

Review of small bars legislation

Fact sheet

What are small bar liquor licences?

The NSW Government introduced small bar liquor licences in 2013 to encourage more diverse night-time entertainment options.

Small bars appeal to patrons seeking to enjoy a drink in a smaller, quieter and more intimate setting.

There are currently 49 NSW venues operating with small bar liquor licences.

Small bars are currently limited to 60 patrons and cannot provide gaming machines or takeaway alcohol or allow entry to minors.

Unlike higher risk venues, they generally don't need to submit a Community Impact Statement. They also pay lower licensing fees.

Why has the Government reviewed small bar liquor licences?

The review was required by legislation and will help guide future policy directions for small bars.

It has included feedback from a wide array of stakeholders including the liquor industry, local councils, police, business groups and the wider community.

The review's findings are being assessed as part of the Government's wider consideration of liquor laws including the Callinan review of 1.30am lockouts and 3am last drinks in the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross and the statewide 10pm restriction on takeaway alcohol sales.

What has the review found?

Small bars have added to the diversity of night-time entertainment and have low rates of alcohol-related violence.

The 60 patron limit and administrative complexities are limiting greater uptake of small bar licences.

Some stakeholders support raising the patron limit to make small bars more commercially viable.

There is also some support for minors being allowed in small bars for functions and other events.

What has the review recommended?

- ▲ Raise the patron limit for small bar licences from 60 to 100.
- ▲ Allow general bar and on-premises licences to convert to a small bar licence free of charge for a 12-month period following introduction of the increased patron limit, subject to development consent requirements that apply to the premises.
- ▲ Further consider whether minors should be permitted in small bars if the patron limit is increased to 100, and how the liquor licence freeze affects small bars.
- ▲ Promote the benefits of small bar liquor licences and engage with stakeholders to better inform existing and potential venue operators.
- ▲ Examine ways for quicker and simpler assessment of lower risk liquor licence applications including small bar applications.
- ▲ Cut red tape and administrative complexity including potential expansion of the Service NSW Easy-to-do-Business initiative.

Review of small bars legislation

List of small bars in NSW

| Licence name | Suburb |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Downstairs | Armidale |
| The Bellingen Brewing Company Pty Ltd | Bellingen |
| Bar Chinois | Chippendale |
| Saga Bar | Chippendale |
| Tenancy D3 | Chippendale |
| The Oxley Wine Bar | Cowra |
| Sidecar@Cremorne | Cremorne |
| 1137 Oxford | Darlinghurst |
| Cru 282 | Darlinghurst |
| Kubricks | Darlinghurst |
| Stop Valve Espresso & Bar | Darlinghurst |
| A Glass of Bubbly | East Gosford |
| Beyond Vintage Wine Bar | Leura |
| Skeeta & Jacks | Oatley |
| Titus Jones | Marrickville |
| Basement on Market Street | Newcastle |
| Coal & Cedar | Newcastle |
| Itch Social | Newcastle |
| Red Baron's | Newcastle West |
| Secret Garden | Newtown |
| The Moose Newtown | Newtown |
| Washington & Co. | Orange |
| Bar Florian | Port Macquarie |
| Cellar 8 | Pymble |
| Peg Leg | Pymont |

| Licence name | Suburb |
|---|---------------------|
| Moyas Juniper Lounge | Redfern |
| The Dock Redfern | Redfern |
| The Temperance Society Bar & Cafe Pty Ltd | Summer Hill |
| Tokyo Bird | Surry Hills |
| Barrafina Tapas | Sydney |
| Bulletin Place | Sydney |
| Burrow Bar | Sydney |
| Canvas Bar | Sydney |
| Cava on Kent | Sydney |
| Crescent Bar | Sydney |
| Grandma's | Sydney |
| Klink | Sydney |
| Nant Whisky Bar | Sydney |
| Papa Gede's | Sydney |
| PS40 | Sydney |
| Spawn Point Small Bar | Sydney |
| The Easy Eight Bar | Sydney |
| The Swinging Cat Sydney | Sydney |
| Wolf Wine Bar | Sydney |
| Mexica Cocktail Bar | Sydney Olympic Park |
| The Throsby Wollongong | Wollongong |
| Peekaboo Bar | Woolloomooloo |
| Studio General | Yamba |
| Yazzbar | Yass |