



Hon. George Souris M.P
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing
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MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY LIQUOR LICENCE FREEZE EXTENDED

A freeze on new liquor licences and related development applications in entertainment precincts in the City of Sydney will be extended for another six months, Minister for Hospitality, George Souris, announced today.

Mr Souris said the extension of the freeze in Darlinghurst, Kings Cross and the southern Sydney CBD until the end of the year to allow a density study to be completed, means certain new liquor licences will not be issued during that period.

“The liquor freeze on new licences, which applies to Kings Cross, Darlinghurst and Sydney City’s south, is one of a range of measures designed to combat alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and violence in Sydney’s entertainment areas,” Mr Souris said.

The liquor freeze was introduced by the previous Government in 2008 and has already been extended twice.

The freeze restricts the expansion of trading hours and patron capacity for some existing licensed premises as well as prohibiting new hotel, club, nightclub, producer/wholesaler and packaged liquor licences.

“The Liberals and Nationals Government is committed to introducing new measures to reduce the negative impact of alcohol on local communities, including through initiatives such as strengthening ‘Move On Powers’, introducing the new offence of ‘Intoxicated and Disorderly’, and the ‘Three Strikes’ disciplinary scheme.

“The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) last year commissioned research into the relationship between liquor licence density and alcohol-related issues and will help inform future policy making. This study is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

“The Government will also consider other measures that can be implemented to further strengthen the regulation of licensed venues that allow alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour.

Mr Souris said the NSW Government would not tolerate irresponsible licensed venue operators and excessive consumption of alcohol or the unacceptable impacts it has on local communities

“The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (ILGA) cannot approve a new liquor licence unless it is satisfied that the overall social impact of the licence will not be detrimental to the well-being of the local or broader community,” Mr Souris said.

“ILGA takes into account a range of matters when assessing a liquor licence application, including the proposed trading hours, proximity to hospitals, schools, churches and parks, issues raised during the public consultation process, density of licensed venues in the immediate area, and local demographics and alcohol-related crime statistics.

“Local councils also have to approve any development applications for new licensed venues.”

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