

Tara Cheyne MLA

Manager of Government Business
Attorney General
Minister for Human Rights
Minister for City and Government Services
Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Questions on Notice Paper No 6
09 MAY 2025
Question No. 394

Mr. THOMAS EMERSON MLA: To ask the Minister for the Night-Time Economy

1. In relation to the Government's policy enabling certain venues to apply for an 80 percent reduction on their annual liquor fee by showcasing live music and other cultural activities, (a) what did the Government anticipate would be the uptake of this proposal, (b) how many businesses have actually been successful in taking up this offer and (c) what size have these businesses been in terms of capacity.
2. In relation to the Government's policy enabling venues to apply for extended trading hours and extended floor plans up to 10 times per year for special events, (a) what did the Government anticipate would be the uptake of this proposal (i.e. how many businesses were expected to apply for extended trading hours or floor plans in excess of the previously allowed six times per 12 months), (b) how many businesses have actually successfully applied for extended trading hours or floor plans more than six times per 12 months and (c) have there been any instances of businesses seeking approval from their landlord to extend their trading hours or floor plans that have been rejected.

TARA CHEYNE MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Question one:

- a. The government anticipated that 25 licensed venues would take up the proposal per annum.
- b. As at 28 May 2025, 17 venues have successfully applied for the 80 per cent discount on their annual liquor licence fees. Four venues have been unsuccessful in applying for the discount.
- c. The venues that are receiving the reduction have occupancies that range from 80 to 150 persons. Three venues have occupancies of 100 persons or less.

Question two:

a. In relation to this question:

- i. The government did not anticipate take up rate for extended trading authorisations for licensee events. The reform's introduction was designed to encourage and provide increased flexibility for businesses wishing to hold regular business-led (licensee) events.
- ii. It anticipated 10 businesses would seek more than six floor plan exemptions for licensee events.

b. As at 28 May 2025:

- i. One business has successfully applied for extended trading authorisations for a licensee event more than six times (within a 12-month period) since the reform commenced.
 - In addition, the Head of Access Canberra has made six special event declarations which automatically extended trading hours for all licensed venues covered by the declaration. As a result, licensees did not need to seek trading extensions for the period covered by the special event declarations. Further information can be found here: [Liquor \(Licensee Events and Special Events\) Guidelines 2024 \(No 1\) | Notifiable instruments](#).
 - Between 5 July 2024 and 28 May 2025, the following special event declarations have been made:
 - Start of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games
 - NightFest Floriade
 - SpringOUT Pride Festival
 - New Year's Eve 2024
 - National Multicultural Festival 2025
 - Anzac Day 2025.
 - ii. No business has applied for more than six authorisations to amend their floor plan.
- c. This information is not available to the government as businesses are not required to seek agreement from a landlord to apply for an authorisation to extend trading hours. Businesses would undertake the step of seeking approval from a landlord prior to submitting an application for authorisation to change floor plans. However, the government has not been made aware of instances like this occurring.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Tara Cheyne MLA

Minister for the Night-Time Economy

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This response required 7hrs 40mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$688.89