

Special entertainment precincts

Transport, Heritage, and Planning Committee
16 March 2026





Special entertainment precincts

1. set trading hours



Special entertainment precincts

1. set trading hours
2. set sound levels



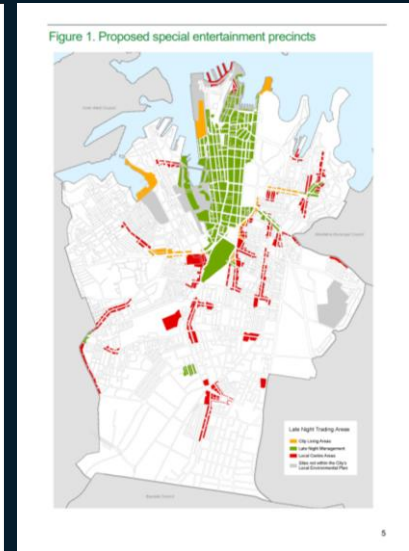
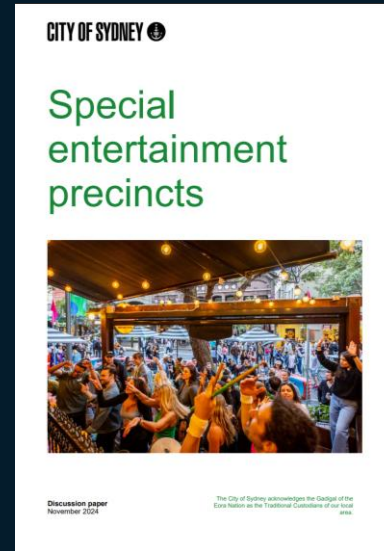
Special entertainment precincts

1. set trading hours
2. set sound levels
3. incentives for live music and performance

Discussion paper

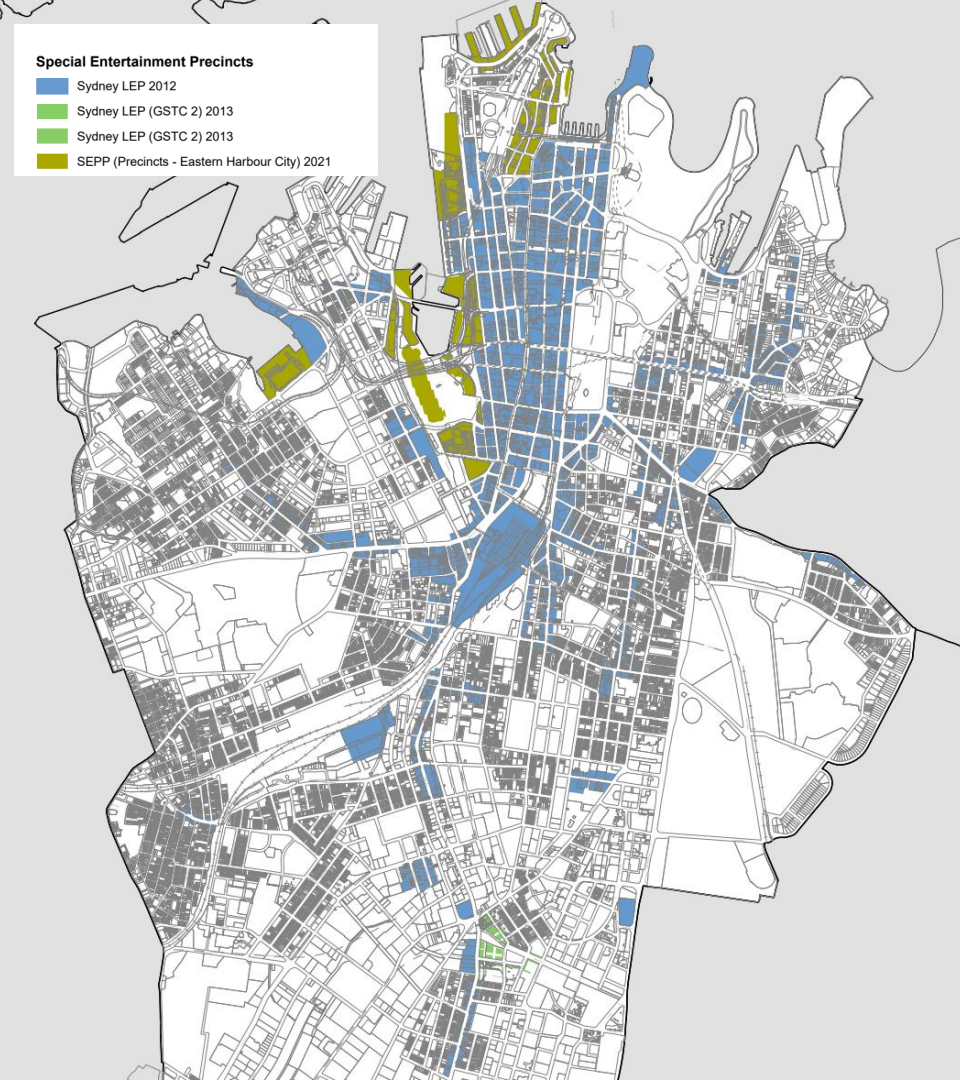
Summary of feedback

- More than 350 submissions
- 70% of survey respondents support or support with changes
- reasons for support:
 - night life growth
 - cultural and nightlife diversity
 - more flexibility for businesses
- main concerns:
 - entertainment noise
 - general noise concerns
 - safety concerns



Converting our late night trading areas to special entertainment precincts

Planning proposal -
Amend 3 instruments
to designate SEPs



A photograph of a drag performance at a bar. Three drag queens are on stage, wearing voluminous, multi-layered pink outfits with large, ruffled sleeves and matching pink wigs. They are striking a pose with their arms outstretched. The stage is set against a brick wall with a large archway that has the word "PRISCILLAS" in blue letters, flanked by two blue stars. A disco ball hangs from the ceiling. In the foreground, the backs of several audience members' heads are visible as they watch the performance. Some audience members are holding up their phones to take pictures. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and festive.

Proposed changes since the discussion paper

Upgrade of 5 precincts so they can trade later

Oxford Street

Current



Proposed



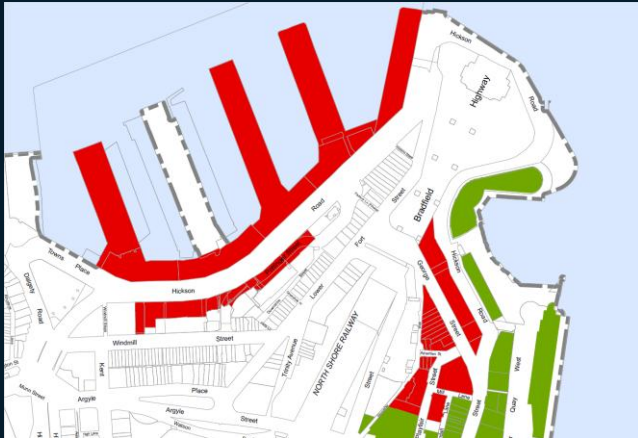
Late Night Trading Areas (3 tiers)

- Late Night Management Areas
- City Living Areas
- Local Centre Areas
- Proposed amendments

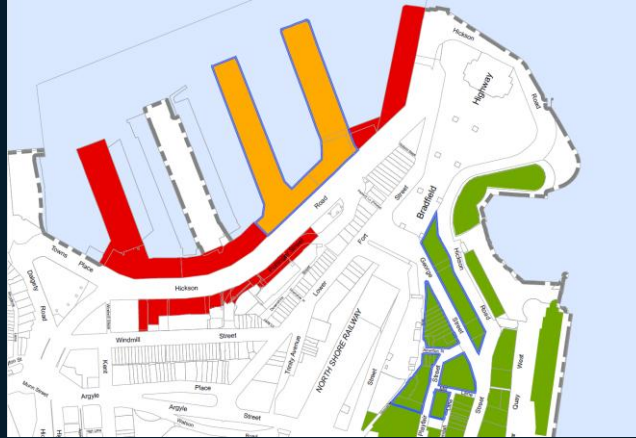
Upgrade of 5 precincts so they can trade later

The Rocks and Walsh Bay

Current



Proposed



- Late Night Trading Areas (3 tiers)**
- Late Night Management Areas
 - City Living Areas
 - Local Centre Areas
- Proposed amendments

Upgrade of 5 precincts so they can trade later

Redfern / Waterloo



Current



Proposed

- Late Night Trading Areas (3 tiers)**
-  Late Night Management Areas
 -  City Living Areas
 -  Local Centre Areas
 -  Proposed amendments

Upgrade of 5 precincts so they can trade later

Hollywood Quarter



Current



Proposed

Late Night Trading Areas (3 tiers)

- Late Night Management Areas
- City Living Areas
- Local Centre Areas
- Proposed amendments

No change recommended

William Street



Late Night Trading Areas (3 tiers)

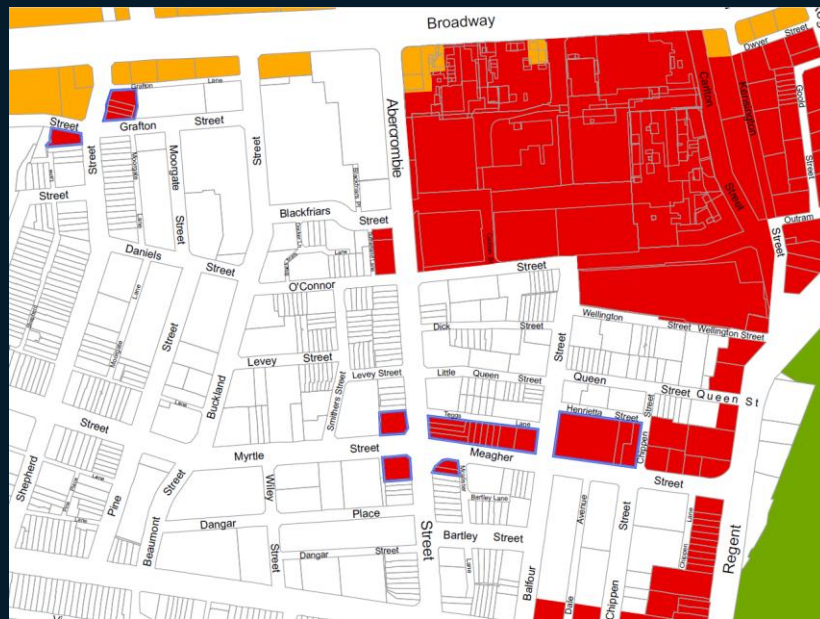
- Late Night Management Areas
- City Living Areas
- Local Centre Areas
- Proposed amendments

2 new and expanded precincts

Chippendale



Current



Proposed

2 new and expanded precincts

Ultimo



Current



Proposed

Late Night Trading Areas (3 tiers)

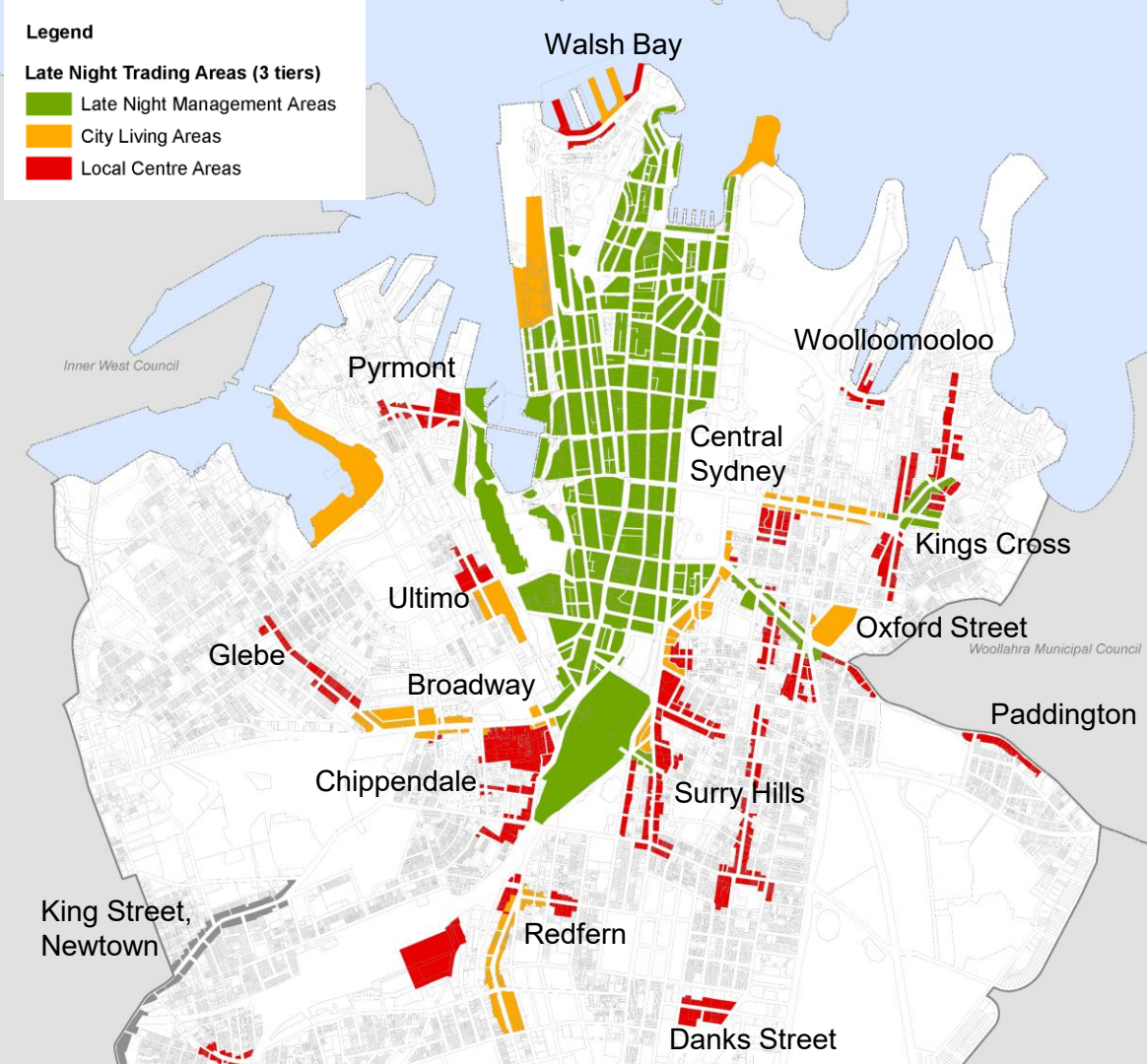
-  Late Night Management Areas
-  City Living Areas
-  Local Centre Areas
-  Proposed amendments



Precincts management plan

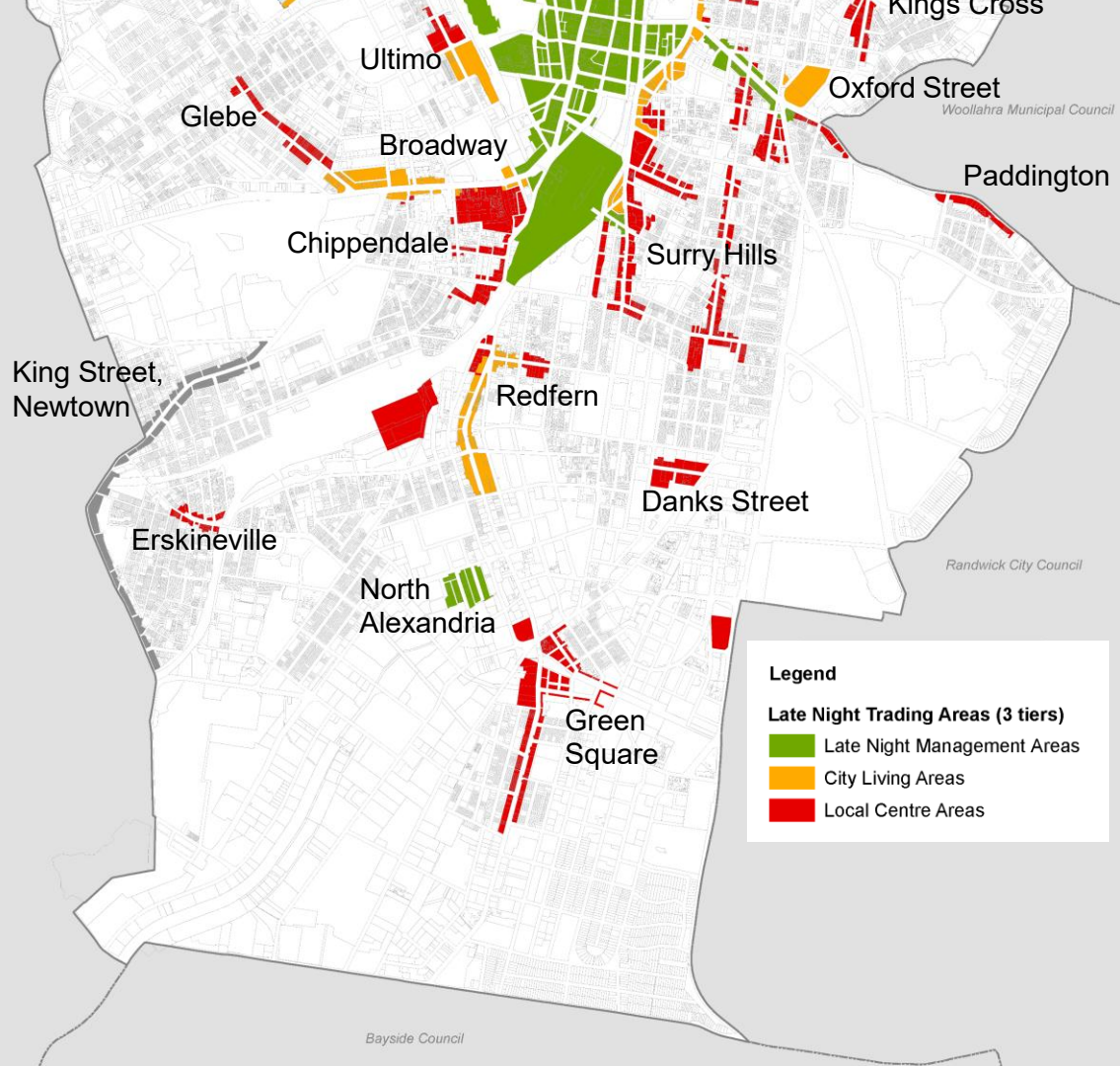
Trading hours

Northern areas



Trading hours

Southern areas



Sound plan

- Sets clear, fixed, measurable criteria for entertainment sound from venues
- Enables live music and nightlife, while protecting residential amenity
- 4 sound category areas (SCA1–SCA4) reflecting quieter to louder neighbourhoods
- Applies across 3 time periods
- Maintains or increases sound allowances in line with NSW SEP Guidelines



Governance

- Regular oversight – Nightlife and Creative Industries Advisory Panel
- Monitoring and evaluation plan
 - Tracking performance
 - Desired outcomes under 5 objectives
 - One year trial
- Compliance processes
- Suspending or revoking





Proposed changes to the DCP

Proposed changes to the DCP

- Proposed updates to:
 - 3.15 Late night trading
 - 3.18 Entertainment sound management
- Aligning the DCP with special entertainment precinct
- Streamlining for clarity



Next steps

If approved

Gateway request	Q2
Public exhibition	Q2
Review feedback	Q3
Report back to CSPC and Council	Q3
Make controls	Q4
One year trial commences	Q4





Proposed trading hours

Late Night Management areas

Including Central Sydney, Oxford Street and Kings Cross

SEP hours – no approval needed

Incentive – with regular performances

Incentive – on day of a performance

Extended – with approval

Category A Larger venues and nightclubs		Category B Small bars, clubs and restaurants		Category C Unlicensed shops and hairdressers	
Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	
6am to midnight	9am to 10pm	6am to 2am	7am to 10pm	6am to 2am	
To 1am	–	To 3am	–	–	
To 2am	–	To 4am	–	–	
24 hours	9am to 1am	24 hours	7am to 1am	24 hours	

Proposed trading hours

City Living areas

Including Barangaroo, Broadway and William Street

SEP hours – no approval needed

Incentive – with regular performances

Incentive – on day of a performance

Extended – with approval

Category A Larger venues and nightclubs		Category B Small bars, clubs and restaurants		Category C Unlicensed shops and hairdressers	
Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	
7am to 11pm	9am to 10pm	7am to 1am	7am to 10pm	7am to 1am	
To midnight	–	To 2am	–	–	
To 1am	–	To 3am	–	–	
7am to 5am	9am to midnight	6am to 5am	7am to midnight	24 hours	

Proposed trading hours

Local Centre areas

Including Crown Street, Glebe Point Road and Chippendale

SEP hours – no approval needed

Incentive – with regular performances

Incentive – on day of a performance

Extended – with approval

Category A Larger venues and nightclubs		Category B Small bars, clubs and restaurants		Category C Unlicensed shops and hairdressers	
Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	
7am to 10pm	9am to 10pm	7am to 11pm	7am to 10pm	7am to 11pm	
To 11pm	–	To midnight	–	–	
To midnight	–	To 1am	–	–	
7am to midnight	9am to 10pm	6am to midnight / 2am	7am to 10pm	6am to 2am	

Sound criteria

Sound category area (SCA)	Days of the week	Day/Evening (7am–10pm)					Early night (10pm–midnight)					Late night (midnight–7am)				
		Octave bands – dB					Octave bands – dB					Octave bands – dB				
		dBA	31.5	63	125	250	dBA	31.5	63	125	250	dBA	31.5	63	125	250
SCA1	Sun 6pm–Thu 6pm	68	67	69	69	69	60	63	64	64	64	50	59*	52	52	50
	Thu 6pm–Sun 6pm	68	67	69	69	69	63	65	67	67	67	50	59*	52	52	50
SCA2	Any day	63	61	61	61	61	55	56*	55	55	56	45	56*	46*	44	44
SCA3	Any day	58	60	60	59	58	50	56*	52	52	51	37	56*	41*	35	32
SCA4	Any day	53	56	56	53	53	45	56*	49	46	46	32	56*	41*	30*	25

Cumulative levels,
 L_{Aeq} for dBA and
 L_{Zeq} for octave
bands