



New South Wales

Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Act 2025 No 10

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Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Act 2025 No 10

Act No 10, 2025

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. [Assented to 2 March 2025]

The Legislature of New South Wales enacts—

1 Name of Act

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

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the earlier of the following—

- (a) the day that is 3 months after the date of assent to this Act,
- (b) a day to be appointed by proclamation.

Schedule 1 Amendment of Crimes Act 1900 No 40

[1] **Part 4AF, heading**

Insert “or places of worship” after “facilities”.

[2] **Sections 214B and 214C**

Omit section 214B. Insert instead—

214B Places of worship

- (1) A person in or near a place of worship must not—
 - (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
 - (b) harass, intimidate or threaten a person accessing or leaving, or attempting to access or leave, the place of worship.Maximum penalty—200 penalty units or imprisonment for 2 years, or both.
- (2) Subsection (1)(a) does not apply to a person if the person’s conduct—
 - (a) forms part of industrial action or an industrial dispute or campaign, or
 - (b) occurs at or outside Parliament House or an office of a member of Parliament, or
 - (c) is in accordance with the consent or other authority of—
 - (i) the Commissioner of Police, or
 - (ii) the person apparently in charge of the place of worship.
- (3) Subsection (1)(a) is subject to the *Summary Offences Act 1988*, section 24.
- (4) In this section—

place of worship—

 - (a) means a building or other structure ordinarily used for worship, and
 - (b) includes a church, mosque, synagogue and temple.

214C Review of certain provisions

- (1) The Minister must review the operation of the amendments made by the *Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Act 2025* to determine whether—
 - (a) the policy objectives of the amendments remain valid, and
 - (b) the terms of the amendments remain appropriate for achieving the objectives.
- (2) The review must be undertaken as soon as practicable after the period of 2 years from the commencement of the amendments.
- (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.

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

[1] Section 200 Limitation on exercise of police powers under this Part

Omit “or (4)” from section 200(2). Insert instead “, (4) or (5)”.

[2] Section 200(5)

Insert after section 200(4)—

- (5) A police officer is not precluded from giving a direction in relation to a demonstration, protest, procession or assembly if—
 - (a) the demonstration, protest, procession or assembly—
 - (i) is not an authorised public assembly for the purposes of the *Summary Offences Act 1988*, Part 4 or is not being held substantially in accordance with an authorisation under that part, and
 - (ii) is occurring in or near a place of worship, within the meaning of the *Crimes Act 1900*, section 214B, and
 - (b) the demonstration, protest, procession or assembly—
 - (i) does not form part of industrial action or an industrial dispute or campaign, and
 - (ii) is not occurring at or outside Parliament House or an office of a member of Parliament, and
 - (iii) is not in accordance with the consent or other authority of—
 - (A) the Commissioner of Police, or
 - (B) the person apparently in charge of the place of worship.

[Second reading speech made in—

Legislative Assembly on 11 February 2025

Legislative Council on 20 February 2025]