

FAQ - Special Entertainment Precinct

The Department has temporarily changed the Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 (Inner West LEP) to establish the trial Special Entertainment Precinct.

What is a special entertainment precinct?

A special entertainment precinct can be a venue, street or area where councils set and manage amplified music levels through a noise / sound management plan. Councils can create a precinct by amending their Local Environmental Plan. This lets councils set localised noise criteria and compliance procedures for licensed venues. For example, councils can set out the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the management of amplified music in their plan.

Where is the Inner West's Special Entertainment Precinct?

The precinct is on part of Enmore Road in Enmore. It includes venues that front Enmore Road to the west of the Newtown Station until the Edgware Road junction.



Figure 1 Map of the Inner West trial Special Entertainment Precinct

When is the trial?

The trial originally ran from 1 September to 30 November 2022. It has been extended until 31 July 2023.

Why was the trial extended?

Inner West Council requested the extension to allow venues to continue offering entertainment, and to see how venues, local residents and Council experience the precinct during summer. Council reported positive feedback during the trial with few complaints and venues being proactive to address issues.

The extension gives Council time to decide if it wants to make the precinct permanent and to prepare a planning proposal to request that the Department changes the Inner West LEP.

Council will continue to work with the venues, its community and government agencies during the extension and feedback can be made on the Council's website.

What do the planning changes do?

The Department used a State Environmental Planning Policy to temporarily change the Inner West LEP 2022. This establishes the special entertainment precinct on Enmore Road by mapping the precinct boundaries and venues included in the trial. The planning change allows Council to test its plan for managing amplified music through its own Sound Management Plan. The trial date has been extended by an amendment to Council's LEP.

What's included in a special entertainment precinct?

The Government wants to support an active night time economy. Changes to local government and liquor laws allow councils to set different sound levels and management processes for areas where they wish to encourage entertainment and performance. Venues can also access longer trading hours.

Where can I find council's Sound Management Plan?

The Sound Management Plan is in the draft Precinct Management Plan on the [Enmore Road Special Entertainment Precinct webpage](#).

If I have any concerns about noise from a venue, who do I contact?

Council has suggested to first approach the venue with your concerns to address the issue immediately. If you are unsatisfied with the outcome, then report the noise complaint to Inner West Council directly.

At times when Council is not available and immediate attention is required, complaints will need to be made to the police by phoning Newtown Police Station.

When making a complaint to the Police, a complaint should also be submitted through Council's online portal. More details on using the online portal are on the Inner West Council's webpage. Lodging the complaint via the online portal will help council to understand the location and nature of disturbances

Is there any support for venues and performers?

The Liquor Act allows extended trading hours and licence fee reductions for live music and performance venues which provide music, arts and cultural events. The trial has been designated as an 'incentivised event' under the liquor laws. This means licensed venues that participate in the trial

by holding live music performances and/or other arts and cultural events can be given access to certain licensing incentives. See [Liquor and Gaming NSW's website](#) for more details.

Why are special entertainment precincts needed?

Some long established venues have experienced difficulties operating when noise complaints arise due to changes in surrounding land uses and sound level expectations by residents. A precinct flags that a level of entertainment sound is expected in the area and that complaints should only be made when set thresholds are exceeded. To support this, councils must alert residents and new buyers to a precinct and can require noise attenuation on certain development.

A trial lets the local community, residents and businesses experience different sound levels and noise compliance approaches. It lets council gain community feedback, test and refine sound levels and its compliance process.

How were people consulted on this project?

Inner West Council held information sessions for businesses and the local community. You can watch the community information session on council's special entertainment precinct webpage.

The Department held a formal exhibition on the planning changes from 10 June until 8 July 2022. The exhibition material, submissions report and submissions are on the [Planning Portal](#).

The Department consulted the NSW Police, Liquor and Gaming NSW and the Office of Local Government to confirm that there were no objections or significant issues during the first 3 months before extending the trial. Council will continue to meet with government agencies during the extension.

What else will happen during the trial?

Inner West Council are proposing additional activities which are not being delivered by the Department's change. These will be managed under the council's approvals and under the liquor laws with Liquor and Gaming NSW. Council proposes to extend outdoor dining hours to 11 pm and provide an extra 30 minutes for retail trading and music in the precinct.

For more information on what's on, please contact Inner West Council directly or visit the [Enmore Special Entertainment Precinct webpage](#).

What happens after the trial?

If council decides to make the precinct permanent, it will need to change its Local Environmental Plan before 31 July 2023. The department will work with Council to facilitate this process if required. A permanent change will include a public exhibition process.

Who can I contact if I have a question, comment or complaint about the trial?

For more information on the special entertainment precinct, and to provide feedback to council on its operation please see Council's [Enmore Special Entertainment webpage](#).

For more information, please contact the Inner West Council:

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Frequently Asked Questions



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