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MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY LIQUOR LICENCE FREEZE TO BE EASED

The NSW Government will lift the freeze on new liquor licences in Kings Cross and the Sydney CBD from June 1 for venues with a focus on live music, arts and culture.

Minister for Racing Paul Toole said it was the first significant change to the liquor licence freeze in Kings Cross and the CBD since 2014.

“New businesses offering live music as well as broader arts and cultural events will be able to apply to open in Kings Cross and the CBD,” Mr Toole said.

“The NSW Government is committed to developing Sydney’s night-time economy and helping the industry provide more diverse entertainment options.”

The change means the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority can consider new on-premises licence applications for dedicated live music venues as well as venues that host visual or performance arts or other cultural events.

In 2016, the NSW Government raised the patron limit from 60 to 100 across the State and extended trading times for small bars in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross from midnight to 2am.

“Small bar licence numbers have almost doubled across NSW since the reforms and they are adding to diversity of Sydney’s nightlife,” Mr Toole said.

The freeze on new liquor licences in Kings Cross and the CBD for higher-risk venues such as hotels, clubs, bars and nightclubs will be extended for a further 12 months.

Lower-risk venues such as restaurants, cinemas and small bars are already excluded from the liquor licence freeze in Kings Cross and the CBD.

Across Kings Cross and the CBD, 30 venues offering live entertainment, including hotels, bars and nightclubs, can admit patrons until 2am and serve drinks until 3.30am.

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