

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
AMENDED DECISION NOTICE

MATTER: APPLICATION FOR GENERAL RESTRICTED AREA
OVER DJURRBIYUK [2026] NTLiqComm 1

FILE NO.: LC2025/040

APPLICANT: Ms Nida Mangranbarr on behalf of residents of Djurrbiyuk
Family Outstation

AREA: Djurrbiyuk
NT Portion 8084
KAKADU NT 0886

LEGISLATION: Part 8 Division 3 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT)

HEARD BEFORE: Mr Russell Goldflam (Chairperson)

Professor Phillip Carson (Health Member)

Ms Katrina Fong Lim (Community Member)

DATE OF HEARING: 22 October 2025, 27 November 2025

DATE OF DECISION: 2 January 2026

Correction: In Annexure One, the latitudinal co-ordinate for Waypoint 4 is amended from 12° 43' 41" S to 12° 43' 46" S

Decision

1. For the reasons set out below and in accordance with s 177 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT) (**the Act**) the Northern Territory Liquor Commission (**the Commission**) has determined to declare a general restricted area (**the GRA**) over the Djurrbiyuk community situated on land owned by the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust.
2. In accordance with s 172 of the Act, the Commission will declare the GRA by *Gazette* notice specifying that:
 - a. The boundaries of the GRA are as depicted in Annexure One to this decision notice.

- b. Other than in accordance with a permit issued under s 201 of the Act (**a liquor permit**) that has not been revoked or suspended, the following are prohibited in the GRA:
 - i. The bringing of liquor into the area;
 - ii. The possession of liquor in the area;
 - iii. The consumption of liquor in the area; and
 - iv. The sale, supply and service of liquor in the area.
 - c. The Director must consult with the residents of the GRA and have regard to the Djurrbiyuk Community Alcohol Plan approved by the community in March 2025, and as may be varied from time to time¹ when considering:
 - i. an application for a liquor permit;
 - ii. the conditions of a liquor permit, including the places at which liquor may be possessed and consumed by the permit holder;
 - iii. suspension of a permit; or
 - iv. revocation of a permit.
 - d. The Director of Liquor Licensing (**the Director**) may on their own initiative, provided they have taken reasonable steps to consult with the residents of the GRA, suspend a liquor permit of a resident of the GRA for a period of up to six months with immediate effect.
 - e. Limit of one carton of beer and one bottle of spirits and one pack of 6 RTD cans per person per day.
 - f. The declaration of the GRA expires in 99 years.
3. By way of compliance with s 178 of the Act, the Commission has determined to publish information about the GRA by posting this decision notice on the Commission's website, and by sending a copy of this decision notice to:
- a. Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust
 - b. Northern Land Council
 - c. NT Police
 - d. Attorney-General and Minister for Tourism and Hospitality

¹ Exhibit One, pp 26 to 38

- e. Minister for Alcohol Policy
 - f. Alcohol Policy, Northern Territory Department of Health
 - g. Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
 - h. Harm Minimisation Unit, Northern Territory Department of Health
 - i. National Indigenous Australians Agency
4. The declaration of the GRA will take effect on the date of publication of the *Gazette* notice referred to above.
 5. The Commission requests the Director, the Director of the Harm Minimisation Unit and the residents of the GRA take reasonable steps to erect signs where a road or other customary route enters the GRA warning the public of the GRA in accordance with s 181(2)(a) and (b) of the Act.

Reasons

Introduction

6. Djurrbiyuk Family Outstation, also known as Whistle Duck Dreaming, is a small homelands community within the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust area.
7. The community has an estimated population of less than 30 adults and about 12 dwellings, and is serviced by the Warnbi Aboriginal Corporation.
8. The relevant history, circumstances and legal issues pertaining to this matter are similar to those set out in the decision of the Commission dated 19 June 2024 to declare a General Restricted Area for Itchy Koo Park.² It is unnecessary to now repeat the detailed consideration of those matters set out in that decision.

The Application

9. On 3 March 2025, Dr Ian Crundall, a consultant who is well known to the Commission, submitted an application on behalf of the residents to apply for a declaration that Djurrbiyuk be declared a General Restricted Area. The application was endorsed by Ms Nida Mangranbarr, a resident and traditional owner of the area. An additional 18 community members signed a statement in support of the application, that was appended to the Djurrbiyuk Community Alcohol Management Plan.

² *Application for General Restricted Area over Itchy Koo Park [2024] NTLiqComm 25*

Consultation

10. Section 175 of the Act requires the Director to give notice of a proposed GRA to:
 - a. Any licensee whose licensed premises are in the area – there are no such licensees.
 - b. Any applicant for a licence whose proposed licensed premises are in the area – there are no such applicants.
 - c. Any licensee whom the Director considers may be affected adversely by the proposed restriction – there are no such licensees.
 - d. Any local council in the proposed area – the Director notified the West Arnhem Regional Council and the Northern Land Council.
11. Although not required to do so, Licensing NT also notified the NT Police, the Department of Health and the Red Lily Health Board.
12. None of these stakeholders objected to the application. NT Police expressed their support, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The establishment of the alcohol committee as described in the application
 - b. The establishment of a mechanism for police representation and input into the committee around the issuing of permits
 - c. The establishment of a mechanism for the Director on own initiative or through recommendation from NT Police or the alcohol committee, to suspend liquor permits of a resident of the GRA for a period of 6 months with immediate effect
13. Section 175 also requires the Director to take reasonable steps to consult with the people who reside in the area. Having considered the consultation undertaken by Dr Crundall, the Commission is satisfied that the community members are well aware of the circumstances of the application, and support it.

Director's Report

14. In accordance with s 176 of the Act, on 30 September 2025, the Director provided the Commission with a report (**the report**) including:
 - a. Application for general restricted area lodged 2 March 2025
 - b. Record of Administrative Interests and Information for Djurrbiyuk Family Outstation

- c. Draft map of proposed GRA
- d. Community Alcohol Plan for Djurrbiyuk dated March 2025
- e. Residents' petition
- f. Correspondence with West Arnhem Regional Council, Northern Land Council, NT Police, NT Health and Red Lily Health

The hearing

- 15. On 22 October 2025, the application commenced as a public hearing. Nobody was available to appear on behalf of the applicant. Mr Wood (**Mr Wood**) appeared for the Director.
- 16. The Commission adjourned the hearing to a date when the applicant would be able to appear, and the hearing resumed on 27 November 2025. Dr Crundall appeared on behalf of the applicant. Unfortunately, Ms Mangranbarr was unavailable to appear.
- 17. The Commission conducted the hearing with a minimum of formality.
- 18. The Commission admitted the report into evidence, without objection.
- 19. On behalf of the applicant, Dr Crundall provided the following information at the hearing:
 - a. This is the first GRA application by Mirrarr people. This is their first attempt to address the problem of alcohol harm, which has been serious in the past. They also want to protect themselves from harmful drinkers from other clans. They want a permit system, which will be for each individual. The leaders will offer advice on who is suitable to the community to be issued with a permit. It is better for the committee to screen permit applicants, and then for it to be screened by police. The community supports the proposed power of Director to immediately suspend permits. The committee comprises senior women in the community and has been informally established already. Nobody currently has a permit, perhaps because when the intervention laws came in everyone thought liquor was banned altogether – there was no consultation.
 - b. The proposed boundaries are acceptable.
 - c. There is one road in to the community. The community wants a warning sign put up.
 - d. The community wants product limits to be specified (including one carton of beer and one bottle of spirits).

20. On behalf of the Director, Mr Wood supported the application. Permit applications should be screened separately by the permit committee and then police. That is how these schemes usually work. The Director supports being conferred power to immediately suspend permits.

ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

21. Section 177 of the Act requires the Commission to consider:

- a. the application;
- b. the Director's report;
- c. the public interest and community impact requirements.

The application

22. The Commission finds that the application complies with the requirements for applicants set out at s 174 of the Act. Section 3 of the application ("Consent of the registered owner of the area") is signed by Ms Nida Mangranbarr who the Commission accepts is a traditional owner and resident of Djurrbiyuk. As the registered owner of the area is the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust, the application is in this respect irregular. A similar arose in similar circumstances when the Commission considered an application for a GRA over Itchy Koo Park. For the reasons given at [2024] NTLiqComm 25 [41] to [54] in that matter, the Commission now finds that despite the irregularity, the application now under consideration is valid.

23. The Commission now turns to consider the substance of the application.

24. In addition to requiring that an application be in the approved form, s 174 provides that it must include:

- a. A detailed explanation of the restriction being proposed.
- b. A detailed description of the proposed general restricted area.
- c. The reasons for the proposed restriction.
- d. A copy of a community alcohol plan, if any.

25. The Commission is satisfied that the applicant has provided sufficient detail of the restrictions it proposes, and, noting that they are supported by the Director, the Commission considers that those restrictions are appropriate, as reflected in this decision.

26. The Commission notes that its determination of the boundary it has specified is solely for the limited purpose of declaring the GRA. The Commission does not intend or purport to determine, declare or affect the property rights of Djurrbiyuk traditional owners' vis a vis the property rights of traditional owners of any neighbouring community areas, or of any other person.

27. The Commission is satisfied with the applicant's reasons for imposing the restrictions that have been proposed.
28. The applicant has prepared and provided a community alcohol plan. GRA applicants are not required to develop a community alcohol plan, but the Commission commends the applicant for having done so, and strongly encourages any future applicants to do so. The Commission accepts the submissions of the applicants, the Director and Dr Crundall that the Djurrbiyuk community alcohol plan has been developed by the community, has the support of the community, and is strong. The Commission notes that the plan is compliant with regulation 111B(2) of the *Liquor Regulations*, which prescribes that a community alcohol plan must include measures aimed at:
- a. Managing the supply of alcohol in the community.
 - b. Reducing demand for alcohol in the community.
 - c. Reducing harm or risks of harm that may be caused the consumption of alcohol in the community.
29. The Commission finds that the Djurrbiyuk community alcohol plan is fit for purpose and thoughtfully formulated.

Whether issuing the licence is in the public interest

30. To determine whether the declaration of the GRA is in the public interest, the Commission is required to consider how the issue of the licence would advance the following objectives set out in section 49(2) of the Act:
- (a) minimising the harm or ill-health caused to people, or a group of people, by the consumption of liquor;
 - (b) ensuring liquor is sold, supplied, served and consumed on or in licensed premises in a responsible manner;
 - (c) safeguarding public order and safety, particularly when large numbers of people would be attracted to licensed premises or an area adjacent to those premises;
 - (d) protecting the safety, health and welfare of people who use licensed premises;
 - (e) increasing cultural, recreational, employment or tourism benefits for the local community area;
 - (f) promoting compliance with this Act and other relevant laws of the Territory;
 - (g) ensuring each person involved in the business conducted at licensed premises receives training suitable to the person's role in the business;
 - (h) preventing the giving of credit in sales of liquor to people;

- (i) preventing practices that encourage irresponsible drinking;
- (j) reducing or limiting increases in anti-social behaviour.

31. Having considered each of these objectives, and having particular regard to the contents of the Djurrbiyuk community alcohol plan, the Commission is comfortably satisfied that it is in the public interest to declare the GRA.

Whether the issue of the licence will have a significant adverse impact on the community

32. To determine whether it is satisfied that the declaration of the GRA will not have a significant adverse impact on the community, the Commission must consider the matters set out at section 49(3) of the Act, which are:

- (a) the risk of undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to persons who reside or work in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises or who are using, or travelling to or from, a place of public worship, a hospital or a school;
- (b) the geographic area that would be affected;
- (c) the risk of harm from the excessive or inappropriate consumption of liquor;
- (d) the people or community who would be affected;
- (e) the effect on culture, recreation, employment and tourism;
- (f) the effect on social amenities and public health;
- (g) the ratio of existing liquor licences and authorities in the community to the population of the community;
- (h) the effect of the volume of liquor sales on the community;
- (i) the community impact assessment guidelines issued under section 50;³
- (j) any other matter prescribed by regulation.⁴

33. The Commission is satisfied that the declaration of the GRA will have a modestly beneficial impact on the community, having particular regard to the s 49(3)(d) and (e) matters. If the declaration were not made, the interim alcohol protected area would continue, and the Djurrbiyuk traditional owners and other residents would justifiably feel frustrated and disempowered. Conversely, issuing the GRA is a gesture of respect and acknowledgement to the Djurrbiyuk

³ In the view of the Commission, no such guidelines are currently in force.

⁴ There are no such "other" matters prescribed by regulation.

community. Noting that the regulation of liquor on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory has in recent years been subject to various statutory changes, the Commission considers that the declaration of the GRA will provide a measure of certainty to the community regarding the management of alcohol into the future.

The liquor permit scheme

34. Part 8 Division 6 of the Act establishes a permit scheme administered by the Director, who determines applications by persons to bring liquor into a GRA, possess or control liquor in a GRA, and consume liquor in a GRA. The Director also has the power to revoke a liquor permit, and pursuant to this decision, will also have the power to suspend a liquor permit for up to six months.
35. This decision requires the Director to administer the permit scheme for the GRA in consultation with the community and in accordance with the community alcohol plan.

Expiry

36. Section 172(3)(c) of the Act provides that the declaration of a general restricted area must specify when the declaration expires. If the law clearly authorised the Commission to decline to fix an expiry date for a general restricted area declaration, the Commission would not have fixed an expiry date in this matter. However, out of an abundance of caution, in order to ensure that the declaration is compliant with this provision, the Commission has specified an expiry date in the distant future.

Warning of general restricted area

37. Section 181 of the Act provides:

- (1) The Commission must take all steps it considers necessary to warn the public of a general restricted area at:
 - (a) The places where a road or other customary route enters the general restricted area; and
 - (b) The customary departure locations for any vessels or aircraft travelling into the general restricted area.
- (2) The warning must state the following:
 - (a) the details of the declaration;
 - (b) a summary of the offence against section 173;
 - (c) any other matters the Commission considers appropriate.

38. As requested by the applicant, the Commission has determined that warning signage should be erected. The residents of Djurrbiyuk have the option to provide input into the design of the signage, provided that the details specified at s 181(2) of the Act are included.

The objects of the Act

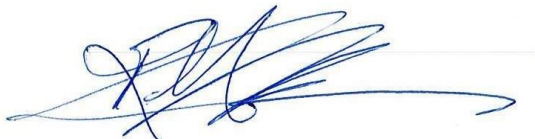
39. Section 3(4) of the Act provides that in performing its function to decide whether to issue the licence, the Commission must have regard to the primary and secondary purposes of the Act.

40. The Commission considers that making the GRA declaration together with the conditions it has determined to impose, is consistent with the purposes of the Act.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

41. Section 31(1) read with section 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.

42. In accordance with section 31(2) of the Act, the persons who may apply to NTCAT for a review of this decision are the applicant, the Director and the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health.



Russell Goldflam

CHAIRPERSON
NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
2 January 2026

On behalf of Commissioners Goldflam, Carson and Fong Lim

Annexure One



Correction: the latitudinal co-ordinate for Waypoint 4 is amended from 12° 43' 41" S to 12° 43' 46" S