



Paul Toole
Minister for Racing

Don Harwin
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 22 February 2018

LOCKOUT EXEMPTION FOR MARDI GRAS PARADE

Minister for Racing Paul Toole today announced that the NSW Government will provide an exemption to lockout requirements at venues in the Oxford St area for the 40th Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade.

Mr Toole said the one-off exemption means patrons can continue to be admitted at venues in the area beyond the usual 1.30am or 2am restrictions.

It follows arrangements for other major events, like the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross lockout exemption on New Year's Eve, and extended Sunday night trading for certain hotels and registered clubs across NSW for the NRL Grand Final.

Venues will still need to cease serving alcohol at their normal times of 3am on the morning of Sunday, March 4, or 3.30am for venues with live entertainment extensions, and comply with their other licence conditions.

"The NSW Government is pleased to relax the lockout laws as part of its support for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade," Mr Toole said.

"It's an internationally-renowned event that attracts visitors from all over the world and injects around \$40 million into the NSW economy each year.

"Relaxing the requirements will give people more time to make their way to surrounding venues and events when the parade finishes."

Mr Toole said NSW Police and Liquor & Gaming NSW inspectors will be present in the Oxford Street, Kings Cross and Sydney CBD precincts to ensure venues are providing a safe environment for people to celebrate.

Minister for the Arts Don Harwin said the decision recognises the importance of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras as it celebrates an historical milestone.

"The city will come alive and this move allows businesses to take full advantage of the influx of the large crowds expected," Mr Harwin said.

"It's an important milestone for the LGBTI community and we trust everyone will have a safe evening celebration."

MEDIA: Ashley Gardiner | Minister Toole | 0429 063 494
William Verity | Minister Harwin | 0448 268 162