

**NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION**  
**DECISION NOTICE**

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**MATTER:** *ELECTRIC STORM 2025: LIQUOR LICENCE WITH MAJOR EVENT AUTHORITY [2025] NTLiqComm 33*

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** LC2025/44

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

**PREMISES:** Darwin Showgrounds  
Tate Place  
WINNELLIE NT 0820

**EVENT:** Electric Storm Halloween Music Festival 2025

**DATE OF EVENT:** Saturday, 1 November 2025

**NOMINEE:** Ms Danielle Jones

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

**DECISION:** Mr Russell Goldflam (Delegate)

**DATE OF DECISION:** 20 October 2025

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**Decision**

1. For the reasons set out below and in accordance with s 48 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (**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 liquor licence with a major event authority, the Commission has determined to issue a liquor licence to SRO Group of Companies Pty Ltd ACN 674912586 (**the applicant**). The applicant will be issued with a major event authority attached to the licence authorising the sale, supply or service of liquor to patrons at the “Electric Storm Halloween Music Festival 2025” (**the event**) for consumption at Darwin Showgrounds, Tate Place, Winnellie NT 0820 within the area bounded in red depicted on the site plan at Annexure One to this decision notice (**the premises**).
2. The sale, supply, service and consumption of liquor under the licence is authorised only on Saturday, 1 November 2025 from 16:00 hours to 23:59 hours.
3. The Commission approves Ms Danielle Jones as the licence nominee (**the nominee**).

4. The licence shall be subject to the applicable prescribed conditions set out in Part 4 Division 1 and Division 12 of the *Liquor Regulations 2019 (the Regulations)*, and the following additional conditions:

- a. The boundary of the premises must be clearly identified and access to the premises must be restricted in a manner that allows for effective supervision by the nominee.
- b. A staggered decline of alcohol served must be implemented as follows:
  - i. no more than four (4) alcoholic drinks may be supplied to any one person at any one time from 16:00 to 21:00 hours;
  - ii. no more than two (2) alcoholic drinks may be supplied to any one person at any one time from 21:00 to 23:00 hours; and
  - iii. no more than one (1) alcoholic drink may be supplied to any one person at any one time from 23:00 to 24:00 hours;

To the extent that this condition is more restrictive than the Regulations, this condition prevails.

- c. No provision of alcoholic drinks that:
  - i. are designed to be consumed quickly and which are commonly referred to as a 'shot' or 'shooters';
  - ii. are a cocktail containing more than a 30ml nip of spirit or liquor (this does not include pre-mixed spirits known as Ready to Drink beverages (**RTDs**)); or
  - iii. contain more than 1.6 standard drinks in one vessel.
- d. Alcohol or any other beverages must not be supplied in glass containers.
- e. All patrons must have their ID checked upon entry and be at least 16 years of age.
- f. All patrons must be issued with colour coded wristbands upon entry clearly identifying patrons who are:
  - i. over 18 years of age; and
  - ii. under 18 years of age.
- g. No patron is to be sold, consume or possess liquor if they are not wearing an 18+ wristband.
- h. Soft drinks and water to be available from the bar but must also be available from separate outlets for those patrons under 18 years of age.

- i. No pass-outs are permitted for unaccompanied patrons under the age of 18 years.
  - j. No pass-outs are permitted after 19:00 hours.
  - k. At least one designated 'Dry Area' must be established and maintained.
5. The licence will be issued immediately following the publication of this decision notice.

## **Reasons**

### **The application**

6. On 17 September 2025, the applicant applied to the Commission for a licence with a major event authority to permit the sale of alcohol to patrons attending Electric Storm 2025, an annual outdoor Halloween-themed music festival that has been presented in Darwin since 2012, marketed to locals and visitors, and particularly those between 16 and 40 years of age.
7. The application is for a 16+ ticketed event. Patrons will be ID checked to gain entry and issued a colour-coded wristband depending on whether they are over 18.
8. The applicant proposes to offer a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages including light, mid and full-strength alcohol options. The applicant proposed the following conditions in addition to the prescribed major event authority conditions:
  - Chill-out/rest and dry areas
  - No more than four (4) alcoholic drinks per person between 16:00 hours to 22:00 hours
  - No more than two (2) alcoholic drinks per person between 22:00 hours to 23:00 hours
  - No more than one (1) alcoholic drinks per person between 23:00 hours to 24:00 hours
  - No glass containers
  - Poured spirits and cocktails not to exceed 30 ml per nip of alcohol per drink, and no greater than 1.6 standard drinks per serve
  - No shots or shooters
  - Random bag searches on entry
9. In order to increase the safety of underage attendees, the applicant has engaged

Music NT's All Good Project, a program that creates safer spaces for staff, performers and patrons, to assist at the event.

10. The applicant has stated that public transport will be available at the conclusion of the event to take patrons to the city.
11. The applicant estimates that a crowd of between 2,000 and 3,000 patrons will attend. Regulation 68(2) of the Regulations requires two licensed crowd controllers for the first one hundred patrons and one additional crowd controller for each one hundred patrons thereafter.
12. Water and soft drinks will be available for purchase, and there will also be complimentary water stations. Food will be available to purchase from food vendors throughout the event until closing.
13. The applicant has confirmed that first aid and paramedics will be provided through St John Ambulance, who will be in attendance for the duration of the event, as will police.
14. Two designated outdoor smoking areas will be located on the premises, in accordance with the applicant's Smoking Management Plan.

### **The applicant**

15. The applicant is a registered Australian Proprietary Company limited by shares.
16. The proposed nominee has previously been the nominee for numerous similar Darwin major events, including Electric Storm.

### **Compliance history**

17. The Director of Liquor Licensing (**the Director**) informed the Commission that despite concerns for the event arising from the large number of attendees, the risk of underage drinking and the 16+ age demographic, following cooperation by the previous licensee (who is closely associated with the applicant) with Licensing NT and police, there was a clear improvement in compliance at the 2024 event over the previous year's Electric Storm.

### **Public notification**

18. The application was advertised on the Director's website and also published in the NT News on 27 September 2025. A green sign was erected at the site advising the public of the application.
19. No objections were received from the public to the application.

### **Stakeholder consultation**

20. Pursuant to section 56(4) of the Act, the Director notified the following stakeholders of the application:

- a. the Department of Health;
  - b. the Commissioner of Police; and
  - c. Darwin City Council.
21. Although not legally bound to do so, the Director also forwarded a copy of the application for comments to:
- a. Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (**NTFRS**); and
  - b. St John Ambulance.
22. None of the stakeholders raised concerns about the application. The NTFRS proposed that the applicant comply with its standard requirements for events of this nature. The Commission strongly encourages the applicant to comply with these NTFRS requirements.

### **The referral**

23. On 16 October 2025 a delegate of the Director referred the application to the Commission and provided a brief that included the following documents:
- a. Application for liquor licence with major event authority
  - b. Section 54 affidavit of Danielle Jones, 17 September 2025
  - c. Declaration of Danielle Jones and Russell Temple regarding persons of influence, 17 September 2025
  - d. ASIC extract: SRO Group of Companies Pty Ltd ACN 674912586
  - e. Site plan
  - f. Detailed event management plan including stakeholder liaison, traffic, parking and transport management plan, entry processes, ticketing procedures, security and crowd control plan, emergency services plan, site management plan, hospitality operations procedures, risk assessment plan, illicit drug control policy and bar staff information
  - g. Public Interest and Community Impact Assessment statement
  - h. Public and stakeholder notification documentation
  - i. Approval of land owner for the event, 2 October 2025

### **The procedure**

24. Given that no objections were received, this is an application for a major event of short duration, and this event has previously been successfully operated by substantially the same operator in previous years, in accordance with section 21 of the Act I formed the opinion that it would not be appropriate in the circumstances to conduct a public hearing because to do so would not be worthwhile, and

because the application is not controversial. Accordingly, I have proceeded pursuant to the delegation given by the Commission to an individual member to determine an application for a liquor licence with a major event authority.

### **Assessment of the Application**

25. Section 49 of the Act provides that the Commission may only issue a licence or an authority if satisfied that:
  - a. the Applicant is a fit and proper person;
  - b. issuing the licence or authority is in the public interest; and
  - c. the licence or authority will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.
26. The Commission has had regard to the relevant considerations listed in section 59(3) of the Act as to the suitability of the applicant to hold this licence and the premises to be licensed.
27. In previous years, the Commission has approved the issue of a liquor licence with a major event authority to LACT Activations Pty Ltd for Electric Storm Halloween events in Darwin. LACT Activations Pty Ltd is closely associated with the applicant, and is directed and managed by the same individuals.
28. The Commission is satisfied that the applicant and the nominee are fit and proper persons to hold the licence.
29. The premises are located in a well-serviced outdoor area that has been the venue for numerous large-scale events in Darwin over many years. The event facilities will include five bars, a dry zone, chill-out marquees, shade structures, “the hanger” (a large warehouse area, the sliding doors of which will be kept fully open during the event), food stalls, a hydration station, toilets, a first aid station, a dry area and two designated outdoor smoking areas. The premises will have a temporary perimeter fence and entry will only be permitted from one access point.
30. The Commission assesses the premises as suitable for the supply and consumption of liquor in the manner set out in the application.
31. The conditions fixed by the Commission are the same as the conditions imposed in 2023 and 2024 for a staggered decline of the sale of alcoholic drinks to any one person at one time over the latter stages of the event. The applicant has proposed that the commencement of this staggered decline be delayed from 21:00 hours to 22:00 hours. The applicant did not make any submissions or provide any reasons to support this proposed change, and having regard to the concerns referred to above regarding the risks of underage drinking and associated harm at this event, I am not satisfied that it would be in the public interest to relax this condition.
32. Since 2022, the Commission has fixed a condition limiting the availability of pass-outs, that is, allowing patrons to leave the event and re-enter at a later time. NT Police have previously informed the Commission that pass-outs increase the risk of contraband (including alcohol and drugs) being smuggled into the venue, and

provide opportunities for persons to access such substances while outside the venue. The applicant has not submitted that this condition be deleted for the 2025 event, and the Commission has determined to retain it.

33. The Commission has had regard to the requirements of s 49 of the Act, and is satisfied that issuing the licence with a major event authority is in the public interest and will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.
34. Accordingly, the Commission approves the issue of the licence with a major event authority with the conditions set out at the commencement of this decision notice.

### **The objects of the Act**

35. Section 3(4) of the Act provides that in performing its function to decide whether to issue a licence, the Commission must have regard to the primary and secondary purposes of the Act. I consider that the issue of the licence and authorities with the conditions imposed is consistent with the purposes of the Act.
36. For these reasons, I have determined that the application should be granted, and that a licence and authority be issued on the conditions set out at the commencement of these reasons.

### **NOTICE OF RIGHTS**

37. Section 31(1) read with s 60(3) of the Act provide that the decision set out in this decision notice is reviewable by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**NTCAT**). Section 94(3) of the *NTCAT Act* provides that an application for review of a reviewable decision must be lodged within 28 days of the date of the decision.
38. In accordance with s 31(2) of the Act, the persons who may apply to NTCAT for a review of the decision are the Director and the applicant.



**Russell Goldflam**  
Chairperson  
Northern Territory Liquor Commission

20 October 2025

# ANNEXURE ONE

