



MEDIA RELEASE



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HOTELS WELCOME COMBINED SANCTIONS SCHEME

The hotel sector has welcomed the release of a draft State Government bill which it says will get rid of outdated liquor laws, reduce duplication between three current schemes and help revitalise the live music sector.

AHA NSW CEO John Whelan said the release of the draft Liquor Amendment (24-hour Economy) Bill 2020 for public comment was a positive step for an industry decimated by the impact of COVID-19.

“This combined sanctions scheme makes sense as it reduces duplication between the current three schemes. Mr Whelan said.

“For the first time, venues which have a track record of good behaviour will be rewarded through reduced liquor licence fees. This is a good news for the vast majority of operators who run safe venues and comply with the law – and who will now be rewarded through liquor licence fee discounts.

“The new measures will help our members in tough economic times by bringing more certainty to an industry hard hit by COVID-19.”

Mr Whelan said the proposal to remove licence conditions which prohibit some forms of live entertainment in hotels is particularly pleasing.

“This Bill will get rid of outdated laws which prevent hotels from hosting certain types of live music – for example, one hotel in Sydney’s CBD has a “no disco” condition,” he said.

“This bill will help revitalise our night-time economy as we emerge from this pandemic. We will now go through the Bill in detail before making a comprehensive submission to Government.”

In NSW there are about 2,000 hotels which employ 75,000 people when open – more than 70,000 staff members have been stood down or lost their jobs since hotels were closed on 23 March 2020.

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