

Consultation on new short-term liquor licence class

Submission from Live Performance Australia

1. INTRODUCTION

Live Performance Australia (LPA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the new short-term liquor licence class in South Australia. LPA is the peak body for Australia's live performance industry. Established over 100 years ago in 1917 and registered as an employers' organisation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*, LPA has over 400 Members nationally. We represent commercial and independent producers, music promoters, performing arts companies, venues (performing arts centres, commercial theatres, stadiums and arenas), arts festivals, music festivals and service providers (such as ticketing companies and technical suppliers). Our membership spans from small-medium and not-for-profit organisations to large commercial entities.

Some of our members, such as arts festivals, music promoters and venues, hold liquor licences and may be affected by the proposed changes to liquor licence classes and legislation governing the South Australian liquor licencing system.

South Australia has a diverse and vibrant live performance industry spanning a wide range of arts and entertainment, from major contemporary music concerts to reputable arts festivals and much more. The live performance industry in South Australia has experienced significant growth. Live performance revenue in South Australia increased in 2017 when compared to 2016, from \$94 million to \$124 million – an increase of 31%.¹ Likewise, attendance for 2017 increased by 16.9% from 1.8 million tickets issued in 2016 to 2.1 million in 2017.²

South Australia's share of national live performance industry attendance (9.1%) and share of industry revenue (6.6%) is slightly lower than its share of population (10.4%).³ This indicates that despite gains, there is still great potential for the further growth of South Australia's live performance industry by attracting more local, interstate and international audiences that can significantly contribute to stimulating the local economy.

2. PROPOSED CHANGES

We understand the current limited licence, which was used for special occasions and could only be granted for up to one month, will be abolished and replaced by a new short-term liquor licence. The proposed short-term licence will be able to be issued to individuals, associations or businesses for a variety of events and/or occasions and will comprise three new categories (with Class 3 being categorised as high-risk). Holders of the Class 3 licence will be required to abide by both the General Code of Practice and Late Night Trading Code of Practice

¹ Live Performance Australia. (2018). Ticket Attendance and Revenue Report 2017. Ernst & Young. p. 22 & p. 26

² Live Performance Australia. (2018). Ticket Attendance and Revenue Report 2017. Ernst & Young. p. 22 & p. 26

³ Live Performance Australia. (2018). Ticket Attendance and Revenue Report 2017. Ernst & Young. p. 23

3. COMMENTS

LPA supports measures that positively impact on the business practices of venues and event organisers. LPA acknowledges that the proposed short-term liquor licence classes aim to reduce unnecessary red tape and offer a more streamlined and modern liquor licencing system for venues and event organisers.

a. Fees

LPA welcomes the streamlining of the application fee and grant fee into one fee for all short-term liquor licences, although notes that a fee model for the new short-term liquor licence category classes is yet to be determined.

Given the Commissioner has discretion to alter the categorisation of a venue or event, LPA believes only venues or events that have a real high level of risk should be assessed accordingly, as Class 3 licences are subject to consent and further conditions imposed by the relevant Council.

LPA also recommends that proper consideration is granted to implementing a 5-year term for Class 3 short-term liquor licences, given it would further streamline the modern liquor licencing system and reduce unnecessary burden for venues and event organisers.

b. Timeliness

LPA notes that timely approval of applications for responsible persons remains a key factor for consideration. Lengthy wait periods can cause onerous staffing issues and impact the coverage of responsible persons at venues during live performance events.

LPA believes any unnecessarily onerous procedures in the approval process for a responsible person be removed. Given the requirement for the Commissioner to approve the responsible person, introduction of other effective measures that could make the approval process more transparent and less time-consuming would be beneficial to venues and event organisers. These may include development of an online portal to allow applicants to track their progress in real-time and allow for more ready communication between the Commission and applicants.

c. Codes of Practice

Hospitality services, including the safe service of liquor, are an integral component of providing audiences with a comfortable and enjoyable entertainment experience. LPA notes that *all* Class 3 holders of the new short-term liquor licence class will be expected to comply with the Late Night Trading Code of Practice, whereas limited licensees are currently exempt.

LPA notes that given both the General Code of Practice and Late Night Trading Code of Practice are subject to amendments and awaiting consultation outcomes, appropriate consideration will need to be given to ensuring these amendments do not adversely impact venues and event organisers and the requirements are not too onerous or costly.

4. CONCLUSION

LPA looks forward to the implementation of new short-term liquor licence classes in November 2019 that support the dynamic growth of South Australia's live performance industry.

We would be pleased to liaise further with SA Consumer and Business Services as needed to support the reduction of red tape and encourage the continued growth of a vibrant entertainment environment.

Should you have any queries regarding our submission, please contact **Kim Tran**, Director, Policy and Governance at ktran@liveperformance.com.au or 03 8614 2000.