

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
REASONS FOR DECISION

MATTER: APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF CONDITIONS OF A LICENCE

REFERENCE: LC2022/042

APPLICANT: Central Australian Drag Racing Association Incorporated

LICENCE: FLL1319

LEGISLATION: Part 3 Division 4 of the *Liquor Act 2019*.

HEARD BEFORE: Mr Russell Goldflam (Acting Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Bernard Dwyer (Health Member)
Ms Christine Hart (Community Member)

DATE OF HEARING: 19 August 2022

DATE OF DECISION: 19 August 2022

Decision

1. On 19 August 2022, the Northern Territory Liquor Commission (**the Commission**) issued the following decision notice:
 - a. In accordance with section 112 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT) (**the Act**) the Commission has determined to approve an application by the Central Australian Drag Racing Association Incorporated (**the applicant**) to vary the conditions of liquor licence FLL1319.
 - b. The conditions of the licence headed “Trading Hours” is varied to the following:

Day	Time
Friday	18:00 to 22:00
Saturday	11:00 to 23:59
Sunday	11:00 to 23:59

- c. The varied licence will be issued immediately following the publication of this decision notice.

2. The Commission stated that it would issue reasons for this decision. These are the reasons.

Reasons

3. The applicant is an incorporated association that holds liquor licence FLL1319 with a community club authority over premises at the Alice Springs Inland Dragway, a facility that includes a quarter mile drag strip and burnout pad sanctioned by the Australian National Drag Racing Association, spectator facilities, and a clubhouse. The applicant hosts various race meetings throughout the year, notably including the Red Centre Nats in September, which attracts street car enthusiasts from all over Australia.
4. On 11 July 2022, the applicant lodged an application with the Director of Liquor Licensing (**the Director**) to vary its liquor trading hours, allowing it to stay open until midnight on Sunday evenings, instead of the then current closing time of 22:00, and to open at 11:00 on Saturday mornings, instead of the then current opening time of 13:00. The club also applied to shorten its Friday trading hours by closing at 22:00 instead of midnight.
5. The Director required the applicant to advertise the application, which it did, and also conducted consultations with the Department of Health, NT Police, the Alice Springs Town Council and NT Fire and Emergency Services. No objections were made to the application.
6. The applicant has no record of non-compliance with the Act or the conditions of its liquor licence.
7. On 10 August 2022, the Director referred the application to the Commission, which heard and determined the matter on 19 August 2022.
8. In its public interest and community impact statement, the applicant submitted that the granting of the application would have no adverse impact on the community because “it is just shuffling the times” of the applicant’s trading hours. The Commission accepts that submission, and similarly, the Commission is satisfied that it is in the public interest to authorise the change in hours, which will make the bar service run by the club more convenient for its volunteer members, and for visitors attending the club on race days.
9. The club’s premises are situated about 13 km south of Alice Springs adjacent to the Stuart Highway, and the Commission accepts the applicant’s submission that the adjustment to its trading hours will not affect nearby residents or businesses, because there are none nearby.
10. In accordance with section 112 of the Act, the Commission considered the affidavit made by the applicant declaring that there are no other persons or bodies who may be able to influence the applicant in relation to its liquor trading. The Commission also considered the public interest and community impact requirements.

11. Having considered those matters and the application, the Commission determined to vary the conditions of the licence as set out in the decision notice.



Russell Goldflam

ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
16 September 2022

On behalf of Commissioners Goldflam, Dwyer and Hart