

Attachment A

**Planning Proposal – King Street Special
Entertainment Precinct**

Planning proposal – King Street special entertainment precinct



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Executive summary

The City of Sydney proposes to establish a special entertainment precinct along King Street, Newtown to support its evolving role as one of Sydney's leading night-time and cultural destinations. This planning proposal complements the City's broader special entertainment precincts proposal, which excluded King Street pending alignment with Inner West Council to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach across the full length of the street.

This proposal gives effect to the NSW Government Vibrancy Reforms, which enable councils to designate special entertainment precincts through amendments to local environmental plans, and builds on the City's long-standing support for nightlife and cultural activity through the OPEN Sydney Strategy, the Live Music and Performance Action Plan, and the Open and Creative Planning Reforms.

King Street has long been recognised as a centre of culture, creativity and community life. While it is increasingly significant as a destination for late-night hospitality and live music, the proposal reinforces King Street's identity as a true 24-hour precinct. The vision recognises the street's morning role with cafes and bakeries, its service role for local residents through groceries, florists and delis, and its all-day role as a place for fashion shopping, art galleries and lunchtime dining, while supporting its evening and late-night offerings.

This planning proposal amends the Sydney LEP 2012 to map boundaries for the King Street Special Entertainment Precinct. Trading hours are tailored to reflect the street's changing character across its length. The existing core late-night trading area near Newtown Station, currently permitted to operate 24 hours, is proposed to be expanded along the central portion of the street to better recognise the growing cluster of live music venues, bars and entertainment uses. In the northern and southern edges, where 24-hour trading is not appropriate due to proximity to lower-density residential areas, trading is proposed until 2am. This aligns with Inner West Council's complementary controls, ensuring consistent trading hours along the full King Street corridor regardless of the local government boundary.

Incentives for live music and performance are built into the framework, reflecting King Street's long-standing and historically significant role in Sydney's cultural and live music scene. The proposal also reduces red tape for venues seeking to host performance and entertainment and provides a coordinated framework for managing entertainment sound.

The accompanying King Street Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan sets trading hours, sound criteria, and compliance processes for licensed and unlicensed premises, and provides the operational framework required under section 202 of the Local Government Act 1993. The draft DCP amendment updates Sydney DCP 2012 to align trading hours and late-night trading area boundaries for development applications.

The proposal has strong strategic merit and aligns with City Plan 2036, the Cultural Strategy (2025–2035), the Economic Development Strategy (2025–2035), the Eastern City District Plan, Draft Sydney Plan, and relevant Ministerial Directions. It balances economic and cultural opportunity with residential amenity through a bespoke sound plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework to track unintended impacts.

With Gateway approval, the proposal will proceed to public exhibition alongside the management plan and DCP amendments. Following consideration of submissions, the LEP amendment will be finalised, and a year-long trial of the management plan will commence, informing final adoption.

1. Background

King Street, Newtown is key to the City of Sydney's night-time economy

The City of Sydney is home to a diverse and iconic nightlife, with mixed and lively neighbourhoods. The introduction of a special entertainment precinct on King Street, Newtown is the latest step in a long history of work to support the continued growth of the cultural sector and the night-time economy.

NSW Government Vibrancy Reforms

In December 2023, the NSW Government introduced the Vibrancy Reforms, which enabled the establishment of special entertainment precincts by councils through amendments to Section 202 of the Local Government Act 1993, supported by the NSW Government Special Entertainment Precinct Guideline.

City of Sydney Special Entertainment Precincts planning proposal

In March 2026, Council endorsed for exhibition a planning proposal to establish special entertainment precincts across more than 20 late-night trading areas within the City of Sydney local government area. That proposal is to amend the Sydney LEP 2012, Green Square Town Centre LEPs 2013, and the SEPP Precincts – Eastern Harbour City 2021 to map precinct boundaries and give statutory effect to a new clause establishing special entertainment precincts. It is supported by a Special Entertainment Precincts Management Plan and complementary amendments to the Sydney DCP 2012 and Green Square Town Centre DCP 2013.

King Street, Newtown was excluded from that proposal pending further work with Inner West Council to align approaches to the precinct, as that council is also proposing a special entertainment precinct in Newtown. This planning proposal completes that work and introduces the King Street Special Entertainment Precinct as a coordinated initiative with Inner West Council. It assumes the March 2026 special entertainment precincts planning proposal as the baseline planning framework.

Coordinated approach with Inner West Council

On 15 December 2025, Council resolved to progress the King Street, Newtown Special Entertainment Precinct in coordination with Inner West Council. The resolution recognised that the precinct spans both local government areas, that residents, businesses and visitors experience King Street as one continuous precinct and do not distinguish between local government boundaries, and that a consistent policy approach between the two councils will provide clarity and certainty for local residents and businesses, strengthen delivery of the precinct, improve outcomes for live performance, and support shared objectives for a safe, inclusive and sustainable night-time economy.

The resolution noted that the City's late night trading and special entertainment precinct model – which includes a long-standing tiered approach to areas and venues, incentives for live music, and trial periods – differs from Inner West Council's approach, and that a unique approach for King Street is worth investigating given its position on the boundary between the two council areas. Inner West Council also passed an equivalent motion, expressing support for a coordinated approach to implementation of the precinct.

Council requested that staff work collaboratively with Inner West Council on a generally aligned approach to trading hours and sound levels, continue to incentivise live music and performance, good business operations and a diversity of venues, and coordinate joint community and stakeholder engagement so that public consultation is conducted concurrently with Inner West Council's process wherever practicable.

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This planning proposal reflects that direction. Trading hours are generally aligned with Inner West Council's controls, most notably allowing 2am trading across the entire King Street corridor, while retaining the City's distinct policy features, including the tiered late-night trading framework, incentives for live music and performance, and trial period mechanisms for extended hours.

Engagement with the Newtown Enmore Business Community

As part of preparing this planning proposal, the City has consulted with the Newtown Enmore Business Community, who have been a valuable source of information about established hospitality and cultural uses, emerging clusters, and the lived experience of operating in Newtown. Through this engagement, the business community identified a number of premises and side-street locations off King Street that, in their view, should be included in the special entertainment precinct, recognising that night-time and cultural activity in Newtown is not confined to the King Street frontage itself.

The City has reviewed each nomination on its merits, considering zoning, functional connection to King Street, exposure to sensitive residential receivers, the character of surrounding streets, and the suitability of the building and use for late-night or entertainment activity. The outcome is a measured and limited expansion of the precinct beyond the King Street frontage, adding a small number of side-street sites where they have strong functional connections to King Street and are not significantly exposed to sensitive residential receivers, while leaving quieter residential side streets outside the precinct.

Process

Early engagement

From 21 November 2024 to 20 January 2025, we asked our communities about the proposed approach to special entertainment precincts through consultation on a discussion paper. A total of 271 surveys and 85 emailed submissions were made in response to the discussion paper. There was strong support for the proposal to designate the existing late night trading areas, including King Street, as special entertainment precincts. We also asked questions about the proposed areas, hours, and sound levels to inform our Draft Special Entertainment Precincts Management Plan (management plan).

In March 2025 Council endorsed the proposal to designate our late-night trading areas as special entertainment precincts.

In December 2025, Council resolved to progress the King Street, Newtown Special Entertainment Precinct as a separate, coordinated proposal with Inner West Council, given the precinct's location on the boundary between the two local government areas.

Developing the proposal

In 2025 we carried out a sound study with extensive testing of existing sound levels and modelling of scenarios to derive proposed sound levels which support live music and entertainment, while protecting residential amenity. We consulted our Nightlife and Creative Industries Advisory Panel, as well as NSW Government agencies and neighbouring councils to establish our draft management plan.

For King Street specifically, we have worked collaboratively with Inner West Council on a generally aligned approach to trading hours and sound levels, and have engaged with the Newtown Enmore Business Community to test the proposed precinct boundaries.

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Next steps

With Council and DPHI approval, the next step in 2026 will be public exhibition of this planning proposal, alongside the management plan and draft DCP amendments. Public consultation will be conducted concurrently with Inner West Council's process wherever practicable, and will include consultation with business, residents, local organisations, and further consultation with the relevant agencies and local authorities.

Following public exhibition, the proposal will be brought back to Council prior to drafting and adoption of the planning controls. A year-long trial will be undertaken and assessed before finalisation of the management plan.

1. Objectives and intended outcomes

Objectives

The objectives of this planning proposal are to:

- Amend the Sydney LEP 2012 to designate the subject area as a special entertainment precinct.
- Give effect to the draft King Street Special Entertainment Precincts Management Plan and Sydney DCP 2012 amendment

The objectives of the proposed special entertainment precinct are to:

- Enable businesses to invest in and offer more live music, culture, entertainment and performance as part of their regular activities
 - Foster vibrant, inclusive, mixed-use neighbourhoods that support local community amenity
 - Improve quality, safety and diversity of the late-night offering
 - Enhance economic outcomes, supporting businesses to thrive
 - Streamline the process for businesses and the City of Sydney to make it easier and more affordable to operate late night trading premises
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Intended outcomes

The intended outcomes of the planning controls are to introduce the following for the subject area:

- SEP trading hours which override development consents
- dedicated venue and program trading hours to incentivise live music and performance
- notification of special entertainment precincts (SEP) on planning certificates and the City's website
- a sound plan with fixed maximum sound criteria
- a governance framework with regular oversight and processes for compliance and responding to issues if they arise
- a monitoring and evaluation plan to measure the success of the special entertainment precinct, while also tracking potential unintended impacts

2. Explanation of provisions

This planning proposal seeks to establish a special entertainment precinct in Newtown by amending Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 (Sydney LEP 2012).

Proposed amendment to Sydney LEP 2012

This planning proposal relies on implementation of a previous planning proposal that establishes both the Special Entertainment Precinct Map series and a new LEP clause for Special Entertainment Precincts.

This planning proposal maps the proposed precinct in the Special Entertainment Precinct mapping series of the Sydney LEP 2012, thus giving effect to Section X.X Special entertainment precincts of the Sydney LEP 2012 to each mapped lot. See proposed mapping tile amendments in Section 4.

Special entertainment precincts management plan

Clause 202D(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to “prepare a plan for regulating noise from amplified music from premises in the special entertainment precinct and publish it on the council’s website”.

The draft King Street Special Entertainment Precinct Management Plan (the management plan) is attached. In accordance with the *NSW Government Special Entertainment Precinct Guideline*, the management plan includes:

- a sound management framework including a plan for regulating noise from entertainment activity, for different locations in the SEP
- trading hours for licensed and unlicensed premises
- compliance processes for unlicensed premises
- compliance processes for licensed venues
- thresholds or local circumstances for when a SEP may be suspended or revoked and the processes that will be undertaken
- the exclusion of adult entertainment, sex service and restricted premises.

The management plan is for the use of businesses, residents, Council, Liquor & Gaming NSW, and NSW Police in understanding their role and responsibilities in the management of late trading and entertainment sound in and around special entertainment precincts.

Draft development control plan (DCP) amendment – King Street special entertainment precinct

The draft development control plan (DCP) amendment proposes updates to Sydney DCP 2012 to align it with the provisions of the King Street special entertainment precinct, ensuring consistency with the planning framework, especially where development applications are involved. With approval the draft DCP amendment will be exhibited concurrently with the planning proposal.

3. Justification

3.1. Strategic merit and community consultation

The City of Sydney has a successful, well-established approach to late night trading currently in operation. Our Late Night Trading DCP has been in place and evolving since 2007. Late trading is enabled, and impact is managed through our 3 tiers and 3 business categories. The King Street Special Entertainment Precinct is consistent with the wider approach to Special Entertainment Precincts across the City of Sydney, while being more closely tailored to the Newtown context and developed in coordination with Inner West Council. As with the wider SEP proposal, the King Street precinct represents the City's policy objectives:

- Reducing applications and procedures for businesses wanting to trade late through trading hours which override consents
- Offering incentives for venues hosting live music and performance
- Better managing sound to balance business and residential amenity, through a bespoke sound plan, produced by acoustic experts

The King Street precinct is strategically well-supported by infrastructure and transport, including Newtown Station, frequent bus services, and a long-established walkable high street, ensuring a safe and vibrant nightlife while maintaining residential amenity.

King Street is one of Sydney's most significant and long-established night-time and cultural destinations, with a deep history of supporting live music, performance and a diversity of hospitality, retail and cultural uses. The proposal recognises King Street's role as a true 24-hour precinct, from morning cafes through all-day fashion retail, galleries and dining to its established late-night and live music offering and seeks to support that full breadth of activity rather than privileging any single use or time of day.

There is strong community support for the proposal. The early engagement undertaken in late 2024 for the wider Special Entertainment Precincts plan included Newtown and King Street, and a total of 271 surveys and 85 emailed submissions were made in response to the discussion paper, with 70% support for the proposal to designate the existing late night trading areas as Special Entertainment Precincts. The main reasons people supported the proposal were:

- Growth in night life
- Cultural and nightlife diversity
- Flexibility for businesses

For the King Street precinct specifically, we have worked closely with Inner West Council on a coordinated approach that reflects the lived experience of King Street as one continuous precinct, with generally aligned trading hours and sound levels across the two local government areas. We have also engaged the Newtown Enmore Business Community, who provided valuable input on local conditions, established and emerging clusters, and the suitability of the proposed precinct boundaries. This local engagement has directly shaped the proposal, including a limited expansion of the precinct to cover a small number of side-street sites with strong functional connections to King Street.

3.2. Need for the planning proposal

Q1. Is the planning proposal the result of any strategic study or report?

The planning proposal is a response to resolutions of Council and legislation made by the State Government. The proposal aligns with City Plan 2036 the endorsed Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), Cultural Strategy (2025-2035) and Economic Development Strategy (2025-2035).

Special Entertainment Precincts under the Local Government Act 1993

On 30 April 2021 Section 202 of the Local Government Act 1993 was gazetted. It enables the establishment of Special Entertainment Precincts by a Council. This planning proposal has been developed in accordance with this legislation. This legislation was further refined in December 2023 through the passing of the Vibrancy Reforms, introducing the special entertainment precinct framework. NSW Special Entertainment Precinct Guideline was finalised in November 2024 which sets the process by which Councils can designate and manage special entertainment precincts.

Council resolutions

In October 2024, a Minute by the Lord Mayor (Item 3.3 Supporting Sydney's Nightlife) resolved "Council continue to work with the NSW Government to implement special entertainment precincts and other measures to support Sydney's nightlife."

Also in October 2024, Council resolved to "approve the Special Entertainment Precincts Discussion Paper... for public exhibition."

In March 2025, Council resolved to "note the matters raised in response to the public exhibition" and "endorse the establishment of special entertainment precincts in late night trading areas identified in Attachment D to the subject report."

In December 2025, Council resolved (Item 12.4 Coordination of the King Street, Newtown Special Entertainment Precinct with Inner West Council) to request that staff "work collaboratively with the Inner West Council staff on a generally aligned approach to trading hours and sound levels" for the King Street precinct, and that public consultation be conducted concurrently with Inner West Council's process wherever practicable.

City Plan 2036: Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

While our adopted LSPS pre-dates the introduction of s202 of the Local Government Act 1993, there is strong alignment between the aims of the LSPS and the proposed approach for special entertainment precincts, including the King Street special entertainment precincts.

Our LSPS sets the strategic context for special entertainment precincts by planning for a more balanced, diverse and inviting night-time economy. The LSPS references Open and Creative City: "these reforms will promote a more balanced, inviting and safe night-time economy and encourage a range of cultural, entertainment, arts and leisure activities. They support our global city offering and help attract visitors, workers and investment."

The LSPS also plans for culture and performance. It acknowledges "the Sydney live music and performance sector makes a substantial social, economic, and employment contribution to Sydney and is vital to the City's cultural life... we are investigating planning reforms to support performance venues by reducing uncertainty and complexity and better managing entertainment sound."

The LSPS identifies that "The centres and activity streets are increasingly important for late night activity. As the City's population increases, the availability of social, cultural and business services operating at night will increase. The City has moved to increase opportunities for late night activities while managing the amenity of residents and other sensitive users in the neighbourhood." Many of our special entertainment precincts are centres and activity streets, further supporting operation at night, while introducing a sound plan to manage amenity of residents.

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The special entertainment precinct proposal responds to the LSPS' plan for these locations by better supporting later trading businesses, as well as providing incentives for live music and performance.

Economic Development Strategy (2025-2035)

Our Economic Development Strategy (2025-2035) positions Sydney as a global, connected city with distinct precincts and strong local economies. It emphasises innovation-led growth, visitor economy recovery, and creating great local experiences. Special entertainment precincts align with these objectives by stimulating hospitality and creative industries. They also contribute to the strengthening local economies by taking a precinct approach and diversifying night-time offerings. This approach reinforces Sydney's role as Australia's economic heart while enhancing its global reputation for culture and lifestyle.

Cultural Strategy (2025-2035)

Our Cultural Strategy focuses on retaining, rebuilding, and reimagining Sydney's cultural life, addressing challenges such as the loss of creative spaces and rising costs for artists. The proposal to designate special entertainment precincts strongly aligns with the City's Cultural Strategy, which prioritises planning and regulatory reform to support a culture-led nightlife. The Strategy identifies cultural precincts as key locations for increasing creative employment and cultural experiences. The strategy also seeks to address the underlying challenges of the cultural sector, namely affordability and the lack of cultural production space. Special entertainment precincts play a role in addressing these challenges by expanding demand for live music and performance through incentives and fostering cultural participation in local communities.

Q2. Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intended outcomes, or is there a better way?

Section 202 of the Local Government Act 1993 states that "A special entertainment precinct may be established by the council for the area in which the precinct will be located, by identifying the precinct in a local environmental plan that applies to the land on which the precinct will be located."

In September 2025, NSW Productivity and Equality Commission carried out a review of regulatory barriers impeding a vibrant 24-hour economy. The report found that businesses are constrained by regulations and rising costs. They concluded that special entertainment precincts can make it faster and simpler for councils and businesses to deliver entertainment and extended trading while managing local amenity.

Through the incentive hours, the planning proposal will help achieve the intended outcome of enabling businesses to invest in and deliver more live music, culture, entertainment, and performance as part of their ongoing offer. Trading hours in a precinct management plan can override those on a development consent. This will help to reduce the administrative burden on councils and businesses, making it easier and more affordable to operate late night trading premises. The management plan gives operational certainty, which will also help to enhance economic outcomes, supporting businesses to thrive.

3.3. Relationship to the strategic planning framework

Q3. Is the planning proposal consistent with the objectives and actions of the applicable regional or sub-regional strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?

The draft Sydney Plan (2025)

The draft Sydney Plan is the new regional strategic plan, to replace the adopted Greater Sydney Regional Plan. The draft Sydney Plan will guide how the NSW Government manages growth in the Sydney region over the next 20 years. It covers 33 local government areas and lays out a plan for housing, infrastructure, jobs, sustainability and vibrant communities. The draft Plan was released in late 2025 and at the time of writing is on exhibition.

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Response 6 of the draft Sydney Plan 'Create a more vibrant Sydney' is directly relevant to this proposal. Council action 6.3 is 'Establish special entertainment precincts where appropriate to accommodate critical community, arts, cultural and retail uses as part of Council-led precinct planning'. This Proposal directly addresses that action.

Greater Sydney Regional Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities

The Plan sets a 40-year vision (to 2056) and a 20-year plan to manage growth and change. It sets an overarching strategic planning policy to align land use, transport, and infrastructure outcomes for Greater Sydney concurrently with Future Transport 2056 (Transport for NSW) and State Infrastructure Strategy (Infrastructure NSW). The Plan provides a set of objectives under the 10 Directions set out in Directions for a Greater Sydney 2017-2056.

Objective 9 of the Plan states that "Stimulating the night-time economy supports dynamic places and boosts local economies. This can generally occur in mixed-use centres with adequate noise control, locally appropriate operating hours and safe late-night travel options."

This planning proposal will assist in achieving this objective by making it easier for businesses to trade later in mixed-use centres, identifying locally appropriate trading hours. The proposal also ensures adequate noise control, through the management plan's sound criteria, which have been set in response to local context.

Eastern City District Plan

The Eastern City District Plan is a 20-year plan to manage growth in the context of economic, social, and environmental matters to achieve the 40-year vision for Greater Sydney. It further explores the objectives of the Greater Sydney Regional Plan as discussed above. Several planning priorities under the Plan are directly supported by this proposal. They include:

- E4 – Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities.
- E6 – Creating and renewing great places and local centres and respecting the District's heritage.
- E11 – Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres, and
- E13 – Supporting growth of targeted industry sectors.

In particular, Action 14 requires Council's to "Facilitate opportunities for creative and artistic expression and participation, wherever feasible with a minimum regulatory burden, including:

- a. arts enterprises and facilities, and creative industries
- b. interim and temporary uses
- c. appropriate development of the night-time economy."

Our proposal for special entertainment precincts seeks to decrease the regulatory burden for artistic expression through incentive hours and for development of the night time economy. By designating most of our commercial and mixed use centres, the proposal aligns with plan's priorities of renewing great places and growing business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres.

Q4. Is the planning proposal consistent with council's local strategy or other local strategic plan?

Yes, the planning proposal is consistent with City Plan 2036 the endorsed Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), Cultural Strategy (2025-2035) and Economic Development Strategy (2025-2035). See row 1.

Q5. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)?

State Environmental Planning Policies	Comment
SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021	Not applicable
SEPP (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004	Not applicable
SEPP (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008	Not applicable
SEPP (Housing) - 2021	Consistent. The management plan protects the amenity of residents in and around our Special Entertainment Precincts, balancing nightlife with amenity for residential uses. Sydney DCP 2012 Entertainment Sound Management ensures higher noise attenuation standards will apply to new residential accommodation near to venues and in our latest trading special entertainment precincts.
SEPP (Planning Systems) 2021	Not applicable
SEPP (Precincts – Eastern Harbour City) 2021	Not applicable
SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) 2021	Not applicable
SEPP (Sustainable Buildings) 2022	Not applicable

Q6. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions?

Ministerial Direction	Comment
Focus Area 1 Planning Systems	
1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans	Not applicable
1.2 Development of Aboriginal Land Council Land	Not applicable
1.3 Approval and Referral Requirements	Consistent. The proposal will decrease the need for development applications, through trading hours in the management plan which override development consents. Therefore, approval and referral requirements will be reduced.
1.4 Site Specific Provisions	Not applicable

Focus Area 1: Planning Systems – Place-based

1.5-1.22 Place based directions	Not applicable
1.15 Implementation of the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy	Not applicable

Focus Area 3: Biodiversity and Conservation

3.2 Heritage Conservation	Consistent. No changes are proposed which would result in negative impacts to heritage conservation.
3.9 Sydney Harbour Foreshores and Waterways Area	Not applicable

Focus Area 4: Resilience and Hazards

4.1 Flooding	Not applicable
4.2 Coastal Management	Not applicable
4.4 Remediation of Contaminated Land	Not applicable
4.5 Acid Sulfate Soils	Not applicable

Focus Area 5: Transport and Infrastructure

5.1 Integrating Land use and Transport	Consistent. The proposal supports the continued growth of appropriately zoned land. The precinct is located in an area well serviced by public transport, including late night public transport options.
5.2 Reserving Land for Public Purposes	Not applicable.

Focus Area 6: Housing

6.1 Residential Zones	Consistent. The proposal will not reduce the capacity of land within the precincts for residential development. It will ensure future residential accommodation developed in the area is designed to mitigate against entertainment sound, preserving adequate amenity for the enjoyment of future residents.
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Focus Area 7: Industry and Employment

7.1 Business and Industrial Zones	The proposal will support the operation and objectives of land zoned for employment, commercial, services, retail, and industry by making it easier to trade later and making the acceptable sound levels coming from premises clear to businesses and residents.
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Council expects this proposed special entertainment precinct to increase business confidence and lead to the establishment of new businesses.

3.4. Environmental, social and economic impact

Q7. Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected as a result of the proposal?

No.

Q8. Are there any other likely environmental effects as a result of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?

Increased patronage and the potential establishment of new venues or increased activity from existing venue may lead to an increase in sound levels.

Any additional sound generated by venues from amplified sound and patron noise from within venues will be regulated and enforced under the management plan. The compliance procedures for such incidents are outlined in this plan. Regulating this environmental effect is at the core of this planning proposal.

Q9. Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?

The economic and social impacts resulting from the planning proposal are expected to be positive.

Nightlife and creative industries have faced significant disruption from past lockout laws, which restricted trading hours and reduced opportunities for late-night cultural activity. The COVID-19 pandemic compounded these challenges, leading to prolonged closures, job losses, and later, rising costs. Introducing special entertainment precincts is one of a series of measure the City has undertaken to address these impacts and support our night life and creative industries.

In September 2025, NSW Productivity and Equality Commission carried out a review of regulatory barriers impeding a vibrant 24-hour economy. The report found that businesses are constrained by regulations and rising costs. They concluded that special entertainment precincts can make it faster and simpler for councils and businesses to deliver entertainment and extended trading while managing local amenity

Through the incentive hours, the planning proposal will help achieve the intended outcome of enabling businesses to invest in and deliver more live music, culture, entertainment, and performance as part of their ongoing offer. Trading hours in a precinct management plan can override those on a development consent. This will help to reduce the administrative burden on councils and businesses, making it easier and more affordable to operate late night trading premises. The management plan gives operational certainty, which will also help to enhance economic outcomes, supporting businesses to thrive.

Nevertheless, there is potential for unintended consequences, such as:

- Increased antisocial behaviour
- Loss of residential amenity
- Homogenisation of the area (loss of day trading business, loss of small or independent business, etc)
- Lack of affordability / inclusion of offer

The management plan includes a monitoring and evaluation framework. Indicators and data sources have been identified for these potential unintended consequences. They will be monitored on a regular basis and reviewed by the precinct working group, with the potential to adjust the policy, or suspend or revoke the special entertainment precincts if needed.

3.5. State and Commonwealth interests

Q10. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?

The proposal does not change development potential, so any impact on requirements for public infrastructure would be minor.

The proposal is likely to result in an increase in footfall in the King Street, Newtown precinct, particularly at night. This precinct has good public transport accessibility, including rail, buses and nightrider buses. It is also well supported by taxi and rideshare services.

A recent report by Night Time Industries Association identified lack of late night public transport as a barrier to growth in the night time economy. Extending public transport services at night would support further growth.

Q11. What are the views of state and Commonwealth public authorities consulted in accordance with the Gateway determination?

In line with the *NSW Government Special Entertainment Precinct Guideline*, the following organisations were notified of our intention to designate special entertainment precincts and consulted on the draft proposal:

- Office of the 24-Hour Commissioner
- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Liquor & Gaming NSW
- NSW Police
- Inner West Council (proposed SEP on shared boundary)

There is no objection to the proposal on the part of these public authorities.

4. Maps

5. Community consultation

Early consultation – Special entertainment precinct discussion paper

From 21 November 2024 to 20 January 2025, we asked our communities for feedback on the proposed approach to special entertainment precincts through consultation on a discussion paper. A total of 271 surveys and 85 emailed submissions were made in response to the discussion paper. There was strong support for the proposal to designate the existing late night trading areas, including King Street, as special entertainment precincts. We also asked questions about the proposed areas, hours and sound levels to inform our management plan.

Agency and local authority consultation

In line with the NSW Government Special Entertainment Precinct Guideline, the following organisations were notified of our intention to designate special entertainment precincts and consulted on the draft proposal:

- Office of the 24-Hour Commissioner
- Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- Liquor & Gaming NSW
- NSW Police
- Inner West Council (proposed SEP on shared boundary)

Coordination with Inner West Council

In line with the Council resolution of 15 December 2025, the City has worked collaboratively with Inner West Council on the King Street Special Entertainment Precinct, recognising that the precinct spans both local government areas and that residents, businesses and visitors experience King Street as one continuous street. The two councils have worked together on an aligned approach to trading hours and sound levels, ensuring consistent controls along the full length of the King Street corridor regardless of local government boundary. Officers from both councils have met regularly to share evidence, align approaches to sound assessment and trading hour proposals, and ensure that consultation, communications and rollout of the precinct are coordinated. Inner West Council has passed an equivalent motion in support of this coordinated approach, and public exhibition will be conducted concurrently with Inner West Council's process wherever practicable.

Engagement with the Newtown Enmore Business Community

The Newtown Enmore Business Community has been engaged throughout the development of the proposal. As a peak business representative body for King Street and the surrounding area, the Business Community has provided valuable local knowledge about hospitality, retail and cultural businesses operating in Newtown, the lived experience of trading in the precinct, emerging business clusters off King Street, and opportunities and challenges for the night-time economy in Newtown. The Business Community nominated a number of premises and side-street locations for inclusion in the precinct, which the City has reviewed and which have informed targeted refinements to the proposed precinct boundary. The Business Community will continue to be engaged through public exhibition and implementation.

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Precinct working group

The City's Nightlife and Creative Industries Advisory Panel acts as a precinct working group for the special entertainment precincts. The panel is made up of key nightlife stakeholders from industry associations, cultural institutions, creatives, live music and performance venues, small bars and festivals. The panel is an independent advisory body.

In supporting the City's approach to establishing entertainment precincts, the panel has provided advice on the development of the precincts and the management plan.

Future consultation

With Council approval and DPHI gateway determination, the next step will be public exhibition of this planning proposal, alongside the management plan and DCP amendment. Public consultation will be conducted concurrently with Inner West Council's process wherever practicable and will include notification of affected parties and consultation with business, residents, visitors, local organisations, and further consultation with the relevant agencies and local authorities.

6. Project timeline

The timeframe for the planning proposal is highly dependent on the time it takes to receive gateway determination. The best-case scenario timeline for completion of this planning proposal is as follows:

Stage	Timeframe
Gateway Determination	Q3 2026
Public exhibition and government agency consultation	Q3 2026
Consideration of submissions	Q3 2026
Post exhibition consideration of proposal by Council/CSPC	Q4 2026
Drafting of LEP provisions	Q4 2026
Finalisation of LEP and DCP and forwarding to Department of Planning and Environment for notification	Q4 2026
Year-long trial commences	Q1 2027
Year-long trial ends	Q1 2028

