

SPORTING VENUES AUTHORITIES AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Statement of Public Interest
 Tabled by *Ms Slone*
 Clerk of the Parliaments

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?

Venues NSW is a major employment, tourism, social and economic engine of growth for NSW and Australia. The Venues NSW network of sporting and entertainment precincts comprises more than \$4bn of public community assets, which host some 500 major events, attracting upwards of five million attendees each year.

Venues NSW has a legislated objective to operate its network on a commercial basis and develop its land to ensure they remain accessible to, and meet the needs of, the people of NSW.

Venues NSW seeks to develop visitor accommodation on its land to support the state's sporting and entertainment venues and visitor economy strategy which will ensure its precincts remain accessible to any and all.

The proposed amendment is needed to remove restrictions on accommodation developments on Venues NSW land that are contrary to the legislated objectives.

Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?

The policy's objective is to allow Venues NSW to build visitor accommodation on its land. Having visitor accommodation within proximity to a venue is a key factor on whether travelling for major events is feasible and cost-effective, particularly for those travelling from rural and regional areas.

Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the bill?

Venues NSW considered other developments, including community and recreation, and divesting the land.

Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?

Other developments, including community and recreation, would result in significantly smaller commercial returns and thus be contrary to section 3A(a) which is to enable the efficient and effective management and coordination of entertainment and sporting venues within the State on a commercial basis.

Land divestment creates risk and loss of control and would severely limit the ability of Venues NSW to meet section 3A(c) of the Act which is to ensure a customer-focused approach is applied to the management of entertainment and sporting venues and surrounding lands so they remain accessible to, and meet the needs of, users of and visitors to the venues and the broader community.

Pathway: What are the timetable and steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?

Venues NSW will seek to progress planning for developments that will include visitor accommodation in 2026. Such developments will be subject to appropriate planning approvals and community consultation.

Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?

Venues NSW has undertaken extensive consultation with stakeholders connected to its Newcastle and Parramatta precincts on the proposed developments at each site. This includes local residents, local councils, government agencies, sporting partners, community groups and local business. Further consultation will be undertaken during planning for any development.