

28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Richard Coates  
Chairperson  
Northern Territory Liquor Commission  
GPO Box 1154  
Darwin NT 0801

**RE: REVIEW OF TAKE AWAY LIQUOR LICENCE CONDITIONS IN ALICE SPRINGS**

Dear Mr Coates,

Tourism Central Australia (TCA) is a not-for-profit, innovative membership-based association that assists a wide variety of stakeholders including individuals, businesses and organisations with the growth of the tourism industry in the Red Centre. We service two thirds of the Northern Territory including Alice Springs, the MacDonnell Ranges, Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon and the Tennant Creek region.

It is good to see the commitment of the NT Government to reducing alcohol related crime and harm. It is important to have a balanced and proactive approach to reducing the negative impacts of alcohol consumption, and so Tourism Central Australia thanks you for your efforts.

We would like to bring to your attention some of the areas in which we believe this well-meaning approach has had negative unintended consequences, and we ask for you to implement measures to remove these negative impacts.

Many restrictions on the purchase of takeaway liquor have recently been put into place, with more scheduled to start a week after submissions close. The industry needs time for these restrictions to be assessed for impact. We propose a minimum period of six months be applied to these changes to be assessed, before any other restrictions are considered. There is need to ensure the restrictions work, as the continual introduction of reactive increased restrictions is having a negative impact on business compliance and associated costs and time. It is also having a negative impact on the visitor economy.

The Commission needs to consider the unintended consequences of so many restrictions and the complications surrounding these. For tourists, there is much confusion and frustration. This has led to a negative perception of the NT being distributed on social media, and our welcoming and friendly culture is being damaged by this negative publicity. Liquor restrictions can not be made in isolation; industries such as tourism need to be considered when making decisions on alcohol restrictions.

We strongly encourage the commission to work with Hospitality NT, the Chamber of Commerce NT, the Alice Springs Liquor Accord Group and Tourism Central Australia as we want to be part of the solution. However, these organisations currently do not have the opportunity to have input aside from this formal process.

Please consider the ramifications on our local economy and await the results of current restrictions before any further decisions are made. Please also ensure you consider the tourism industry, and work with industry, when considering alcohol restrictions.

Warm regards,



Stephen Schwer  
CEO