



## DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

Media Release

3 November 2021

### **NSW PARLIAMENT LIGHTS UP TO CELEBRATE DIWALI**

NSW Parliament House will be bathed in a beautiful spectrum of colour on Thursday, 4 November to celebrate Diwali, also known as the festival of lights.

Diwali, celebrated from Tuesday until Saturday by Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities, means “rows of lights” and represents the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance.

Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly Jonathan O’Dea MP said as the sun sets on Macquarie Street, Australia’s first Parliament will shine brightly in recognition of the annual religious festival celebrated by Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities.

“The festival will be particularly meaningful for many members of the Australian-Indian community this year as they can come together more easily as COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings are lifting,” said Mr O’Dea.

“The Parliament represents everyone in NSW and lighting up the building is a powerful reminder of our unity and diversity.”

Families often decorate their homes, offer prayers and exchange gifts during the festival.

President of the Legislative Council Matthew Mason-Cox MLC said lighting up the home of democracy is a fitting way for the Parliament to participate in Diwali.

“We hope our building can be a place of inclusivity, and the lights express appreciation to the Indian-Australian community who contribute so much to our state,” said Mr Mason-Cox.

“I wish everyone celebrating Diwali peace, harmony and happiness.”