

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION

DECISION NOTICE AND REASONS

CITATION:	<i>APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENCE WITH MAJOR EVENT AUTHORITY FOR ALICE SPRINGS MASTERS GAMES [2026]</i> NTLiqComm 14
REFERENCE:	LC2026/015
APPLICANT:	Alice Springs Casino Operations Pty Ltd
PREMISES:	93 Barrett Drive Alice Springs NT 0870
LEGISLATION:	Part 3 Division 4 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> (NT)
DECISION OF:	Michaela Malone (Deputy Chairperson)
DATE OF DECISION:	22 September 2026

DECISION

1. For the reasons set out below and in accordance with ss 48 and 60 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT) (**the Act**) and the delegation issued on 4 July 2025 authorising a single Member of the Northern Territory Liquor Commission (**the Commission**) to issue a licence with a major event authority, the Commission has determined to issue a liquor licence with a major event authority to Alice Springs Casino Operations Pty Ltd (**the Applicant**) for the three events associated with the 2026 Alice Springs Masters Games.
2. The trading hours for the sale, supply, service and consumption of liquor under the licence are:
 - i. Saturday, 10 October 2026 from 16:30 hours to 22:00 hours at the location of ANZAC Oval, Wills Terrace, Alice Springs NT 0870.
 - ii. Wednesday, 14 October 2026 from 16:30 hours to 21:00 hours at the location of Alice Springs Town Council Lawns, Todd Street, Alice Springs NT 0870.
 - iii. Saturday, 17 October 2026 from 16:30 hours to 22:00 hours at the location of Lasseters Front Lawns/Carpark, 93 Barrett Drive, Alice Springs NT 0870.

3. The licensed area for each event is limited to the areas on the relevant site plans annexed to this Decision Notice, as follows:
 - a) Opening Ceremony – 10 October 2026: the licensed area at ANZAC Oval, Wills Terrace, Alice Springs, is identified by the red boundary in Annexure A;
 - b) Mid-Week Street Party – 14 October 2026: the licensed area at the Alice Springs Town Council Lawns, Todd Street, Alice Springs, is identified by the red boundary in Annexure B; and
 - c) Closing Ceremony – 17 October 2026: the licensed area at the Lasseters Front Lawns/Carpark, 93 Barrett Drive, Alice Springs, is the event area enclosed by the fence panels and flag bunting shown in Annexure C.
4. For each event, the authority applies only to the licensed area shown in the Annexure specified for that event in paragraph 3 above.
5. The Commission approves the appointment of Mr Craig William Jervis as licence nominee for the licence.
6. The conditions of the licence include those authority conditions set out in Part 4 Divisions 1 and 12 of the *Liquor Regulations 2019* (**the Regulations**).
7. The Commission fixes the following additional conditions of the licence:
 - a) For each event, the boundary of the licensed area identified in the relevant Annexure must be clearly identified and access to that area must be restricted in a manner that allows for effective supervision by the nominee.
 - b) The sale of liquor must be conducted by persons who hold a Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate, or equivalent qualification approved by the Director of Liquor Licensing.
 - c) The licensee must comply with the *Code of Practice for the Responsible Advertising and Promotion of Liquor*, provide a safe drinking environment, prevent irresponsible or excessive consumption of liquor and ensure all staff are properly instructed in identifying and responding to suspected drink spiking.
 - d) Alcoholic drinks must not be sold or supplied if they:
 - i. are designed to be consumed quickly and are commonly referred to as 'shots' or 'shooters'; or
 - ii. are cocktails or slushies containing more than 30 mL of spirits, excluding pre-mixed ready-to-drink beverages.
 - e) Wine must not be served in quantities exceeding 150 mL and must be supplied in a non-glass drinking vessel. Liquor or other beverages must not be served or supplied in a glass container.

- f) Alcoholic drinks containing more than 1.6 standard drinks in a single container must not be sold or served.
 - g) The licensee must remove and exclude from the premises any person under 18 years of age who is in possession of liquor or who attempts to obtain liquor.
 - h) The licensee must remove and exclude from the premises any person who supplies or attempts to supply a person under the age of 18 years with liquor on the premises.
 - i) The licensee must exclude or remove from the premises any person who is wearing the colours, insignia or emblems of a declared criminal organisation.
8. The licence will be issued immediately following the publication of this Decision Notice.

REASONS

Background

- 9. The Alice Springs Masters Games (**the Games**) are delivered by Tourism and Events NT. The Applicant has been engaged to provide hospitality services for the Opening Ceremony, Mid-Week Street Party and Closing Ceremony, including the sale and supply of liquor at those events.
- 10. The Games commenced in 1986 and will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2026. The Games are a major multi-sport event held in Alice Springs and will feature more than 25 sports, including athletics, netball, Australian football, cycling, mountain biking, pickleball and golf. The Games attract participants, officials and spectators from Alice Springs and across Australia.
- 11. The Games will include a number of free, family-friendly community events. The Opening Ceremony will be held at ANZAC Oval on Saturday, 10 October 2026 and will include live entertainment. A Mid-Week Street Party and Closing Ceremony will also be held as part of the Games program.
- 12. The Opening Ceremony is expected to attract approximately 2,000 to 2,500 people, with approximately 1,500 people expected to attend each of the Mid-Week Street Party and Closing Ceremony. The events are open to athletes, delegates and members of the Alice Springs and wider community.
- 13. The sale, supply and consumption of liquor will be ancillary to the events. It is proposed that light, mid and full-strength beer, spirits, ready-to-drink beverages and wine be available, together with a range of non-alcoholic beverages.
- 14. The Applicant, Alice Springs Casino Operations Pty Ltd, is the holder of liquor licence 80103004 for Lasseters Hotel Casino, Barrett Drive, Alice Springs.

The Application

15. On 17 August 2026, pursuant to s 52 of the Act, the Applicant applied to the Director for a liquor licence with a major event authority in respect of three events associated with the 2026 Alice Springs Masters Games: the Opening Ceremony at ANZAC Oval, the Mid-Week Street Party at the Alice Springs Town Council Lawns and the Closing Ceremony at the Lasseters Front Lawns.
16. The application seeks approval for the sale, supply and consumption of liquor at each of the three events, to be held on 10, 14 and 17 October 2026 respectively.

Consultation

17. The Director informed the Commission that, pursuant to s 57(2A) of the Act, the Applicant was exempted from the public notice requirements. In exercising that discretion, regard was had to the biennial nature of the Alice Springs Masters Games, the extensive publicity associated with the event, its organisation in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government and the approach taken in previous like matters.
18. In accordance with s 56(4) of the Act, Northern Territory Police, the Department of Health and Alice Springs Town Council were notified of the application. Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Incorporated were also notified, notwithstanding that they are not prescribed parties.
19. Northern Territory Police advised on 20 August 2026 that it had no objection to the events. Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service also advised that it had no concerns with the application. No response was received from the Department of Health, Alice Springs Town Council or St John Ambulance.
20. The Commission was also informed that the Northern Territory Government and Alice Springs Town Council had consented to the use of ANZAC Oval and the Alice Springs Town Council Lawns respectively for the relevant events. In the absence of any material to the contrary, the Commission considers that their consent to the use of those locations supports an inference that they are content with the proposed events proceeding at those locations. The Closing Ceremony is to be held at the Applicant's premises.

Compliance history

21. The Applicant and proposed nominee are known to the Director and Licensing NT and have previously been subject to relevant probity assessments. Mr Craig William Jervis is known to the Director and Licensing NT as a nominee for the IRIS group of companies and from previous events.
22. The Director advised that there have been no adverse compliance issues in relation to previous Masters Games events. In 2023, the Applicant held the liquor

licence for the launch event for the 2024 Alice Springs Masters Games, in respect of which no compliance issues were identified. The liquor licence for the 2024 Alice Springs Masters Games Opening Ceremony was held by Alice Springs Golf Club Incorporated.

The referral

23. On 24 August 2026, pursuant to s 59 of the Act, the Director referred the application to the Commission.
24. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation issued on 4 July 2025, this application is determined by a single member of the Commission on the papers, without conducting a public hearing. In determining that a public hearing would not be worthwhile, regard was had to the nature of the application, the material before the Commission and the absence of any identified compliance issues in relation to previous events.
25. The Director provided the following documents to the Commission with the referral **(the brief)**:
 - a) Application for liquor licence;
 - b) Previous Decision Notices for the 2024 Masters Games launch and Opening Ceremony;
 - c) Entertainment detail for Opening Ceremony and Mid-Week Street Party;
 - d) Affidavit and Declaration of Associates pursuant to s 54 of the Act;
 - e) ANZAC Oval Site Plan;
 - f) Mid-Week Street Party Site Layout;
 - g) Lasseters Site Plan Closing Ceremony;
 - h) Stakeholder notification;
 - i) Police response;
 - j) NTFRS response;
 - k) Details of the event locations;
 - l) Sound Management Plan;
 - m) Smoking Management Plan for both ANZAC Oval and Lasseters Hotel Casino; and
 - n) Public interest and community impact assessment summary pursuant to ss 49 to 52 of the Act.

ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

26. In accordance with s 59 of the Act, the Commission has considered the matters relevant to this application, including:
- a) the Applicant's affidavit required by s 54;
 - b) the results of any investigation conducted into the application under s 58;
 - c) the suitability of the premises to be licensed, having regard to any law of the Territory regulating the sale, supply, service or consumption of liquor or the location, construction or facilities of those premises;
 - d) the financial stability and business reputation of the Applicant;
 - e) the general reputation and character of the Applicant's secretary and executive officers; and
 - f) whether the Applicant and the nominee designated by the Applicant are fit and proper persons to hold the licence.
27. In accordance with s 49 of the Act, the Commission has also considered whether issuing the licence and major event authority is in the public interest and whether the licence and authority will have a significant adverse impact on the community.

The applicant

28. The Applicant has provided sufficient documentation regarding the planning and management of the three events. The Commission is satisfied that the Applicant is a suitable body to operate the liquor licence for those events.

The applicant's associations

29. Section 54 of the Act requires an applicant to provide an affidavit disclosing whether certain persons may be able to influence the applicant or expect a benefit from the applicant if the licence is granted. The Commission is satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the disclosure requirements of s 54 and that, for the purpose of this application, no issues of concern arise in respect of any associates of the Applicant.

The suitability of the applicant's premises

30. The proposed licensed areas comprise ANZAC Oval, the Alice Springs Town Council Lawns and the Lasseters Front Lawns. ANZAC Oval and the Alice Springs Town Council Lawns have previously been used for community events, while the Lasseters Front Lawns form part of the Applicant's premises. Having regard to the nature of the proposed events, the site arrangements and the material before it, the Commission is satisfied that the premises are suitable for the supply and consumption of liquor in the manner proposed.

The financial stability and business reputation of the applicant

31. The Applicant is an existing licensee and no matters have been identified that raise concerns as to its financial stability or business reputation, or the reputation or character of its secretary or executive officers.

Whether the applicant and nominee are fit and proper persons to hold a licence

32. As an existing licensee applying for a major event authority, the Applicant is assumed by s 51(3) of the Act to be a fit and proper person in the absence of evidence to the contrary. No such evidence has been identified. Having also considered the material before it concerning the proposed nominee, including the previous probity assessment referred to by the Director, the Commission is satisfied that Mr Craig William Jervis is a fit and proper person to be the nominee.

Whether issuing the licence with a major event authority is in the public interest

33. To determine whether issuing the licence with a major event authority is in the public interest, the Commission is required to consider how issuing the licence and authority would advance the following objectives set out in s 49(2) of the Act:
- a) minimising the harm or ill-health caused to people, or a group of people, by the consumption of liquor;
 - b) ensuring liquor is sold, supplied, served and consumed on or in licensed premises in a responsible manner;
 - c) safeguarding public order and safety, particularly when large numbers of people would be attracted to licensed premises or an area adjacent to those premises;
 - d) protecting the safety, health and welfare of people who use licensed premises;
 - e) increasing cultural, recreational, employment or tourism benefits for the local community area;
 - f) promoting compliance with this Act and other relevant laws of the Territory;
 - g) ensuring each person involved in the business conducted at licensed premises receives training suitable to the person's role in the business;
 - h) preventing the giving of credit in sales of liquor to people;
 - i) preventing practices that encourage irresponsible drinking; and
 - j) reducing or limiting increases in anti-social behaviour.
34. Having considered each of the objectives in s 49(2) of the Act, the Commission is satisfied that issuing the licence with a major event authority is in the public interest. The Alice Springs Masters Games are expected to provide tourism and

recreational benefits to Alice Springs and the Territory, attracting participants and visitors, while providing a significant program of sporting, social and entertainment activities for the local community and attendees.

35. The events are community and family focused, with the broader Masters Games focused on sporting participation and recreation. The Commission considers that the sale and consumption of liquor is ancillary to the events, rather than a primary focus, and that the application particularly advances the objective of increasing recreational and tourism benefits for the Alice Springs community. The proposed security presence, RSA-trained staff, availability of food, free water and non-alcoholic beverages, together with the relatively limited trading hours, also support the objectives of safeguarding public order and safety and protecting the safety, health and welfare of patrons.

Whether issuing the licence with a major event authority will have a significant adverse impact on the community

36. In determining whether issuing the licence with a major event authority will have a significant adverse impact on the community, the Commission is required to consider the matters set out in s 49(3) of the Act:
- a) the risk of undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to persons who reside or work in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises or who are using, or travelling to or from, a place of public worship, a hospital or a school;
 - b) the geographic area that would be affected;
 - c) the risk of harm from the excessive or inappropriate consumption of liquor;
 - d) the people or community who would be affected;
 - e) the effect on culture, recreation, employment and tourism;
 - f) the effect on social amenities and public health;
 - g) the ratio of existing liquor licences and authorities in the community to the population of the community;
 - h) the effect of the volume of liquor sales on the community;
 - i) the community impact assessment guidelines issued under s 50; and
 - j) any other matter prescribed by regulation.
37. There are no other matters prescribed by regulation. The Commission has also considered the community impact assessment guidelines issued under s 50 of the Act, as required by s 49(3)(i). In doing so, the Commission has had regard to the location and nature of the proposed licensed areas, the community and recreational character of the events, their anticipated benefits to Alice Springs and

the consultation undertaken in relation to the application. The Commission is satisfied that the matters addressed by the guidelines do not identify any additional risk of significant adverse impact on the community.

38. The application provides for significant security presence throughout the events, including roaming patrols, with Lasseters security also to be present at the Closing Ceremony. Security personnel will assist in monitoring patron behaviour, intoxication and compliance with responsible service of alcohol requirements.
39. Having considered these matters, and having particular regard to the nature and duration of the three events, their locations, the security and harm-minimisation measures proposed, and the absence of any identified adverse compliance issues in relation to previous Masters Games events, the Commission is satisfied that issuing the licence with a major event authority will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.
40. Having considered all of the matters required by ss 49 and 59 of the Act, the Commission is satisfied that:
 - a) the Applicant and the nominee are fit and proper persons;
 - b) issuing the Applicant a licence with a major event authority is in the public interest; and
 - c) issuing the Applicant a licence with a major event authority will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.

Purposes of the Act

41. Pursuant to s 3(4) of the Act, the Commission has had regard to the primary and secondary purposes of the Act in exercising its power to issue a licence with a major event authority.
42. Relevant secondary purposes of the Act under s 3(2) include regulating the sale, supply, service, promotion and consumption of liquor in a way that:
 - a) contributes to the responsible development of the liquor industry and associated businesses in the Territory; and
 - b) stimulates the tourism and hospitality industries.
43. The Alice Springs Masters Games attract participants and visitors to Alice Springs and provide recreational, tourism and hospitality benefits to the local community. Having regard to those benefits, together with the harm-minimisation measures and other safeguards associated with the events, the Commission considers that the grant of the application is consistent with the primary and secondary purposes of the Act.

44. For these reasons, the Commission has determined that the application should be granted and that a liquor licence with a major event authority be issued on the conditions set out at the commencement of this Decision Notice.

Extension of time

45. Section 60(2)(a) of the Act requires the Commission to determine the application within 28 days after the day the application was accepted. The application was accepted by the Director on 17 August 2026. Accordingly, the Commission's decision was required to be made by 14 September 2026. The referral of the application to the Commission was dated 24 August 2026.
46. Section 318 of the Act provides that the Commission may, at its discretion, extend the time for making its decision.
47. Pursuant to s 318 of the Act, the Commission determines to extend the time allowed for making this decision to 22 September 2026. The Commission considers the extension appropriate having regard to the date of the referral to the Commission and the time required to consider the application and supporting material.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

48. Pursuant to s 31(1), read with s 60(3) of the Act, the decision set out in this Decision Notice is reviewable by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT). Section 94(3) of the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2014* (NT) provides that an application for review must be filed within 28 days after the relevant day for the decision.
49. In accordance with s 31(2) of the Act, the persons who may apply to NTCAT for a review of this decision are the Director and the Applicant.



Michaela Malone
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
22 September 2026

ANNEXURE A



ANNEXURE B



2026 Alice Springs Masters Games
Mid-Week Street Party & Night Markets
Alice Springs Town Council Lawns
Wednesday 14 October 2026

- Licenced Area
- Entry / Exit
- Stage
- Bar
- ★ Food Vendors

ANNEXURE C

