

Australian Capital Territory

Major Events (Royal Visit to Canberra) Declaration 2024

Disallowable instrument DI2024-297

made under the

Major Events Act 2014, section 6 (Major event - declaration)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Division 2.1 of the *Major Events Act 2014* (the Act) permits the Executive to declare that an event is major event if satisfied—

- (a) that the event is a major event at an international, national, State or Territory level; and
- (b) it is in the public interest to do so; and
- (c) on reasonable grounds it is necessary and appropriate to do so.

The Executive is satisfied the events listed in the instrument meet these criteria.

Their Majesties The King Charles III, Head of State, and Queen Camilla (Their Majesties) will tour Australia from 18 to 23 October 2024, including visits to New South Wales (NSW) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

This declaration applies the provisions of the *Major Events Act 2014* (the Act) to three major events in the ACT on 21 October 2024 during the Royal Visit. This notice is a disallowable instrument.

The major events will be located at the:

- (a) Australian War Memorial;
- (b) CSIRO Black Mountain site; and
- (c) Australian National Botanic Gardens.

The Royal Visit is a visit of significance for the Territory and Australia. It requires a high degree of professional management and coordination, particularly by ACT Policing and the Australian Federal Police. The Royal Visit will also attract significant national media attention.

The safety and security of the Royal Visit to Canberra is paramount for Their Majesties, participants, and the many spectators expected to attend these major events. The security threat environment has changed significantly since the last visit of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II in 2011 and necessitates additional protections be in place for these major events. Maintaining a safe and minimal risk environment will ensure these major events and associated public welcoming and spectating are protected from potentially dangerous situations.

The powers enlivened under this declaration have appropriate limitations on the duration and scope of their application to provide for the safe and secure conduct of the Royal Visit.

A major events declaration does not restrict peaceful assembly or gatherings, and the restrictions in the *Major Events Act 2014* do not apply to public protests.

The effect of this declaration is to enliven powers and offences under the Act, Part 3 (Crowd Management) for police officers. Crowd management in Part 3 of the Act includes offences in relation to the possession of prohibited items and interference with the events. Part 3 also provides crowd management powers including the power to search personal property, to conduct scanning searches and frisk searches.