

24-HOUR ECONOMY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (VIBRANCY REFORMS) BILL 2025

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?

The aim of this Bill is to make legislative amendments to increase the vibrancy of the night-time economy by improving patron and staff safety, streamlining processes to remove outdated liquor licensing conditions, increasing operating and trading hour flexibility, and making other administrative measures and drafting error corrections. These changes will be supported by complementary Regulation amendments including to support live music.

This Bill is a continuation of the *24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2023*, which passed NSW Parliament in November 2023 and the *24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2024*, which passed NSW Parliament in October 2024.

This Bill seeks to amend the:

- *Liquor Act 2007*
- *Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007*
- *24-Hour Economy Legislation Amendment (Vibrancy Reforms) Act 2024*

The Bill forms part of a broader package of reform, including non-legislative initiatives, to help support cultural activity, the night-time economy and deliver on the NSW 24-Hour Economy Strategy. The proposed reforms in this package continue the Government's work to ensure the regulatory framework is fit-for-purpose and meets contemporary community expectations.

These reforms also act on feedback provided by local government, NSW Government agencies and industry stakeholders to optimise NSW regulatory frameworks.

Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?

The NSW Government is committed to supporting venues across all NSW to reach their full entertainment, economic and creative potential, especially at night.

These reforms focus on additional support for live music, performance and hospitality venues, improving safety for patrons and staff in hospitality venues and further modernising the regulatory framework for licensed venues.

A fit-for-purpose regulatory ecosystem that is responsive to changing community expectations will help grow the night-time economy in NSW. As the NSW Productivity and Equality Commissioner found, a healthy night-time economy provides economic, social and mental health benefits.

These reforms focus on continuing the diversification of night-time activity, including the growth of cultural performance, and provide a safe environment for patrons and staff.

Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the bill?

The Bill forms part of a broader package of reform, including non-legislative initiatives, to progress the Government's reform agenda. As such, limited options analysis was completed.

Where alternatives were considered and tested through stakeholder consultation (such as alternative legislative mechanisms, policy options, guidelines and guidance materials), it was concluded that they would likely have minimal effect on the program objectives or would present additional cost to government.

Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?

The 2025-26 NSW Budget provided funding to support the development of vibrant, safe, and diverse night-time precincts across the State and the delivery of the NSW 24-Hour Economy Strategy.

If these amendments do not proceed, the ensuing cost of overlapping regulation and red tape will continue to disrupt the hospitality and creative industries' abilities to meet their full potential. It will also fail to realise NSW Government efficiencies presented by streamlining regulation.

Pathway: What is the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?

The broader Tranche 3 package of reforms has been developed, and its implementation will be monitored, by a cross-government Steering Committee and Working Group convened by The Cabinet Office and the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, with members comprising Liquor & Gaming NSW, Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Office of Local Government, NSW Health, NSW Police Force, Transport for NSW, Create NSW, Environment Protection Authority and Department of Customer Service.

The Bill will be introduced to the NSW Parliament in the week of 14 October 2025. If enacted, most provisions will commence upon assent, with a small number on proclamation, and one on 1 December 2025.

Complementary amendments to the *Liquor Regulation 2018* and the *Gaming and Liquor Administration Regulation 2024*, will progress to the Executive Council following the passage of the *24-Hour Economy Legislation (Vibrancy Reforms) Amendment Bill 2025*.

Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?

The cross-government Vibrancy Regulatory Reforms Steering Committee coordinated feedback and input from member agencies, as well as other relevant NSW Government agencies.

Notably, Liquor & Gaming NSW undertook a consultation process on the liquor licensing amendments with key stakeholders, such as peak industry bodies and health advocacy groups.

The Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner facilitated a workshop with industry, council and other government agencies representatives to identify barriers, improvements, and opportunities within the current regulatory environment. Industry stakeholders were broadly supportive of the reforms, with changes made to some reforms to respond to feedback.

In addition, the changes proposed to support a safer environment for employees and patrons, were informed by a May 2025 Roundtable on the *Safety of women and gender diverse people in the hospitality workforce* co-chaired by the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner and the Women's Safety Commissioner.