



MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

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Mr Russell Goldflam
Chairperson
Northern Territory Liquor Commission

Dear Mr Goldflam

Russell

I refer to the review currently being undertaken by the Northern Territory Liquor Commission in relation to the conditions applying to liquor licences in the Alice Springs CBD.

Our Government is firmly focused on reducing crime, restoring safety and rebuilding confidence in Alice Springs. Since coming to office, we have delivered the strongest bail laws in the country, expanded police powers, strengthened penalties for violent and repeat offenders, increased court capacity, and invested heavily in victims and frontline services. Addressing antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related harm in Alice Springs remains a clear priority for this Government.

I am aware of the conditions currently under consideration as part of the review, including the potential introduction of mandatory on-premises identification scanning, the extension of restricted trading conditions until 3.00 pm, and the introduction of public order obligations extending beyond the licensed premises.

As has been stated previously by this Government, and by the former Government, the mandating of on-premises identification scanning — whether through the existing Banned Drinker Register (BDR) or a third-party proprietary system — is not Government policy and is not supported. These systems were designed to apply to takeaway alcohol sales, not on-premises consumption. The Government holds ongoing concerns about the effectiveness, proportionality and cost burden of mandating such systems, particularly where they would be imposed on otherwise compliant and responsibly operated venues.

Given the number of licences affected and the breadth of the proposed variations, I consider it important that the Commission carefully assess the cumulative operational, economic and regulatory impact on hospitality businesses in Alice Springs. These proposals are not minor adjustments. They have real implications for employment, tourism, investment confidence and the broader vitality of the town, at a time when the Government is actively working to rebuild the local economy and restore the Territory lifestyle.

I also note the risk, acknowledged in previous reviews, that measures focused on particular venues or trading periods may displace behaviour rather than deliver sustained reductions in harm. The Government's approach remains focused on demand-side measures, individual accountability and targeted enforcement, alongside strong compliance action where venues fail to meet their obligations.

Our Government continues to support the important role of the Liquor Commission in reducing alcohol-related harm and improving community safety. At the same time, we are determined that harm-reduction efforts do not unnecessarily penalise lawful businesses that are doing the right thing and contributing positively to Alice Springs' economy and community life.

I trust this correspondence assists the Commission by clearly setting out the Government's position and the broader considerations relevant to this review.

I look forward to meeting with the Commission on Thursday 18 December 2025.

Yours sincerely



MARIE-CLARE BOOTHBY

18 DEC 2025