

Legislative Statement
for
Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Rugby World Cup 2023 Extended
Trading Hours) Amendment Bill 2023

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 272

Legislative Statement for the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Rugby World Cup 2023 Extended Trading Hours) Amendment Bill 2023

Introduction

- 1 The Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Rugby World Cup 2023 Extended Trading Hours) Amendment Bill 2023 (the Bill) temporarily amends the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 to allow eligible licensees to extend trading hours for the purposes of televising games played as part of the men's Rugby World Cup 2023, without applying for a special licence.
- 2 The Bill exempts licensees from the special licence process and provides a simplified process to extend trading hours (based on 2015 and 2019 amendments) where licensees notify the Police and territorial authorities of their intention to televise matches seven days in advance.
- 3 This expedited process allows the hospitality industry to take full advantage of the commercial potential of the tournament and maximise opportunities for rugby fans to watch games with friends and family in safe environments.

Background

- 4 The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 sets the default maximum trading hours of 8:00am – 4:00am for on-licensed and club-licensed premises. Trading hours can also be restricted by local alcohol policies or licensing conditions set by district licensing committees.
- 5 The men's Rugby World Cup will be hosted by France in September and October 2023, and time zone differences mean that many of the matches will be broadcast live outside of maximum trading hours for on-licensed and club-licensed premises.
- 6 Temporary legislative amendments were enacted for the 2015 and 2019 men's Rugby World Cups, held in the northern hemisphere, facilitating licensed premises hosting the live broadcast of games outside their licensed trading hours.
- 7 The Bill mirrors most of the provisions from the 2015 and 2019 amendments. However, we have drawn on experience and feedback from the Police and others to refine the drafting. New to this year's Bill is:
 - an additional notification requirement, strengthening Police's ability to plan and manage resources effectively, and
 - a record-keeping requirement, improving monitoring and evaluation of the amendments.

Summary of key changes in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Rugby World Cup 2023 Extended Trading Hours) Amendment Bill 2023

8 The Bill temporarily amends the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act) to allow eligible licensees to extend trading hours for the purposes of televising games played as part of the men's Rugby World Cup 2023, without applying for a special licence. The key changes are set out below.

Eligible licensees will be able to extend their permitted trading hours to televise men's Rugby World Cup 2023 games

9 The key changes are as follows:

- eligible on-licence and club licence holders can extend their trading hours to televise games from the men's Rugby World Cup 2023 without applying for a special licence
- the primary or sole purpose of the premises being open during extended hours must be to allow customers to watch a live televised game of the men's Rugby World Cup 2023, and
- licensed premises that have had their licences cancelled or suspended in the previous 12 months under section 280 of the Act (for example for breaching conditions of their licence or being obnoxious to neighbouring residents) would be ineligible to extend their trading hours.

Provisions to enhance public safety and minimise disruptions apply

10 The key changes are as follows:

- licence holders must provide Police and territorial authorities at least seven days' written notice if they intend to extend their trading hours to televise a game
- licence holders need to include a noise management plan or have another arrangement in place for their premises to avoid additional noise disruption as part of their notification to Police and territorial authorities
- licence holders must notify Police and territorial authorities as soon as reasonably practicable if they change their plans and decide not to open after having notified otherwise, and
- Police retain the power under section 266 of the Act to immediately shut down premises in the circumstances specified in that section. The general offence for breaching restrictions and requirements under section 259 of the Act applies to the extended trading hours in the Bill.

The extended trading hours are subject to certain conditions

11 The key changes are as follows:

- premises are permitted to open one hour before the start of each notified game
- if a licence holder notifies a game that starts within two hours after the end of the permitted trading hours for the premises, the premises can remain open until and during that game

- premises are required to close for the sale of alcohol 30 minutes after the end of the game, and
- one-way door policies do not apply within one hour before the extended trading hours starts, during the extended trading hours, or within one hour after the premises closes the sale of alcohol.¹

Police will keep a record of the scale and demand for extended trading hours for the Rugby World Cup 2023

12 The key change is that Police are required to keep a record of notifications, including information on:

- the number of notifications
- the periods for which extended hours were notified
- the period of notice given
- the number of cancelled notifications.

¹ A one-way door policy prevents customers from re-entering the premises after they have already exited.