



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 14 December 2017

FESTIVE SEASON LIQUOR TRADING TIMES CONFIRMED

Licensed premises trading hours for the festive season have been confirmed with all hotels, clubs, bars and restaurants able to open until 2am for New Year's Eve and 11pm trading for takeaway sales on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Special arrangements have been needed this year due to Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve falling on a Sunday when venues have earlier standard closing times.

The changes mean venues can trade until 2am on New Year's Eve despite more restrictive Sunday night closing times that may apply under development consents.

The Government is also moving to allow hotels and clubs to open until 11pm this Christmas Eve.

Venues with extended trading on Sundays can continue to trade as usual for both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The Sydney CBD and Kings Cross restriction on patrons being admitted to venues after either 1.30am or 2am does not apply on New Year's Eve.

The 11pm trading for takeaway alcohol sales on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve will be available to businesses that can trade until 11pm on other week days. Bottle shops and other packaged liquor licensees can also open earlier from 8am on Christmas Eve.

These trading arrangements give consumers extra time to make purchases ahead of the festivities on both days.

Liquor & Gaming NSW inspectors will have a strong presence in venues across the state over the festive season to ensure everyone can enjoy safer nights out.

Key areas to be targeted include Sydney CBD and surrounds, eastern suburbs and beaches, Newcastle, Wollongong and Byron Bay.

Liquor & Gaming NSW Director of Compliance Operations, Sean Goodchild, said inspectors will be monitoring hotels, clubs, nightclubs, bottle shops and cruise vessels to check that responsible service of alcohol obligations are being met.

"We want to ensure venues provide a safe environment for people to celebrate over the festive season with the lowest possible risk of alcohol-related harm," Mr Goodchild said.

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