



Victoria Government Gazette

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Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation Act 2011

DECISION-MAKING GUIDELINES

Pursuant to Section 5 of the

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation Act 2011

Applications for liquor licences to trade after 1.00 am

I, Jane Garrett, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation and the Minister responsible for the **Liquor Control Reform Act 1998**, publish these guidelines representing the policy of the Victorian Government concerning applications to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (commission) for liquor licences to trade after 1.00 am in the municipalities of Melbourne (including the area known as Docklands), Stonnington, Yarra and Port Phillip (inner Melbourne municipalities).

These guidelines replace the guidelines dated 25 June 2015.

The inner Melbourne municipalities attract large numbers of patrons to their entertainment precincts, many of whom will consume alcohol in, or purchase alcohol from, licensed premises. The harms caused by increased access, over-supply and the irresponsible consumption of alcohol include alcohol-fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour. On the evidence available to the Victorian Government, there is a correlation between anti-social behaviour in the early hours of the morning and the operation of licensed premises that supply liquor after 1.00 am.

The guidelines apply to an application for the grant, relocation or variation of a general, on-premises, packaged liquor, late night (general, on-premises and packaged liquor), limited (temporary and renewable) and major event licence, and a BYO permit.

The guidelines do not apply to an application for a pre-retail, wine and beer producer's, full club, restricted club, or restaurant and cafe licence or to an application for a liquor licence for premises deemed by the Minister, by notice published in the Government Gazette, to be of major cultural importance to the State.

Nothing in the guidelines should be read as requiring the commission to grant or vary a liquor licence, or prevent the commission imposing a condition on the grant or variation of a licence, where the commission forms the view that granting or varying a liquor licence is inconsistent with the objects set out in section 4(1)(a) of the **Liquor Control Reform Act 1998**.

- A. It is the policy of the Victorian Government that no new liquor licence shall be granted, or existing liquor licence varied, by the commission to allow the supply of liquor after 1.00 am in the inner Melbourne municipalities, except where the commission is satisfied that:
- (1) the premises is, or will be, used as:
 - a. an accommodation hotel, being a hotel whose primary purpose is providing accommodation and where the supply of alcohol is ancillary to that purpose; or
 - b. a venue that regularly provides live music entertainment; or
 - c. a venue that supplies liquor for consumption on the premises provided that food is available at the venue at all times when liquor can be supplied; and
 - (2) the applicant can satisfy the commission that:
 - (a) the application is supported by the council of the municipality in which the premises is, or will be, located; and
 - (b) it has in place, or will put in place, a Venue Management Plan in the form required by the commission; and

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- (c) the economic and social benefit of granting the licence will outweigh the impact of the licence on alcohol misuse and abuse and community amenity; and
 - (d) the patron capacity of the premises or proposed premises does not, or will not, exceed 200 persons.
- B. It is the policy of the Victorian Government that no temporary liquor licence, temporary variation to an existing liquor licence, or major event licence shall be made or granted by the commission to allow the supply of liquor after 1.00 am in the inner Melbourne municipalities, except where the commission is satisfied that:
 - (1) the application seeks approval to supply alcohol for:
 - (a) a significant cultural festival; or
 - (b) a major tourist event; or
 - (c) New Year's Eve; or
 - (d) a major live music event; or
 - (e) a major charity event; and
 - (2) the applicant can satisfy the commission that:
 - (a) the application is supported by the council of the municipality in which the premises is, or will be, located; and
 - (b) it has in place, or will put in place, a Venue Management Plan in the form required by the commission; and
 - (c) it will comply with any food service conditions on the licence until alcohol service ceases.

The guidelines apply to applications determined by the commission after 30 June 2015 and before midnight on 30 June 2019.

Dated 16 July 2015

JANE GARRETT MP
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

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