



What is Policing Major Events Legislation?

Policing of major sporting and entertainment events on an ongoing basis by WA Police takes up considerable valuable police resources which can impact on service delivery. The Policing Major Events legislation has been introduced to ensure community safety at major entertainment and sporting events where police attendance is requested by the promoter or organiser. It allows WA Police to cost-recover for police attendance at major events where there is a charge for admission, the event is run for commercial gain, or promoted, advertised or sponsored under a commercial arrangement.

A major event is an event where:

- It is reasonably expected by the promoter or organiser, or Commissioner of Police, to attract at least 5,000 attendees or participants; or
- The Commissioner of Police reasonably considers it necessary or desirable to assign at least 10 police officers to provide police services.

Where WA Police do charge for the provision of services at a major event, in addition to charging for the cost of police officers attending the event, provision has also been made to recover the planning costs for a major event and any operational overhead expenses.

Are there any events excluded under the legislation?

Yes there are a number of events that are excluded from the legislation including charitable events, the Perth Royal Show, Perth Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade and the Perth Pride Fair Day.

A number of event types are not intended to be captured by the legislation, these include:

- Charitable events;
- Public events that celebrate or commemorate events of national or local significance (eg: Anzac Day, Australia Day); and
- Events run to benefit the local community (eg: street fairs/community festivals).

Any questions relating to events that are covered by cost recovery and/or may fall within exemption provisions should be directed to: Major.Events.Coordination.Unit@police.wa.gov.au or phone **08 9222 1972**.

When does the new legislation come into effect?

The legislation will be operationalised by WA Police on 13 January 2018.

What are my obligations as an event promoter / organiser under the legislation?

As an event promoter/organiser you have the choice of whether you request the services of police, or not. If you choose to request police services, WA Police will work with you to determine a proportionate and mutually agreeable level of policing resources to suit the event.

In accordance with *Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism 2017*, all owners and operators have the primary responsibility for protecting their sites, including duty of care to take steps to protect people that work, use, or visit their site from a range of foreseeable threats, including the threat of terrorist attack.



The use of police services will assist in mitigating a number of risks and potential threats to an event.

Reference: Section 39G (1) Police Act. Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism 2017.

What do I need to do if I am organising an event?

To request police services for an event, a *Form 1 - Request Police Services* should be sent to the WA Police Major Events Coordination Unit (MECU) at least 60 days before your event. This can be emailed to Major.Events.Coordination.Unit@police.wa.gov.au.

WA Police will consider the request and provide a response and/or quotation within 10 working days of receipt of the request. The consideration process will involve consultation on the matter with the promoter or organiser of the event, having regard to the current charging policy, current security environment and prevailing localised risk/threat situation.

I already have security at my event do I still need police officers?

Police officers are not intended to replace security personnel. WA Police requested to police a major event will perform the following roles and functions:

- Enforce law and order;
- Provide Traffic Management in the immediate vicinity; and
- Provide an Immediate Emergency Management capability.

Community safety is paramount and policing of major events needs to consider many

aspects including venue size and access points, patron profile, event type, availability of alcohol, traffic management, emergency management requirements, and intelligence including the security environment on the day. WA Police will help you assess the overall risk profile of your event and identify the number of police resources you may need.

How will I know how many police officers are needed at my event?

Event promoters/organisers may have an idea as to how many police they would like to request in attendance. This can be based on previous experiences and/or similar events held elsewhere. Upon receipt of a *Form 1 - Request Police Services*, WA Police will undertake a comprehensive assessment process in consultation with event organisers to determine the event risk profile and required number of police officers.

Although WA Police is the final judge on the number of police officers required to police a major event, WA Police will work collaboratively with event promoters/organisers to ensure a cohesive approach to enable community safety.

Do I have any authority to direct police officers at my event?

WA Police deployed at a major event under this legislation are not under the employment or control of the event organiser. WA Police will however deploy a Police Forward Commander for each event to work closely with the event organiser and/or nominated venue representative to establish direct communication. In a



collaborative and co-operative event control environment, WA Police will work closely with event organisers and on site security to maximise community safety and the safe conduct of the event.

work closely with event organisers or nominated venue representatives to ensure community safety. WA Police will not be in attendance to perform the role of specialist police units (i.e. Licensing Enforcement) however should significant law and order and/or community safety issues arise, appropriate action will be taken by the Police Forward Commander.

What powers will WA Police have at my event?

WA Police deployed to a major event under this legislation will at all times be subject to the provisions of the *Police Act 1892* and exercise all powers, and fulfil all functions and duties of a police officer as stated within the Act. Police officers will carry arms and appointments as prescribed by law and instructions issued by the Commissioner.

Police officers will be in full uniform unless event organisers / WA Police agree otherwise.

Who is liable if more police are required to attend during my event?

Where additional WA Police are required to attend a major event due to an emergency or unforeseen incident where police officers are already deployed under this legislation, WA Police will do so under business as usual. Event organisers will not be charged for additional police resources called to assist under these circumstances.

Will I be paying WA Police to regulate me and my venue?

WA Police deployed to a major event under this legislation have specific roles/functions and will

Can I request specialist police resources at my event?

Specialist resources such as police dogs, horses, traffic officers on motorcycles, water police and police helicopters etc. may be required for some events. WA Police will consult with you on your request to determine the requirements. These resources involve additional overhead expenses and can lead to additional police officers being required to manage the asset or flow on effect.

What happens if police officers are needed elsewhere for an emergency are and required to leave the event, do I get a refund?

Resourcing of your event is in addition to day to day operational policing and does not impact on normal business service delivery. In the unlikely event the Commissioner of Police redeploys any police officer for another purpose considered a higher operational priority, there will be discussion to negotiate an adjusted invoice that more accurately reflects the resourcing for that event.



If police officers are not available will my event be cancelled?

Planning for police resources should commence at least 60 days prior to the event so that WA Police have sufficient lead time and can provide you with a quotation. WA Police will service all requests to police major events.

Will WA Police, force me to request and pay for police at a major event?

The request for police attendance at a major event needs to emanate from the event promoter/organiser and WA Police will not force police officers upon an event. However as an event organiser you are responsible for the safety of patrons at your event and to ensure compliance with legislative requirements. WA Police are seeking to work with industry to achieve safety at crowded places and this should occur cooperatively.

What happens if I run an event without a police presence?

As an event organiser you are responsible for the safety of patrons at your event and to ensure compliance with legislative requirements. Inappropriate or inadequate security resourcing in the current security environment may result in significant reputational damage, legal proceedings and/or financial ramifications in the event of an incident where security

is compromised. The utilisation of police resources is a significant mitigation to many risks in the current security environment; as armed and uniformed police officers are able to address threats that others can not. Fees and charges are set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. How much you pay will be determined by the relevant fees and charges applicable, the number of resources allocated and the duration of your event.

How much will I have to pay?

Prior to each event and following consultation and agreement with event organisers, WA Police will provide a quote for police resources to be deployed.

What happens if I don't pay?

If you receive police resources for an event and don't pay there are provisions in the legislation to ensure that amounts owed to the Commissioner of Police are recoverable through the court process as a debt to the State.

Do I get time to pay?

Payment must be received within 30 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay may result in court proceedings.

Where can I access the application forms?

Forms are available on the WA Police website www.police.wa.gov.au