

Agreement in Principle

Mr JOHN AQUILINA (Riverstone—Parliamentary Secretary) [10.18 a.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now agreed to in principle.

Today I bring before the House a bill to amend the Sydney Olympic Park Authority Act 2001. This bill supports the New South Wales Government's intention that Sydney Olympic Park be the State's premier event precinct and our commitment to build on the legacy of the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games to create a modern and vibrant town centre at Olympic Park. Amendments to the Act were required to reflect changes and ongoing development at the park: altering the Act's wording to reflect the introduction of residential development within the park, amendments to clarify the objects and functions of the authority, and protecting the name "Sydney Olympic Park".

These amendments deal with noise management issues and support the holistic plan for the future of Sydney Olympic Park as the newest suburb of Sydney. This bill will provide legal protection for Sydney Olympic Park's status as the State's premier event destination, allowing major events to proceed without the potential for noise-related litigation to be used to impede that status. The noise-related amendments are consistent with other major event precinct legislation for both Luna Park and Mount Panorama. This does not imply that noise control will cease at the park—far from it. It will still be a requirement for events to be consistent with the approved Event Noise Management Framework Plan for Sydney Olympic Park.

The consent authority to the noise management plan is the Director General of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, which allows for an objective and independent overview of the plan as well as implementation of any required changes. This is the same framework that has successfully managed events such as U2 concerts, State of Origin, André Rieu concerts and a myriad of other events. This amendment will not affect noise management of the Sydney 500 V8 Supercar race, which is governed by the Homebush Motor Race Authority Act. Importantly, the bill is reserved for major events, for example, those designed for more than 10,000 patrons.

Maximum noise limits still apply. We have a responsibility to residents and businesses to adhere to the prescribed legal decibel limit. Another physical provision to limit noise includes smarter urban planning, with buildings acting as noise barriers between the event precinct and residential developments. These amendments are designed to allow Sydney Olympic Park to continue to be Sydney's epicentre of major public events. This bill is introduced to support the growth and development of the precinct, essentially setting up a framework that supports and protects the continued success of commercial operations whilst also supporting the establishment of a new residential population at Sydney Olympic Park. It is about making sure potential residents move into the area with their eyes wide open.

This is an important amendment in Sydney Olympic Park's development as a premier place of sport, recreation and entertainment, and a centre of jobs and of homes for the people of western Sydney. The introduction of this bill forms part of the Rees Government's commitment to ensure Sydney Olympic Park becomes a vibrant centre within metropolitan Sydney. I commend this bill to the House.