

Australian Capital Territory

Major Events (Summer Sports Season Events) Notice 2024

Disallowable instrument DI2024-302

made under the

Major Events Act 2014, section 9 (Important sporting event - notice)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Division 2.2 of the *Major Events Act 2014* (the Act) permits the Minister to give notice that an event is an important sporting event if satisfied on reasonable grounds that its making is necessary and appropriate for—

- (a) the safety of people attending the event; and
- (b) the avoidance of disruptions to the event.

The Minister is satisfied the events listed in the instrument meet this criteria.

This notice applies the provisions of the *Major Events Act 2014* (the Act) to 4 matches at Manuka Oval from 30 November 2024 to 23 January 2025. These matches form the Summer Sports Season in the ACT. This notice is a disallowable instrument.

Cricket matches hosted at Manuka Oval generally attract a family-oriented audience. Maintaining a safe and minimal risk environment is paramount to the ongoing viability of hosting major events in the ACT and is of particular importance to the Territory. 7,000 persons are expected to attend both the Prime Minister's XI v India match from 30 November 2024 to 1 December 2024, and the Women's International T20 match between Australia and England on 23 January 2025. A small number of international visitors are also expected to attend these matches.

10,000 persons are expected to attend each of the two Sydney Thunder matches in December 2024 as part of the KFC Big Bash League.

Sporting events held at Manuka Oval include corporate hospitality and official functions which often include VIPS and dignitaries. All matches played at Manuka Oval are broadcast and attract significant international or national media attention.

Protecting playing areas and preventing unauthorised entry both during and in advance of each event is important part of hosting national matches and an increasing expectation from sporting bodies. Applying powers and offences under the Act prior to an event protects against those who may seek to disrupt the event before it occurs by damaging the playing surface.

The effect of this notice is to apply powers and offences under the Act, Part 3 (Crowd Management). The application of crowd management powers does not affect the rights and duties of venue operators and property holders that apply under ACT or Commonwealth laws or the common law.

Crowd management in Part 3 of the Act include offences in relation to the possession of prohibited items and interference with the event. Part 3 also provides crowd management powers including the power to search personal property, to conduct scanning searches and frisk searches.

Alcohol is excluded from the meaning of *prohibited item* under s 12 (a) of the Act as it will be available for purchase from authorised licenced vendors during the sporting events.