



Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Assault and Intoxication) Bill 2014 Liquor Amendment Bill 2014

Extract from NSW Legislative Council Hansard and Papers Thursday 30 January 2014.

Second Reading

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER (Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) [2.24 p.m.]: I move:

That these bills be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Liquor Amendment Bill 2014 and Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Assault and Intoxication) Bill 2014 is to make our streets safer by introducing new measures to tackle drug- and alcohol-related violence. Recent months have seen a number of serious violent alcohol- and drug-fuelled assaults in the Sydney central business district [CBD] and elsewhere that shocked the community across the State and, indeed, across the nation. The New South Wales Government has heard the community's call for action. We are committed to continuing to address drug- and alcohol-fuelled attacks on our streets and the increase in violence used in those attacks.

On 21 January 2014, the Premier announced the Government's response to alcohol-related violence. That response outlined a broad range of tough measures designed to tackle alcohol- and drug-related crime and antisocial behaviour in the Sydney CBD and across New South Wales. As the Premier and the Government have continued to say, there is no single or simple cure-all for these problems. However, I am confident that these reforms will make a significant difference in tackling drug- and alcohol-fuelled violence on our streets. An amendment has been made to the Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Assault and Intoxication) Bill 2014 in the other place to make it abundantly clear that a person subject to a mandatory minimum sentence for the aggravated offence of one punch will serve a non-parole period of at least eight years in prison. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of the second reading speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The measures announced today build on the targeted approach to tackling drug- and alcohol-fuelled violence that we adopted since coming to government. Our reforms to date have included putting an extra 420 police officers on our streets since December 2011; implementing a three-strikes licensing scheme, targeting irresponsible venues; trialling sobering-up centres in Kings Cross, Coogee and Wollongong; introducing a plan of management for Kings Cross that includes new late-night transport options, tough new licence conditions for licensed premises, drink restrictions and new security measures; passing new laws that allow for offenders to be banned from licensed venues in Kings Cross, that provide for the use of drug detection dogs in the area without police requiring a warrant and that will result in identification [ID] scanners being used in high-risk Kings Cross venues; strengthening the violent venues scheme, which applies special conditions to the State's most violent venues; extending liquor freezes in Oxford Street Darlinghurst and Kings Cross; and launching a multimedia advertising campaign aimed at warning of the dangers of excessive and binge drinking.

The introduction of those reforms has coincided with, according to the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research [BOCSAR], a reported reduction in alcohol-related violence across the State. However, more needs to be done to improve the safety and amenity of the Sydney central business district, particularly late at night, and that is the basis of these measures. The Government's tough and comprehensive package to tackle this problem will send a strong and consistent message that alcohol- and drug-fuelled violence will not be tolerated. Together, the Liquor Amendment Bill 2014 and Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Assault and Intoxication) Bill 2014 will give effect to the Government's reforms to tackle drug- and alcohol-related violence. The Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Assault and Intoxication) Bill 2014 promotes personal responsibility of offenders. The Liquor Amendment Bill 2014 strengthens the Government's existing management approach to licensing.