

Northern Territory

LIQUOR COMMISSION

LIQUOR COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

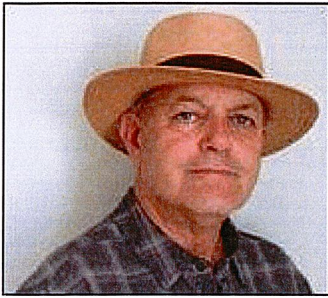
2024-2025

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Chairperson's Message



In last year's Chairperson's Message, I referred with optimism to two initiatives aimed at putting grog-runners out of business in order to provide drinkers in remote communities with a more attractive, cheap, safe, convenient and lawful source of supply. Disappointingly, in the year that has since passed, neither of those initiatives has yet borne fruit.

The first of these measures was to encourage applications by bush communities to be declared a General Restricted Area (GRA), allowing responsible drinkers to consume alcohol on country with a liquor permit, while excluding others from bringing grog into the community.

Although the Commission has promptly heard and allowed all GRA applications it has received, by the end of the 2024-25 year only one of the eight GRA declarations it delivered in the 2024-25 year had been gazetted. As a result, the others had not come into force, because they were stuck somewhere in a bureaucratic bog. Furthermore, the delivery of permit systems in which the community plays a meaningful role – a key component of the GRA scheme – has been inconsistent and sluggish. Frustratingly, the Commission does not itself have the power to overcome these obstacles.

Secondly, although the Commission has approved the establishment of three social clubs on communities, at Timber Creek, Barunga and, most recently, Wadeye, by the end of 2024-25 none of these ventures had commenced operation. Substantial delays had been experienced at Barunga and Wadeye, and the Timber Creek venture has been abandoned. There are oft-repeated protests heard in the Territory's urban centres about drunks coming into town from the bush and making trouble – indeed, the Commission is currently engaged in two separate inquiries in Alice Springs and Darwin arising from community concerns about anti-social intoxicated behaviour on our city and suburban streets. I urge the Northern Territory government to place a higher priority on assisting the establishment of pathways and facilities for residents of remote communities who wish to drink lawfully and safely in their home communities. The current interim alcohol protected area (IAPA) scheme expires on 28 February 2027. It is imperative that plans be put in place now to replace that scheme. A simple fix would be to legislate the conversion of all remaining IAPAs into GRAs, but that will only be effective and fair if it is supported by the establishment of fair permit schemes that give affected community members a real say in who gets a permit, and under what conditions.

Having joined the Liquor Commission when it was established in February 2018, I am now nearing the end of my final term, so this is my last Chairperson's Message, which provides an opportunity to step back for a longer view. Over the past ten years there has been a modest reduction in alcohol consumption and related harm in the Northern Territory. This encouraging downward trend was interrupted by the COVID-19 epidemic, during which consumption rose to its levels a decade ago, but since then has again decreased. That trend is in line with a national decline in alcohol consumption. However, Northern Territorians are still the heaviest and most harmful drinkers in the nation. The consequent costs, both economic and personal are, in a word, catastrophic. They are also unaffordable. The Territory must redouble its efforts to reduce the devastating harm caused by alcohol abuse. A stark and salient reminder of the scale of this challenge was the coronial report into the deaths of Miss Yunupingu, Ngeygo Ragurk, Kumarn Rubuntja and Kumanjayi Haywood. Each of these women was violently killed by her domestic partner. At the time, each of those perpetrators and each of their victims was significantly intoxicated. The inquest gave us a horrifying but unflinchingly accurate snapshot of the bleak landscape I was required to travel through for over 20 years as a legal aid lawyer in Alice Springs. As Coroner Armitage said, alcohol increases the probability, frequency and severity of domestic and family violence. The Commission has recommended to the Northern Territory government that – among other things – it implement each of the Coroner's four

recommendations concerning alcohol. The Commission also recommends that sufficient resources be allocated to enable these measures to be properly executed.

Over 40 years ago, when I came to the Territory fresh out of university to work in a small non-government organization in Alice Springs, a group of illiterate old ladies sat me down and gave me a talking to. Didn't I realise, they insisted, that grog is killing our people? Of course, being highly educated, I knew better: back then, in the early 1980s, me and my mates truly believed we were in the age of post-racist emancipation, and I was proud to think that no-one would ever be barred again from an Aussie pub because they were black. After all, just a few years before, when I was only 19, hadn't I done the right thing and bought beers for a Nyoongar man in my home state of WA after he'd been refused a drink at his local? Later, I learned that these little old ladies were the assembled matriarchal leaders of several of the most important First Nations families in Central Australia. It took another 15 years or so of working in the community for it to dawn on me that these matriarchs had been right all along. Grog was indeed killing their people. It was then that I made a commitment to heed their words and honour their wisdom. As I have been saying for the last 15 years, if we don't fix up this grog business, whatever else we do to stop the violence, whatever else we do to address the Territory's social problems, however much money we spend, whatever laws we pass, or gaol sentences we impose, or programs we deliver, or houses we build, or theories we devise, or prayers we offer, I know this: if we don't take the hard decisions and fix up this grog business, whatever else we try, will fail.

Fortunately, this home truth is now widely accepted and well understood. I acknowledge the dedication and skills of the countless Territorians who work together in offices, clinics, schools, prisons, homes and licensed premises, as well as on the streets, to reduce alcohol-related harm. I particularly thank my colleagues on the Liquor Commission for their hard, thoughtful and compassionate work.

Russell Goldflam

Chairperson

About the Northern Territory Liquor Commission

The Northern Territory Liquor Commission (the Commission) is an independent statutory authority established on 28 February 2018 under the *Northern Territory Liquor Commission Act 2018* (the Act).

The Commission is a body corporate with perpetual succession, has a common seal and is capable of acquiring property, initiating litigation and being sued.

The Commission is required to report to the Minister on its operations within three months after the end of each financial year.

This report relates to the financial year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 (the reporting period).

What we do

The Commission has extensive powers under the *Liquor Act 2019* (the *Liquor Act*) to regulate liquor licensing in the Northern Territory and is the primary decision-maker for liquor licence applications and the determination of complaints.

The Commission performs its functions and exercises its powers independently, impartially and in accordance with the purposes of the *Liquor Act*.

Who support us

On 10 September 2024 the Commission and its secretariat were transferred from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) to the Department of Attorney-General and Justice (AGD). Since the transfer, AGD has provided the secretarial and administrative services that the Commission requires in order to perform its functions under the *Liquor Act*.

Licensing NT, which during the reporting period was transferred from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade to the Department of Tourism and Hospitality, continues to support the Commission to perform its functions including by processing liquor applications, investigating complaints, monitoring licensed venues and events, enforcing liquor laws and referring matters to the Commission for determination.

Our Members

The Act provides that the Minister must appoint a minimum of four members of the Commission who have the appropriate knowledge, experience and expertise to be a member.

During the reporting period, the Commission consisted of between 8 and 9 members; currently, two members are based in Alice Springs and six members are based in Darwin.

Members are appointed by the Minister² for a period up to five years.

The Chairperson

The Chairperson administers the affairs of the Commission and performs the functions imposed on the Chairperson under the *Liquor Act* and the *Liquor Commission Act 2018*. They must be a lawyer who has been admitted into the legal profession for at least five years and be of good standing.

Mr Russell Goldflam has served as a member of the Commission since its inception in 2018, acting as Deputy Chairperson when required. On 1 March 2023, following the retirement of Mr Richard Coates, the Commission's inaugural Chairperson, Mr Goldflam was appointed as the Chairperson for a three-year term.

The Deputy Chairperson

The Deputy Chairperson acts as Chairperson if the Chairperson is absent from duty or the Territory.

Ms Jodi Truman, who has served as Deputy Chairperson to the Commission since its inception in

2018, was re-appointed on 1 March 2023 for a further three-year term.

Members of the Commission

In addition to the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, the composition of the Commission comprises three health members and three general members.

A **general member** is qualified for appointment if the Minister is satisfied, they have the appropriate knowledge, experience and expertise.

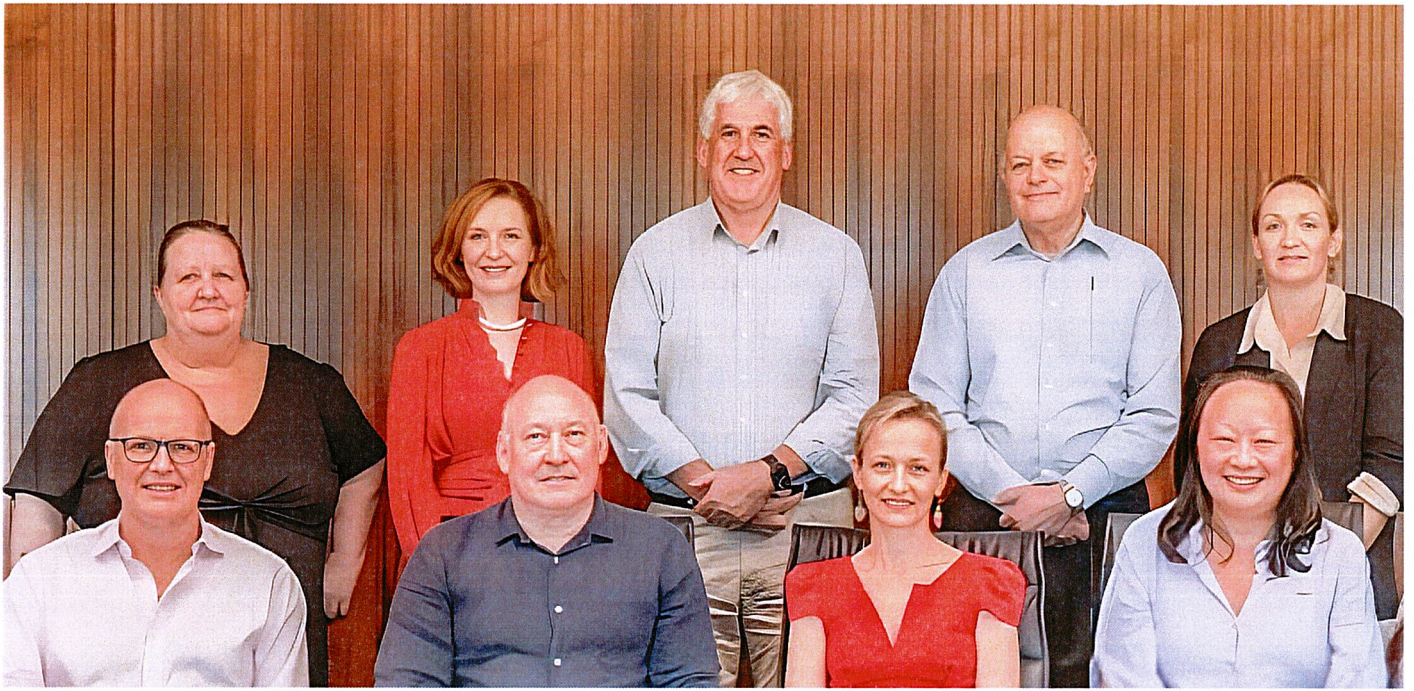
A **health member** is qualified for appointment if they have knowledge, experience and expertise in health-related matters, including current or previous registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency for at least five years or equivalent clinical experience.

Classification and remuneration

Members receive sitting fees and other allowances in accordance with rates determined by the Administrator of the Northern Territory under the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* and Ministerial reclassification dated 20 November 2018.

The Commission is classified as a Class B1 Quasi-Judicial Body – Senior Appeals/Important Government Process with daily rates of \$959 for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and \$719 for Members.

²During the reporting period, until 10 September 2024 the responsible Minister was the Minister for Alcohol Policy, and subsequently, the Minister for Attorney-General and Justice.



L-R Elizabeth Stephenson, Rachael Shanahan, Denys Stedman, Russell Goldflam, Ebony Abbott-McCormack. Bottom L-R: Phillip Carson, Bernard Dwyer, Jodi Truman, Katrina Fong-Lim.

Table 1: Membership to the Commission from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Name	Position	Appointment Expiry Date
Mr Russell Goldflam	Chairperson	28 February 2026
Ms Jodi Truman	Deputy Chairperson	28 February 2026
Prof Phillip Carson	Health Member	30 October 2026
Ms Elizabeth Stephenson	Health Member	19 June 2027
Ms Ebony Abbott-McCormack	Health Member	19 July 2026
Ms Katrina Fong Lim	Member	2 November 2026
Mr Denys Stedman	Member	28 February 2026
Mrs Rachael Shanahan	Member	28 February 2026
Mr Bernard Dwyer	Health Member	Term expired on 5 November 2024

Meetings and proceedings

In accordance with the Act, the Commission must convene as often as necessary for the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions.

The Commission is constituted by a panel comprising of at least three members that must include at least one of the following:

- (a) a presiding member (who must be the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, or Acting Deputy Chairperson); and
- (b) a member with health expertise.

Commission meetings

All Commission members convene twice annually to determine issues across the range of its legislative responsibilities.

The Commission met on 02 September 2024 and 26 May 2025.

Hearings

Under section 21 of the *Liquor Act*, the Commission has discretion to conduct a hearing in relation to any matter on which it is to make a decision under the *Liquor Act*. In addition, section 166(2) requires the Commission to conduct a hearing into a complaint referred to it by the Director.

Commission hearings must be conducted in public unless the Commission is of the opinion that it is not appropriate in the circumstances because:

- (a) a hearing is likely to cause undue hardship to a person; or

- (b) commercial-in-confidence information must be protected; or
- (c) the matter is not controversial; or
- (d) conducting the hearing would not be worthwhile.

The Commission has the power to direct that the hearing, or part of the hearing, may be conducted in private or by way of written submissions only. If required, two or more related matters may be heard jointly or at the same time.

The Commission conducted hearings on 20 days during the reporting period and heard 24 matters. Twenty-one matters were conducted by written submissions.

Disclosure of interest

Section 21 of the Act requires a member to disclose the nature of the interest should the member have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter before the Commission for consideration.

Where a member makes the disclosure, the member must not take part in any deliberation or decision in relation to the matter.

Guidelines specifying the types of disclosable interests are outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual and published on the Commission's website.

Table 2: Commission hearings conducted between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025

Applicant / Licensee	Date of Hearing
The Darwin Turf Club Incorporated T/as Silks Darwin Racing	17 July 2024
Sea Dragon (NT) Pty Ltd T/as Darwin Waterfront Beach Club Bar*	17 July 2024
These Clowns Pty Ltd T/as Monte's Lounge	24 July 2024
Perte Therre community- Declaration of a General Restricted Area	31 July 2024
2SCCP Pty Ltd T/as Jump Inn*	27 August 2024
Wadeye Social Club	03 September 2024
Flame & Fizz Pty Ltd T/as Burgers & Shakes	11 September 2024
Williams Well - Declaration of a General Restricted Area	02 October 2024
Silvey Pty Ltd T/as United Wycliffe Well	23 October 2024
Discovery Holiday Parks Pty Limited T/as Kings Canyon Resort	23 October 2024
Northern Rise Village Services Pty Ltd T/as Northern Rise Village Services	31 October 2024
Boxian Holdings Pty Ltd T/as Dunmarra Wayside Inn	11 December 2024
Belyuen community- Declaration of a General Restricted Area	11 December 2024
Deleye Outstation - Declaration of a General Restricted Area	11 December 2024
Darwin Services Club Incorporated T/as Darwin Services Club	8 January 2025
Darwin Services Club Incorporated T/as Darwin Services Club	15 January 2025
N & S Hill Pty Ltd T/as Alice Springs Wine Club	29 January 2025
2SCCP Pty Ltd T/as Jump Inn	13 February 2025
Alice Springs Casino Operations Pty Ltd T/as Lasseters Hotel Casino	26 March 2025
DCOH Pty Ltd T/as Frontier Hotel	31 March 2025
Mt Bundy Station Pty Ltd T/as Mt Bundy Station	9 April 2025
Darwin Services Club Incorporated T/as Darwin Services Club	6 May 2025
Iris Todd Operations T/as Todd Tavern	28 May 2025
Unique Minibus Services Pty Ltd T/as Litchfield Café	25 June 2025

* Matter referred in the 2023-24 reporting period

^ Matter heard in the reporting period but not determined

The Commission's Decisions

When formulating a decision, the Commission considers the evidence it has received, and the applicable statutory provisions. The Commission is not bound by the rules of evidence and may inform itself in any manner it considers appropriate.

The Commission maintains records of all matters before it, including the scheduling and conduct of public hearings, records of the evidence received, audio-recording of hearings, and the Commission's decisions.

A decision notice is a written notice setting out the decision and the right to a review of the decision by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT). The Commission's practice is to always publish reasons for its decisions, and, except in matters requiring an urgent decision (when reasons are published later), the Commission's reasons are included in the decision notice.

During the reporting period, the Commission issued and published 47 decision notices. This included 5 matters referred in the previous reporting period. One decision was outstanding at the end of the reporting period.

Decision notices are published on the Commission website:

[Liquor Commission decisions | Attorney-General's Department](#)

Public Interest and Community Impact Test

The Commission may only issue a licence or an authority if satisfied that:

- the applicant is a fit and proper person;
- issuing the licence or authority is in the public interest; and
- the licence or authority will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.

To determine whether issuing a licence or an authority is in the public interest or would have a significant impact on the community, the Commission must consider the 10 public interest objectives and the 10 community impact matters set out in sections 49(2) and 49(3) of the *Liquor Act*.

The onus is on the applicant to satisfy the Commission that issuing the licence or authority is in the public interest and will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.

Publications

Policy and Procedures manual

The Northern Territory Liquor Commission Policy and Procedures Manual provides members with information to assist in fulfilling their responsibilities and exercising their powers under the Act and the *Liquor Act*.

The Policy and Procedures Manual is published on the Commission website at:

[Liquor Commission publications | Attorney-General's Department](#)

Codes of Practice

The *Liquor Act* confers on the Commission the power to establish codes of practice to regulate the following matters:

- (a) the advertising and promotion of liquor by licensees;
- (b) the conduct of business under a licence or an authority;
- (c) the operation of licensed premises;
- (d) the management of customers, purchasers and patrons by licensees, including the management of their safety; or
- (e) the establishment of ethical standards and practices for licensees.

The Commission may publish any code of practice it establishes in the way the Commission considers appropriate.

It is a condition of a licence that the licensee comply with the provisions of any code of practice established and published by the Commission.

The following Codes of Conduct and guidance can be found on the Commission website at:

[Liquor Commission publications | Attorney-General's Department](#)

Code of Practice for the Responsible Advertising and Promotion of Liquor

In 2020, the Commission established a *Code of Practice for the Responsible Advertising and Promotion of Liquor* (Advertising and Promotion Code).

The object of the Advertising and Promotion Code is to ensure the responsible promotion and advertising of liquor products.

The Advertising and Promotion Code is currently under review and an updated Code will be published in 2025-2026 reporting period.

Code of Practice for CCTV in Licensed Premises

The *Code of Practice for CCTV in Licensed Premises* (CCTV Code) came into effect in August 2023.

The object of the CCTV Code is to provide guidance on the appropriate and effective operation of CCTV in licensed premises, including data retention.

Liquor licensing and complaints

The Commission is responsible for deciding the following matters under the *Liquor Act*:

- (a) an application to issue a licence or an authority;
- (b) an application to vary the conditions of a licence or an authority;
- (c) an application to substitute other premises for the licensed premises;
- (d) an application to approve a material alteration to licensed premises;
- (e) an application to authorise the transfer of a licence;
- (f) the determination of complaints and the taking of disciplinary action; and
- (g) any other matter the Director refers to the Commission.

Delegation by the Commission

Pursuant to the Act, and set out the publications of its website, the Commission has delegated various

non-contentious and low-risk licensing decisions to either an individual member of the Commission or the Director.

The use of delegated powers has saved the expense of conducting unnecessary hearings, improved the turnaround for the processing of uncontentious applications, and is a substantial reason for the reduction over the last two years in the number of hearings conducted by the Commission.

Referrals

During the reporting period, the Director referred 44 matters to the Commission for consideration and decision.

Two referrals had multiple applications from the same licensee. This brings the total number of applications referred to the Commission to 46, comprising of 40 applications and 6 disciplinary matters.

Two matters were withdrawn and dismissed by the Commission.

Table 3: Summary of matters referred to Commission

Nature of Referral	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Application for the grant of a liquor licence or authority	17	20	14	11	9
Application for variation of conditions of licence	10	10	6	9	8
Application for transfer of licence	1	0	1	1	-
Application for substitution of premises	1	1	3	2	1
Application to make material alteration to licensed premises	6	13	4	10	6
Application for special and major event authorities	11	8	8	10	11
Application for declaration of a GRA	-	-	-	1	7
Application for small community group	-	-	-	1	-
Disciplinary action against licensee	12	8	11	10	6
Total	58	60	47	55	48

Liquor applications

Liquor licence or authority

The *Liquor Act* provides that the Commission may issue a licence and one or more authorities to an applicant.

The moratorium on new takeaway liquor licences remained in place during the reporting period.

An application for a licence or an authority must be lodged with the Director, who will accept it providing it complies with the prescribed requirements for applicants.

Following acceptance of an application, public notification and consultation with stakeholders, the Director refers the application to the Commission, together with any objections and stakeholder comments received, and the applicant's response.

During the reporting period, 9 applications for the **grant of licence or an authority** were referred by the Director. Seven applications were approved. The Commission referred one application to the Director of Liquor Licensing to determine under delegation.

Special and major event authorities

The *Liquor Act* provides for a special event and a major event authority, which authorises the licensee to sell liquor for the consumption on or in licensed premises, to patrons attending a single event expected to have *less* than 1,500 attendees and *more* than 1,500 attendees respectively.

Additionally, an event is considered a major event should it have a significant effect on public transport or local amenities or require more than a usual amount of emergency services or police supervision.

An application for a licence with a major event authority requires public notice of the application whereas the Director may exempt an applicant from this requirement for an application with a special event authority.

The Commission has previously delegated its powers and functions to the Director to issue licences and authorities for non-contentious special events and 27 recurring major events.

During the reporting period, eleven licence applications with a **major event authority** were referred to the Commission.

A Commission member considered the applications with a major event authority under delegation.

Table 4: List of liquor licence or authority applications determined from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Licensee	Determination
Flame & Fizz Pty Ltd T/as Burgers & Shakes	Liquor licence issued with restaurant authority. Additional conditions imposed relating to trading hours, and requirement for necessary approvals to be provided before trading can commence.
Wadeye Social Club	Liquor licence with community club authority. 50 additional conditions applied to licence.
The Friends of Araluen Incorporated T/as Araluen Arts Centre Theatre	Liquor licence with public bar and adult entertainment R-rated authorities approved for 4 October 2024 only.
Michael Klarenbeek T/as The Blue Moon Restaurant	Application returned to the Director for determination under delegation after the applicant agreed to reduce the authorities they seek to only a restaurant authority
Mt Bundy Station Pty Ltd T/as Mt Bundy Station	Liquor licence with restaurant bar authority issued. Subject to Part 4, Division 16 of the Liquor Regulations in relation to operating hours and operating conditions.
Spinning Back Kicks Pty Ltd T/as The Last Supper Shop	The commission determined to vary their current licence to include a public bar authority and an adult entertainment explicit authority with additional conditions.
Unique Minibus Services Pty Ltd T/as Litchfield Cafe	Liquor Licence issued with a restaurant and bar authority. Subject to Part 3 Division 4 of the Liquor Act 2019

* Referred in the previous reporting period

Table 5: List of major event and special event authorities issued from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Name of Licensee	Event	Determination
One Mile Brewery (NT) Pty Ltd	Territory Bar-BQ Festival	Major event authority with conditions issued on 13 August 2024
Alice Springs Dingo Cubs Rugby Union Club Incorporated	Alice Springs Rodeo	Major event authority with conditions issued on 11 September 2024
Alice Springs Golf Club Incorporated	Alice Springs Masters Games	Licence with major event authority approved for Alice Springs Masters Games Opening Ceremony held on 12 October 2024
LACT Activations Pty Ltd	Electric Storm Halloween Music Festival	Major event authority approved for Electric Storm Halloween Music Festival on 2 November 2024
Rodeo Promotions NT Ltd	Fort Hill Parkland	Major event authority approved with conditions on 24 April 2025.
Fiery Amigos Pty Ltd	BASSINTHEGRASS	Major event authority approved with conditions issued on 24 April 2025.
Oceanview Developments Pty Ltd	Darwin River Tavern Rodeo	Major event authority approved with conditions issued on 7 June 2025
Montes Lounge Darwin Pty Ltd	BASSINTHECITY and Open Air Car park Day Party	Major event authority approved with conditions issued on 8 May 2025
Rodeo Promotions NT Ltd	Northern Golden Buckle Rodeo Series	The Commission referred the matter to Licensing NT and requested to use Director's delegate power and functions to determine the application.
Oceanview Developments Pty Ltd	Darwin River Rodeo	Major event authority approved with conditions issued on 7 June 2025
Tropics Holdings Pty Ltd	Invasion Block Party	Major event authority approved with conditions issued on 23 June 2025

Variation of licence conditions

The *Liquor Act* provides for a licensee to apply to the Commission to vary the conditions of a licence or an authority. Examples of licence variations include changes to trading hours, or the quantities or types of liquor that may be sold.

The licensee is required to satisfy the Commission that the variation sought is in the public interest and would not have a significant adverse impact on the community.

Of the eight applications for **variation of licence conditions** referred during the reporting period, seven were approved and one is pending action from the commission.

One application was heard by the Commission in the reporting period but not determined until after the reporting period.

Table 6: List of applications for variation of conditions of licence determined from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Licensee	Determination
Alice Springs Theatre Group Incorporated T/as Totem Theatre	Variation to licence granted. Public bar and adult entertainment explicit authority granted.
Gold Impression Pty Ltd T/as Fannie Bay Super Pizza	Restaurant bar authority approved and restaurant authority cancelled. Additional conditions imposed in respect to trading hours and alignment to some of the conditions in the restaurant authority.
Darwin Services Club Incorporated T/as Darwin Services Club	Licensees liquor licence amended by substituting the premises with additional conditions
Darwin Airport Resort Operating Company Pty Ltd T/as Darwin Airport Resort	The Commission approves the extension of time for completion to 31 January 2026 or such further date as the Director or their Delegate approves.
Darwin Services Club Incorporated T/as Darwin Services Club	The Commission approves the extension of time by which the Licensee is required to be ready to re-commence operating Liquor Licence, to 24 May 2026
Armada Hotels and Leisure Pty Ltd T/as Parkside Bistro	The Commission approved the request for extension of time for completion to 18 October 2026 or such further date as the Commission approves.
Alice Springs Brewing Co Pty Ltd	The Commission have completed its inquiry and determined not to vary the conditions of the licence.

Transfer of licence

The *Liquor Act* provides for a licence to be transferable from the licensee to another person.

Since January 2020, non-contentious applications for transfer of licence have been considered and determined by the Director under delegation.

The decision-maker must consider the application and decide whether to authorise the transfer, with or without conditions, or refuse to authorise the transfer of the licence.

During the reporting period, no application for **transfer of licence** was heard by the Commission in the reporting period.

Substitution of premises

The *Liquor Act* provides for a licensee who wishes to substitute other premises for the licensed premises to apply for a licence for the new premises. An application to substitute premises is made in the same manner as an application for a new licence.

Instead of issuing a new licence, the Commission may, on application of the licensee, amend a licence to substitute other premises for the licensed premises if satisfied that the substitution satisfies the public interest and community impact requirements.

During the reporting period, one application for **substitution of premises** were referred to the Commission for consideration and decision, which included one matter referred as a joint application.

One application was approved and heard by the Commission in the reporting period.

Material alterations

The *Liquor Act* provides for a licensee to apply to the Commission for approval of a material alteration to the licensed premises. Section 95(1) of the *Liquor Act* defines material alterations as those that involve:

- (a) a significant increase in the area of the premises used for the sale, supply, service or consumption of liquor; or
- (b) a change to an entrance to or an exit from the premises; or
- (c) a significant change to the external appearance of the premises; or
- (d) a significant change to the premises' facilities related to the sale, supply service or consumption of liquor.

If the Director considers it to be in the public interest, the Director may require the applicant to notify the public of the application.

During the reporting period, the Director referred 6 applications for a **material alteration** to licensed premises to the Commission for consideration and decision.

Five applications were approved and one matter referred in the current reporting period will be heard and determined in the 2025/26 reporting period.

Table 7: Details of substitution applications determined from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Applicant	Determination
Darwin Services Club	Licenseses liquor licence amended with new premises with additional conditions

Table 8: List of applications for material alteration to licensed premises determined from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Applicant	Determination
The Darwin Turf Club Incorporated T/as Silks Darwin Racing	Material alteration to extend footprint of premises approved.
Northern Rise Village Services Pty Ltd T/as Northern Rise Village Services.	Material alteration approved with additional condition to add the NHMRC guidelines
Boxian Holdings Pty Ltd T/as Dunmarra Wayside Inn.	Material alteration approved with additional conditions to existing licence with subject to the prescribed conditions for producers’ authority under Liquor Regulation 2019
North Oz Trading Pty Ltd T/as Zuccoli IGA / Celebrations.	Material alteration approved to reduce the licensed area.
Alice Springs Casino Operations Pty Ltd T/as Lasseters Hotel Casino.	Material alteration approved with additional conditions to extent the footprint of the premises.

Controlled areas

The *Liquor Act* provides for the prohibition of alcohol in specified communities in the Northern Territory. Communities can seek to allow unrestricted access to alcohol in their communities or introduce alcohol in a way that is customised to suit their needs by seeking a declaration by the Commission of a general restricted area (GRA). Penalties apply to anyone that possesses, consumes, sells, supplies or serves liquor in a restricted area, unless they have a liquor permit issued by the Director of Liquor Licensing.

The Commission can, upon application or on its own initiative, declare an area to be a GRA by *Gazette*

notice. Following acceptance of a GRA application, public notification and consultation with stakeholders, the application is referred to the Commission by the Director, together with the community alcohol plan, if any, and any submissions, opinions or advice provided by stakeholders.

The Director of Liquor Licensing is responsible for determining the revocation of an interim alcohol protected area, with the power to refer the application to the Commission should it be deemed necessary. In order for such an application to be considered, the registered owner must provide a statement of support, and the community alcohol plan must be developed and approved by 60% of residents

in the proposed area. No such applications were made in the reporting period.

Table 10: List of declarations of a general restricted area determined from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Applicant	Determination
Perte Therre community	General restricted area approved. Community members allowed to have alcohol with an approved permit.
Williams Well	General restricted area approved. Community members allowed to have alcohol with an approved permit.
Red Lily	General restricted area approved. Community members allowed to have alcohol with an approved permit.
Paradise Farm	General restricted area approved. Community members allowed to have alcohol with an approved permit.
Hawk Dreaming	General restricted area approved. Community members allowed to have alcohol with an approved permit.
Cannon Hill	General restricted area approved. Community members allowed to have alcohol with an approved permit.
Belyuen community	General restricted area approved. Community members allowed to have alcohol with an approved permit.
Deleye Outstation	General restricted area approved. Community members allowed to have alcohol with an approved permit.

Disciplinary actions

The granting of a liquor licence by the Commission brings with it a number of responsibilities for the licensee, both under the *Liquor Act* and in the conditions of their licence.

Section 160 of the *Liquor Act* provides for a person to make a complaint against a licensee on any of 14 specified grounds.

A complaint against a licensee must be made in the approved form, specify the ground(s) of the complaint, be signed by the complainant and lodged with the Director.

The Director must decide to accept, or refuse to accept, the complaint. After making a decision to accept a complaint, the Director must notify the licensee of the substance of the complaint, the Director's intention to investigate the complaint and the right to respond to the complaint.

On completing an investigation, the Director is empowered to take any of the following actions in relation to the complaint:

- take no further action if satisfied there are no grounds to justify taking further action or that the matter does not warrant further action;
- give the licensee a formal warning;
- mediate the complaint;
- issue an infringement notice;
- enter into an enforceable undertaking with the licensee;
- refer the matter to the Commission for disciplinary action.

A referral of a complaint to the Commission must specify details of the grounds for disciplinary action, the results of the investigation and any response by the licensee.

Section 165 of the *Liquor Act* empowers the Commission to take disciplinary action if satisfied that

a ground for the disciplinary action exists and the disciplinary action is appropriate in relation to that ground.

The Commission may take any of the following disciplinary actions against a licensee:

- vary the conditions of the licensee's licence or impose additional conditions on the licence;
- suspend a licence;
- cancel a licence;
- impose a monetary penalty;
- direct a licensee to take, or refrain from taking, a specified action;
- disqualify a person from holding a licence for a specified period.

During the reporting period, the Director referred six matters to the Commission for **disciplinary action**.

Public hearings were conducted for 7 complaints, one of which had been referred in the previous reporting period.

The Commission upheld the complaint for five matters and one complaint was dismissed.

Disciplinary action taken against licensees included two monetary penalties, one licence suspension and two cancellations of licence.

Two licensees applied to NTCAT for a review the Commission's decision to undertake disciplinary action. NTCAT issued its determination for one review on 13 January 2025 and confirmed the Commission's decision. At the end of this reporting period, the second review was yet to be determined.

Table 11: List of disciplinary actions determined from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Licensee	Alleged Breach	Determination
These Clowns Pty Ltd T/as Monte's Lounge	Premises no longer used for the sale, supply, service or consumption of liquor.	Complaint upheld. Liquor licence cancelled.
2SCCP Pty Ltd T/as Jump Inn	Breached conditions that: locality not be disturbed by noise from the premises; licensee employed a child to serve liquor; meals be available until close of business; neighbours be given notice of outdoor entertainment; Licensee employed child to serve liquor; licensee permitted liquor to be consumed off the premises; licensee advertised or encouraged purchase of liquor without the purchase of a meal; premises (with restaurant bar authority) did not have the appearance of café, eatery or restaurant; patrons not seated when consuming liquor	Complaints upheld. Licence conditions varied and added. Licensee directed to undertake specific action; monetary penalty imposed.
Silvey Pty Ltd T/as United Wycliffe Well	Premises no longer used for the sale, supply, service or consumption of liquor.	Complaint upheld. Liquor licence cancelled.
Tennant Creek Golf Club	Bar staff serving liquor without current RSA certificate	Complaint withdrawn and dismissed.
2SCCP Pty Ltd T/as Jump Inn	Licensee failed to remove violent, quarrelsome and disorderly persons from premises; breached requirement that a restaurant bar authority premises have the appearance of a café, restaurant or eatery; failed to ensure that patrons be seated when consuming liquor; used the premises in a way that caused disorderly conduct.	Complaint upheld The Commission took disciplinary actions by suspending the licence on specific dates (14,18,21,25,28 of February 2025 and 4 March 2025). Additional conditions were imposed on the licence on the days where there is live entertainment.
N & S Hill Pty Ltd	Not stated in decision notice.	Complaint withdrawn and dismissed.
DCOH Pty Ltd T/as Frontier Hotel	Licensee caused undue and unreasonable noise that affects the amenity of the neighborhood	Complaint upheld. Additional conditions imposed on licence to manage noise. Applicant has applied to NTCAT to set aside the Commission's decision.
Iris Todd Operations T/as Todd Tavern.	Licensee's employee sold liquor to an intoxicated person.	Complaint upheld. Monetary penalty imposed.

Suspension of licence issued by Commissioner of Police

Section 258 of the *Liquor Act* provides for the Commissioner of Police to suspend a licence or an authority on certain circumstances being an emergency or a natural disaster, riotous conduct, a breach of the peace or a threat to public safety. A suspension can have effect for a maximum of 48 hours. The Commissioner of Police must give written notice of a suspension to the Chairperson.

During the reporting period, the Commission received two related notices of the suspension of licence from the Commissioner of Police for premises in Alice Springs.

Disciplinary determinations by the Director

Pursuant to section 163(3)(c) of the *Liquor Act*, 6 disciplinary matters considered and determined by the Director were provided to the Commission during the reporting period.

Review of Decisions

Review of decision of Director

Affected persons may apply to the Commission to review a decision of the Director.

An application for review must be made to the Commission within 28 days after written notice of the decision is given to the person or any later date allowed by the Commission.

During the reporting period, no applications were lodged for review of decision of the Director.

Review of decision of the Liquor Commission

Section 31 of the *Liquor Act* provides that any decision of the Commission for which a decision notice is required is reviewable by NTCAT.

During the reporting period, two applications were made to NTCAT to review a Commission decision. NTCAT determined one application within the reporting period.

Table 12: List of Commission decisions reviewed by NTCAT from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Matter	Determination
<i>Matt Mulga v Northern Territory Liquor Commission</i>	By orders made on 28 th August 2024, application dismissed and the Commission's decision affirmed.
<i>DCOH Pty Ltd (Frontier Hotel) v NT Liquor Commission</i>	Decision pending.

Variations to conditions initiated by the Commission

Under section 113 of the *Liquor Act*, the Commission may, on its own initiative, vary the conditions of a licence or an authority, other than conditions added or varied by the Minister under section 88 of the *Liquor Act*.

Decision Notices for variations initiated by the Commission and associated documents for previous reporting periods are published on the Commission website at: [Liquor Commission](#).

During the current reporting period the Commission conducted four own initiative inquiries.

Table 13: List of own initiative inquiries conducted by the Commission from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Matter	Determination
<i>Alice Springs Brewing Co Pty Ltd</i>	Variations of licence conditions: requirement to comply with CCTV Code of Conduct; trading hours for sale of liquor for consumption off the premises varied; Request that licensee enter into enforceable undertakings with Director Recommendation that Minister make regulations in accordance with s 47(1)(j) of the Act prescribing the amount of liquor a licensee with a producers' authority may sell for consumption off the premises
<i>Bagala Social Club</i>	Variation of licence conditions: establishment of an enforceable timeframe for progressing the commencement of the operation of the licence
<i>Wirib Aboriginal Corporation</i>	No action taken: licensee had been placed in liquidation, and licence had been surrendered
<i>Alice Springs Brewing Co Pty Ltd</i>	No action taken: Commission not satisfied that licensee engaged in the sale of substantial quantities of takeaway liquor on days when all other local takeaway outlets are closed or that the licensee's trade is associated with an increase in alcohol-related harm in the vicinity of the premises.