



Victoria Government Gazette

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Liquor Control Reform Act 1998

STATEMENT OF POLICY

I, Tony Robinson MP, being the Minister for Consumer Affairs and the Minister responsible for administering the **Liquor Control Reform Act 1998** (the Act) publish the following statement representing the policy of the Victorian Government concerning the grant of liquor licences trading after 1.00 am. In particular, the policy covers licensing of premises in the municipalities of Melbourne, [including the area known as Docklands], Stonnington, Yarra and Port Phillip (the affected Municipalities) that operate for periods in excess of ordinary trading hours as defined in section 3 of the Act, including, but not exclusive to, licensed venues that operate on a 24 hour basis.

In releasing the Statement of Policy the Victorian Government has considered amongst other matters the following:

1. The objects of the Act including section 4(a)(i) and (ii) of the Act: to contribute to minimising harm from the misuse and abuse of alcohol; and
 - (i) providing adequate controls over the supply and consumption of liquor; and
 - (ii) ensuring as far as practicable that the supply of liquor contributes to, and does not detract from, the amenity of community life; and
 - (iii) to contribute to the responsible development of the liquor and licensed hospitality industry.
2. The second reading speech of the Act makes it clear that harm minimisation is the primary aim of the Act.
3. The definition of ordinary trading hours as defined in section 3 of the Act and the ability of the Director of Liquor Licensing to determine any other hours of operation.
4. That on evidence available to the Victorian Government, there is a correlation between anti-social behaviour occurring in the early hours of mornings and the operation of licensed venues that supply liquor after 1.00 am.
5. That the current evidence of alcohol related anti-social behaviour is contrary to the objects of the Act in that it detracts from the amenity of community life, does not reflect community expectation and is harmful to the responsible development of the liquor and licensed hospitality industries.
6. To reduce the harm arising from the supply of alcohol in the early hours of the morning and to allow further consideration in relation to the adequate controls over the supply and consumption of liquor, the Victorian Government is required to take reasonable steps to minimise the harm to the Victorian public.
7. That a previous Statement of Policy was signed by me on the 22 April 2008 and published in the Government Gazette on 2 May 2008 and the Government is of the view that this policy has assisted in limiting anti social behaviour in the affected Municipalities.

Based on the matters raised above amongst other things, the Victorian Government provides the following further Statement of Policy:

It is the policy of the Victorian Government that from the date of publishing this Statement of Policy in the Government Gazette, until the period ending midnight 31 December 2009, any liquor licence, subject to the specific terms nominated below, shall only be granted by the Director of Liquor Licensing with trading hours that do not exceed 1.00 am unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated by the applicant.

SPECIAL

1. This policy statement does not affect
 - a pre-retail, vigneron's, club or restricted club licence or an on-premises licence with restaurant conditions pursuant to section 9[3] of the Act.
 - any licence that has been granted and is operational as at the date of this statement or to transfers of licences where no variation to the conditions of the licence is sought.
 - current applications submitted to the Director of Liquor Licensing prior to 2 May 2008 but not yet determined.
2. This policy statement does apply to:
 - applications made to the Director of Liquor Licensing after 2 May 2008 but not yet determined prior to 2 May 2009.
 - applications made to the Director of Liquor Licensing on or following the gazettal date of this statement of Policy.
 - applications to relocate existing licences.

Dated 24 March 2009

TONY ROBINSON MP
Minister for Consumer Affairs

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