

Sydney Central – Kings Cross Precinct Liquor Accord

Background

Hassle Free Nights is a comprehensive plan to reduce alcohol-related violence and foster safer, more vibrant entertainment districts. It focuses on locally tailored solutions and a cooperative approach between NSW Police, Government agencies, councils, licensed premises, late-trading businesses and communities. Among other things, *Hassle Free Nights* provides increased late night transport options across targeted entertainment districts, new laws to reduce street drinking, powers to regulate trading hours, and the establishment of **Precinct Liquor Accords** (PLAs) in Sydney Central, Manly, Parramatta, Wollongong and Newcastle/Hamilton.

Boundary and participants

On the 6 September 2010 the Director-General of Communities NSW approved the boundaries for the Sydney Central Precinct Liquor Accord (PLA). Participants in the Sydney Central – Kings Cross PLA include 42 mandatory late trading licensed venues and a range of voluntary participants.

Mandatory participants	Voluntary participants
Aperitif Restaurant	Australian Hotels Association (NSW)
Bada Bing Night Spot	Australian Security Industry Association Limited
Beachhaus	City of Sydney Council
Bootleg Bar & Italian Restaurant	Clubs NSW
Caffe Roma Restaurant	Community representative
Candy's Nightclub	Kings Cross Licensing Accord Association Incorporated
Club Swans	Milano Food Bar
Dancers Cabaret	NSW Police – Kings Cross Local Area Command
Dreamgirls	NSW Taxi Council
Favela	Transport NSW
First Empire Hotel	
Fountain Café Restaurant	
Holiday Inn Potts Point	
Hugo's Bar Pizza	
Hugo's Lounge	
Iguana Bar & Restaurant	
Jimmy Lik's	
Ju Ju Japanese Restaurant	
Kings Cross Eye Bar	
Ladylux Nightclub	
le panic	
Mansions Hotel	
Melt Bar	
Piccadilly Hotel	
Sapphire Lounge	
Showgirls	
Sugarmill Hotel	
Tharen Restaurant & Bar	
The Crest Hotel	
The Kings Cross Hotel	
The Lincoln Bar	

Mandatory participants
The Mark Hotel Sydney
The Rouge Downunder
The World Bar
Tomatillo Mexican Grill
Tonic Lounge
Trademark Hotel
Tunnel Nightclub
Vegas Hotel
Villa
Viva Bar Pizza
Watermoon Japanese Restaurant

Measures

A Precinct Liquor Accord is a set of measures, approved by the Director-General, Communities NSW, that aim to do either or both of the following:

- To minimise or prevent alcohol-related violence or anti-social behaviour, or other alcohol-related harm, in the precinct to which the relevant liquor accord applies
- To protect and support the good order or amenity of any such precinct in connection with issues arising from the presence of, or any proposed increase in the number of, licensed premises in the precinct

The Sydney Central – Kings Cross Precinct Liquor Accord was developed by participants at meetings on 6 October and 10 November 2010, and approved by the Director-General, Communities NSW, on 25 February 2011. The final measures were based on extensive PLA participant, industry and stakeholder feedback.

Refusal of Entry code

The code will be developed in collaboration with late-trading licensed premises, NSW Police and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The code will be consistent with liquor and anti-discrimination laws. The code will be piloted for 12 months by the mandatory participants prior to evaluation.

Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Issue Refusal of Entry code, accompanied with guidance on appropriate application	Communities NSW	N/A
2.	Apply the code consistently and appropriately	Venues	

Licence condition

The licensee must ensure that any staff member required to hold an RSA certificate is aware of the 'Refusal of Entry' code.

Late night transport options

Venues will display posters reflecting late night transport times for trains and buses, and the location of the secure taxi ranks.

Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Print and distribute posters	Communities NSW	Maximum cost for the promotion is \$8,000, with 50% met by Government. Equal distribution between mandatory participants. Approximate cost is \$96 per venue.
2.	Display the late night transport options poster in prominent positions throughout the venue	Venues	

Licence condition

The licensee must:

1. promote late-night transport options within the premises, and
2. ensure that bar, wait and security staff are aware of, and can provide information on, late night transport options.

'No Excuse' postcards

The 'No Excuse' postcard notifies patrons of their responsibilities under non-voluntary exclusion provisions of the *Liquor Act 2007* by advising of:

- the circumstances in which they may be refused entry into a licensed premises
- the circumstances in which they may be asked to leave a licensed premises, and
- the criminal consequences of not undertaking the associated requirements.

Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Print 'No Excuse' postcards and distribute to licensed venues	Communities NSW and City of Sydney	N/A
2.	Distribute the 'No Excuse' postcards to patrons through RSA Hosts or other appropriate staff	Venues	
3.	Make the 'No Excuse' postcards available to patrons during peak service times by placing them in high visibility areas	Venues	

Licence condition

The licensee must:

1. promote the 'No Excuse' patron responsibility campaign within the premises, and
2. ensure that staff are aware of, and can advise patrons of, the requirements of section 77 of the *Liquor Act 2007*.

Rapid Response Security Team (in principle agreement)

This measure includes the proposed employment of ten guards on Friday nights (9pm to 5am) and 14 on Saturday nights (9pm to 6am) for one year. Communities NSW will work with key stakeholders (Police and the Accord) to develop a process and guidelines for this project.

Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Investigate legal and operational issues	Communities NSW	If approved, the anticipated maximum cost is \$570,000, with 50% met by Government. Proportionate distribution between mandatory participants: Category A participants ¹ = 60%. Cost is \$171,000 divided by 18 currently trading = \$9,500 per annum (\$183 per week). Category B participants ² = 40%. Cost is \$114,000 divided by 24 currently trading = \$4,750 per annum (\$91.40 per week)
2.	Ensure venue security works effectively with the Rapid Response security team	Venues	
3.	Work with key stakeholders (Police and the Accord) to provide operational guidelines	Communities NSW	
4.	Maintain an incident register and a record of each patrol conducted	Master licence holder for the security company selected	
5.	Liaise with Rapid Response security team at each shift and record location/activities/incidents	Kings Cross Police	

Licence condition

Not applicable.

Shared radio network

A security company (independent from the Rapid Response security company) will operate and manage a radio network between venue security and the Rapid Response Security Team. It is anticipated that the local liquor accord will manage ongoing liaison with the security company.

Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Ensure venue security participate effectively and contribute to network	Venues	Maximum cost for the radio network is \$220,000 with 50% met by Government. Equal distribution between mandatory participants. Approximate cost is \$2,619 per annum (\$50.40 per week)
2.	Work with key stakeholders (Police and PLA participants) to develop operational guidelines and the tendering process	Communities NSW	
3.	Implement operational guidelines once developed	Venues	

Licence condition

The licensee must implement and adhere to the operational guidelines for the shared radio network.

¹ Category A participants have a capacity approval of greater than 300 patrons. Currently trading Category A mandatory participants (18) are Club Swans, Dreamgirls, Favela, First Empire Hotel, Holiday Inn Potts Point, Hugo's Lounge, Iguana Bar & Restaurant, Kings Cross Hotel, Mansions Hotel, Piccadilly Hotel, Sugarmill Hotel, The Club, The Crest Hotel, The Mark Hotel Sydney, The World Bar, Trademark Hotel, Tunnel Nightclub and Vegas Hotel

² Category B participants have a capacity approval of less than 300 patrons. Currently trading Category B participants (24) are Apertif Restaurant, Bada Bing Night Spot, Beachhaus, Bootleg Bar & Italian Restaurant, Caffe Roma Restaurant, Candy's Nightclub, Fountain Café Restaurant, Hugo's Bar Pizza, Jimmy Lik's, Ju Ju Japanese Restaurant, Kings Cross Eye Bar, Ladylux Nightclub, le panic, Melt Bar, Sapphire Lounge, Showgirls, Tharen Restaurant & Bar, The Lincoln Bar, The Rouge Downunder, Tomatillo Mexican Grill, Tonic Lounge, Villa, Viva Bar Pizza and Watermoon Japanese Restaurant.

Street cleaning

Street cleaning will improve the amenity of Bayswater and Darlinghurst Roads and Victoria and Kellet Streets. The City of Sydney will monitor the need for new bins, servicing requirements for existing bins and street sweeping to address the problems of litter late at night. Venues will regularly clean outside their premises throughout the night and at the end of the night, and install external cigarette ashtrays.

Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Deploy five 120LTR bins and ensure street cleansing operations are targeted at peak times	City of Sydney	Mandatory participants to meet in-kind costs
2.	Install external cigarette ashtrays, as appropriate	Venues	
3.	Undertake regular checks outside venues to remove litter, particularly glass	Venues	

Licence condition

The licensee must ensure that the footpath directly adjacent to the licensed premises is cleared of litter:

1. each hour between midnight and closure or 5am (whichever is the earlier), and
2. within 30 minutes of closure.

RSA on the Frontline workshops

Restaurant, bar and security staff are expected to attend *RSA on the Frontline* workshops to learn practical tips, strategies and useful security practices. NSW Police (Kings Cross Local Area Command) will be invited to commit officers to assist with the workshops.

Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Develop appropriate workshop content, including restaurant and small bar focus	Communities NSW	Mandatory participants to meet in-kind costs
2.	Schedule multiple workshops to allow for maximum participation	Communities NSW	
3.	Send as many staff as possible to the workshops	Venues	
4.	Monitor the number of attendees from each venue	Communities NSW	

Licence condition

The licensee must ensure that at least one manager/supervisor and one staff member required to hold an RSA certificate attend an *RSA on the Frontline* workshop delivered by Communities NSW.

This condition only applies if the licensee has received two weeks prior written notification of the date, time and location of the workshop.

Precinct Safety Assessment (additional measure imposed by the Director-General)

The Precinct Safety Assessment will be a separate component of existing safety plans. The Assessment must articulate the responsibilities of the venue and actions being undertaken to contribute to the development of a safe and vibrant entertainment precinct.

Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Undertake a Precinct Safety Assessment by 31 March 2011	Venues	Mandatory participants to meet in-kind costs
2.	The Precinct Safety Assessment must consider, but not be limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• safe design principles• issues relating to patron capacity• mechanisms for dealing with problem patrons• management of the entry and dispersal of patrons, in particular late night arrivals.	Venues	
3.	Strategies in the assessment to be implemented by 7 April 2011	Venues	
4.	All staff to be informed of the Precinct Safety Assessment and the strategies the venue is initiating to promote a safe and vibrant entertainment precinct	Venues	
5.	A copy of the assessment entitled 'Precinct Safety Assessment' to be kept in the venue's RSA Register	Venues	
6.	Precinct Safety Assessment to be made available to local police and/or OLGR inspectors	Venues	
7.	The Precinct Safety Assessment's effectiveness is to be reviewed after three (3) months and again at intervals of six (6) months	Venues	

Licence condition

1. The licensee must prepare a Precinct Safety Assessment for the licensed premises by 31 March 2011.
2. The Precinct Safety Assessment must be systems based and adopt a continuing risk reduction approach to address:
 - a. safe design principles
 - b. issues relating to patron capacity
 - c. mechanisms for dealing with problem patrons, and
 - d. management of the entry and dispersal of patrons, in particular late night arrivals.
3. A copy of the current Precinct Safety Assessment must be maintained at the licensed premises and made available for immediate inspection by members of the NSW Police Force or inspectors from the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing.

Supplementary measures to support the Sydney Central – Kings Cross PLA

Crime Scene Preservation Procedures			
Venues are to follow a formal set of procedures for crime scene preservation in the case of a violent incident on their premises. The procedures are articulated in the 'Crime Scene Preservation Guidelines' (NSW Police, July 2010).			
Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Crime Scene Preservation Guidelines followed as required	Venue	Mandatory participants to meet in-kind costs
2.	All venue staff to be made aware of the procedures outlined in the Guidelines	Venue	
3.	Guidelines are reinforced as part of <i>RSA on the Frontline</i> training	Communities NSW	

Precinct Charter			
The Precinct Charter will focus on the key areas seen as important by precinct stakeholders. It will outline the rights and responsibilities for both customers and businesses.			
Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Draft the terms and principles of the Precinct Charter by 31 March 2011	Communities NSW in consultation with stakeholders	Mandatory participants to meet in-kind costs
2.	Seek feedback from mandatory and voluntary participants in the PLA to ensure it is tailored to local needs	Communities NSW	
3.	Support the Precinct Charter and ensure all staff are aware of it	Venue	
3.	Display a copy of the Precinct Charter in a prominent position in the venue	Venue	
4.	Communities NSW will recognise venues for supporting the Charter	Communities NSW	

Taxi Compliance and Security at Secure Taxi Ranks			
The establishment of a cross agency working group to investigate options to increase the function of the taxi ranks and the investigation of complaints and weekly compliance checks.			
Deliverables		Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution
1.	Establish a cross agency working group (local Police, NSW Transport, Taxi Council and local liquor accord) to increase effectiveness of the Bayswater Road taxi rank.	City of Sydney	N/A
2.	Thoroughly investigate complaints and continue weekly compliance checks with Kings Cross Police.	Transport NSW	

Note: Supplementary measures form part of the PLA agreement but are not licence conditions. The support of all members is sought to help enhance the safety and amenity for the precinct and to reduce the risk of harm.

