



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday 23 July, 2012

### **PHASE 1 OF KINGS CROSS AUDIT COMPLETE**

Minister for Hospitality, George Souris, has announced that the first phase of the audit of late trading licensed venues in Kings Cross which began last Tuesday night (17 July) has now been completed.

“The Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing (OLGR) inspectors have visited 45 venues in Kings Cross which are currently trading, recording details of their incident and responsible service of alcohol (RSA) registers as well as interviewing licensees and checking the adequacy of the venues’ CCTV coverage,” Mr Souris said.

“I am advised that inquiries have revealed substantial variations in the levels of incident reporting and CCTV coverage between venues. In terms of incident reporting, comparisons will need to be made with official incident data and reports held by police and BOCSAR before it can be determined whether there has been any under-reporting of incidents”.

Mr Souris said the analysis of information collected, including data comparisons with police and BOCSAR records and the development of individual venue profiles is a substantial effort that will be done as quickly as possible, but will need to occur alongside OLGR’s other ongoing regulatory activities.

“However, this will be a valuable exercise that will help provide a clear picture of venue peak trading nights, capacities, target demographics, CCTV coverage, incident reporting, responsible service of alcohol (RSA) register standards, security and alcohol management plans and any identified risks.

“This will help identify any trends that may be occurring at individual venues as well as on a precinct-wide basis and help inform the adequacy of existing licence conditions and precinct controls.

“If deficiencies are confirmed through this project we will have a proper evidence base from which to consider further regulatory measures at Kings Cross, including further possible licence conditions being imposed both on a precinct-wide basis and on individual licensed venues”.

Mr Souris has congratulated OLGR on its efforts and has assured the community that authorities are working hard to ensure licensed venues are operating safely and responsibly across the State.

OLGR carried out 1,557 audits of licensed venues across NSW last financial year, detecting 3,031 breaches of liquor, gaming and registered club laws, resulting in the issuing of 2,619 compliance notices, 379 penalty notices and 33 court prosecutions.

“Both OLGR and NSW Police will be jointly conducting many more overt and covert operations at Kings Cross and other high risk locations in NSW to enforce the liquor laws,” Mr Souris said.