

Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Amended regulatory framework for special events at major sports facilities to level the playing field.

28 August 2025

OVERVIEW

The *Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* was introduced in Queensland Parliament on 26 August 2025.

This Insight discusses how some of the proposed amendments will create a level playing field for attracting concerts to major sports facilities, including the two Gold Coast stadiums, by adopting a consistent regulatory approach for special event hosting. This will address inequities arising from current differing noise control regimes.

The Amendment Bill has been referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works committee for inquiry.

CREATING A FIT-FOR-PURPOSE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

As highlighted in our recent [Insight](#) on amendments aimed at fast-tracking development for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is not uncommon for special or major event legislation to override other laws, in order to streamline event readiness and delivery.

The *Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 (MSF Act)* already provides a degree of this flexibility for prescribed **special events** at **major sports facilities** in Queensland. To enhance this framework, the *Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* proposes targeted amendments to the MSF Act, creating a more streamlined, contemporary 'fit-for-purpose' regulatory framework for hosting special events.

These amendments will place the Gold Coast's major sports facilities—Carrara Stadium (**People First Stadium**) and Robina Stadium (**Cbus Super Stadium**)—on equal footing with Brisbane Stadium (Suncorp Stadium) in attracting international headline concerts, by removing commercial inequities arising from inconsistent finishing times for amplified music constrained by differing noise control regimes. As described by the Minister in introducing the Amendment Bill:

“ [it] will afford the state the future bargaining power to attract major international artists to the Gold Coast. This will help cement the Gold Coast's reputation as an international touring destination, allowing the region to unlock the significant social, cultural and economic benefits associated with such status.

Under the current MSF Act, only planning controls are overridden for the use of a major sports facility for a special event. Noise management currently remains subject to other legislative frameworks, requiring navigation of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (including open-air event noise standards) and the interaction between the *Liquor Act 1992* noise abatement provisions (and liquor licences) and local laws.

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* provides an exemption from environmental nuisance and noise standard contravention offences for noise generated by a special event prescribed for s30A of the MSF Act, provided the event complies with any conditions prescribed under a regulation. At present, the *Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014 (MSF Regulation)* only prescribes special events at Suncorp Stadium (allowing up to 12 major concerts and one religious event per calendar year), and these are subject to specific conditions prescribed in Schedule 2.



KEY PROPOSITIONS

- ▮ In addition to planning controls, liquor licensing and local law controls in relation to noise will be overridden for the use of major sports facilities for prescribed special events.
- ▮ Community consultation revealed support for the proposed regulatory approach.
- ▮ The MSF Regulation will be the central source for event management condition, including regarding noise.

Lawful use of a major sports facility for a special event

The Amendment Bill proposes expanding the current override of planning controls in s30A of the MSF Act to also include the *Liquor Act 1992* and liquor licences, and local laws (and permits/approvals under them), to the extent they relate to noise from the use of the major special facility for a prescribed special event—

The use of a major sports facility for a [prescribed] special event is a lawful use of the major sports facility despite the following—

Current	the <i>Planning Act 2016</i>
Current	any local planning instrument (ie. planning scheme, temporary local planning instrument, planning scheme policy)
Current	any development approval
New	the <i>Liquor Act 1992</i> or liquor licence, to the extent the Act/licence applies in relation to noise from the use of the facility for the special event
New	a local law (LL) or LL licence/permit/approval (however described), to the extent it applies in relation to noise from the use of the facility for the special event

Event management conditions to be specified by the MSF Regulation

Importantly, under the proposed new framework, the broader legislative override will not eliminate the need for appropriate special event management obligations—including regarding noise. Instead, the proposed amendments will allow these obligations to be streamlined and specified within the MSF Regulation. Community consultation conducted in early 2024 regarding the proposal to regulate special events at Gold Coast stadiums consistent with the approach for Suncorp Stadium with a 10.30pm finish time, revealed clear majority support. However, respondents also voiced concerns about potential adverse impacts, particularly for nearby residents, in relation to noise, traffic congestion, and anti-social behaviour from event patrons.



KEY PROPOSITIONS

- Locally-responsive event management conditions will be specified through anticipated amendments to the MSF Regulation.
- Compliance with the prescribed special event conditions will mean the general environmental duty will be taken to be complied with in respect of noise.

Conditions governing the operation of concerts at stadium venues will be developed to minimise adverse impacts on surrounding communities. These conditions will be informed by consultation with residents, local governments, stadium operators, and other stakeholders. Anticipated amendments to the MSF Regulation will facilitate the implementation of locally responsive requirements, thereby avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach and ensuring that each facility's unique context is appropriately addressed. The current prescribed conditions for special events at Suncorp Stadium in Schedule 2 of the MSF Regulation illustrate the range of matters that may be conditioned, including:

- Transport management plan
- Operational management plan - including noise management, crowd control, pedestrian and vehicular movement
- Lighting
- Building works - including stage and seating plan providing access for an emergency
- Operating hours - for rehearsals and sounds tests and for the main event/s (to 10.30pm)
- Advance notification (of at least 20 business days out) to occupiers likely to be significantly affected (including within the stadium traffic area)
- Noise - levels, measurements and monitoring
- Post-event reporting

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Use of a major sports facility for a special event in compliance with the prescribed special event conditions will be taken to be in compliance with the general environmental duty under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* in respect of noise.

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