

MAJOR EVENTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (TICKET SCALPING AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2017

The Major Events Legislation Amendment (Ticket Scalping and Other Matters) Bill 2017 will expand the Major Sporting Events Act 2009 to apply ticket scalping provisions to non-sporting major events (such as cultural events, including theatre events, concerts, gallery exhibitions and festivals).

- The Major Sporting Events Act 2009 has been renamed the Major Events Act 2009.
- The amendments focus on new ticket scalping offences which prohibit the resale of tickets for more than 10% of the original value of the ticket.
- Where an event is the subject of a major event ticketing declaration, it will now be an offence to advertise or resell a ticket for more than 10% above the face value of the ticket. Penalties can range from \$790 up to \$475,000 depending on the nature of the offences.
- For such a declaration, event organisers are no longer required to prepare a ticketing scheme. This will make it an easier process to declare a major event.
- It is a requirement where a major event ticketing declaration has been made, for the event organiser to ensure that the ticket price is displayed on the face of the tickets. This is to ensure that the primary cost of the ticket is clearly identified to consumers should the ticket be resold on the secondary market (for no more than 10% of the primary face value of the ticket).

Major Event Ticket Declaration

- The Minister for Tourism and Major Events is now able to make a major event ticketing declaration to any major event.
- The Act is intended to apply to exclusive major and key note events only, or events that are requested by a promoter or event organiser.
- The criteria used to determine whether an event should be considered as a major event under the Act will include: the size of the event; demand for tickets; exclusive global content; likely media coverage of the event; the contribution to Victoria's international profile as a host of major events; and where requested by a promoter or event organiser.

Authorised Ticketing Officers

- New authorised ticketing officers will be given equivalent powers to that available to police officers under the ticket scalping provisions of the Act, to support the Victorian Police in the enforcement of the Bill.
- Authorised ticketing officers will be required to undertake training similar to existing authorised officer crowd management training, which is administered by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR).
- Authorised ticketing officers may be present in and around venues to enforce the legislation. Operational staff should be informed by management and processes identified to liaise between the two if scalping activity is observed.

Authorised Ticketing Officers (cont.)

- Enforcement powers include seizure, temporary surrender and retention of tickets, and to be able to issue infringement notices to offenders. Authorised ticketing officers are able to commence court proceedings against major offenders if authorised by the Secretary of DEDJTR.
- It is an offence to hinder or obstruct an authorised ticketing officer in the exercise of their powers, functions or duties; or to impersonate an authorised ticketing officer. Authorised ticketing officers have powers to require a person to give their name and address if the officer believes on reasonable grounds that the person has committed a ticket scalping offence. It is an offence for a person to fail or refuse to give their name, or to provide a misleading name or address.
- Authorised Ticketing Officers will work with the DEDJTR to inform the community about the legislation and the secondary ticketing market.

Next Steps

- The Government through DEDJTR will conduct information sessions and a stakeholder forum for event organisers, venues and ticket agencies to inform them about the ticket scalping and transparency provisions of the Act.
- DEDJTR will work with event organisers, venues and ticket agencies to develop a consumer education program about the Act.
- Event organisers and venue operators should discuss with DEDJTR at any early stage if they wish to have ticketing provisions apply to an event.
- The previous ticket scalping provisions may still apply for some major sporting events such as the AFL Grand Final, which will require the approval of a ticketing scheme.

Authorised by the Hon. John Eren, Minister for
Tourism and Major Events

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