

Liquor & Gaming NSW

Report on Parliamentary priorities

Statutory report required under Part 11 of the
Liquor Act 2007 - Part A

30 October 2023

www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Background..... | 2 |
| Parliamentary priorities..... | 2 |
| Developing further incentives to encourage live music..... | 3 |
| Streamlining application processes and encouraging live music..... | 3 |

Background

This report includes Parliamentary reporting requirements as set out by Part 11 of the *Liquor Act 2007* (the Act). Part A of this report is in relation to section 163, and Part B of this report is in relation to section 163A.

Part A – this report

Under section 163 of the Act, the Minister for Gaming and Racing is required to provide a report to Parliament on:

- the progress on the Parliamentary priorities to streamline liquor licensing and planning approvals and the development of live entertainment incentives (section 163); and
-

Part B – available from the NSW Parliament website

Under section 163A of the Act the Minister for Gaming and Racing is required to provide a report to Parliament on:

- the effectiveness of the reduction of fees and the extension of trading hours for dedicated live music and performance venues as well as report on a number of other initiatives included in the *Liquor Amendment (Night-time Economy) Act 2020* for the financial year 2022–2023.

Parliamentary priorities

Arts, culture and creative activity contributes more than \$120 billion to the economy in greater Sydney. The creative sector makes up 10% of the workforce in NSW. The NSW Government is committed to helping our artists, performers and creative workers grow, flourish and enliven Sydney and NSW, day and night.

Sydney alone is missing out on \$16 billion a year because its night-time economy has been limited by slow, overlapping regulations¹. For example, the current liquor licensing and planning approvals processes can be lengthy, complex and administratively burdensome. The processes can, at times, be inefficient and cause delays and uncertainty for venues trying to cater to their communities.

The NSW Government made a number of election commitments to restore vibrancy in NSW.

Many of these election commitments will further streamline liquor licensing and planning approvals and expand live entertainment incentives to support dedicated live music and performance venues.

A vibrant night life can increase the attraction of cities, boosting local populations, visitations and stimulate growth in local economies. The Government recognises that the regulation of night-time economy activities needs to be fit-for-purpose and responsive to changing community expectations.

Reforms to encourage live music and streamline application processes

In late 2022, Liquor & Gaming NSW released a Discussion Paper which included several reform options focused on streamlining the approval processes for licensing and planning applications and encouraging live entertainment. Public consultation closed in late 2022.

Some of the reforms have been developed and incorporated into a package of reforms announced by the NSW Government to implement several vibrancy and nightlife related election commitments made in March 2023.

These reforms have been developed in consultation with key government agencies to bring sector regulation into line with contemporary going out behaviours, eliminate inefficient government processes, and enable more people to go out, closer to home.

The changes will be delivered through six areas of reform:

1. Sensible venue sound management

A single noise complainant will no longer be able to shut down a venue. The NSW Government will establish Liquor and Gaming NSW as the sole regulator of entertainment sound-related complaints for licensed premises, to streamline the complaints process from a current duplicative and multiple agency approach.

2. Vibrant, coordinated precincts

The success of the Enmore Road Special Entertainment Precinct, now rated one of the best going out districts in the world, will be expanded to other areas via a new framework for councils that makes it easier for them to deliver vibrant, safe going-out destinations supported by adequate and reliable transport and good lighting.

3. An activated outdoors

COVID-19 showed us that Sydney is a city that does alfresco well. The reforms will permanently relax the rules for outdoor dining allowing venues to make the most of their outdoor space with a quicker, light-touch application process.

Councils will also be supported to ease the way for creatives and community groups to stage pop-up events and festivals, including street closures and global pre-approvals for event sites.

¹ Deloitte Imagine Sydney: Play, 2019, <https://www.deloitte.com/au/en/Industries/infrastructure/perspectives/imagine-sydney.html>

4. Improving the night-time sector for workers

The amenity of the city shouldn't be reduced because of the hours people work. The 24-Hour Economy Commissioner will develop a plan to make our state a better place to work for those who do not work 9 to 5.

5. Licensing

A common-sense approach to risk will be adopted in relation to liquor regulation, removing outdated rules, and beginning work to streamline planning and licensing processes.

More efficient consultation will make it easier for venues to open and diversify, and for communities to have their say, plus meaningful incentives for venues to feature live music and performances will drive new employment opportunities for creatives and entertainment options for audiences.

6. Empowering the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner to deliver a sustainable, thriving night-time economy

NSW is the first jurisdiction in the world to appoint a 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, and the role will now be made a statutory appointment with an expanded remit beyond Greater Sydney to make this a permanent priority for the government.

The Commissioner will continue to be responsible for ensuring that as these reforms are implemented, fun does not come at the expense of a safe night out.

Liquor & Gaming NSW

4 Parramatta Square
Parramatta NSW 2150

GPO Box 7060
Sydney NSW 2001

Office hours:
Monday to Friday
9.00am — 4.00pm

T: 1300 024 720
E: contact.us@liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au
W: www.liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au
