

Fact sheet FS3141

Reforms to improve casino regulation

Reforms to the *Casino Control Act 1992* were passed by the NSW Parliament in March 2018.

Changes to the Act gives effect to the Government's response to a comprehensive review of casino regulation in NSW.

The amendments and other regulatory changes reflect a more risk-based approach that is consistent between venues, The Star and the new Crown Sydney (expected to open in 2021).

Background to the reforms

In August 2017, the NSW Government released its draft response to the Casino Modernisation Review report. The review was carried out by independent consultants The Agenda Group as part of the Government's commitment to update casino regulation to cater for a new competitive environment.

The public were invited to comment on this draft response, prior to finalisation in November 2017.

How the reforms will be rolled out

The reforms are comprehensive and will be rolled out in stages to enable new supporting regulations, stakeholder consultation and development of new internal controls, systems and processes.

Overview of the reforms

The reforms significantly update NSW's model of casino regulation and include:

- ▲ A more risk-based regulatory approach with targeted intervention and tougher penalties for serious compliance breaches.
- ▲ Lessening the regulatory burden for low-risk matters, allowing a greater focus on activities that present actual risk.

- ▲ Stronger measures to prevent and reduce gambling-related harms associated with gambling at casinos.
- ▲ Ensuring consistency in regulatory requirements for The Star's premium player offering and Crown Sydney.

Some key changes under the reforms

- ▲ Allow simultaneous statutory review of The Star and Crown Sydney.
- ▲ New penalties if a casino breaches internal controls.
- ▲ Consistent regulation of indoor smoking in both casinos' private gaming areas.
- ▲ Simplified regulatory requirements for low-risk contracts for gaming equipment.
- ▲ Reduced red tape in relation to casino special employee licensing.
- ▲ Changes to gaming operations to improve competitiveness in the premium player market.
- ▲ Allow The Star to provide credit to premium players, like Crown Sydney, while maintaining the ban on credit to Australian residents.
- ▲ Require winnings of excluded patrons to be forfeited and paid into the Responsible Gambling Fund.
- ▲ Enable a person to self-exclude from one casino or from both at the same time.
- ▲ Set a six-month minimum period for self-exclusion.
- ▲ A person excluded at the direction of the Police Commissioner would be automatically banned from both The Star and Crown Sydney
- ▲ Require any unclaimed prizes and credits to be transferred to the Responsible Gambling Fund.

Proposed reforms to improve casino regulation

Other reforms to follow

A number of Casino Modernisation Review reforms supported by the Government do not require changes to the *Casino Control Act 1992*.

The Government will roll out these regulatory reforms through changes to the regulations, approval of internal casino controls and other matters throughout 2018.

The full NSW Government response to Casino Modernisation Review can be found at liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au (PDF, 316KB).

For further information

To find out more about the proposed reforms, contact L&GNSW:

 liquorandgaming.nsw.gov.au

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