial strain.  Additionally, there are practical challenges that add to this concern. For instance, the unpredictable weather conditions make it difficult to store materials/equipment securely without dedicated facilities, increasing both the risk of damage and the need for additional protective measures.  I respectfully ask if there might be any possibility of reconsidering the fee structure or exploring solutions to address these challenges, such as providing affordable storage options or considering seasonal discounts. This would greatly help those of us who rely on these services.
8	For the shop owner who are food business please allow them to have the stall in from if the shop on footpath as if rain come and we have to take everything from our restaurant to the stall on road is not easy please look this by keep practical aspect of this.
9	If we do on footpath will be easy in my opinion as more people can be accommodate on road.

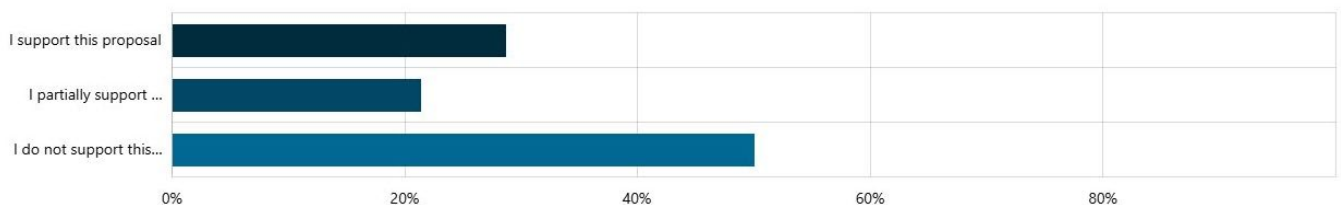
	<b>Other stallholder feedback</b>
1	I strongly believe that stall should be prioritised to the business owners across the street and the council fee should be similar to last years. The business has an opportunity but a lot of investment and expenses every day, \$600 everyday would only burden the stalls also it's a 4-day event, so you don't get customers every day. I suggest making it a 7-day event and keep the fee to a maximum of \$300. please ensure all the existing businesses interested should get a stall before anyone else.
2	Please try to do trail this year with stall on the road for the people who come from outside and on footpath for the food business owners of Haldon Street.
3	Condensation should be made for the resources and management of the stalls impact.
4	Request for Priority Allocation of a Shop on Haldon Street, Lakemba  Dear Sir/Madam,  I am writing to formally request priority consideration for a shop allocation in the central area of Haldon Street, Lakemba. As an existing business owner with two establishments on Haldon Street, I am keen to expand my presence and further contribute to the community's vibrant business environment.  I believe that a location at the centre of the street would enhance accessibility for our clients and allow us to better serve the community. Given my established relationship with the area, I am confident this expansion will positively impact the local economy.  Thank you for considering my request. I am available at your convenience to discuss this further and provide any additional information required. Regards,
5	Pls careful about outside people Somebody come from outside and doing business this festival time ,that's why we are local business loss our business. Need to take some steps how we stop this problem.
6	If Railway Parade is closed again during Ramadan nights, our business will face major financial challenges. Last year, the road closure caused us to lose crucial income, and without food stalls allowed this year, we will lose even more revenue because the foot traffic will be reduced. It could severely affect our ability to stay afloat.
7	Please do not close Railway Parade during the Ramadan nights event. The closure last year led to major financial setbacks for our business, as we depend heavily on this time of year to generate sales. If the same happens again this year, our business will face even more

	severe financial losses that could prevent us from continuing. As the stalls are also not permitted here, the amount of loss that we will face is unimaginable.
8	We respectfully request that Railway Parade stays open during the Ramadan nights event. Last year, when the road was closed, food stalls couldn't operate, and we lost substantial income. Without the ability to access the crowds this year, we will be forced to confront even bigger financial losses that could threaten our ability to stay in business.
9	We ask that the authorities reconsider closing Railway Parade during Ramadan. Last year's closure resulted in financial setbacks for our business, and with no food stalls allowed this year, the amount of foot traffic will be reduced. Another closure would force us to face even more dire financial challenges.
10	If Railway Parade is closed again during the Ramadan nights event, our business will be put in a very difficult position. Last year, we saw a sharp decline in sales, and this year, without the opportunity to operate our food stalls during this crucial time, we risk facing even greater losses that could put us in jeopardy.
11	We urge the authorities to keep Railway Parade open during Ramadan nights. The closure last year led to significant losses for our business, especially in terms of foot traffic and sales. If we face another closure this year, compounded by restrictions on food stalls, the economic repercussions will be catastrophic for us.

### CHANGE 4 - An adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 to be paid directly to Council

86.83% (178) of the HYS contributions responded to the question of adjusting the stakeholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 and to be paid directly to Council. Fifty percent either supported or partially supported this proposal. Of those that identified as businesses and/or stallholders, 18% did not support the fee adjustment. Below is the breakdown across the three categories.

- 28.65% (51) supported this proposal.
- 21.35% (28) partially supported this proposal.
- 50.00% (89) didn't support this proposal.



### A total of 42 HYS contributions provided additional feedback directly regarding the adjustment to stallholder fees.

Feedback on topics outside of the fees was also received. All feedback has been captured in the tables immediately below and in Appendix A. All comments are verbatim.

Contributors who supported this proposal and wrote additional feedback regarding the fees commented on the benefits including:

- Paying directly to Council.
- Council using fees to improve/enhance the event and cover costs.

	<b>Supported this proposal</b>
1	I support this proposal. Those sound like excellent changes.
2	I support this proposal. YOU GUYS MADE THE BEST DECISION!!!!!!
3	I support this proposal.

	I propose contributing a portion towards the upkeep of the park and kids playground. This would directly benefit local residents, maintaining shared spaces and fostering goodwill. It also makes the area more appealing for both businesses and visitors, supporting a stronger local economy.
4	I support this proposal. The proposal put forward by the council is meaningful and also is considerate towards the residents in close proximity to the event. It also good to limit number of days as well as the hours noting the clean up as well as other costs. The sensible proposal to leave the footpath clear as well as not allowing cooking on the footpath is timely noting that, not only the oil spill but also potential fire hazard to the properties and more importantly to the visitors that include children. Totally support this meaningful proposal.
5	I support this proposal. The stalls are making plenty of money and there are plenty of costs for Council.
6	I support this proposal. I support this idea it sounds like a great change
7	I support this proposal. Yes I support the increased charging scheme. \$600 a night is a drop in the pond for these vendors - council having to fund \$3million to keep the event running last year is insane. this will help cover costs.
8	I support this proposal. I would like council not to do any extension as this will put a lot of pressure on local residents and other patrons to come in and out. As due to metro project Lakemba train station is closed. There is not enough parking in a close vicinity there are so many praying places, people will be going to mosques and coming out of mosques will not have enough place which can have a chance of stampede. There is no emergency protocols. So no extensions as it will make life hard for the locals as cleaning will take place very late at night noise pollution and food pollution from the smoke of food and all the other things have already made life miserable shop owners screaming to attract customers has already made it look like a cheap selling techniques. There is no inspection of food that what kind of food being supplied to customers Hygienity has always been compromised. Council should give stalls to new people instead of giving it to shop owners who already own shops . Proper policing should be done to make sure footpath are clear from hindrances. We have seen greedy shop owners selling food due to high demand without even proper cleaning or counting. Please as a responsible council do the right thing and proper and secure food and environment should be given to customers who are spending money. Proper parking spots should be allocated to because fines have been issued for illegal parking either council should make a disgnated parking place and buses should be organised from there for visitors.
9	I support this proposal. This will create a fair platform for vendors to get involved in the event. And the funds generated can still support the local businesses.
10	I support this proposal. Condensation should be made for the resources and management of the stalls impact.
11	I support this proposal. The price could have been varied as per the days of trade as the business usually performs well on certain days.
12	I support this proposal I don't agree with the entirety of the market and duration but if it is to happen then council should benefit Council and government should be getting money from this event
13	I support this proposal Council shouldn't have to pay for this service to be provided
14	I support this proposal. this is actually paid by the public !

Contributors who partially supported this proposal and wrote additional feedback regarding the fees provided comments including:

- The increase of fees is too high (e.g. given the cost-of-living crisis, business financial challenges).
- Recommendations to review the fee schedule based on factors such as visibility and days of the week.

	<b>Partially supported this proposal</b>
1	I partially support this proposal. I support the increase in fees, but there should be consideration that some nights of the week might be more lucrative than others. It could be the case that vendors might not want to pay for all 4 nights of the week, and that the event could be left underserved by vendors picking and choosing which nights to pay for. A better solution might be to offer weekly fees for a slight discount, to encourage vendors to operate over all 4 nights.
2	I partially support this proposal. I believe that you forgot the reason that the purpose of these food stalls is to cater for the Muslim communities who have been fasting from sunrise to sunset which means limited retail foods opening after sunset especially the next 12 years of the Ramadan will head towards summer which means longer days and more less retail food openings. It's great to see that non-Muslim are participating in this event and creating a great atmosphere disappointing that the Muslim community leaders have not seized on this or failed to understand the purpose of the night food eating. Do not wish to go to the old days of when most food retail close after 5pm and as the fasting gets longer till 9pm and nothing for Muslims to eat but limiting the food service from Thursday to Sundays when the holy month of Ramadan is a 30 days of fasting
3	I partially support this proposal. \$2400 for 4 days of trade is quite steep and going by this years markets stall holders struggled to break even.
4	I partially support this proposal. Price is ridiculously high.
5	I partially support this proposal. It should be priced on visibility. Example, prime location should be at this high fee, however. Not for someone at the end of Haldon Street with minimal visibility. I wholeheartedly support the road business rather than landlord approval.
6	I partially support this proposal. I am a shop keeper I never gave any money to someone else in order to get a stall.
7	I partially support this proposal. For the shop owner who are food business please allow them to have the stall in from if the shop on footpath as if rain come and we have to take everything from our restaurant to the stall on road is not easy please look this by keep practical aspect of this
8	I partially support this proposal. Items sold at these stalls will be more expensive so stall holders can recuperate their costs. This may not work for the local businesses that are already struggling.
9	I partially support this proposal. I support Change 1 and 3. I don't support Change 2 and 4.
10	I partially support this proposal. \$600 per night, its ripped off.
11	I partially support this proposal. This will be a huge setback for new and small businesses to operate during the festival. The fees should factor in space and staff required to run a stall.
12	I partially support this proposal. [...] Next thing you know is you'll be charging citizens entry. The markets were fine as is thank you very much. I'm still outraged about the fees you are charging. What is it exactly that you'll be doing differently in 2025 for this increase?
13	I partially support this proposal. The decision to pay directly to the council is great, however given the cost-of-living crisis and declining sales \$600 per night is expensive.
14	I partially support this proposal Different marque sizes suitable for different businesses. Some businesses may benefit more if the marque and fee is standardised however smaller stalls which we appreciate at the lakemba nights may be deterred from selling here. I believe having variables and options is best and benefits the community (by having foods at different price points) and stall holders. An example of this is smaller stall selling coffee/sahlab only.
15	I partially support this proposal

	I believe \$600 is too high for people who are working extremely long and exhausting nights. It's also against the spirit of the festival.
16	I partially support this proposal Sounds good
17	I partially support this proposal Rental fees for \$600 per night are probably a little steep, probably \$300 per night might be a little better optioned
18	I partially support this proposal Increasing council fee will increase the food cost to the consumer. \$400-450 is reasonable I guess. I am happy about the reduction of the number of days as well as the name change.
19	I partially support this proposal I am happy with the adjustment as long as we don't need to pay both the council and the business/shop to be able to operate in front of their shops. Just like your example of bidding wars, plus this will make it very difficult and for other food vendors to obtain a chance to operate in the event. I support one fee and one approval only to the council.
20	I partially support this proposal One key thing missing is the clean up. Council needs to do a deep clean of the footpaths and streets as it is filthy after the event. The footpaths are dirty and greasy for months after! Initially I did not support the name change, though as you've consulted with the Muslim community, I would support that. As an atheist living in Lakemba, I enjoy being part of and learning about the community I live in. I like the 'Ramadan Night Markets' as I feel it connects me to the community, though I support whatever the community in their name change. I support the reduced hours, although it is really nice having a festival like atmosphere every night! I feel reducing the days will cram more people in. Expanding to include other local business is great. Fully support that. In terms of raising stall fees, this will raise the cost of goods. One great thing about the night markets is it's relatively cheap. There's lots of families around here and it's wonderful to see them out and about. More expense likely equal less locals and more tourists. Additionally, I fear the local businesses won't be able to afford and more outside CB food trucks selling overpriced non authentic food will make their way in. The beauty of the night markets is supporting the local business and community and showcasing the authentic and diverse make up of where we live. Surely the OLG has some grant funding to support lower entry costs. Thank you! I look forward to 2025 :)
21	I partially support this proposal Not a supporter of the event. increased costs may reduce stall holders, so that could be a good thing.
22	I partially support this proposal. I support the part where the fee is to be paid directly to the council. \$ 600 is too much for a day. It would be good if this can be reduced to \$400.
23	I partially support this proposal I think the fee increase is justified to cover the cost of security and safety of the public. However it may impact some small stall holder who doesn't make enough to pay this hi fee each night. I think fee should be scheduled as per the space allocated and the size of the stall. Another fee structure can be look at the based on the turn over of each stall holder.
24	I partially support this proposal Council is making this event about revenue not about the impact of residents who do not want these events that should be taken to a park and not in our suburbs where we are prisoners to this event and it's important on our enjoyment of family life, sleep and privacy. This is unacceptable by council to continue with these events in our neighbourhood.
25	I partially support this proposal Council should charge whatever is required so that council is not running at a loss. it is the ratepayers who are paying for any loss.
26	I partially support this proposal I understand the cost to run the event is quite high but organising \$10k, especially upfront, is difficult for most businesses that I've spoken to. We are likely to get lower overall revenue this year due to lower traffic and market conditions. When you couple that with a huge increase in the monthly council fees, we are all making much less money. I think \$400-500 a night is a somewhat of a manageable increase.

Contributors who didn't support this proposal and provided additional feedback shared comments including:

- The increase of fees is too high (e.g. given the cost-of-living crisis, increased fees may translate to increased costs for consumers).

	<b>Didn't support this proposal</b>
1	I do not support this proposal. Can we just have it moved to perry park so then its open space for everyone and it won't be busy around the streets from Lakemba to Belmore and people who live here will get their car spots and won't have people yelling on weekdays when we are trying to sleep as every night we get people sitting out the front of our house on the brick work at midnight-2am laughing and joking while they finishing eating their food. It keeps everyone awake and fact that no one in the streets have driveways so everyone parks around and we can get any spots where we live. Moving down to the park will help people and now with no train line there will be more cars around and more traffic and it will be worst so maybe just move it to the park.. and then you can charge the stalls whatever you like and make more money off them.
2	I do not support this proposal. I believe that this is a lot of money.
3	I do not support this proposal. Increasing stall fees on a cost-of-living crisis will inevitably result in increased prices for festival goers
4	I do not support this proposal. So we have one of the most vibrant successful street festivals in Sydney and Council are reacting by scaling it back and trying to reduce demand for stallholders. Seems to me that this is the antithesis of how a Council should be behaving.
4	I do not support this proposal. Highway robbery that will just get passed onto the public with inflated prices.
5	I do not support this proposal. The community started this event for Ramadan and so it should remain titled Ramadan nights. You are taking away the spirit of you take Ramadan out of the title. The number of days should not change. Reducing the number of days actually makes the event more stressful and the volume of people in 4 days will be a consolidation of that in 7. Not a good idea. Making an extra buck off the vendors is unfair. It also means that the price increase would be passed onto attendees.
6	I do not support this proposal. This month is very important to the business owners in the area, if I need as business owners to pay almost \$12000 plus the shop rent I need to cover almost \$26000 in one month specially we depend too much on this month because during the year not that's busy.
7	I do not support this proposal. This was always meant to be an informal event for the Muslim community to be served on Ramadan nights after a long day of fasting. The fact that stall holders are paying to provide an additional service defeats the purpose. Yes, they make a profit, but they're also missing an evening of worship as a result of this.
8	I do not support this proposal. It's not fair that council is taking over a community event.
9	I do not support this proposal. This event helps small businesses and having them pay more money to the council to operate will mean less businesses will participate, making the markets much much worse.
10	I do not support this proposal. While ppl are doing it tough council wants to go out and make it harder for business owners which will have an affect on staff and products.
11	I do not support this proposal. Stop trying to commercialise on a community event
12	I do not support this proposal. That's just ridiculously high.
13	I do not support this proposal. With the cost of living this price change will have a significant impact on vendors revenue.
14	I do not support this proposal. U destroy everything..dum people ...council one of the biggest stealing the community
15	I do not support this proposal.

	<b>Didn't support this proposal</b>
	Stealing from small local businesses!
16	I do not support this proposal. Excessive and is positioned to make the markets grow. They don't need growth. Rather, they need to be scaled down.
17	I do not support this proposal. The stall cost is too high. Keep the name as Ramadan Night Markets
18	I do not support this proposal. My concern regarding the recent increase in fees. While I appreciate the services the council provides, this fee increase is quite significant and will create a financial strain. Additionally, there are practical challenges that add to this concern. For instance, the unpredictable weather conditions make it difficult to store materials/equipment securely without dedicated facilities, increasing both the risk of damage and the need for additional protective measures. I respectfully ask if there might be any possibility of reconsidering the fee structure or exploring solutions to address these challenges, such as providing affordable storage options or considering seasonal discounts. This would greatly help those of us who rely on these services.
19	I do not support this proposal. Ridiculous form of revenue hoarding and should not be implemented under any circumstance. Not only are you decreasing the day/time a stallholder can be open for but you intend to charge them 3x more. By limiting who can set up stalls you will be diluting the essence of this event.
20	I do not support this proposal. Not fair on small business.
21	I do not support this proposal. The fee for stallholders in excessive and should be reduced.
22	I do not support this proposal. Sounds like council on a money grab.
23	I do not support this proposal. These fees is too high and will result in an increase in food prices. We don't support the capitalisation of our religious events like this, the markets began as a place for food in the late hours of taraweeh not the ruckus its created now. Stallholder fees has to be 200 maximum.
24	I do not support this proposal. Reduce your fees, it's a ripped off, \$600 per night, learn from other council ex Liverpool council
25	I do not support this proposal. This is absolutely absurd. This is a community event where people from underserved communities, specially Muslims could come together and enjoy with their families. With stall prices going up, so will the food prices making it yet again an expensive night market. Keep this stuff for the white neighbourhood and stay away from ours! Muslims are always vilified and as soon as we built a community of our own the culture vultures started coming and taking over.
26	I do not support this proposal. This fees will be transfered to buyers.
27	I do not support this proposal. Doesn't the govt help since it is called Ramadan nights.
28	I do not support this proposal. The name should stay Ramadan nights, this is a holy month of fasting from sunrise to sunset giving charity ,prayer, Reflection and community. The 9th month on the Islamic calendar. Ramadan nights sounds like a nightclub. Not all stall holders are busy So 600 sounds a bit steep however iam not as concerned about the FEE but more about changing the name moving the stalls onto the street sounds OK as it's hard to get around with a pram. Thankyou
29	I do not support this proposal. I think this is too much money for stall holders who may not even make that much money.
30	I do not support this proposal. This means the stall holders will be further increasing the price of already expensive food and other goods

	<b>Didn't support this proposal</b>
31	I do not support this proposal. The stall fee is too much and the name should be "Lakemba Ramadan Nights" , because that's what it is.
32	I do not support this proposal. I don't know if council should profit from this event. Local charities or community initiatives would be better
33	I do not support this proposal. That's a ridiculous amount and it should be lowered to make sure more small businesses can afford to take part in the event. It also forces businesses to sell their products in higher prices to customers. Council need to learn how to use money efficiently and effectively.
34	I do not support this proposal. I propose the fee should be \$1000 per night.
35	I do not support this proposal Absolute rubbish , and I do not support these changes
36	I do not support this proposal I am not sure why this rate is so high? What's the justification for \$600 a night fee? It has a direct impact on food prices which makes it even more unaffordable for common people to afford.
37	I do not support this proposal This adjustment might be fair for smaller stalls to run only a couple of nights but is unfair for those that want to stay for the whole duration, upping the price for less nights is unreasonable and defeats the whole purpose of the event. There should be a cap of \$6,000 if last years cost was \$6,000. If council wants to charge more, provide more value. It is unreasonable to charge more and provide less.
38	I do not support this proposal. \$ 600 a night potentially mean stall holders won't be making money and just work the whole night for council fee.
39	I do not support this proposal. I strongly believe that stall should be prioritised to the business owners across the street and the council fee should be similar to last years. The business has an opportunity but a lot of investment and expenses everyday, \$600 everyday would only burden the stalls also it's a 4 day event, so you don't get customers everyday. i suggest to make it a 7 day event and keep the fee to a maximum of \$300. please ensure all the existing businesses interested should get a stall before anyone else.
40	I do not support this proposal. Change 1: A reduction in the number of days of the week the event runs, from seven (7) days to four (4) days. The new event days would be Thursday-Sunday, and stalls will trade from 6pm to 2am on those days.  ✓ the event has got his popularity increased due to the 30 days. Turnaround of event. A festival of lights and food in Lakemba. Still reducing the days shouldn't be a problem. Everyone can adjust to their requirement and visit and enjoy the festival.  Change 2: The renaming and rebranding of the event to 'Lakemba Nights'. ✓ as already mentioned above it. The nights got its popularity as Ramadan nights and changing or rebranding the name to Lakemba nights should be okay that's not a problem.  Change 3: A revised stallholder layout with stalls to be relocated from the footpaths onto the roads. ✓ the stall holder layout which has been using for past so many years is in the perfect order and shouldn't be changed because the existing layout uses the maximum area. People enjoy working on the road with no traffic at all. Everyone can enjoy the broad space. In in case of rain in any weather conditions, there is no place to go so it's better to keep the stalls under the shed within the business area.  Change 4: An adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 to be paid directly to Council ✓ council must support the businesses with reducing the prices every time each year. In this case increasing the price to 600 per day will not going to help the business as it will reduce the popularity because of very few businesses will participate in the event to make the event

	<b>Didn't support this proposal</b>
	popular, you need to gain the business confidence which can be done by helping the businesses in each and every way.
41	I do not support this proposal. Only \$250
42	I do not support this proposal The stall holder fee which is \$600 is too much per night , as the number of nights are decreased as well. For stall holders it would be hard to manage.
43	I do not support this proposal I would like to provide the following feedback regarding this adjustment. I do not support this proposal and this event. So much of our tax payers money is spent on this event every year when there are pot holes the size of craters in and around our roads in Lakemba and Belmore. Belmore has not had any Christmas decorations for many years and it is time we get some recognition. It is absurd that every year funds go into this event, rubbish is strewn on our door steps, our bins are moved out of the way on bin nights and are not accessible by the garbage trucks because cars are partially parking on our drive ways. Not to mention cars are parking illegally on the footpaths etc. I also do not support this event given the metro railway is currently in construction. Lakemba is already overcrowded with even more cars and buses due to this. I have no issue with this event being held but it should not be a yearly event. It should be at every two years for a short period as proposed now to allow for the overwhelming affects its has on our infrastructure etc not to mention some Christmas recognition for our members of the community .
44	I do not support this proposal \$600 seems like a high fee each night.
45	I do not support this proposal This is very expensive
45	I do not support this proposal This is very expensive
46	I do not support this proposal The amount is expensive
47	I do not support this proposal This is very expensive
48	I do not support this proposal The amount is very expensive for stalls.
49	I do not support this proposal It's really expensive.

Refer to Appendix A for all comments provided via HYS submissions.

## **Part 2: Direct Emails**

As part of this consultation, Council received ten direct emails. Below is a summary of the key themes and the number of times each was raised. See appendix B for full details of emails received.

<b>Key Themes</b>	<b>Number</b>
Opposition to the proposed name change	1
Support for the proposed changes	2
Hope that the changes improve the experience for residents	1
Support for the reduction in number of days	1
Concerns for parking and access impacts on residents	1
Opposition to the event (i.e. shut the event down due to noise etc, inappropriate to hold event during Ramadan)	4

### Part 3: Pop-up

A community pop-up was held at the Lakemba Senior Citizens Centre on Thursday 14 November 2024, 5-7pm. This provided community members the opportunity to discuss the event changes, ask questions and share their feedback in person with Council staff.

Twenty-eight attendees participated, comprising of three residents, 22 Lakemba business representatives and 3 stallholder representatives. It should be noted that many from the business community are also previous stallholders and/or interested in a stall in 2025.

The below table captures some of the key themes raised at the pop-up. As can be seen, many of the themes are outside of the scope of this consultation.

Key Themes
Stallholder selection criteria
Stall logistics
Stall inequalities (e.g. location, size)
Stallholder fees (e.g. too expensive)
Stallholder expression of interest process
Concerns about lost profit due to the changes
Concerns from 154-176 Haldon St business if they're not part of the 2025 event site
Acknowledgement (at least partially) that residents do not like the events
Resident parking challenges during the event
Public transport disruption
Cost of the event and event sponsorship
Purple Flag Program and the night time economy
How consultation feedback is captured and the report written up
Who makes the decisions (i.e. Councillors)

### Part 4: Meeting with Businesses

On 20 November 2024, three Council staff members meet with four business owners from Railway Parade, Lakemba. They were representing the broader business owners on Railway Parade. This group shared their concerns, the principal ones being not being permitted to have stalls outside of their shops at the event and the road closure of Railway Parade. The road closure for the 2025 event is proposed to start at 4:30pm. A key trading time for these businesses is between 4-7:30pm. Business owners also shared the wider context currently impacting their businesses, including a negative impact while buses replace trains at the Lakemba Train Station as part of the Sydney Metro construction.

## Next Steps

A report will be written for the 26 November 2024 Council meeting for Councillors to make their decisions on the event. This will be informed by the evidence of this consultation, previous consultations (e.g. October 2023) and the investigation into extending the map of the event stallholder layout to include shops 154-176 Haldon Street, Lakemba.

After the 26 November 2024 meeting, Council will update the HYS project page with a summary of the engagement findings and Council's decisions from the meeting. Council's Events and Activations Team will then proceed with further event planning, including opening expressions of interest for 2025 event stallholders. This process will commence in December 2024.

# Appendices

The appendices A and B present the full responses received via HYS submissions and direct emails. It should be noted that they are verbatim. Any names of individuals or businesses have been removed.

## Appendix A: Have Your Say Submissions

Feedback to question: I would like to provide the following feedback regarding this adjustment
<p>I understand the cost to run the event is quite high but organising \$10k, especially upfront, is difficult for most businesses that I've spoken to.</p> <p>We are likely to get lower overall revenue this year due to lower traffic and market conditions. When you couple that with a huge increase in the monthly council fees, we are all making much less money.</p> <p>I think \$400-500 a night is a somewhat of a manageable increase.</p>
<p>Pls careful about outside people Somebody come from outside and doing business this festival time ,that's why we are local business loss our business. Need to take some steps how we stop this problem.</p>
<p>Council should charge whatever is required so that council is not running at a loss.it is the ratepayers who are paying for any loss.</p>
<p>this is actually paid by the public !</p>
<p>Very Expensive</p>
<p>The amount is expensive</p>
<p>The amount is very expensive</p>
<p>This is very expensive</p>
<p>Subject: Request for Priority Allocation of a Shop on Haldon Street, Lakemba</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>I am writing to formally request priority consideration for a shop allocation in the central area of Haldon Street, Lakemba. As an existing business owner with two establishments on Haldon Street, I am keen to expand my presence and further contribute to the community's vibrant business environment.</p> <p>I believe that a location at the center of the street would enhance accessibility for our clients and allow us to better serve the community. Given my established relationship with the area, I am confident this expansion will positively impact the local economy.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my request. I am available at your convenience to discuss this further and provide any additional information required.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
<p>We no want lakemba nights</p>
<p>\$600 seems like a high fee each night.</p>

I do not support this proposal and this event. So much of our tax payers money is spent on this event every year when there are pot holes the size of craters in and around our roads in Lakemba and Belmore. Belmore has not had any Christmas decorations for many years and it is time we get some recognition. It is absurd that every year funds go into this event, rubbish is strewn on our door steps, our bins are moved out of the way on bin nights and are not accessible by the garbage trucks because cars are partially parking on our drive ways. Not to mention cars are parking illegally on the footpaths etc. I also do not support this event given the metro railway is currently in construction. Lakemba is already overcrowded with even more cars and buses due to this.

I have no issue with this event being held but it should not be a yearly event. It should be at every two years for a short period as proposed now to allow for the overwhelming affects its has on our infrastructure etc not to mention some Christmas recognition for our members of the community .

The stall holder fee which is \$600 is too much per night , as the number of nights are decreased as well. For stall holders it would be hard to manage.

No adjustments needed Ramadan nights is not an Islamic event and needs to be cancelled.

Only \$250

Lakemba is too focused on people from South Asia. Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan. This does not respect the fact that Anglo-Australians lived here after the ancestral owners and then the strong Lebanese community that was once present. Lakemba shops and the night markets just broadcast the filthy conditions residents embrace. No town centre in NSW has more garbage than Lakemba.

Change 1: A reduction in the number of days of the week the event runs, from seven (7) days to four (4) days. The new event days would be Thursday-Sunday, and stalls will trade from 6pm to 2am on those days.

✓ the event has got his popularity increased due to the 30 days. Turnaround of event. A festival of lights and food in Lakemba. Still reducing the days shouldn't be a problem. Everyone can adjust to their requirement and visit and enjoy the festival.

Change 2: The renaming and rebranding of the event to 'Lakemba Nights'.

✓ as already mentioned above it. The nights got its popularity as Ramadan nights and changing or rebranding the name to Lakemba nights should be okay that's not a problem.

Change 3: A revised stallholder layout with stalls to be relocated from the footpaths onto the roads.

✓ the stall holder layout which has been using for past so many years is in the perfect order and shouldn't be changed because the existing layout uses the maximum area. People enjoy working on the road with no traffic at all. Everyone can enjoy the broad space. In in case of rain in any weather conditions, there is no place to go so it's better to keep the stalls under the shed within the business area.

Change 4: An adjustment to stallholder fees to \$600 per night in 2025 to be paid directly to Council

✓ council must support the businesses with reducing the prices every time each year. In this case increasing the price to 600 per day will not going to help the business as it will reduce the popularity because of very few businesses will participate in the event to make the event popular, you need to gain the business confidence which can be done by helping the businesses in each and every way.

I need stall fornt of my shop and shop address is shop 2 168/176 haldon street lakemba.

I strongly believe that stall should be prioritised to the business owners across the street and the council fee should be similar to last years. The business has an opportunity but a lot of investment and expenses everyday, \$600 everyday would only burden the stalls also it's a 4 day event, so you don't get customers everyday. i suggest to make it a 7 day event and keep the fee to a maximum of \$300. please ensure all the existing businesses interested should get a stall before anyone else.

We are located in 168-176 Haldon Street .. We want stall in this area . . Please support us ,

We need the store in front of store

\$ 600 a night potentially mean stall holders won't be makeing money and just work the whole night for council fee.

<p>This adjustment will hopefully give council the funds to enhance the stalls to a safe and human-grade standard, as many of the stalls seem outside of Health and Safety standards year after year</p>
<p>Council is making this event about revenue not about the impact of residents who do not want these events that should be taken to a park and not in our suburbs where we are prisoners to this event and it's important on our enjoyment of family life, sleep and privacy. This is unacceptable by council to continue with these events in our neighbourhood.</p>
<p>I think the fee increases is justified to cover the cost of security and safety of the public. However it may impact some small stall holder who doesn't make enough to pay this hi fee each night. I think fee should be scheduled as per the space allocated and the size of the stall. Another fee structure can be look at the based on the turn over of each stall holder.</p>
<p>Wanted the event to last for more days as Thursday to Friday be peak periods and there might be lot of people and it would be difficult to move around.</p>
<p>One more thing to be added should be assigned parking for medical centers specially sms medical center. Patients cant find parking for hours and they miss their appointments I. Please assign few parking spots for clinics only and any fellow security guard can take a look over it</p>
<p>I would like to ask to permanently stop the nights.</p>
<p>We do not wish for this event t9 hold in the month of Ramadan, more so in a Muslim populated area. This is a desecration of the blessed month. We do not want lakemba night in the month of Ramadan.</p>
<p>NA</p>
<p>Council shouldn't have to pay for this service to be provided</p>
<p>Too much traffic, rubbish left on streets &amp; driveway, very noisy</p>
<p>Can we just have this event for 2 nights? No parking for our visitors, its very noisy &amp; everywhere is rubbish left on streets.</p>
<p>I partially support this proposal. I support the part where the fee is to be paid directly to the council. \$ 600 is too much for a day. It would be good if this can be reduced to \$400.</p>
<p>Not a supporter of the event. increased costs may reduce stall holders, so that could be a good thing.</p>
<p>One key thing missing is the clean up. Council needs to do a deep clean of the footpaths and streets as it is filthy after the event. The footpaths are dirty and greasy for months after!</p> <p>Initially I did not support the name change, though as you've consulted with the Muslim community, I would support that. As an atheist living in Lakemba, I enjoy being part of and learning about the community I live in. I like the 'Ramadan Night Markets' as I feel it connects me to the community, though I support whatever the community in their name change.</p> <p>I support the reduced hours, although it is really nice having a festival like atmosphere every night! I fee reducing the days will cram more people in.</p> <p>Expanding to include other local business is great. Fully support that.</p> <p>In terms of raising stall fees, this will raise the cost of goods. One great thing about the night markets is it's relatively cheap. There's lots of families around here and it's wonderful to see them out and about. More expense likely equal less locals and more tourists. Additionally, I fear the local businesses won't be able to afford and more outside CB food trucks selling overpriced non authentic food will make their way in. The beauty of the night markets is supporting the local business and community and showcasing the authentic and diverse make up of where we live.</p> <p>Surely the OLG has some grant funding to support lower entry costs.</p> <p>Thank you! I look forward to 2025 :)</p>

<p>Hi, during this event roads are closed near lakemba post office , near quigg st, woolworths and on haldon st... last year it was hard for me to take my kids to hospital on haldon st during evening hours ....I had to walk like 1 km to take my sick child to hospital and some time we just didn't go to hospital because of the chaos on haldon st....</p> <p>Regards</p>
<p>I don't like it calling lakemba nights. I don't want it to be 4 days. 30 days have its own charm. Don't ruin this.</p>
<p>Noise is an issue. Timings can be limited. Name of the event to be changed to a generic name.</p>
<p>সাম্ব্য সম্মত খাবার। সহনশীল মূল্য। বিশেষ ভাবে নজর দিন। #</p>
<p>I am happy with the adjustment as long as we don't need to pay both the council and the business/shop to be able to operate in front of their shops. Just like your example of bidding wars, plus this will making it very difficult and for other food vendors to obtain a chance to operate in the event. I support one fee and one approval only to the council.</p>
<p>I don't agree with the entirety of the market and duration but if it is to happen then council should benefit</p>
<p>This adjustment might be fair for smaller stalls to run only a couple of nights but is unfair for those that want to stay for the whole duration, upping the price for less nights is unreasonable and defeats the whole purpose of the event. There should be a cap of \$6,000 if last years cost was \$6,000. If council wants to charge more, provide more value. It is unreasonable to charge more and provide less.</p>
<p>At list name should be changed from Ramadan nights to Lakemba nights. This is the minimum request to show respect to the religious month is Ramadan.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>
<p>Increasing council fee will increase the food cost to the consumer. \$400-450 is reasonable I guess.</p>
<p>I am happy about the reduction of the number of days as well as the name change.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>
<p>We getting too much suffer for whole month</p>
<p>Move it to a park and stop this nonsense on the road and footpaths</p>
<p>I am not sure why this rate is so high? What's the justification for \$600 a night fee? It has a direct impact on food prices which makes it even more unaffordable for common people to afford.</p>
<p>This event is an insult to the Muslim community, please just stop it</p>
<p>Choose another time if year.</p>
<p>PLEASE STOP THIS EVENT. RUN IT IN A NON-RESIDENTIAL AREA. RUN IT OUTSIDE OF RAMADAN</p>
<p>Please stop running this event. It is extremely noisy, loud and inconvenient. Please run it in a non-residential area outside of RAMADAN. Ramadan is a time of prayer and worship. The days and nights are sacred during this month. This event is disrupting the ability to attend night prayers, sleep well and focus on worship.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>

<p>These councils recently have initiated these food festivals I.e parramatta lanes and Liverpool food festival all in inspiration of Ramadan festival.  So I am and surely a lot of others are also against the change of name.  We fast 30-31 day and cutting off the opportunity for many to access these food stalls to break and open their fasts is also not okay.  This also allows more access of funds to the council as every single day is busy.  Closing the roads and getting people to use footpath will not work due to the amount of people that come to the festival. The roads are the best way to manage this traffic. Bringing people on the footpaths will make it harder for people to move around</p>
<p>The name should be Lakemba Ramadan Night . You can not removed the Ramadan from it. The main purpose of this event based on Ramadan. So the other religion have some understanding the spirit of Ramadan</p>
<p>Thanks</p>
<p>Absolute rubbish , and I do not support these changes</p>
<p>Adjustments are not good enough. This must be stopped and relocated. For whole month residents of lakemba suffer and money makers and outsiders enjoy in the name of so called lakemba/Ramadan nights. Such a small space and narrow street is NOT suitable for month long party . Kids needs to go to the school in the morning, people need to go the work. Torturing from Thursday to Sunday again? Why don't the decision makers arrange similar month long festival in front of their house and street in the name of holiday night , summer nights whatever. Let's see how you feel as a local resident.</p>
<p>Please ban the whole event, just totally disgraceful for the Holly ramadan month.</p>
<p>Rental fees for \$600 per night is probably a little steep, probably \$300 per night might be a little better optioned</p>
<p>Lakemba night has been causing disruptions during HOLY Ramadan, when many people observe fasting, prayer, and reflection, this indeed lad to concerns for those impacted. Ramadan is a time of quiet and religious observance, so loud gatherings or events make it so difficult for people to focus on worship, get adequate rest, or attend to early morning prayers.  I request to stop ramadan night permanently</p>
<p>I would like to request to stop ramadan night permanently</p>
<p>I extremely express my concerns about such nighttime gatherings in our area during the holy month of RAMADAN, specifically the extended hours spent shopping, dining, and socializing in a way that creates noise and disturbs residents. It impacts residents very negatively and some of the big challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noise Disturbances: It creates noise can disrupt the peace for nearby residents, affecting their relaxation time and causing disturbances, especially for families with young children or elderly members.</li> <li>2. Sleep Disruptions: Since Ramadan Nights extend into late hours, nearby residents struggle with sleep due to the combination of increased noise, vehicle activity, and the general liveliness around the event. Lack of adequate sleep led to fatigue, irritability, and reduced productivity for those affected.</li> <li>3. Traffic and Parking Issues: Events in residential areas brings significant number of attendees, which lead to congestion on local roads. This is very frustrating for residents, who find it difficult to access their homes or regular parking.</li> <li>4. Privacy Concerns: For some residents, the increased foot traffic and visibility lead to feelings of compromised privacy, particularly if crowds are moving in and around their neighbourhood late at night.</li> </ol> <p>Ramadan is a time for reflection, self-restraint, and closeness to ALMIGHTY ALLAH. Spending extended late hours in noisy environments, engaging in shopping or casual socializing, runs contrary to the values which are encouraged to uphold during this sacred time. Furthermore, such gatherings at night can carelessly alienate people from the teachings of RAMADAN and create misunderstandings about its purpose. I kindly suggest considering other options such as arranging this type of event somewhere in an open or isolated area [if really need be] to align our practices with the principles of RAMADAN.</p>
<p>Residents of Lakemba especially in Croydon St, Haldon St and Quig St peoples, kids, and elderly can not sleep on those days. CBC is responsible for this event which cause harms to residents. Kids can not go to school being unable to sleep. Why is cbc not doing in day time? People saying cbc involve in illegal activities like drugs, cash money under the table etc....</p>

We don't want this kind of events in lakemba haldon Street. It's a holy month for us, we want to pray and do things are quietly. It's a totally chaos, please try to understand the local and move this events to other place like big ground or stadium.
I propose the fee should be \$1000 per night.
Please stop this in holy month
Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.
Sounds good
Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.
Agree with the changes, perhaps even Thursday - Sunday nights would be sufficient
That's a ridiculous amount and it should be lowered to make sure more small businesses can afford to take part in the event. It also forces businesses to sell their products in higher prices to customers. Council need to learn how to use money efficiently and effectively.
Please just stop this Lakemba nights, it is supposed to be nights of worshipping not feasting
I believe \$600 is too high for people who are working extremely long and exhausting nights. It's also against the spirit of the festival.
<p>These nights have nothing to do with the month of Ramadan which is a month of calmness, contemplation and soul searching.</p> <p>Instead these nights are loud, overcrowded and nothing but indulgence.</p> <p>They are a nuisance and should not be held during the holiest month of the Islamic Calendar.</p> <p>I strongly oppose the nights being held during Ramadan.</p>
I don't know if council should profit from this event. Local charities or community initiatives would be better
Different marquee sizes suitable for different businesses. Some businesses may benefit more if the marquee and fee is standardised however smaller stalls which we appreciate at the lakemba nights may be deterred from selling here. I believe having variables and options is best and benefits the community (by having foods at different price points) and stall holders. An example of this is smaller stall selling coffee/sahlab only.
The stall fee is too much and the name should be "Lakemba Ramadan Nights" , because that's what it is.
<p>This is [name removed] from [name removed].</p> <p>I cant see marquees in the middle of the roadworking with such numbers.</p> <p>I will write a formal email to council but it is a serious safety issue, from emergency services to stamped issues. How can 50,000 people fit in a street that barely fits them already when we have to use 450 square metres of the road for stalls.</p> <p>Plus the traffic management nightmare of trying to manage lines of families with stalls so close together. Its literally impossible to have 11 stalls near eachother and only a few metres to the footpath and expect everyone to line up.</p> <p>Plus the food stalls need to be going in and out of the stalls, where prior the stocking up comes from the shops and is behind the scenes now there expected to do that in the marquee so constantly fighting to get through the same lines of hundreds of people to get to your own stall is a logistical mess.</p> <p>I suggest that half haldon st be like last year operating from shop front and only have approx 20 food stalls on haldon st that are few metres apart where there would be fencing for lines that way its alot more organised , pus the food trucks</p>
This means the stall holders will be further increasing the price of already expensive food and other goods

I think it is fair for the stall holders to pay directly to the council. But my feedback is geared more towards the purpose of the event rather than its detailed working.

This event makes the streets of Lakemba too loud and busy in the month in which Muslim residents are trying to increase worship, pray and contemplate. The event has broken the Ramadan spirit of charity and fasting, it is more suitable to hold this event annually at another suitable time of the year rather than during Ramadan. As this event does not represent Ramadan in any way.

Changing the name to "Lakemba Nights" doesn't mean that worshippers and residents won't be disturbed during Ramadan due to it. Quite the contrary. Hence it is more advisable to hold this event as a spring or autumn fair rather than in Ramadan each year.

Thanks.

The decision to pay directly to the council is great, however given the cost of living crisis and declining sales \$600 per night is a expensive.

Everyone knows the stigma and discrimination against Islam that exists even today. I shouldn't even have to explain the value the word "Ramadan" holds in a well known event that is open for everyone. It is how we demonstrate the spirit of Ramadan and Islam itself.

I'm sorry I don't see any Christmas markets having "Christmas" removed from it, and Christmas is commercialized everywhere you look.

If locals are being disturbed by the noise, then I support the reduction of days. I do NOT however support the increased fee? I'm sorry but you aren't providing me enough information about the council's services that justify charging stallholders an extra 4.8k? That's outrageous.

These workers are already spending around this amount on zakat (charity that is compulsory in Islam) for the holy month.

Next thing you know is you'll be charging citizens entry. The markets were fine as is thank you very much.

Do not change the name of Ramadan Night Markets. Do not reduce the days.

Put more events on that spread the crowds around the council area

This will be a huge setback for new and small businesses to operate during the festival. The fees should factor in space and staff required to run a stall.

I think this is too much money for stall holders who may not even make that much money.

The price could have been varied as per the days of trade as the business usually performs well on certain days.

It should no longer be called Ramadan nights because it has nothing to do with Ramadan. Utterly disappointing.

The name should stay Ramadan nights, this is a holy month of fasting from sunrise to sunset giving charity ,prayer,Reflection and community.The 9th month on the Islamic calender.

Ramadan nights sounds like a nightclub.

Not all stall holders are busy So 600 sounds a bit steep however iam not as concerned about the FEE but more about changing the name moving the stalls onto the street sounds OK as it's hard to get around with a pram

Thankyou

We don't want any nights in Ramadan it's a month fasting not feasting

They should nor exist in the 1st place. The festival should be called or relocate away 4 lakemba so ppl can focus on Ramadan.

<p>I partially support this adjustment as the days that selected r the most auspicious days in whole month of Ramadaan. Thursday n Fridays...or just make it weekend as event days, if cannot cancel the complete Ramadaan events. This will help the muslim community to respect their one of the most important month of Islaam n focus on its attributes rather than moving into the events. 4 days whole night is going to ruined the peace of many homes. Better to just allow sat n sun (weekends only) Otherwise due to all respect we completely boycott Lakemba in month of Ramadaan as we dnt support such events that will drag our community from main purpose of Ramadaan to other worldly purposes.</p>
<p>Doesn't the govt help since it is called Ramadan nights.</p>
<p>This fees will be transfered to buyers.</p>
<p>Need to stop this in the month of Ramadan</p>
<p>While I can understand the reduction of days to minimize noise for surrounding neighborhoods and other maintenance issues...and understandably this will be difficult for local residents especially those who do not adhere to the Muslim faith, I believe the Ramadan nights has been wholly hijacked by the council. Seems the council has waited for it to be successful and piggy backed on the Muslim led initiative which stared at iftar time in Ramadan (which was the initial reason the nights ever came to be), and now they want to move what was made by the Muslim community and for the Muslim community into a completely separate commercial venture. Then why is this even happening in Ramadan to begin with? If you want to change the name then change the timing also remove it to a time outside the holy month. You can't have it both ways.</p>
<p>This is absolutely absurd. This is a community event where people from underserved communities, specially Muslims could come together and enjoy with their families. With stall prices going up, so will the food prices making it yet again an expensive night market. Keep this stuff for the white neighbourhood and stay away from ours! Muslims are always vilified and as soon as we built a community of our own the culture vultures started coming and taking over.</p>
<p>Reduce your fees, it's a ripped off, \$600 per night, learn from other council ex Liverpool council</p>
<p>\$600 per night, its ripped off</p>
<p><b>THIS IS THE MONTH OF WORSHIP AND NOT THE MONTH OF FEASTING. STOP IN GENERAL.</b></p>
<p>Lakemba nights causes major disruption for Muslims in the most holy month. In a month where Muslims are expected to practice restraint, Lakemba nights encourages and promotes vulgar gluttony. It also causes major disruption for people around the area who want to worship due to uncontrolled noise and traffic. Residents of the area are also severely inconvenienced due to the increased traffic.</p>
<p>Ramadan is the month of worship specially the nights are the blessed nights for the muslim in the entire nights. Therefore i do not wish there are any market, stall, shopping on the ramadan nights, if its really urgent maybe for first 10 or 15 nights of Ramadan, but after that it has to be close till Eid. this is a blessed month, fasting month not for feasting.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>
<p>This fees is too high and will result in an increase in food prices. We dont support the capitalisation of our religious events like this, the markets began as a place for food in the late hours of taraweeh not the ruckus its created now. Stallholder fees has to be 200 maximum</p>
<p>Mr Matthew Stewart, I was visiting Lakemba frequently during Ramadan for groceries but since Lakemba night started, I stop going there for whole month. It's nightmare to go there due to traffic , busy and no parking. Also Ramadan is purely for worship. It makes very difficult for worshippers to concentrate their worship. Lakemba night can be done before or after Ramadan if needed. I hope and pray that council may arrange a meeting with local mosque's imams and resident to make a decision. Ramadan is extremely holy and pure worship month for muslims. Lakemba night is sending a wrong message to people.</p> <p>Thank you and appreciate for allowing us for a feedback.</p>

<p>Ramadan is not about food or feasting it's about focusing on the one that gave us life, the one who gave us a safe place to live in Australia. People who are feasting are seriously ungrateful for what their lord has given them. They cannot sacrifice one month for their lord. People have health, wealth and roof under their head. How are they are so ungrateful to the one that created them. Ridiculous.</p>
<p>Sounds like council on a money grab</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration. It is extremely noisy, loud and disturbing. It is extremely inappropriate in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>
<p>Stop this nonsense now . its the month of worshipping not feasting.</p>
<p>Please ﷻ do not have this event in Haldon street, relocate to a better place where people have ample parking and less noise pollution.</p>
<p>The fee for stallholders in excessive and should be reduced.</p>
<p>Condensation should be made for the resources and management of the stalls impact.</p>
<p>As a Muslim, I don't think the event name should be rebranded. It initially began as a way to start and break out fast during the month of Ramadan with good food. The timings are of religious significance so how can you separate it from that. The annual event has also brought so much awareness into the Muslim faith and Ramadan.</p> <p>If adjustment to stallholder fees are being made, then it's important to look into the cost of food and drinks the attendees are having to pay. The 2024 Ramadan prices were ridiculously expensive with some drinks being sold for \$17-18.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Ramadan, a sacred month, but it has been badly represented by the Lakemba nights event. It is a month of worship, and contemplation, not a month of indulgence, a month of FASTING, not FEASTING! Calmness, not loudness. I am extremely disturbed by the noise and buzzing it has created. I ask you to cancel it or postpone it to after Ramadan. Thank you</p>
<p>Not fair on small business</p>
<p>I support Change 1 and 3. I don't support Change 2 and 4.</p>
<p>Make it two days a week. It is a nightmare for the locals during the whole month because of high traffic and no parking facility. We can't even go to the shops to buy groceries. Lakemba is already so populated, hosting an event like this for a whole month here is not convenient for the locals.</p>
<p>Ridiculous form of revenue hoarding and should not be implemented under any circumstance. Not only are you decreasing the day/time a stallholder can be open for but you intend to charge them 3x more. By limiting who can set up stalls you will be diluting the essence of this event.</p>
<p>Items sold at these stalls will be more expensive so stall holders can recuperate their costs. This may not work for the local businesses that are already struggling.</p>
<p>my concern regarding the recent increase in fees . While I appreciate the services the council provides, this fee increase is quite significant and will create a financial strain.</p> <p>Additionally, there are practical challenges that add to this concern. For instance, the unpredictable weather conditions make it difficult to store materials/equipment securely without dedicated facilities, increasing both the risk of damage and the need for additional protective measures.</p> <p>I respectfully ask if there might be any possibility of reconsidering the fee structure or exploring solutions to address these challenges, such as providing affordable storage options or considering seasonal discounts. This would greatly help those of us who rely on these services.</p>
<p>Keep the name as Ramadan Night Markets</p>
<p>This will create a fair platform for vendors to get involved in the event. And the funds generated can still support the local businesses.</p>

<p>I would like council not to do any extension as this will put a lot of pressure on local residents and other patrons to come in and out. As due to metro project Lakemba train station is closed. There is not enough parking in a close vicinity there are so many praying places, people will be going to mosques and coming out of mosques will not have enough place which can have a chance of stampede. There is no emergency protocols. So no extensions as it will make life hard for the locals as cleaning will take place very late at night noise pollution and food pollution from the smoke of food and all the other things have already made life miserable shop owners screaming to attract customers has already made it look like a cheap selling techniques. There is no inspection of food that what kind of food being supplied to customers Hygienity has always been compromised.</p> <p>Council should give stalls to new people instead of giving it to shop owners who already own shops . Proper policing should be done to make sure footpath are clear from hindrances. We have seen greedy shop owners selling food due to high demand without even proper cleaning or counting. Please as a responsible council do the right thing and proper and secure food and environment should be given to customers who are spending money. Proper parking spots should be allocated to because fines have been issued for illegal parking either council should make a disgnated parking place and buses should be organised from there for visitors.</p>
<p>I agree with the time change proposal; however, I strongly oppose the rebranding. This event is linked to the Ramadan celebration, historically it was started as a Ramadan celebration. I don't think it will be wise to take off the Ramadan from the event branding.</p> <p>I think by keeping the word Ramadan in the celebration gives more respect to multiculturalism. So many people now know what Ramadan is.</p>
<p>Assalamu Alaikum brother. As I shared with you earlier about the name, my vote is for "Lakemba Nights". I also mentioned that each of the shops must contribute a lumpsum amount for Gaza. Five days is better except Friday. Barak Allahu Feek.</p>
<p>Excessive and is positioned to make the markets grow. They don't need growth. Rather, they need to be scaled down</p>
<p>For the shop owner who are food business please allow them to have the stall in from if the shop on footpath as if rain come and we have to take everything from our restaurant to the stall on road is not easy please look this by keep practical aspect of this</p>
<p>Hi ,as i am a shopkeeper I never gave any money to someone else in order to get a stall ,</p>
<p>Yes i support the increased charging scheme. \$600 a night is a drop in the pond for these vendors - council having to fund \$3million to keep the event running last year is insane. this will help cover costs.</p>
<p>Changing from 7 days to 4 days doesn't impact anything. In 2024 it was declared the event will run 4 days (Thursday to Sunday) but in practical the road was closed 7 days and stalls were open everyday. It was like Council did cheat with the residents. It's clearly anticipating, same thing will happen in 2025 again. Secondly, unless until the venue is relocating to another place or nearest park the negative impact to the residents will not change. Thirdly, by changing the name without changing the date is look like putting the same Bear in different cup. If the Council is too respectful to local Muslim community, Council should consider the event date other than Ramadan month. Fourthly, changing the stall from footpath to the road doesn't reduce the negative impact to the residents around. Therefore as a local resident we have strongly denied the proposed changes and urging Council to change the venue to the nearby park.</p>
<p>شكرا اقتراح جميل و رائع اتمنى ا يكون كل ايام الشهر وأ يكون السعر منخفض قليلا مثلا 500 في الليلة ##</p>
<p>This is fine, but I do have a question of how the train replacement buses will be passing through</p>
<p>Relocate to another location in open ground if needed To be organised other then holy month of Ramadan and in case of event, only one day after Ramadan is finished</p>
<p>I support this idea it sounds like a great change</p>

The stalls are making plenty of money and there are plenty of costs for Council.
Stealing from small local businesses!
If you want to change the name to the event then change the dates! It started off as Ramadan nights inside of Ramadan so it should stay this way as it is in Ramadan. If community members do not like the name then don't attend.
U destroy everything..dum people ...council one of the biggest stealing the community
<p>Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I write to express my opposition to the proposed rebranding of 'Ramadan Nights Lakemba' to 'Lakemba Nights,' particularly if the event will continue to be held during Ramadan. The intention to dissociate the event from Ramadan's religious significance while still hosting it in this sacred month undermines its original purpose and appears to capitalize on the spiritual essence of Ramadan without proper acknowledgment or inclusion of the Muslim community.</p> <p>The Ramadan Nights have historically provided an opportunity for Australia's Muslim communities to showcase their cultures, faith, and hospitality, while also supporting local businesses through pop-ups and market stalls. This organic celebration has allowed both Muslims and non-Muslims to engage meaningfully with the spirit of Ramadan and foster a sense of community.</p> <p>The rebranding and distancing from explicit Muslim visibility reflect a troubling shift toward a 'sanitised' version of the event that prioritises commercial gain over cultural authenticity. It risks erasing the identity and contributions of the Muslim community while continuing to profit from the month's significance.</p> <p>If the Council believes a rebranding is necessary to focus on commercial aspects, then the event should be rescheduled to another time of year. Hosting it during Ramadan under a non-religious banner feels disingenuous and dismissive of the historical roots of 'Ramadan Nights Lakemba.'</p> <p>I urge the Council to reconsider this proposal and engage meaningfully with the Muslim community to maintain the integrity and intention of the event.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>
With the cost of living this price change will have a significant impact on vendors revenue
That's just ridiculously high
Stop trying to commercialise on a community event
While ppl are doing it tough council wants to go out and make it harder for business owners which will have an affect on staff and products.
hi
This events helps small businesses and having them pay more money to the council to operate will mean less businesses will participate, making the markets much much worse.
It should be priced on visibility. Example, prime location should be at this high fee, however. Not for someone at the end of haldon street with minimal visibility. I wholeheartedly support the road business rather than landlord approval.
It's not fair that council is taking over a community event.
Cancel the whole thing. Offensive to use the word Ramadan for such an event. Thanks
This was always meant to be an informal event for the Muslim community to be served on Ramadan nights after a long day of fasting. The fact that stall holders are paying to provide an additional service defeats the purpose. Yes, they make a profit, but they're also missing an evening of worship as a result of this.
If you are removing ramadan from the name which was bringing cultural and religious awareness then please change the whole date. Leave Ramadan to us Muslims to celebrate and the Lakemba nights can be held on a different date.

<p>It's important to change the date so it doesn't reflect anything religious. So if it's Lakemba nights, then hold it outside Ramadan.</p>
<p>This month is very important to the business owners in the area, if i need as business owners to pay almost \$12000 plus the tge shop rent il need to cover almost \$26000 in one month specially we depend too much on this month because during the year not thats busy</p>
<p>The community started this event for Ramadan and so it should remain titled Ramadan nights. You are taking away the spirit of you take Ramadan out of the title.</p> <p>The number of days should not change. Reducing the number of days actually makes the event more stressful and the volume of people in 4 days will be a consolidation of that in 7. Not a good idea.</p> <p>Making an extra buck off the vendors is unfair. It also means that the price increase would be passed onto attendees.</p>
<p>Highway robbery that will just get passed onto the public with inflated prices</p>
<p>Price is ridiculously high</p>
<p>Don't change the name. Keep Ramadan in the name</p>
<p>It's insulting to think that during these political unrest and attacks on Muslims in the middle east and with a council that has Muslim councillors representatives, it coincidently now believes the 'ramadan nights' should change to 'lakemba night'.</p> <p>The event is to celebrate Islamic calendar festive month of RAMADAN.</p> <p>No qualm with what ever council wants to charge stall holders as council always is seeking some financial incentive etc and timing hours etc is important as it affects other residents in the area.</p> <p>But to change the name....</p> <p>What an absolute farce.</p> <p>If you want to change the name, change the date.</p> <p>Make it 3 day or 1 week festival post ramadan and call it a cultural celebration.</p> <p>This event as Ramadan nights has generated world wide positive attention for the region. We always get negative feedback on our community and the one event that brings Australians from all walks of life is being changed to meet the political and power brokers influence from outside region, State level and even Federal level to take away the enjoyment of a wonderful multifaiths and multicultural even that UNITED us as Australians through food, acts of worship and diversity.</p> <p>A very inconsiderate decision that is a MASSIVE SLAP IN THE FACE TO OUR COMMUNITY.</p> <p>So out of touch and missing the purpose of unification and solidarity that this event was creating as it was known as RAMADAN NIGHTS.</p> <p>In simple terms let's also just take christmas carols in the park away and call it happy holidays carols or even worse Bankstown carols or Paul Keating park carols.</p> <p>Don't stop there, let's call the Easter show the Royal show why don't we...</p> <p>Absurd decision making process.</p> <p>See the stupidity in such name change for an event that attracts 1 million Australians to Lakemba.</p>
<p>If you are changing the name from Ramadan nights to lakemba nights you should also change the dates. As this gathering can be held at any time of the year- as it does not coincide with the values Of what Ramadan actually stands for.</p>
<p>\$2400 for 4 days of trade is quite steep and going by this years markets stall holders struggled to break even.</p>
<p>If you want to change the name, then please change the date.</p>
<p>I believe that you forgot the reason that the purpose of these food stalls is to cater for the muslim communities who have been fasting from sunrise to sunset which means limited retail foods opening after sunset especially the next 12 years of the ramadan will head towards summer which means longer days and more less retail food openings.</p> <p>Its great to see that non muslim are participating in this event and creating a great atmosphere dissapointing that the muslim community leaders have not seized on this or failed to understand the purpose of the night food eating. Do not wish to go to the old days of when most food retail close after 5pm and as the fasting gets longer till 9pm and nothing for muslims to eat but limiting the food service from Thursday to Sundays when the holy month of ramadan is a 30 days of fasting</p>

I support the increase in fees, but there should be consideration that some nights of the week might be more lucrative than others. It could be the case that vendors might not want to pay for all 4 nights of the week, and that the event could be left underserved by vendors picking and choosing which nights to pay for. A better solution might be to offer weekly fees for a slight discount, to encourage vendors to operate over all 4 nights.
So we have one of the most vibrant successful street festivals in Sydney and Council are reacting by scaling it back and trying to reduce demand for stallholders.
Seems to me that this is the antithesis of how a Council should be behaving.
Increasing stall fees on a cost of living crisis will inevitably result in increased prices for festival goers
(this is in regards to rebranding/renaming) Why is the event held during these dates? Because it is the month of Ramadhan - very silly to remove the main reason for the stall in the first place from the name. Why don't we have this festival in October? December? June? Why does it move every year?!! All of this is because it is directly connected to the month of Ramadhan!!! Please don't change something that was there every year based on what you think might be good for the people... consult the actual community!
I propose contributing a portion towards the upkeep of the park and kids playground. This would directly benefit local residents, maintaining shared spaces and fostering goodwill. It also makes the area more appealing for both businesses and visitors, supporting a stronger local economy.
I believe that this is a lot of money.
YOU GUYS MADE THE BEST DECISION!!!!!!
Can we just have it moved to perry park so then its open space for everyone and it wont be busy around the streets from Lakemba to Belmore and people who live here will get their car spots and wont have people yelling on weekdays when we are trying to sleep as every night we get people sitting out the front of our house on the brick work at midnight-2am laughing and joking while they finishing eating their food. It keeps everyone awake and fact that no one in the streets have driveways so everyone parks around and we can get any spots where we live. Moving down to the park will help people and now with no train line there will be more cars around and more traffic and it will be worst so maybe just move it to the park.. and then you can charge the stalls whatever you like and make more money off them

From the above table, Google Translate was used to translate the following two submissions into English:

# = Healthy food. Tolerable price. Pay particular attention.

## = Thank you, a beautiful and wonderful suggestion. I hope it will be available every day of the month and the price will be a little low, for example, 500 per night.

<b>Feedback to question: I would like to provide the following additional feedback for Council to consider</b>
Change 1 - Market running 4 days now instead of 7. This change is fine as long as an appropriate level of marketing is done where the populace clearly understands the days the market is open. There was a huge miscommunication in the 2024 markets. We ideally need more influencers and advertisements this year.
Change 3 - Stalls moving from footpaths to roads This is fine. Please consider the stalls on the other side of Haldon St - that are adjacent to Railway Parade. Usually this side's road is kept open for the buses. The stalls on this side should have the opportunity and priority to move to the other side of Haldon St where the roads are closed and most of the visitors are. This would help existing businesses by a huge margin and would mean alot to them.
please have more police patrolling the area

<p>Some changes are welcome including reducing the event to 4 days and moving stalls off the footpath.if the event is now classed as commercial then why does it have to be held during ramadan and why does it still need to run for a month.also some businesses do not close till 6pm but stalls open at 6 which means roads will be closed at 4 or 5 impacting those businesses.the ratepayers are paying for council losses on this event so who is benefiting.the restaurants ,stall holders and food trucks and a lot of them are not local anyway.this event has negatively impacted residents and some shop keepers for years.if it is going to be run as a commercial venture then if should be run at a profit.it needs to be scaled back even further.no other food festival in the country goes for this long.</p>
<p>Council must work professionally with the police to implement a proper alternative to trains; and implement more stringent penalties for illegal parking blocking driveways.</p>
<p>We respectfully request that Railway Parade stays open during the Ramadan nights event. Last year, when the road was closed, food stalls couldn't operate, and we lost substantial income. Without the ability to access the crowds this year, we will be forced to confront even bigger financial losses that could threaten our ability to stay in business.</p>
<p>We ask that the authorities reconsider closing Railway Parade during Ramadan. Last year's closure resulted in financial setbacks for our business, and with no food stalls allowed this year, the amount of foot traffic will be reduced. Another closure would force us to face even more dire financial challenges.</p>
<p>If Railway Parade is closed again during the Ramadan nights event, our business will be put in a very difficult position. Last year, we saw a sharp decline in sales, and this year, without the opportunity to operate our food stalls during this crucial time, we risk facing even greater losses that could put us in jeopardy.</p>
<p>We urge the authorities to keep Railway Parade open during Ramadan nights. The closure last year led to significant losses for our business, especially in terms of foot traffic and sales. If we face another closure this year, compounded by restrictions on food stalls, the economic repercussions will be catastrophic for us.</p>
<p>Cancel lakemba nights please. No one from lakemba wants this one. People rude and too noise. Please no more this lakemba night</p>
<p>The Ramadan night markets started out to honour the month of Ramadan, now it has become popular with the non muslim community, Council is trying to take away the word Ramadan and profit off it.</p>
<p>The name of the event should not remove Ramadan from the title. This event is intrinsically tied to the festival and month of Ramadan and was created for the Muslim community. To remove Ramadan from the name is erasing the cultural identity of the event. It would be akin to removing "Easter" from the Royal Easter Show. That is still a commercial event but is historically tied to a religious holiday.</p>
<p>I have written to you before telling you to Cancel Ramadan nights as it is a mockery to our religion. Not only does It has nothing to do with Ramadan but it is also a complete and utter nuisance for us residents of lakemba. No Muslim asked for this event and many want it gone but your not listening because your money hungry. We don't need adjustments in fees we need it gone all together so that we can focus on what Ramadan actually means without having rude people come to lakemba and treat us and our religion with disrespect.</p>
<p>Ramadan shop needed to operate in front of the shop. Not in the street. It's the traditional system for every shop doing for long time.</p>
<p>Canterbury Bankstown has a lot of suburbs improving and becoming somewhat desirable. Lakemba is the most disgusting suburb in Sydney and likely NSW and possibly the country. Rubbish as far as the eye can see, every single day, rubbish tossed on the street. There is no diversity in Haldon Street. If you aren't Bangladeshi, Afghani, Pakistani, male and a smoker... don't visit, it is disgusting. The council pays so much money to remove rubbish. As a rate payer, I know this. Get rangers out there fining the people who treat this community like garbage.</p>
<p>To the respected council, I would like to feedback that let the festival keep going as it has been always. The proposed new stall layout will not gonna benefit anyone and rather it'll be a problem as in set up and dismantle everything in getting it away each and every day. Please keep the businesses on priority to get this event successful not only this year but every year. Let people come and enjoy from all the corners of Australia.</p>
<p>I need stall</p>

<p>on a street i dont think you can fit as many business as you do now. with every store have a stall plus additional stalls on the street will make the fest more beautiful and successful for all. you have to have so many options for people. only say 20-30 marquee on the street would not invite them again to the fest</p>
<p>We want the stall from 168-176 Haldon street , Lakemba</p>
<p>Need stall in front of the shop</p>
<p>Moving stall on to the road is a good initiative from the council</p>
<p>A reduction in the number of days of this event is certainly a welcome change, but concerns remain. 6pm until 2am is still a very long, noisy night for an area that is mainly residential and single-storey, low density shopping. Year after year, residents face noise, parking, and confrontational issues with attendees of the event. In fact, council themselves have admitted that rangers have been targeted by patrons being aggressive and violent around parking. Can council advise what they will be doing to combat this sort of behaviour, as well as managing the residential parking issues? It should be pointed out that this is the only event of its kind in the state; one that is right in the middle of a residential area, and also that there are perfectly acceptable nearby areas that could conceivably be used for this event (e.g. Belmore Oval). Whilst these changes do seem as if they may be beneficial, it remains to be seen if they appropriately manage all facets of health, safety, parking, religious respect, public interest and profitability of such an event.</p>
<p>Take this event to a park and LEAVE us in peace! We have had enough of the noise, rubbish, parking issues and sleepless nights.</p> <p>By reducing the days to 4 this will not stop them on the other days. Last year there was graffiti on council posts where the poster indicated reduced days and thus was black out by paint. I reported this to council last year. Enough is enough!!!!</p>
<p>I do not support the rebranding of the name. I think the name "Ramadan night" has its significant to non-Muslim people will help increase harmony in the community and awareness. It also help promote our multicultural society.</p> <p>I support the stall to be moved from footpath to the road to help ease foot traffic and continuation of existing business.</p> <p>I think the number of night should remain same as 30 days. There're lot of people who doesn't like visiting this event on weekends due to over crowding. Keeping the night open to weekdays will help spread the crowd across the week. Reducing means crowd will have no choice but go on one of those days only which will</p> <p>Make the matter worse.</p> <p>Could it should also think of charging less to the stall holder on Mon-wed and charge more on remaining 4 days.</p>
<p>Traffic management and parking is the major concern for locals. Provide with extra rangers. As some people are trespassing in the property and parking their cars on private property and disappearing. Close the whole haldon street.</p>
<p>More variety of stalls (frames, paintings etc.) ; not just limited to food. No music at all!</p>
<p>The name must remain Ramadan Nights as usual as this is going to be held only in Ramadan each year no matter what.</p> <p>The festival held was being a hindrance in the normal lives of the residents of Lakemba (specially Haldon street), in terms of sound, smoke and access to the medical and chemist facilities.</p> <p>In those days there is no parking to access the different services due to the amount of people visiting. We need multiple large multi-storey to cater to the incoming public like in Auburn, Liverpool, Bankstown etc.</p> <p>The festival must end at 2am, as it may disturb the sleep of the residents. 12am is the max anyone can stay up and must have peaceful sleep after that at least for 7 hours to be able to go to work/school next day.</p>
<p>Interesting that council only identifies specifically feedback on increased costs....</p> <p>Additional feedback regarding the other changes from me are:Relief that the exhausting nature of a 30 day long event from 4pm till 4am each day has on the working residents of Lakemba has been acknowledged. I would prefer the event days were again reduced to Fri, Sat and Sunday, to further reduce the impact on sleep for myself and other working residents in Lakemba.</p> <p>I am in support of the name change, but it does raise the question of why the event is occurring at all if it does not reflect the desires of the Muslim community. If the event is purely a financial opportunity for council it could be rebranded and held during the day, at any time of the year like every other food or cultural festival.</p> <p>Other changes to stall sites seem logical.</p>

Kindly block the road from the intersection of haldon st and Boulevarde to the fire station on haldon st....not blocking all the entrances to the haldon st
This event does not align with the Islamic values of ramadaan and is being used to profit from the holy month. I ask you guys to please not allow this event to go forward
খাবার এর মান এবং খাবার মূল্য। ###
I am happy with the adjustment as long as we don't need to pay both the council and the business/shop to be able to operate in front of their shops. Just like your example of bidding wars, plus this will making it very difficult and for other food vendors to obtain a chance to operate in the event. I support one fee and one approval only to the council. Please also allow vendors who live/operate within Canterbury Bankstown council area to have priority to be a chosen vendor for the event, as that local vendor are always told to be the first priority to be chosen in other council events.
Council and government should be getting money from this event
Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.
Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness. I don't want it to happen anymore.
Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.
Go to Perry park and make it bigger and better this way our streets and businesses don't suffer
I do not support this event please have it at another time. Ramadan is our religious and spiritual time not for council or others to profit.
PLEASE STOP THIS EVENT. RUN IT IN A NON-RESIDENTIAL AREA. RUN IT OUTSIDE OF RAMADAN  Please stop running this event. It is extremely noisy, loud and inconvenient. Please run it in a non-residential area outside of RAMADAN. Ramadan is a time of prayer and worship. The days and nights are sacred during this month. This event is disrupting the ability to attend night prayers, sleep well and focus on worship.
Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.
Having more ranger and parking fines around. Many individuals clogging up streets and parking in driveways with no consideration and getting away with it. This especially happens on the Boulevarde, on the corner of Taylor street. Very disturbing and agitating. More rules should be enforced on timing, parking and more.
I express my concerns about nighttime gatherings during Ramadan, highlighting several negative impacts on residents, including:  Noise Disturbances: Disrupts peace and affects families, especially those with young children or elderly members. Sleep Disruptions: Late-night activities cause sleep disturbances, leading to fatigue and reduced productivity. Traffic and Parking Issues: Increased attendees cause road congestion and parking difficulties for residents. Privacy Concerns: Increased foot traffic around residential areas compromises residents' privacy. We believe Ramadan is a time for reflection, self-restraint, and spiritual focus, and extended noisy gatherings contradict the values of the month. We suggest holding such events in isolated or open areas to avoid negatively affecting residents and preserving the spirit of Ramadan.
Na
Scrap the whole thing or call it what it is ( ramadan nights ) and do not charge nothing
For God sake stop this torture. Enough is enough for last 15+ years. Relocate this to open space like perry park or Wiley park or your choice. But not for month long night programs in suburban streets. Please be sensible and think about locals. Not just revenue from business owners and grant from governments. This has been escalated many times so far However, Still you are continuing. Highly frustrated and disappointing. Please move out this program from here from now on.
This is not a kings cross, such a shame..
Changes in items 2, 3 & 4 totally agree
I arg to stop ramadan night permanently

I would like to request To stop ramadan night permanently

Lakemba night has been causing disruptions during HOLY Ramadan, when many people observe fasting, prayer, and reflection, this indeed led to concerns for those impacted. Ramadan is a time of quiet and religious observance, so loud gatherings or events make it so difficult for people to focus on worship, get adequate rest, or attend to early morning prayers.

I extremely express my concerns about such nighttime gatherings in our area during the holy month of RAMADAN, specifically the extended hours spent shopping, dining, and socializing in a way that creates noise and disturbs residents. It impacts residents very negatively and some of the big challenges:

1. Noise Disturbances: It creates noise can disrupt the peace for nearby residents, affecting their relaxation time and causing disturbances, especially for families with young children or elderly members.
2. Sleep Disruptions: Since Ramadan Nights extend into late hours, nearby residents struggle with sleep due to the combination of increased noise, vehicle activity, and the general liveliness around the event. Lack of adequate sleep led to fatigue, irritability, and reduced productivity for those affected.
3. Traffic and Parking Issues: Events in residential areas brings significant number of attendees, which lead to congestion on local roads. This is very frustrating for residents, who find it difficult to access their homes or regular parking.
4. Privacy Concerns: For some residents, the increased foot traffic and visibility lead to feelings of compromised privacy, particularly if crowds are moving in and around their neighbourhood late at night. Ramadan is a time for reflection, self-restraint, and closeness to ALMIGHTY ALLAH. Spending extended late hours in noisy environments, engaging in shopping or casual socializing, runs contrary to the values which are encouraged to uphold during this sacred time. Furthermore, such gatherings at night can carelessly alienate people from the teachings of RAMADAN and create misunderstandings about its purpose. I kindly suggest considering other options such as arranging this type of event somewhere in an open or isolated area [if really need be] to align our practices with the principles of RAMADAN.

Plz relocate or organise in day time and find out how cbc involve in corruption by doing this event.

Please stop this event it causes sound pollution air pollution heavy traffic jam garbage everywhere interrupted daily life of us as local residents.

I strongly suggest to please stop this event. If not at least please reduced this event only for two nights Friday & Saturday nights only. As a local resident we suffer our normal life due to heavy traffic of road closures, heavy noise pollution, Garbage bins near event is always full and car parks are full of garbage, we can not do our shopping at night (work day time) due to road closure and no parking.

Please stop this in holy month

Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.

There needs to be a more security or police patrolling the surrounding streets. We have people parking over our driveways and joining around the streets.

Please keep the event name to Ramadan nights and no changes to event days and timeline. As a Muslim and local resident of Lakemba, I don't think that you need to change the name of the event or reduce the days or opening hours!

**\*I URGE YOU TO PROVIDE A NEGATIVE FEEDBACK AND ASK THE COUNCIL TO STOP IT.\***

It is absolutely terrible and disgusting to want to change the title to "Lakemba Nights". Lakemba started this festival specifically for the Muslim community during the month of Ramadan. It is the best thing to happen to the Muslim community in terms of publicity. Changing its name erases our identity. It doesn't need to be inclusive - keeping it as Ramadan nights continues to attract non-Muslims to the area to see what Ramadan is all about and mingle with the Muslim community. Stop trying to erase us!

These nights have nothing to do with the month of Ramadan which is a month of calmness, contemplation and soul searching.

Instead these nights are loud, overcrowded and nothing but indulgence.

They are a nuisance and should not be held during the holiest month of the Islamic Calendar.

I strongly oppose the nights being held during Ramadan.

<p>Parking. Please consider this. It has been a problem for many years to local residence and also visitors. Open a field or empty land for parking space as the area is also dense in mosque goes during the same time.</p>
<p>It should be open 7 days, as we Muslims have Ramadan 7days (29-30days) and not only on weekends.</p>
<p>limit the same products (this was brought up many times last year and ignored, there was 20 chips on a stick) at the event. It does not happen at any other event.</p> <p>Do not place the same products nxt to eachother. last year chocolate strawberries where opposite eachother, chips on a stick opposite eachother, lemonade near eachther, knefah near eachother.</p> <p>Have more variety of foods for people to enjoy.</p> <p><b>MORE LIGHTING. SEATS. MORE TOILETS</b></p>
<p>The event should either be scrapped completely or should be held in another time of the year where it does not over lap with Ramadan and interfere with the Muslim residents and worshippers from observing this solemn and sacred month.</p>
<p>Consider adding more food trucks instead of just 6.</p>
<p>I'm still outraged about the fees you are charging. What is it exactly that you'll be doing differently in 2025 for this increase?</p>
<p>Change the name back to Ramadan nights</p>
<p>I don't like the idea of 4days trade a week as we the local fast 7days and usually eat around 4am before starting our fast for the day.</p> <p>I don't go for the idea for name change as member of the Muslim community I feel more nostalgic and more of a belonging with Ramadan Lakemba nights.</p>
<p>Get rid of the name. Has nothing to do with Ramadan.</p>
<p>Ramadan nights are special because of its relation to Ramadan and the holy month. To reduce this name to Lakemba nights is unjust and unfair. Additionally as a regular visitor Ramadan nights is special as it runs every night in Ramadan- it will be chaos if it is only on weekends</p>
<p>It's disturbing the local's and distracting people from worshipping</p>
<p>Just go away from Ramadan and leave us alone to do our religious duties</p>
<p>The name shouldn't be changed it should be Ramadan nights as originally as it was known.</p>
<p>Our local gov should help us not to make life hard for us</p>
<p>Need to stop this event entirely in the month of Ramadan which is a sacred month for the Muslim to worship and not to party and feast</p>
<p>Changing the name to simply "Lakemba Market" erases the specific cultural and religious context that makes this event unique. The Ramadan markets have become an iconic community gathering, where Muslims and non-Muslims alike experience the beauty of Ramadan traditions, cuisine, and celebrations. The Muslims community has and is still to this day vilified and kept out of spaces. This was created as a safe space to own our religion and culture. This change not only dilutes the market's identity but also an attempt to make it more "neutral" or "mainstream," which is exclusionary to the Muslim community.</p> <p>By renaming it, the organizers may be attempting to appeal to a broader audience, but in doing so, they risk alienating the community that created and fostered this space. This echoes a larger pattern where minority customs or spaces are rebranded to make them more "palatable" to the majority, often to the detriment of cultural heritage. Such moves can also reinforce negative perceptions, suggesting that Muslim-centric events need to be modified to be acceptable or accessible.</p> <p>Furthermore, removing "Ramadan" from the name erases the educational and cultural exchange element. It strips away an opportunity for others to understand the significance of Ramadan, and it misses a chance to promote inclusivity and respect for diverse traditions.</p>
<p>Reduce the fees, you are not the city council, why charging \$600 per night, how the staller make money</p>
<p>Reduce the fees, food stall holder are there to make money, not to make council Rich</p>

<p>please consider the religious aspect of the month that Muslims are involved in. It is not a month to give Muslims the opportunity to feast and free mix around a busy street for the sake eating. This should be time of contemplation. Please also consider how frustrating it must be residents of lakemba to live with the traffic when they need to go to the mosque or coming to and from places.</p>
<p>Lakemba nights causes major disruption for Muslims in the most holy month. In a month where Muslims are expected to practice restraint, Lakemba nights encourages and promotes vulgar gluttony. It also causes major disruption for people around the area who want to worship due to uncontrolled noise and traffic. Residents of the area are also severely inconvenienced due to the increased traffic.</p>
<p>To the honorable councillor i want you guys to understand the essence of Ramadan, it is for our spirituality to learn our Deen, not to feed our body only, people need to go Muslaah and Mosjids more but due to the traffic they cannot go haldon st any more during night times, it is not to be consider as business at all, so my request not to do night markets on Ramadan, specially not after 15 Ramadan strictly at all.</p>
<p>To stop the lakemba night markets as its a massive hinderance for those residing the area w increase crowds and traffic.</p>
<p>Lakemba night can be done before or after Ramadan if needed.</p>
<p>Please consider not doing this event, it's better to do this outside of Ramadan not inside the month. Honestly, it will be a distraction for all the Muslims out there who is suppose to be worshipping.</p>
<p>it shouldn't be a weekly event, you be restricted only to 1 weekend in the month or 4 days, like they did at Parramatta recently. Having this too often detracts from the purpose of the month</p>
<p>As a Muslim and adhering to our Islamic teachings; the month of Ramadan should never be a month where there is excessive eating, drinking and joining together to party and have fun. This is not a month where Lakemba should be opening up its streets for pleasure.</p>
<p>This is disheartening for people living in lakemba have to go through road closures, imagine you being knocked out from your street and have to detour.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration. It is extremely noisy, and inappropriately programed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness. It also causes a lot of traffic, and it is a major disturbance to people like myself, who are residents of the Lakemba area.</p>
<p>Kind regards</p>
<p>Consideration should be given to those who attend Lakemba for worship in the mosques especially on Haldon Street. It's a sacred month for Muslims and the excessive noise and lack of parking is a major issue in Ramadan.</p>
<p>The Lakemba nights celebration was first considered a celebration during the month of Ramadan. When this is completely out of the religious aspects of Islam, to have celebrations every night during Ramadan. The celebrations are to be done after the month of Ramadan at the time of Eid Al-Fitr The event is extremely noisy, very loud and busy. It is inappropriate and does not reflect the month of Worship, this from where the event was founded. The time for Muslims is one of contemplation, peace, worship and calmness. Completely the opposite of what the Lakemba nights is promoting. PLEASE IMMEDIATELY STOP THE EVENT, THANK YOU.</p>
<p>Please stop the celebrations Ramadan it's a month of tranquility and calmness, and worship, for Muslims to retrieve and find themselves, which with the noise and ,buzzing makes so much harder, including the mosques and households around it ,plus many other difficulties this kind of event brings, like parking. And taking parking away from the people that go out to worship and night prayers .</p>
<p>Lakemba nights is a distraction for people in mosques ,people who wants to pray peacefully and it is noisy for residents</p>
<p>If you wanted to change it to "Lakemba nights" then it should be moved to another time of the year that will not impact residents. You should also consider closing all businesses while the locals come to pray, or have the street closed off to allow people to attend prayers in the street.</p>
<p>The stall cost is too high. Keep the name as Ramadan Night Markets.</p>
<p>NA</p>
<p>I will wait for your response and if required I can give more feedback</p>

<p>I would prefer the Ramadan nights brand retained. I think it is important to reflect the cultural nature of this event rather than the geographical location of it. Maintaining Ramadan in the name reminds attendees (and potential attendees) that we live in a society where the celebration of the wide variety of cultures and religions is a key part of who we are. We attend as it is a celebration of Ramadan and that is important to reflect in the name.</p>
<p>Five days in a week except Friday. Each shop must contribute for Gaza</p>
<p>White washing and romanticising an event that is held by the Muslim community to appease the greater public is not appropriate.</p> <p>This is not Alladin and Jasmine and people aren't walking into a fairytale or theme park. The event is made directly for Muslims and other people attend. That is fine.</p> <p>The name "Ramadan" should remain in the title of the event and is useful to bridge barriers between the Muslim community and the general Australian community.</p>
<p>I live one street away from Haldon St and for a period of one month, there is nothing but inconvenience. There are no positives at all. If it was a one-off, ie one night, then that is something that we will put-up with, but anything more than that is a nightmare</p>
<p>Please try to do trail this year with stall on the road for the people who come from outside And on footpath for the food business owners of Haldon street</p>
<p>if we do on footpath will be easy in my opinion as more people can be accommodate on rode</p>
<p>i would like to see additional council members patrolling parallel streets to Haldon st to report and fine drivers parking illegally on nature strips, and even driveways - i have had this happen to me personally several times.</p>
<p>Changing from 7 days to 4 days doesn't impact anything. In 2024 it was declared the event will run 4 days (Thursday to Sunday) but in practical the road was closed 7 days and stalls were open everyday. It was like Council did cheat with the residents.</p> <p>It's clearly anticipating, same thing will happen in 2025 again.</p> <p>Secondly, unless until the venue is relocating to another place or nearest park the negative impact to the residents will not change.</p> <p>Thirdly, by changing the name without changing the date is look like putting the same Bear in different cup. If the Council is too respectful to local Muslim community, Council should consider the event date other than Ramadan month.</p> <p>Fourthly, changing the stall from footpath to the road doesn't reduce the negative impact to the residents around.</p> <p>Therefore as a local resident we have strongly denied the proposed changes and urging Council to change the venue to the nearby park.</p>
<p>I have mobile food trailer I would like to use it there if that possible</p>
<p>DONT CHANHE OR RENAME THE FESTIVAL</p> <p>KEEP IT LAKEMBA RAMADAN NIGHTS</p> <p>AS IT HELD DURING RAMADAN ONLY AND ITS SOMETHING MUSLIMS WOULD LOVE TO SHARE AND TEACH OTHERS ABOUT OUR RELIGIOUS CULTURE ALSO THE VARIETY OF FOOD BREAKING THE FAST AND ALL OF THIS IS RELATED TO RAMADAN PLEASE DONT TAKE OUT RAMDAN FROM THE NAME</p>
<p>I don't agree with a change of name. It's been Ramadan Nights for more than a decade. It's the original name and should be kept. Lakemba Nights doesn't have the same meaning. People come and see how wonderful the community is. It gives the Islamic Community a positive image.</p>
<p>Change it back to what the event is supposed to be. Absolutely islamaphobic and clearly racist.</p>
<p>Do not take over a community event for Ramadan and white wash it!!!</p>
<p>This started as a traditional event inside of Ramadan. If there is an event insuring Christmas/haunika/easter etc and people didn't like this name it would not be considered to change. Why do we have to continue to change our traditions?</p>

<p>Destroy business and stealing people with professional way</p>
<p>The proposal put forward by the council is meaningful and also is considerate towards the residents in close proximity to the event. It also good to limit number of days as well as the hours noting the clean up as well as other costs. The sensible proposal to leave the footpath clear as well as not allowing cooking on the footpath is timely noting that, not only the oil spill but also potential fire hazard to the properties and more importantly to the visitors that include children. Totally support this meaningful proposal.</p>
<p>If the Council feels a rebranding is necessary to focus on broader commercial goals, it would be more appropriate to reschedule the event to a different time of the year. Holding it during Ramadan under the new name 'Lakemba Nights' would feel disingenuous and it will be perceived by the community that you're trying to erase the visibility of the Muslim community.</p> <p>Additionally, I noticed last year that the inclusion of elements such as stalls from other religious groups which was jarring. While I appreciate the desire for inclusivity, it felt out of place for an event explicitly tied to Ramadan. The goal of the event needs to be clear, as this clarity will help Council make informed decisions moving forward. It is impossible to accommodate every group within a single event; doing so risks diluting the focus and impact. I encourage Council to undertake a review of the intent and objectives of the event and to articulate these goals clearly, as this will enable more effective community engagement.</p> <p>While I understand the workload involved, a reduction in the number of event nights is reasonable. However, the nature of the event must be aligned with the timing. Council must decide: either it is 'Ramadan Nights' during Ramadan, or it is 'Lakemba Nights' outside of Ramadan, with participation open to all groups. Trying to achieve both will dilute the authenticity of the event.</p>
<p>The removal of "Ramadan" from the name is disrespectful and erases the history and meaning of the night markets. These markets were part of the community well before the council came on board and were the purpose of coming together for Ramadan, it's an absolute disgrace that you would now consider this name change.</p>
<p>I think that changing the name is not beneficial to keeping with the spirit of why the ramadan night markets started. I think keeping the previous name of the 'lakemba ramadan night markets' preserves the heritage and spirit of why it started in the first place.</p>
<p>Absolutely do not change the name to Lakemba. The significance is Ramadan. It's like getting rid of Christmas or Easter. Utterly disrespectful</p>
<p>If you change the name, change the dates so that it does not fall on Ramadan</p>
<p>What to change the name change the dates. Don't do it in the month of Ramadan. It's never been an issue and it isn't now. Welcome to multicultural Australia they say.</p>
<p>hi</p>
<p>Please keep the markets as they are, or expand them. As a proud member of the Canterbury Bankstown community, they bring me so much joy. Every year during Ramadan, the rest of Sydney gets to see how amazing this local community is. Downsizing will only prove the North and the East right about Western Sydney!</p>
<p>It's called Ramadan nights because it's in Ramadan. At night. You can't randomly call it something else. It's like saying that you don't want to call a Christmas market a Christmas market as it's mixing religion with commercialism. Muslims are entitled to have their celebrations recognised and to participate in their own festivities without people censoring their existence. There is a big backlash against changing the name all over social media. Whatever you might claim that Muslims have told you. Enough censorship of non white people's place in society.</p>
<p>There should be opportunities for stalls to pay for marketing on the event of ramadan. Have storage and wash area for vendors</p>
<p>I definitely agree with rebranding the name due to Ramadan holding religious significance. Also to change the time of the year as it also disturbs worshippers during the holy month c</p>
<p>Cancel the whole thing. Calling it Ramadan nights is offensive to myself and many Muslims who love in Lakemba</p>

<p>While the council's claimed intention in changing the name appears to be coming from a genuine place, it serves as erasure of the Muslim identity of the event, and thus the Muslim community. Night markets are common during Ramadan in Muslim countries and localities. They can't be divorced from the context.</p>
<p>If the council wants to change the name and remove any religious affiliation to it, then have the courtesy of changing the dates and not continue to hold in in the holy month of Ramadan.</p>
<p>I suggest to make event every 3 month in weekend to support the area, that's will make pressure less to the area and instead pushing the people to come in one month they will have different time during the year</p>
<p>Please think about the community when making these decisions.</p>
<p>Ramadan nights started without you, and will open elsewhere if you make such ridiculous changes that actually brings some tourism to the area.</p>
<p>Keep the name to Ramadan nights. For Christmas carols in Bankstown is not call Bankstown carols or Easter show in not called Homebush show. There is a religious identity behind it don't pick and choose when you want to remove a cultural or religious identity</p>
<p>Don't change the name. Keep Ramadan in the name</p>
<p>It's insulting to think that during these political unrest and attacks on Muslims in the middle east and with a council that has Muslim councillors representatives, it coincidentally now believes the 'Ramadan nights' should change to 'Lakemba night'.</p> <p>The event is to celebrate Islamic calendar festive month of RAMADAN.</p> <p>No qualm with what ever council wants to charge stall holders as council always is seeking some financial incentive etc and timing hours etc is important as it affects other residents in the area.</p> <p>But to change the name....</p> <p>What an absolute farce.</p> <p>If you want to change the name, change the date.</p> <p>Make it 3 day or 1 week festival post Ramadan and call it a cultural celebration.</p> <p>This event as Ramadan nights has generated world wide positive attention for the region. We always get negative feedback on our community and the one event that brings Australians from all walks of life is being changed to meet the political and power brokers influence from outside region, State level and even Federal level to take away the enjoyment of a wonderful multi-faiths and multicultural event that UNITED us as Australians through food, acts of worship and diversity.</p> <p>A very inconsiderate decision that is a MASSIVE SLAP IN THE FACE TO OUR COMMUNITY.</p> <p>So out of touch and missing the purpose of unification and solidarity that this event was creating as it was known as RAMADAN NIGHTS.</p> <p>In simple terms let's also just take Christmas carols in the park away and call it happy holidays carols or even worse Bankstown carols or Paul Keating park carols.</p> <p>Don't stop there, let's call the Easter show the Royal show why don't we...</p> <p>Absurd decision making process.</p> <p>See the stupidity in such name change for an event that attracts 1 million Australians to Lakemba.</p>
<p>The date should change to outside Ramadan. It's great that the name has been changed but the date needs to change also</p>
<p>I would prefer Lakemba nights to Not be during Ramadan.</p>
<p>Please consider the needs of the Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan and the needs for them to have available retail food after sunset. Days will get longer so will fasting and retail food needs to open late for 30 days not 4 days a week</p>
<p>Again, this is one of the most successful street festivals in Sydney. Council have responded to this by trying to scale back the event and by trying to discourage stallholders. How on earth is this the way Council should be behaving? Racism pure and simple, this wouldn't be happening if it were a Catholic festival.</p>
<p>The Ramadan Nights festival being drastically scaled back next year to a few nights a week with reduced hours and increased cost for stall holders makes one question how this is consistent with the state government's direction towards transforming Sydney into a vibrant night economy. What was previously a fantastic example of a night time economic activity is now a victim of it's own success and in typical Sydney fashion must be restrained and reduced. It also disregards the current cost of living crisis which with increased stall costs ultimately resulting in pricier food options. It also shows large inconsistencies in state and local government policy making. It is no wonder Sydney struggles to reach its potential when there are so many obstacles to overcome to become a truly global city.</p>

<p>Do not remove the Month of Ramadhan from this festival... it will make no sense whatsoever anymore! People are attached to it and it brings unity to the Muslim community because it brings together everyone for this Islamic month.</p> <p>Would you no longer call the Easter show - the Easter show?! Makes no sense to me and I see this as a direct attack on the Muslim community in the area - and the significance of Islam to them...</p> <p>And please don't over involve yourself in this community matter - it was so innocently and peacefully existing for years until the council got itself involved... instead of facilitating the event for the community (and it is open to all others as well) - to the community it looks like the council is just putting up barriers, becoming controlling and wants to take over the community event.</p>
<p>Crowd control and a free parking area would be great</p>
<p>Do ticket entry and charge people!!!!!!</p> <p>I try to go to late night doctors on that street i have a disability and cant walk. I am also sensitive to light and noise. There are residents with autism and sensitivity. Please make this as strict as possible. Please make sure the stalls follow strict hygiene and sanitation as i saw some disgusting stuff, no gloves, picking nose etc. make sure its heavily surveilled. Make sure theres ample parking. Make space infront of doctors. Thankyou for doing something about this. Thankyou so so much!!!!</p>
<p>move it to Perry park, having it in the main street hurts people who live around the streets. I live in Moreton st and its a nightmare to even get a car spot yet be able to sleep after 11pm every night because people just yell and scream or there is so much traffic. if we did it from 5pm-10pm thur and Sunday nights and 5pm-11pm Frid and Sat it will help people who live around the area to get a car spot when people leave and then people will be able to sleep. This festival hurts us all but no one seems to do anything about it. If you can listen to us and change the days and the times then it might help us. But moving it to Perry park, you would be able to charge the stalls the money and it would be an open space for people to eat and hang out and you could place seating areas so then people will stay longer for the event..</p>
<p>those all sound like excellent changes.</p>

From the above table, Google Translate was used to translate the following submission into English:

### Food quality and food prices.

### **Appendix B: Direct Emails**

<p><b>Feedback</b></p>
<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As a non-Muslim resident of Lakemba for nearly 20 years, I am APPALLED at the thought of the council removing the word "Ramadan" from this event. This event has a long history from BEFORE the council acquired it and by changing the name you are not only attempting to erase the history of the event, the hard work of the Muslim community in building it into an enormously successful event that draws people from all over Sydney but you are also whitewashing the event and perpetuating the Islamophobia you should be protecting your community from. During a time of significant persecution of the Muslim community all over the world, whether intended this way or not, you are telling the community you don't support them, their religious freedom and don't see the beauty in their cultural customs that make this event so special.</p> <p>If you are concerned that having "Ramadan" in the name might deter racist and bigoted Sydney-siders from wanting to come to the event, good, we don't want them coming to our community anyway. We are one of the most culturally diverse LGAs in the country and as our representatives you should be proud of that, not trying to hide it.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>

<p>Hi  Thank you for your email. We appreciate the changes especially not being dependent on the shop keepers space on footpath.  Can you pls inform us when your expression of interest for stall holders open?  Thank you</p>
<p>Hi <i>[name removed]</i>  THANK YOU FOR YOUR E-MAIL ,I HOPE THAT 2025 LAKEMBA NIGHTS FESTIVAL WILL BE BETTER THAN 2024 WHICH CAUSED TOO MUCH INCONVENIENCE AND STRESS AND PRESSURE ON HALDON STREET RESIDENTS</p>
<p>Hi there,</p> <p>It was a real relief to note the reduced days during Ramadan month. However, I would strongly recommend to monitor the parking of the vehicles in front of the residents driveway and blocking the driveways etc.. I note there was rangers implementing this in order in last years but it was not enough to cover whole period. I would suggest to assign a ranger for a section of a road all the time during festive time to ensure the residents are not blocked to enter to their own residences. Thanks.</p>
<p>Stop this hassle.</p>
<p>Sounds good, I like the idea. I'm very keen.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>
<p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p>
<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Please stop the Lakemba nights celebration, it is extremely noisy, loud and buzzing and inappropriately programmed in a month of Worship, contemplation and calmness.</p> <p>Another month can be used for the purpose and may even gather more people ( many of whom have never gone there because it's a month of worship not festivity and who would otherwise have attended) and this will be in keeping with the change of name to Lakemba nights.</p>