

Major Events (Winter Sports Season Events) Notice 2025

Disallowable instrument DI2025-11

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 25 matches at GIO Stadium and Manuka Oval from 13 February 2025 to 30 August 2025. These matches form the Winter Sports Season in the ACT. This notice is a disallowable instrument.

Sporting events hosted at both venues 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.

Terrorism and violent extremism continue to be threats at the national level, and there is an increased national focus on security arrangements for mass gatherings, in particular for stadium sporting events. Protections such as these support a reduction and deterrent to that risk.

5,000-13,000 persons are expected to attend the Australian Football League (AFL) matches at Manuka Oval. 7,000-9,000 persons are expected to attend Super Rugby matches at GIO Stadium. For National Rugby League (NRL) matches at GIO Stadium, 7,000-16,000 persons are expected to attend the men's games and 2,000 the NRL women's matches.

Sporting events held at Manuka Oval and GIO Stadium Canberra include corporate hospitality and official functions which often include VIPS and dignitaries. All matches played at GIO Stadium Canberra and 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.