

## Sydney Central – Oxford Street 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 boundary for the Sydney Central Precinct Liquor Accord (PLA). Participants in the Sydney Central – Oxford Street PLA include 31 mandatory late trading licensed venues and a range of voluntary participants.

Mandatory participants	Voluntary participants
Alice's Thai Restaurant ARQ Sydney Beauchamp Hotel Brighton Hotel Burdekin Hotel Chingalings CLUBONESIXNINE Coco Cubano Darlinghurst Court House Hotel Despot Balkan Seafood Restaurant Doctor Pong Exchange Hotel Gaslight Inn Hotel Green Chilli's Thai Restaurant Grosvenor Club Limited Kinselas Hotel Midnight Shift Hotel Mili's Indian Restaurant Name This Bar Nevermind Nightclub Oxford Art Factory Oxford Hotel Palms on Oxford Nightclub Pink Peppercorn Raquel's Spanish Restaurant Ruby Rabbit Slide Lounge Stonewall Hotel Thaina Box Noodle Bar The Colombian Hotel The Gaff Restaurant, Bar & Nightclub	Australian Hotels Association (NSW) Australian Security Industries Association City of Sydney Council NSW Department of Justice and Attorney General NSW Police – Surry Hills Local Area Command NSW Taxi Council Restaurant and Catering NSW/ACT Surry Hills Liquor Accord Transport NSW

## **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 – Oxford Street 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.

<b>Promote Alcohol Free Zones</b>			
Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) maps listing related penalties for drinking in the area will be displayed in relevant venues.			
<b>Deliverables</b>		<b>Responsible</b>	<b>PLA Cost Contribution</b>
1.	Develop and distribute AFZ maps to relevant venues	City of Sydney	N/A
2.	Display the AFZ maps in a prominent position at the point of sale	Venues with take away sales	
3.	Install additional AFZ signage in the precinct if required	City of Sydney	
<p><b>Licence condition</b></p> <p>The licensee must ensure that staff are aware of, and can provide information on, Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) in the vicinity of the premises.</p>			

<b>Evaluation of new late night taxi rank on Oxford St (northern side), Darlinghurst</b>			
City of Sydney is trialling an additional taxi rank on the northern side of Oxford Street, near Taylor Square. The taxi rank will be trialled for six months and evaluated. The evaluation will inform whether the rank remains established beyond its six month trial.			
<b>Deliverables</b>		<b>Responsible</b>	<b>PLA Cost Contribution</b>
1.	Install appropriate signage	City of Sydney	N/A
2.	Direct people to taxi ranks, including new late night taxi rank on Oxford Street, when patrons enquire about locations	Venues	
3.	Conduct evaluation of taxi rank	City of Sydney	
<p><b>Licence condition</b></p> <p>The licensee must ensure that bar, wait and security staff are aware of, and can provide information on, late night transport options.</p>			

<b>Precinct Management Plan</b>			
The Precinct Management Plan (PMP) is an integrated policing, transport, security and cleansing plan to improve the transition between the night time economy and the day time economy in the precinct.			
<b>Deliverables</b>		<b>Responsible</b>	<b>PLA Cost Contribution</b>
1.	Facilitate meeting between stakeholders to discuss and develop the PMP	City of Sydney	Mandatory participants to meet in-kind costs
2.	Participate in the development of the PMP and implement initiatives as appropriate	Venues	
<b>Licence condition</b> Not applicable.			

<b>'No Excuse' postcards</b>			
The 'No Excuse' postcard notifies patrons of their responsibilities under non-voluntary exclusion provisions of the <i>Liquor Act 2007</i> by advising of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the circumstances in which they may be refused entry into a licensed premises</li> <li>- the circumstances in which they may be asked to leave a licensed premises, and</li> <li>- the criminal consequences of not undertaking the associated requirements.</li> </ul>			
<b>Deliverables</b>		<b>Responsible</b>	<b>PLA Cost Contribution</b>
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 promoting them in high visibility areas	Venues	
<b>Licence condition</b> The licensee must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. promote the "No Excuse" patron responsibility campaign within the premises, and</li> <li>2. ensure that staff are aware of, and can advise patrons of, the requirements of section 77 of the <i>Liquor Act 2007</i>.</li> </ol>			

### ***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 (Surry Hills Local Area Command) will be invited to commit officers to assist with the workshops.

<b>Deliverables</b>		<b>Responsible</b>	<b>PLA Cost Contribution</b>
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.*

<b>Precinct Safety Assessment</b> (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.			
<b>Deliverables</b>		<b>Responsible</b>	<b>PLA Cost Contribution</b>
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"> <li>• safe design principles</li> <li>• issues relating to patron capacity</li> <li>• management of the entry and dispersal of patrons (including problem patrons), with particular focus on queuing and late arrivals after 2:00am.</li> </ul>	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	
<b>Licence condition</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The licensee must prepare a Precinct Safety Assessment for the licensed premises by 31 March 2011.</li> <li>2. The Precinct Safety Assessment must be systems based and adopt a continuing risk reduction approach to address: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. safe design principles</li> <li>b. issues relating to patron capacity, and</li> <li>c. management of the entry and dispersal of patrons (including problem patrons), with particular focus on queuing and late arrivals after 2am.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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.</li> </ol>			

## Supplementary measures to support the Sydney Central – Oxford Street PLA

<b>Crime Scene Preservation Procedures</b>			
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).			
<b>Deliverables</b>		<b>Responsible</b>	<b>PLA Cost Contribution</b>
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	

<b>Precinct Charter</b>			
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.			
<b>Deliverables</b>		<b>Responsible</b>	<b>PLA Cost Contribution</b>
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	

## Coordinated liquor law education strategy

The liquor law education strategy will improve awareness of expectations concerning the responsible consumption of alcohol and local liquor laws within the precinct. A consistent responsible drinking message will be implemented across information that is provided to people coming to visit the Oxford Street area.

Deliverables	Responsible	PLA Cost Contribution	
1.	Coordinate cooperation between stakeholders including the Surry Hills Police, City of Sydney, Tourism NSW, New Mardi Gras Lt, ACON and the Local Liquor Accord Executive to deliver these messages	Communities NSW	Mandatory participants to meet in-kind costs
2.	Provide support and input as required	Venues	

**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.

