



New South Wales

# Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025

## Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

## Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Crimes Act 1900* and the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002* to—

- (a) make it an offence to block, impede, hinder or take certain other action to affect a person accessing or leaving a place of worship, and
- (b) authorise police officers to issue move on directions in relation to an apparently genuine demonstration, protest, procession or assembly occurring in or near a place of worship in certain circumstances.

## Outline of provisions

**Clause 1** sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act.

## Schedule 1 Amendment of Crimes Act 1900 No 40

**Schedule 1[2]** inserts proposed sections 214B and 214C.

Proposed section 214B makes it an offence to, without reasonable excuse, intentionally block, impede or hinder a person accessing or leaving a place of worship or harass, intimidate or threaten a person accessing or leaving a place of worship. The offence carries a maximum penalty of 200 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both. The offence does not apply to conduct that—

- (a) forms part of industrial action, or

- (b) occurs at or outside Parliament House or an office of a member of Parliament, or
- (c) is in accordance with the consent of the Commissioner of Police or the person apparently in charge of the place of worship.

The proposed section is subject to the *Summary Offences Act 1988*, section 24, which provides that a person is not guilty of an offence relating to the obstruction of a person, vehicle or vessel in a public place if the person's relevant conduct is only for the purposes of participating in an authorised public assembly.

Proposed section 214C requires the Attorney General to review the proposed offence 2 years after it commences.

**Schedule 1[1]** makes a consequential amendment.

## **Schedule 2      Amendment of Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 No 103**

**Schedule 2[2]** authorises police officers to issue move on directions in relation to a demonstration, protest, procession or assembly occurring in or near a place of worship unless the demonstration, protest, procession or assembly—

- (a) is an authorised public assembly under the *Summary Offences Act 1988*, Part 4, or
- (b) is part of industrial action or an industrial dispute or campaign, or
- (c) occurs outside Parliament House or an office of a member of Parliament, or
- (d) is in accordance with the consent of the Commissioner of Police or the person apparently in charge of the place of worship.

**Schedule 2[1]** makes a consequential amendment.



New South Wales

# Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025

## Contents

---

		Page
	1 Name of Act	2
	2 Commencement	2
<b>Schedule 1</b>	<b>Amendment of Crimes Act 1900 No 40</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Schedule 2</b>	<b>Amendment of Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 No 103</b>	<b>4</b>

*This PUBLIC BILL, originated in the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.*

*Legislative Assembly*

*Clerk of the Legislative Assembly*



New South Wales

## **Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025**

No. \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

---

### **A Bill for**

An Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to provide for offences in relation to persons blocking, impeding, hindering or taking certain other actions in relation to persons accessing or leaving places of worship; and to amend the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002* to authorise police officers to issue move on directions in relation to apparently genuine demonstrations, protests, processions or organised assemblies occurring in or near places of worship.

---

*The LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL has this day agreed to this Bill with/without amendment.*

*Legislative Council*

*Clerk of the Parliaments*

---

**Tabling copy**

**The Legislature of New South Wales enacts—**

1

**1 Name of Act**

2

This Act is the *Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Act 2025*.

3

**2 Commencement**

4

This Act commences on the earlier of the following—

5

(a) the day that is 3 months after the date of assent to this Act,

6

(b) a day to be appointed by proclamation.

7

<b>Schedule 1</b>	<b>Amendment of Crimes Act 1900 No 40</b>	1
<b>[1] Part 4AF, heading</b>		2
	Insert “or places of worship” after “facilities”.	3
<b>[2] Sections 214B and 214C</b>		4
	Omit section 214B. Insert instead—	5
<b>214B</b>	<b>Places of worship</b>	6
(1)	A person in or near a place of worship must not—	7
(a)	without reasonable excuse, intentionally block, impede or hinder a person accessing or leaving, or attempting to access or leave, the place of worship, or	8 9 10
(b)	harass, intimidate or threaten a person accessing or leaving, or attempting to access or leave, the place of worship.	11 12
	Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.	13
(2)	Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to a person if the person’s conduct—	14
(a)	forms part of industrial action or an industrial dispute or campaign, or	15
(b)	occurs at or outside Parliament House or an office of a member of Parliament, or	16 17
(c)	is in accordance with the consent or other authority of—	18
(i)	the Commissioner of Police, or	19
(ii)	the person apparently in charge of the place of worship.	20
(3)	Subsection (1)(a) is subject to the <i>Summary Offences Act 1988</i> , section 24.	21
(4)	In this section—	22
	<b><i>place of worship</i></b> —	23
(a)	means a building or other structure ordinarily used for worship, and	24
(b)	includes a church, mosque, synagogue and temple.	25
<b>214C</b>	<b>Review of certain provisions</b>	26
(1)	The Minister must review the operation of the amendments made by the <i>Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Act 2025</i> to determine whether—	27 28
(a)	the policy objectives of the amendments remain valid, and	29
(b)	the terms of the amendments remain appropriate for achieving the objectives.	30 31
(2)	The review must be undertaken as soon as practicable after the period of 2 years from the commencement of the amendments.	32 33
(3)	A report about the outcome of the review must be tabled in each House of Parliament within 3 years after the commencement of the amendments.	34 35

<b>Schedule 2</b>	<b>Amendment of Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 No 103</b>	1
		2
<b>[1] Section 200</b>	<b>Limitation on exercise of police powers under this Part</b>	3
	Omit “or (4)” from section 200(2). Insert instead “, (4) or (5)”.	4
<b>[2] Section 200(5)</b>		5
	Insert after section 200(4)—	6
	(5) A police officer is not precluded from giving a direction in relation to a demonstration, protest, procession or assembly if—	7
		8
	(a) the demonstration, protest, procession or assembly—	9
	(i) is not an authorised public assembly for the purposes of the <i>Summary Offences Act 1988</i> , Part 4 or is not being held substantially in accordance with an authorisation under that part, and	10
		11
		12
		13
	(ii) is occurring in or near a place of worship, within the meaning of the <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> , section 214B, and	14
		15
	(b) the demonstration, protest, procession or assembly—	16
	(i) does not form part of industrial action or an industrial dispute or campaign, and	17
		18
	(ii) is not occurring at or outside Parliament House or an office of a member of Parliament, and	19
		20
	(iii) is not in accordance with the consent or other authority of—	21
	(A) the Commissioner of Police, or	22
	(B) the person apparently in charge of the place of worship.	23