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## Protest Group Defies Sydney Bridge Ban

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A pro-Palestine activist group has vowed legal action after New South Wales police blocked plans for a mass march across Sydney Harbour Bridge this weekend. The Palestine Action Group insists their demonstration “must go ahead” despite authorities rejecting the proposed route on safety grounds. Deputy Police Commissioner Peter McKenna stated alternative protest locations remain open for negotiation, but organizers remain defiant.

The group's spokesperson Josh Lees condemned the decision, citing humanitarian concerns in Gaza as justification for disruptive protests. Organizers had initially offered to delay the bridge march by one week, then extended to three weeks if authorities cooperated. However, Premier Chris Minns firmly rejected closing the iconic bridge "for any circumstances," emphasizing the strain on government resources while acknowledging community concerns about the Middle East conflict.

Controversy surrounds the protest plans as some Labor figures break ranks to support demonstrators. Former parliamentary secretary Anthony D'Adam, removed by Minns for criticizing police tactics at previous rallies, argued the disruption fears were exaggerated. Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore also urged compromise, suggesting authorities accommodate public sentiment through negotiated arrangements. These divisions highlight the political tensions surrounding protest management in volatile times.

As the standoff continues, this confrontation tests the balance between protest rights and public order. The activist group's legal threat could force courts to weigh free assembly against traffic chaos in Australia's largest city. With both sides digging in, the outcome may set important precedents for handling mass demonstrations during contentious geopolitical conflicts. One certainty remains Sydney's streets will stay contested ground as long as the Gaza conflict persists.