

c2025-021E
OPP--Opposition

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025

First print

Proposed amendments

No. 1 **Masks and disguises not to be worn during a public assembly**

Page 4, Schedule 2. Insert after line 23—

[3] **Section 200B**

Insert after section 200A—

200B Directions and powers about masks and disguises worn during public assembly

- (1) A person participating in a public assembly must not hide the person's identity or disguise the person's appearance, including by wearing a face covering.
- (2) A person does not contravene subsection (1) merely by wearing an item of clothing or another thing for religious purposes.
- (3) If a person contravenes subsection (1), a police officer may do one or more of the following—
 - (a) direct the person to surrender the thing hiding the person's identity or disguising the person's appearance, or if the thing is make-up, facepaint or a similar thing, remove the thing,
 - (b) direct the person to leave the vicinity of the public assembly,
 - (c) remove the person from the vicinity of the public assembly,
 - (d) detain the person until the earlier of the following—
 - (i) the conclusion of the public assembly,
 - (ii) the person surrendering the thing hiding the person's identity or disguising the person's appearance, or if the thing is make-up, facepaint or a similar thing, removing the thing.
- (4) A person must not—
 - (a) contravene a direction given under subsection (3)(a) or (b), or
 - (b) resist a police officer carrying out an action under subsection (3)(c) or (d).

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

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- (5) In this section—
public assembly has the same meaning as in the *Summary Offences Act 1988*, Part 4.

No. 2 **Public assemblies**

Page 4. Insert after line 23—

Schedule 3 Amendment of Summary Offences Act 1988 No 25

Section 23 Authorised public assemblies

Insert after section 23(2)—

- (3) Before making a decision to which subsection (1)(f) relates, the Commissioner or Court must consider all relevant matters, including the following—
- (a) public safety,
 - (b) the impact of the public assembly on public amenity and convenience,
 - (c) adverse impacts of the public assembly on the economy, including businesses,
 - (d) impacts of the public assembly on groups, organisations or religious groups in the vicinity of the public assembly,
 - (e) the frequency of similar public assemblies using the same or a similar route or location,
 - (f) other uses of the route or location of the public assembly that will be disrupted or prevented by the public assembly,
 - (g) the availability of other, less disruptive routes or locations for the public assembly,
 - (h) the costs incurred by the State in policing the public assembly and making or responding to applications under this part.
- (4) The Commissioner or Court may, before making a decision to which subsection (1)(f) relates in relation to a repeat public assembly, require the organiser of the public assembly to pay a specified amount to the State as a contribution to the cost of policing the public assembly.
- (5) The specified amount may be the whole or part of the amount that, in the Commissioner's opinion, is the likely cost of policing the public assembly.
- (6) The Commissioner or Court may refuse to make the decision until the organiser has paid the specified amount.
- (7) To avoid doubt, subsection (4) applies whether or not the organiser of the public assembly is the same person as an organiser of one or more of the earlier relevant public assemblies.
- (8) In this section—
repeat public assembly means a public assembly where, on 3 or more days during the previous 12 months, other public assemblies have been held for the same or a similar purpose at the same or another location in the State, regardless of whether the other public assemblies were held—
- (a) on consecutive or non-consecutive days, and
 - (b) for a full day or a part of a day.

No. 3 **Long title—Decisions about public assemblies**

Omit “and” before “to amend the *Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002*”.

No. 4 **Long title—Directions and powers about masks and disguises worn during public assembly**

Insert “and exercise other powers” after “move on directions”.

No. 5 **Long title—Decisions about public assemblies**

Insert “; and to amend the *Summary Offences Act 1988* to require specified mandatory considerations be considered before certain decisions about public assemblies are made and to require contributions to the cost of policing public assemblies in certain circumstances” after “worship”.