

NSW Government response to the Sydney Night-Time Economy Roundtable

DECEMBER 2016

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Introduction

The NSW Government is committed to growing a vibrant, safe and strong night-time economy for Sydney's residents and visitors.

In the year to September 2015, 9.2 million domestic overnight visitors visited Sydney, while there were 3.1 million international visitors during the same period. An estimated 610,000 people come into the city every day to work, shop, eat, visit attractions, be entertained or to conduct business.

A vibrant, safe and growing night-time economy is important for social and economic reasons. For Sydney to have a truly vibrant night-time economy, it must appeal to a broad demographic mix that includes young people, families, older people, domestic and international visitors who want to participate in the city's night-life and cultural activities. These include major cultural events, such as the Sydney Festival, Vivid and Mardi Gras, as well as film festivals and smaller bespoke events, which help bring Sydney to life and reinforce Sydney's status as a major global city.

The night-time economy generally involves social and business activities that take place from 6pm-6am. These include retail, theatre, film, culture, education, service industries, restaurants, hotels, clubs, cafes, small bars, markets, sport, live music, concerts, festivals and other events.

The NSW Government's response to the Night-Time Economy Roundtable Action Plan aims to grow a night-time economy that has the flexibility to adapt and innovate without undermining public safety. A night-time economy that is vibrant, strong and diverse – enhancing Sydney's standing as a global city and making the city a safe and great place to live, work and visit.

The Sydney Night-Time Economy Roundtable

The NSW Government announced on 11 February 2016 the statutory review of certain elements of the NSW liquor laws, and appointed the Hon. Ian Callinan AC QC to lead it. This review examined the effectiveness of the 1.30am lock out and 3am last drinks measures that apply in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross precincts, as well as the 10pm takeaway liquor restriction and the periodic licence fee scheme that applies across NSW. The Callinan Review report was provided to Government and published on 13 September 2016.

To help inform the Callinan Review, the NSW Government established a Roundtable to examine Sydney's night-time economy. When Government took decisive action in 2014 to address alcohol-related violence, those measures effectively 'reset' the Sydney night-time economy landscape. These Roundtables provided an opportunity to have a nuanced and deliberate discussion about what Sydney's night-time economy should look like.

Drawing participants from across business, community organisations and government agencies the Roundtable provided a platform to discuss the barriers and opportunities of Sydney's night-time economy and make recommendations for improvement. Three Roundtable meetings, and a related Youth Forum, were held between March – May 2016.

Twenty five actions were identified across seven reform areas by the Roundtable:

- governance
- planning, design and place making
- access and transport
- policing, enforcement and regulation
- cultural and behavioural change
- diversity, including the arts
- communications

The NSW Government supports the Roundtable's recommendation to establish a new entity within government with ongoing responsibility for night-time economy policy. Arts NSW, within the Department of Justice, will lead this entity and a Taskforce, consisting of key government agencies and the City of Sydney, to work with stakeholders to implement and monitor this action plan.

Response to Night-Time Economy Roundtable Actions

1. Governance

Action 1.1

Establish a new entity within Government which has ongoing responsibility to implement and monitor action plan progress and liaise with stakeholders to foster and promote Sydney's night-time economy, with regular reporting to the Deputy Premier

Response: **Supported**

Arts NSW will establish and lead a Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce comprising of key government agencies, including Health, Transport, Planning, Liquor and Gaming NSW and Destination NSW, and the City of Sydney. This Taskforce will work with stakeholders to coordinate, implement and monitor the action plan and foster a safe and vibrant night-time economy in Sydney.

It will also be responsible for providing high level advice to Government on options for implementing a number of roundtable actions – actions 2.5, 4.2, 7.1 and 7.2.

The Taskforce will report to Government via the Deputy Premier.

Timeframe: Within 1 month

2. Planning, design and place making

Action 2.1

Develop a night-time economy master plan for Sydney

Response: **Supported**

Through the Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce, the NSW Government will work with the City of Sydney and industry to develop an overarching vision and pathway to develop Sydney's night-time economy. This master plan will take into consideration current and proposed plans for Sydney and will set out objectives, examine current night-time activities and opportunities to support the economy and diversify Sydney's nightlife offering in a sustainable and safe way.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 2.2

Establish a central repository, that includes economic and visitor data, regulatory, crime and health data to inform business planning and decision making in relation to the Sydney night-time economy

Response: Supported

The NSW Data Analytics Centre, within the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, will work with agencies across government to create a central platform of key data sets relating to Sydney's night-time economy. The Data Analytics Centre provides whole of government analytics and insights to support strategic decision making and improved service delivery. This data platform will be able to provide consistent data sets to help to inform government and business decision making in relation to the Sydney night-time economy.

Timeframe: Within 6 months

Action 2.3

Develop targeted measures to support the master plan to support safer places and spaces through place activation, lighting, "pedestrianising" areas, and other crime prevention through environmental design initiatives and activating streetscapes and building frontages

Response: Supported

The master plan (2.1) will include targeted measures to support a vibrant and safe night-time economy. The Government will work closely with the City of Sydney to identify ways to improve safety through street and place activation. These measures will address identified objectives which diversify Sydney's nightlife offering across the city.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 2.4

Foster stronger management and governance of the night-time economy in areas of high activity – for instance through independent hosts supported by local government (as in Amsterdam / similar to Take Kare ambassadors)

Response: Supported

The Government's Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce (1.1) will be responsible for developing a master plan for Sydney's night-time economy. It will provide a whole-of-government approach to managing and fostering a strong and safe night-life in Sydney. It will include specific measures to improve safety and provide assistance and support for people late at night.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 2.5

Review planning controls relating to entertainment precincts, to avoid high concentrations of licensed venues and related cumulative impacts

Response: **Supported-in-principle**

The Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce (1.1) will investigate planning controls to ensure they are designed to avoid high concentrations of licensed venues and the related cumulative impacts (e.g. alcohol related violence). The Taskforce will bring forward proposals for Government consideration including any implementation and resourcing implications.

The Government notes that a liquor licence freeze is currently place in the Sydney CBD precinct for high risk liquor licences, including hotel, nightclub and packaged liquor licences. In all other areas across NSW, the liquor laws provide a statutory test for these and other high risk licensing proposals that requires the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority to be satisfied that the overall social impact will not be detrimental to the well-being of the local or broader community.

Density and the risk of alcohol-related harm are amongst the considerations of the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority when considering this statutory test.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 2.6

Activate streetscapes and building frontages

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will work with the City of Sydney and industry to investigate ways to activate streetscapes and building frontages. This could include improving city wayfinding and examining ways to minimise regulatory barriers to footpath dining for restaurants.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 2.7

Identify reforms to the planning regulations – through changes to Exempt and Complying Development (e.g. to encourage start-ups, creative and small business) and the Building Code of Australia (BCA)

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will continue to identify regulatory reforms to encourage entrepreneurs, creative and small businesses. Making NSW the easiest state to start a business is a State Priority for the Government. We are focusing on reducing or removing barriers, costs and complexity and making regulatory obligations easier to understand and implement.

The Better Regulation Division, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, is working with relevant NSW regulators and the City of Sydney to investigate 11 actions in the City of Sydney's Live Music and Performance Action Plan 2014. These actions are the

responsibility of NSW Government, and the work involves investigating ways to assist the sector by removing barriers and complexity to make it easier for venues to host live music and performance in compliance with NSW Government laws. It includes the temporary use of spaces and places for live music and performance, noise regulation, access to loading zones, user-pays policing, and liquor licensing.

The work was tabled as part of the Roundtable, and involves reform that is consistent with the Roundtable actions. This work will be progressed through the Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

3. Access and transport

Action 3.1

Establish an online app or portal to provide real time information about what's on and open and how to access

Response: Supported-in-principle

The NSW Government will conduct an audit of existing apps and portals and assess what they offer particularly in terms of integration of nightlife activity and events, and transport information.

Arts NSW is currently investigating options for a Sydney Culture Pass which would integrate ticketing and benefits across arts and cultural organisations and events in Sydney for residents, national and international visitors.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 3.2

Establish a world class wayfinding system for visitors to access public transport hubs and major facilities

Response: Supported

This action is consistent with Government policy as wayfinding at all train stations, bus stops, ferry wharves and light rail stops in the Sydney CBD has recently been upgraded.

New permanent signs are supplemented by ongoing use of pink temporary signs, in support of construction activity, special events and other types of disruption.

Coordination across wayfinding systems in the CBD is actively monitored by Transport for NSW in conjunction with stakeholders including the City of Sydney.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 3.3

Conduct and promote a trial of public transport (such as train services, night buses, ferries, light rail) to 4am on Friday and Saturday nights; informed by further data analysis, review of current late night transport options, desktop and consumer research

Response: **Noted**

Transport for NSW already provides a network of late night transport services from the city. However, for people travelling late at night, taxis and other forms of point to point transport appear to be more popular as these go direct to the customer's door. Transport for NSW also funds secure taxi ranks in Sydney late at night.

The Government notes that the Callinan Review of the liquor laws found that extending late night train services could have the unintended consequence of creating a shortage of trains during peak hour, as the maintenance of trains is required to be undertaken during periods of less demand, such as early morning.

Action 3.4

Identify ways to improve walkability and accessibility in the public domain; improve the connections between entertainment offerings to ensure lively streets connecting a range of night-time activities

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will work with the City of Sydney to identify opportunities to improve walkability access, legibility and wayfinding across the city. This work will complement action 2.6 to activate streetscapes and building frontages.

Consistent with this action, it is noted that on 20 September 2016, the pedestrian tunnel, Wynyard Walk, between Wynyard and Barangaroo opened, improving access for the 23,000 people who will be working at the new precinct, as well as the expected 30,000 daily visitors.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

4. Policing, enforcement and transport

Action 4.1

Continue support for the ongoing NSW Police approach to community engagement and policing within the precincts; work with NSW Police and relevant bodies to support a safe and vibrant night-time economy

Response: **Supported**

Police will continue to liaise closely with a range of community and industry stakeholders, including licensees, Liquor Accords, industry associations, the City of Sydney, resident and business groups in working towards a safe Sydney night-time economy.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 4.2

Promote responsible behaviour by developing messages and standards of behaviour that apply to venues and patrons; develop and promote tools and educational materials for industry

Response: **Supported-in-principle**

The Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce (1.1) will work with stakeholders to review how the NSW Government can most effectively promote responsible patron behaviour and liquor law compliance, taking into consideration existing Government and industry led programs in this space. The Taskforce will bring forward proposals for Government consideration, including any implementation and resourcing implications.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

5. Cultural and behavioural change

Action 5.1

Work with stakeholders to encourage and facilitate the use of vacant commercial spaces and public places for establishing pop-up performance and art offerings

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will investigate opportunities to use vacant government property and commercial spaces for art and cultural offerings. The Government will work with the City of Sydney to understand key learnings from their Creative Spaces program.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 5.2

Work with stakeholders to encourage and facilitate the use of publically owned land as well as privately owned spaces to enable the establishment of pop-up retail and food offerings

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will investigate opportunities to use vacant government property and commercial spaces for retail and food offerings on a short term basis.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 5.3

Actively promote the availability of range of food options at night in the precincts, for example food pop-ups/food trucks, including affordable food options

Response: Supported-in-principle

The NSW Government will investigate ways to promote the availability of food options noting that late night food venues can contribute to anti-social behaviour in some cases if not managed and operated properly. The Government will work with the City of Sydney to consider implementing key learnings from its Sydney Food Trucks program.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

6. Diversity including arts and culture

Action 6.1

Trial an increased late night retail and non-licensed premises trading program

Response: Supported-in-principle

The NSW Government will work with industry to consider opportunities and optimal environments for late-night retail trading. A trial could potentially align with a night-time festival or other event that has the capacity to attract large numbers of visitors to a specific precinct.

Timeframe: Within 6 months

Action 6.2

Facilitate the promotion and greater public awareness of the late night opening of Sydney's cultural institutions

Response: Supported

Arts NSW will work with the State Cultural Institutions, including the Sydney Opera House, the Australian Museum, the Art Gallery of NSW, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences and the State Library, as well as Carriageworks and Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, to promote existing late night programming.

The Government will also identify opportunities for program extensions throughout the year, potentially coinciding with one-off events such as Vivid Sydney.

Timeframe: Within 6 months

Action 6.3

Identify how vacant/unused spaces in the city centre and Kings Cross could be utilised for events and activities – for example markets, live music, light/art installations

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will investigate opportunities to use vacant government property, commercial spaces or unused spaces to diversify the night-time economy offering across the city on a temporary basis.

(Relates to 5.1, 5.2, 5.3)

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 6.4

Work with stakeholders to promote the activation of street frontages and look at improving processes to make it easier for places to be activated through outdoor dining and/or public art

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will work with the City of Sydney and industry to examine ways we can activate streetscapes and building frontages. This could include improving city wayfinding, public art and examining ways to minimise regulatory barriers to pathway dining.

Timeframe: Within 6 months

Action 6.5

Identify reforms necessary to the planning laws to enable the promotion and encouragement of multi-purpose venues – (i.e. book stores by day, small bar by night)

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will consider planning law reforms necessary to encourage and facilitate multi-purpose venues that would enable a business to operate a mixed day/night model. This could enable an operator, for example, to conduct a retail business during the day and a hospitality focussed business during the night. The Government will also work with industry to identify other barriers to establishing multi-purpose venues such as licensing approval processes.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 6.6

Work with stakeholders to support the night-time economy and the diverse offerings of Sydney after dark for all audiences – (i.e. arts and culture, sport, entertainment, retail, and hospitality)

Response: **Supported**

The NSW Government will work with industry to examine ways we can better support the night-time economy including developing a night-time economy master plan (2.1) and a campaign to promote Sydney's night-life (7.1).

The Better Regulation Division, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, is working with relevant NSW regulators and the City of Sydney to investigate 11 actions in the City of Sydney's Live Music and Performance Action Plan 2014.

These actions are the responsibility of NSW Government, and the work involves investigating ways to assist the sector by removing barriers and complexity to make it easier for venues to host live music and performance in compliance with NSW Government laws. It includes the temporary use of spaces and places for live music and performance, noise regulation, access to loading zones, user-pays policing, and liquor licensing.

The work was tabled as part of the Roundtable, and involves reform that is consistent with the Roundtable actions. This work will be progressed through the Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce.

Timeframe: Within 6 months

7. Communications

Action 7.1

Establish an integrated media/marketing campaign and program that promotes:

- The Sydney night-time economy as a safe and diverse place to visit for residents and visitor
- The benefits of what has been achieved in the precincts, to encourage more diverse audiences to return to the city and Kings Cross; focus on the diverse offerings of the night-time economy in the precincts, not just alcohol
- The safety of the city and Kings Cross with the reduction in violence, and encourage the community (individuals, family groups and friends) to visit and use the leisure attractions

Response: **Supported-in-principle**

The Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce (1.1) will work with stakeholders and investigate options to promote Sydney's safe and vibrant night-life to locals and visitors. Any campaign should highlight the diversity of Sydney's night-time economy across its different precincts. The Taskforce will bring forward proposals for Government consideration, including any implementation and resourcing implications.

Timeframe: Within 12 months

Action 7.2

Develop and implement a social marketing campaign to achieve cultural change / education to support responsible alcohol consumption and appropriate behaviour in the precinct after dark

Response: Supported-in-principle

The Sydney Night-Time Economy Taskforce (1.1) will work with stakeholders to examine how we can most effectively promote responsible alcohol consumption. The Taskforce will bring forward proposals for Government consideration, including leveraging existing marketing campaigns.

The NSW Government notes that any marketing campaign should complement structural interventions, such as liquor licensing requirements, noting these interventions can have a more immediate impact on consumer behaviour.

Timeframe: Within 12 months