*The Major Events Act 2009* enables provisions to be applied to combat ticket scalping for major sporting events and major cultural events (such as theatre events, concerts, gallery exhibitions and festivals).

* The *Major Sporting Events Act 2009* has been renamed the *Major Events Act 2009* (the Act).
* Where an event is the subject of a major event ticketing declaration, it will now be an offence to advertise, offer for resale, or resell a ticket for more than 10% above the original face value of the ticket.
* Penalties can range from $826 up to $495,660 depending on the nature of the offences.

Major Event Ticketing Declaration

* The Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events is able to make a major event ticketing declaration for major international, national or state level events which fit certain criteria.
* The criteria used to determine whether an event should be considered as a major event under the Act will include:
* whether tickets have gone on sale;
* the size of the event;
* demand for tickets;
* exclusivity of the event to Victoria;
* likely media coverage of the event; and
* the contribution to Victoria's international profile as a host of major events.
* (This is not an exhaustive list).
* Promoters or event organisers are able to make requests to the Minister to make major event ticketing declarations.
* These declaration applications will not require a ticketing scheme, reducing the administrative burden on event organisers.
* It is a requirement where a major event ticketing declaration has been made, for the event organiser to ensure that the ticket purchase 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% above the face value of the ticket).

Authorised Ticketing Officers

* New authorised ticketing officers have been given equivalent powers to that available to police officers under the ticket scalping provisions of the Act, to support Victoria Police in the enforcement of the Act.

Authorised Ticketing Officers (cont.)

* Authorised ticketing officers will be required to undertake training administered by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR).
* 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.
* Enforcement powers include:
* seizure and retention;
* temporary surrender of tickets; and
* being 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 DJPR.
* 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 DJPR to inform the community about the legislation and the secondary ticketing market.

Next Steps

* The Government through DJPR will conduct information sessions for event organisers, venues and ticket agencies to inform them about the ticket scalping provisions of the Act.
* DJPR will work with event organisers, venues and ticket agencies to develop a consumer education program around the Act.
* Event organisers and venue operators should discuss with DJPR at any early stage if they wish to have ticketing provisions apply to an event.
* Under the existing Part 9 of the Act, the Minister can also make a sports event declaration, such as for the AFL Grand Final, which will require a ticketing scheme.
* Any queries can be directed to **Email:** **fairgo.forfans@djpr.vic.gov.au**

 **Telephone: (03) 9651 9999**

 **Website:** [**www.djpr.com.au/fair-go-for-fans**](http://www.djpr.com.au/fair-go-for-fans)

Authorised by the Hon. Martin Pakula, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000

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