

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION

DECISION NOTICE AND REASONS FOR DECISION

MATTER: APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENCE [2026] NTLiqComm8

FILE NUMBER: LC2026-003

APPLICANT: Oceanview Developments Pty Ltd

PREMISES: 185 Darwin River Road Darwin River NT 0841

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

DECISION OF: Sally Gearin (Chairperson)

Prof Phil Carson (Health Member)

Stephen Gelding (Health Member)

DATE OF HEARING: 8 April 2026

DATE OF DECISION: 9 April 2026

Reasons for Decision

1. This matter was referred to the Liquor Commission by the Director of Liquor Licencing on 20 March 2026. By Agreement at the hearing, the only matters for consideration were the two events being a rodeo on Saturday 9 May 2026 and June 2026.
2. On 26 January 2026, Mr Paul Winter, a joint nominee of the licensee, which trades as The Darwin River Tavern, applied for a Liquor Licence with a major event Authority for the two events referred to above to be held at Darwin River Dam.
3. The referral was pursuant to s52 of the Liquor Act 2019 being an application for Liquor Licenses with major event authority.
4. That Referral identified the issues that the Commission is required to consider and confirmed compliance with all matters the Commission is required to consider. In particular s47(1), s51, s54, s56, s57 and s61 of the Act are found to have been complied with.
5. We also find that compliance has been effected regarding consultation including advertising and s56 of the Act regarding notification to Dept of Health, NT Police and Litchfield Council, Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and St John Ambulance.
6. We note the written objections made by neighbors Mr Chapman and Ms. Rickard. These parties chose not to appear at the hearing but to rely on their written objections. After a proper consideration of those objections, we consider that the substantive concerns of the complainants the Eden Festival

held in 2025 and therefore we find that the complaints made on balance are not upheld in these circumstances.

7. The matter came before the Liquor Commission for hearing on Wednesday 8 April 2025.
8. Mr Winter appeared before the Commission on behalf of the Applicant, Oceanview Developments Pty Ltd and the Commission was assisted by Mr Mark Wood, Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licencing who appeared by Teams from Alice Springs.
9. Given the short timeframe between the hearing and the commencement of the two events applied for, the Commission granted the applications for both events on 8 April 2026 and advised that the reasons for that decision would be published within 28 days. ¹ I, the Commissioner, apologize for being a few days late with that self-imposed timetable,
10. Oceanview Developments Pty Ltd have held licenses for the following events since July 2024.
 1. Darwin River Tavern Rodeo Saturday 10 May 2025 from 1500 hours to 0200 hours the following day for approximately 1500 patrons.
 2. Darwin River Tavern Rodeo Saturday 14 June from 15.00 hours to 01.00 hours on the following day for approximately 1500 patrons.
 3. Darwin River Muster Saturday 14 June 2025 from 11.00 hours to 01.00 hours the following day for approximately 3,000 patrons.
 4. Darwin River Muster Saturday 16 August 2025 from 11.00 hours to 01.00 hours the following day for approximately 3,000 patrons.
 5. Eden Festival 26 to 28 July 2024-from 26 July 2024 at 16.00 hours to 04.00 hours the following day and 27 July 2024 from 14.00 to 02.00 hours the following day for approximately 1600 patrons.
11. The Commission is not satisfied that it is appropriate to hear bulk applications with a long timeframe between events. There are different issues to be considered, and these applications should be heard separately rather than bundled into a group application.
12. The licensed premises for the May and June 2026 rodeos are the area (the licensed premises) identified by a red line and shown in the plan attached to this decision.
13. We have considered the relevant matters pursuant to s 59 of the Act in particular;
 - a. The Applicants affidavit pursuant to s54;
 - b. The suitability of the premises to be licensed, having regard to any NT laws regulating the sale, supply, service or consumption of liquor and the location, construction and facilities of the premises. (s59(3)(e))
 - c. The financial stability, general reputation and business reputation of the corporate applicant ;(s59(g))
 - d. Whether the Applicant and the nominee designated by the Applicant are fit and proper persons to hold a licence; (s 59(i))
 - e. Whether each associate of the Applicant is a fit and proper person to be an associate of a licensee; (s 59(j))

¹ NT Interpretation Act 1978 s28

14. We find there is no evidence or suggestion that the various parties and entities do not comply with the s 59 requirements.
15. In accordance with s49 of the Act, we have also considered whether the license is in public interest, and whether the license will have a significant adverse impact on the community. We are satisfied that the applicant has complied with the requirements of ss54 and 55 of the Act.
16. We are satisfied that the proposed premises are suitable for the supply and consumption of liquor in the manner set out in the application
17. Having regard to the fact that the applicant is a well-established licensee with a satisfactory record in compliance , I am satisfied that the licensee financial stability , general reputation and character are satisfactory for the purpose of these applicants
18. Further I consider that the licensee, its nominees and its associate, NT Rodeo Promotions PTY Ltd, continue to be fit and proper persons to be granted a major event authority to operate with the license .
19. I have also had regard to the public interest and community impact requirements in s49 of the Act. We particularly take into account the following matters
 - a. The proposed premises, which are located in a rural area adjacent to the Stuart highway, have previously been utilized for similar events.
 - b. The proposed events are of relatively short duration.
 - c. The licensee and NT Rodeo Promotions PTY Ltd have demonstrated the capacity to run a similar event successfully in the past.
 - d. The license conditions imposed are calculated to reduce the risk that patrons will drink to excess and cause alcohol – related harm.
20. We are satisfied that the issue of the major event authority for these two events is in the public interest and will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.
21. Accordingly , the commission has determined to issue a major event authority on the conditions set out at the commencement of the Decision Notice.

Sally Gearin
CHAIRPERSON
NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION

