



MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW KINGS CROSS LAWS PASS UPPER HOUSE

Minister for Hospitality, George Souris, has welcomed the passing of legislation today aimed at curbing alcohol-fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour in Kings Cross.

The *Liquor Amendment (Kings Cross Plan of Management) Bill 2012* will enable the implementation of further actions, including liquor licence restrictions, announced by the NSW Government on 15 August and 18 September, 2012, has passed the Legislative Council and will be implemented in time for the summer holidays next month.

“The Bill implements Stage One of the NSW Government’s response to address alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour in Kings Cross.

“That response includes conditions which will be imposed by way of regulation on licensed premises in the newly defined Kings Cross precinct,” Mr Souris said.

Mr Souris said the principal legislation:

- Expands the geographic boundaries for the Kings Cross precinct to cover an area beyond that currently covered by the Kings Cross freeze on new liquor licences;
- Extends the liquor licence freeze for the expanded Kings Cross area until December 2015;
- Excludes small venues, with 60 or less patrons from the freeze;
- Requires all Kings Cross licensees, bar staff and security personnel to transition to a Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) competency card by 1 March 2013, thereby ensuring they have up to date knowledge of RSA requirements;
- Allows conditions to be imposed by regulation on licensed venues within the new expanded Kings Cross precinct by the Director General of the NSW Trade & Investment.

The conditions that will be imposed by regulation will reinforce existing requirements applying to Kings Cross venues relating to:

- Prevention of entry to outlaw motorcycle gang members;
- Promotion of late night transport;
- Clearance of street litter; and
- Ensuring patrons are aware of “fail to leave” offences in the liquor laws.

New conditions are also proposed to be included in the regulation which will require:

- Preservation of a crime scene;
- Maintenance of incident registers;
- Cessation of liquor supply 60 minutes prior to closing (for venues trading beyond 2am);
- Restrictions on the sale of certain drinks (e.g. shots) after midnight on weekends to mitigate the rapid consumption of alcohol;
- Ban on glass containers after midnight;
- RSA Marshals in venues after midnight on weekends; and
- Operation of CCTV systems for higher risk premises.

“The Government is taking decisive action to clean up Kings Cross and make it safe for the public. The passing of this legislation proves we are serious,” Mr Souris said.

He said that some of the proposed conditions vary from those announced in August and was an appropriate outcome given the significant expansion of the area and the extra licensed premises that will be subject to these strict conditions.

“Some of these premises are lower risk venues which do not present the same level of risk posed by larger, late trading hotels and nightclubs. A number of other factors have also been taken into account, including advice from the Director-General of NSW Trade & Investment following receipt of submissions from licensees..

“The Director-General will also have the power to request data from licensees about the amount of alcohol sold or supplied for consumption on the premises for specified hours to help inform future policy making.

“The Director-General may also grant exemptions, but only in limited circumstances; for example, the prohibition on glass containers after midnight and drink restrictions. An exemption to the CCTV requirements can only be sought by restaurants.

“However, there are strict controls governing exemptions, including a requirement for other measures to be in place and that any exemption is unlikely to result in an increase in alcohol-related violence or anti-social behaviour in the Kings Cross precinct.

“Conditions relating to Responsible Service of Alcohol Marshals and CCTV systems will start later in December so that licensees have sufficient time to meet requirements.

“This is a whole-of-Government approach that shows our determination to send a strong message to would-be trouble-makers that their violent and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated and to venue operators that they must do more to ensure the safety of patrons.

“The new regulations will be closely monitored to ensure they are effective and if necessary will be further refined,” Mr Souris said.

Once gazetted, a copy of the Regulations and explanatory information will be available on the website of the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (www.olgr.nsw.gov.au).