

**NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION**  
**STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION**

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**CITATION:** *APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENCE WITH MAJOR EVENT AUTHORITY FOR NITRO UP NORTH [2025]*  
NTLiqComm 29

**REFERENCE:** LC 2025/028

**APPLICANT:** SRO Group of Companies Pty Ltd

**PREMISES:** Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex  
171 Hidden Valley Rd  
Hidden Valley NT 0822

**NOMINEES:** Danielle Jones

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

**HEARD BEFORE:** Mr Russell Goldflam (Chairperson)

**DATE OF DECISION:** 20 August 2025

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1. On 20 August 2025 the Northern Territory Liquor Commission (**the Commission**) issued the following decision:
  1. For the reasons set out below and in accordance with section 48 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT) (**the Act**) and the delegation issued on 28 October 2019 authorising a single Member of the Northern Territory Liquor Commission (**the Commission**) to issue a major event authority, the Commission has determined to issue a liquor licence with a major event authority to SRO Group of Companies Pty Ltd (**the applicant**) for the “Nitro Up North” event.
  2. The Trading hours for the licence are:

Saturday, 29 August 2025 from 14:00 hours to 23:00 hours  
Sunday, 30 August 2025 from 14:00 hours to 23:00 hours
  3. The licensed premises for the event is the same as the footprint of the licensed premises of liquor licence FLL1340 at the Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex, 171 Hidden Valley Rd, Hidden Valley NT 0822, and shown on the plan at Appendix One of this decision notice as the area shaded in purple.
  4. The Commission approves the appointment of Ms Danielle Jones as the licence nominee.
  5. 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**).

6. The Commission fixes the following additional conditions of the licence:
- a. The licensee must ensure that the boundaries of the licensed premises and any alcohol free zone within the licensed premises are clearly identified and access to the licensed premises is restricted in a manner that allows for effective supervision by the licence nominee.
  - b. The nominee or a supervisor appointed by the nominee must be present during all trading hours, supervise the sale of liquor and ensure compliance with these conditions.
  - c. 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.
  - d. Persons under 18 years must not be engaged in the sale or supply of liquor.
  - e. The licensee must comply with the “Industry Code of Practice for the Promotion of Liquor”, provide a safe drinking environment, prevent irresponsible or excessive consumption of liquor and ensure all staff are properly instructed to watch for and prevent drink spiking.
  - f. Liquor may only be sold in opened metal or plastic containers, except for wine that is sold by the opened bottle.
  - g. Except for opened bottles of wine, no alcoholic drinks that contain more than 1.6 standard drinks in one container may be sold or served.
  - h. 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.
  - i. 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.
  - j. The licensee must make soft drinks available for patrons under 18 years of age.
  - k. The licensee must establish and maintain at least one designated “Alcohol Free Zone”.
  - l. The licensee must clearly display signage identifying the locations where smoking is permitted and that the premises are otherwise a No-Smoking area.
  - m. The licensee or an employee of the licensee must exclude or remove from the premises anyone who is wearing the colours, insignia or emblems of

an outlaw motorcycle gang (aka bikie gang), or ask police to remove them if they feel unsafe doing so themselves.

- n. The licensee must accept liability for any breaches of the Act at the premises during the period.
2. The Commission stated that it would issue reasons for this decision in due course. These are the reasons.

## **REASONS**

### **Background**

3. The Hidden Valley Drag Racing Association (**the Association**) is the licensee of premises at the Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex in the outer Darwin suburb of Berrimah, trading with a community club authority with liquor licence FLL1340.
4. On 29 and 30 August 2025, the applicant, in conjunction with the Association, presented “Nitro Up North” (**the major event**), an annual Darwin motorsport event on the program of the National Drag Racing Championship. The promoters of the event, who anticipated attendance of 3,000 people, stated:

Nitro Up North is an adrenaline-fuelled weekend of non-stop drag racing excitement, featuring the Aeroflow Outlaw Nitro Funny Car series, the Top Doorslammer Grand Final and Sportsman championship racing. The event will also include Freestyle Motorcross shows throughout the weekend and lots of children’s activities plus a DJ and acoustic music in the centre track.

### **The application**

5. On 17 July 2025 the applicant lodged an application for a liquor licence with a major event authority with the Director of Liquor Licensing (**the Director**). Notice of the application was displayed at the premises, posted on the Director’s website and published in the NT News on 26 July 2025. No objections were received. In accordance with the Act, the Director consulted with the Department of Health, Northern Territory Police, Northern Territory Fire & Rescue Service, St John Ambulance and the City of Darwin. No adverse comment was received from any of these stakeholders.
6. The applicant proposed Ms Danielle Jones as its licence nominee. Ms Jones has previously operated several successful licensed major events in the Northern Territory, and is well known to the Director and the Commission.

### **The referral**

7. On 13 August 2025 Mr Wood, a delegate of the Director referred the application to the Commission, with a recommendation that it be determined under delegation by a single member of the Commission, without conducting a public hearing. As the application was not controversial and the Commission was of the view that conducting a hearing in public would not be worthwhile, the Commission formed

the opinion that it was not appropriate in the circumstances to conduct a public hearing of the application, and that this was an appropriate matter to be determined under delegation by a single member of the Commission.

8. The Director provided the Commission with a brief, which included:
  - a. Application for liquor licence with major event authority.
  - b. The Association's liquor licence FLL1340 over the premises.
  - c. Evidence that the Association agreed to "stand down as liquor licence holders" over the premises during the period of the major event.
  - d. Affidavits dated 14 July 2025 by the applicant's principals, Ms Danielle Jones and Mr Russell Temple, in accordance with s 54 of the Act.
  - e. Site plan.
  - f. Public Interest and Community Impact Assessment Summary.
9. As the event was expected to attract more than 1,500 patrons, it was appropriate to apply for a licence with a major event authority. However, the applicant should have lodged its application at least three months before this major event, in accordance with the information for applicants published by the Director on the Licensing NT website. If objections had been lodged to this application, a public hearing would in all likelihood have been required, and it would have been difficult if not impossible to arrange and conduct such a hearing and then to consider and determine the application and issue a decision notice in good time before the commencement of the major event.

### **Consideration**

10. Although the Commission is of the view that it is impermissible for two liquor licences to co-exist over the same premises, with some hesitation I accepted the submission of the Director that the Association had suspended (or at least purported to suspend) its licence for the duration of the major event, and that accordingly, it was open to the Commission to approve the application by SRO Group of Companies Pty Ltd.
11. The Act makes provision for a licensee to surrender or transfer their licence, or to appoint an acting licensee, but it makes no provision for a licensee to suspend their own licence. The Act confers power on the Commission, the Director and the Commissioner of Police to suspend a licence in various circumstances, none of which is applicable in this instance. In my view, the legal effect, if any, of the Association's agreement to "stand down as liquor licence holders" was doubtful. I did, however, accept that the Association's undertaking not to trade under its licence for the duration of the major event was made in good faith.
12. To mitigate the risk of a legal dispute arising regarding liability in the event of an adverse incident occurring during the conduct of the major event, I accepted the

Director's recommendation that a condition be included in the major event authority licence that the licensee accept liability for any breaches of the Act at the premises during the period. However, I am by no means certain that this condition was effective to immunise the Association against incurring any liability.

13. For this reason, I discourage future applicants from entering into arrangements of this nature. If licensed premises are to be the venue for a purpose not permitted by the existing licence conditions and authorities, then in my view it is preferable that the existing licensee make application for variation of conditions, material alteration and/or, as the case may be, addition of the appropriate authority or authorities to the existing licence.

14. Section 59 of the Act requires me to consider:

- a. the applicant's affidavit required by s 54
- b. 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.
- c. the financial stability and business reputation of the body corporate.
- d. whether the applicant and the nominees designated by the applicant, are fit and proper persons to hold a licence.
- e. whether each associate of the applicant is a fit and proper person to be an associate of a licensee.

15. Having considered each of these matters, I am satisfied that for the purpose of this application the applicant, the applicant's nominee, the applicant's associates and the premises are all suitable.

16. In accordance with s 49 of the Act, I am also satisfied that issuing the licence is in the public interest, and will not have a significant adverse impact on the community. In so finding, I have had particular regard to the long history of similar licensed events having been successfully operated at this well-established popular motorsports venue. I imposed conditions on the licence similar to conditions the Commission has fixed for previous similar major events.

17. As required by s 3(4) of the Act, in determining this application, I have had regard to the purposes of the Act, and have determined the matter in a way I consider is consistent with those purposes.



RUSSELL GOLDFLAM  
CHAIRPERSON  
NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION  
1 October 2025

# APPENDIX ONE

