

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION

DECISION NOTICE AND REASONS

CITATION:	<i>APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENCE WITH MAJOR EVENT AUTHORITY FOR MXGP OF AUSTRALIA [2026]</i> NTLiqComm 12
REFERENCE:	LC2026/016(B)
APPLICANT:	Experience by Design Consulting Pty Ltd
PREMISES:	Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex 171 Hidden Valley Rd Hidden Valley NT 0822
LEGISLATION:	Part 3 Division 4 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i>
DECISION OF:	Michaela Malone (Deputy Chairperson)
DATE OF DECISION:	7 September 2026

DECISION

1. For the reasons set out below and in accordance with ss 48 and 60 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT) (**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 major event authority, the Commission has determined to issue a liquor licence with a major event authority to Experience by Design Consulting Pty Ltd (the Applicant) for the “MXGP of Australia” event.
2. The trading hours for the sale, supply, service and consumption of liquor under the licence are:
 - i. Friday, 18 September 2026 from 11:00 hours to 17:30 hours.
 - ii. Saturday, 19 September 2026 from 10:00 hours to 17:30 hours.
 - iii. Sunday, 20 September 2026 from 10:00 hours to 17:30 hours.
3. The event venue is identified by the red boundary in **Annexure A**. The licensed premises under this licence are limited to the three blue-shaded hospitality facilities within that boundary, identified in Annexure A as “Hospitality Facility – Delaware North”.
4. The Commission approves the appointment of Mr Keiran Fitzpatrick as 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.
 - b) 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.
 - c) The licensee must comply with the *Code of Practice for the Responsible Advertising and Promotion of Liquor*, provide a safe drinking environment, prevent irresponsible or excessive consumption of liquor and ensure all staff are properly instructed in identifying and responding to suspected drink spiking.
 - d) Alcoholic drinks must not be sold or supplied if they:
 - i. are designed to be consumed quickly and are commonly referred to as 'shots' or 'shooters'; or
 - ii. are cocktails or slushies containing more than 30 mL of spirits, excluding pre-mixed ready-to-drink beverages.
 - e) Wine must not be served in quantities exceeding 150 mL, except where wine is served in a VIP area in accordance with paragraph (f), and must otherwise be supplied in a non-glass drinking vessel. Liquor or other beverages must not be served or supplied in a glass container.
 - f) Alcoholic drinks containing more than 1.6 standard drinks in a single container must not be sold or served, except in VIP areas, where wine may be supplied in quantities not exceeding 750 mL, provided it is poured into a non-glass carafe prior to being served.
 - g) 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.
 - h) 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.
 - i) The licensee must exclude or remove from the premises any person who is wearing the colours, insignia or emblems of an outlaw motorcycle gang.
7. The licence will be issued immediately following the publication of this Decision Notice.

REASONS

Background

8. The application is for a licence with a major event authority for MXGP26 of Australia. The 2026 event follows the inaugural event held in 2025 and is the second in a series of international motocross events to be held at the Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex through to 2029. The event is delivered by Tourism and Events NT in partnership with Infront Moto Racing and Motorcycling Australia.
9. The FIM Motocross World Championship (commonly known as MXGP) returned to Australia in 2025 after a 24-year absence, with Darwin securing the Australian round of the Championship from 2025 to 2029. The event features the MXGP and MX2 classes, the FIM Women's Motocross World Championship and Australian support categories. The 2025 event also marked the first time the FIM Women's Motocross World Championship had been held in Australia.
10. The event will be held on a purpose-built motocross track at the Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex in Darwin and will be broadcast to more than 100 countries.
11. The event will include a range of family-friendly entertainment and activities, including dedicated children's entertainment areas, interactive motocross activities, the Superior Sands Sandpit, wildlife encounters, face painting, balloon twisting and sensory play. The program will also feature the Katherine Outback Experience, presented by Golden Guitar winner Tom Curtain, which will incorporate working dogs, horses, live music and other interactive outback demonstrations.
12. Other off-track attractions include scenic helicopter flights over the Hidden Valley circuit and Darwin, the Big Bus Experience providing elevated views across the venue, and a rider signing session at the Darwin Waterfront on Friday 18 September 2026.
13. The entire Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex is proposed to form part of the event, with liquor to be available from a number of outlets across general admission, VIP and corporate areas. A range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available, together with food from a number of vendors throughout the event. The event will also include a designated alcohol-free area and free water refill stations.

The Application

14. On 26 August 2026, pursuant to s 52 of the Act, the Applicant applied to the Director for a licence with a major event authority for the "MXGP of Australia", proposed to be held at the Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex, 171 Hidden Valley Road, Hidden Valley. On the same day, the Director referred the application to the Commission.
15. The application also seeks approval for the event to be licensed annually through to 2029, consistent with the period for which the event has been secured in Darwin.

16. The Commission is not presently minded to grant a major event authority extending to each annual event through to 2029. An application seeking approval across multiple years would require more substantive information addressing the proposed arrangements for those future events. The Applicant may instead make a separate application in respect of each event, or submit a more comprehensive application seeking approval across multiple years. It may also be open to the Commission to consider whether an appropriate delegation should be made in respect of future applications of this nature. For the purposes of the present application, however, the Commission has confined its consideration and determination to the 2026 event.

Consultation

17. The Director informed the Commission that, pursuant to s 57(2A) of the Act, the Applicant was exempted from the public notice requirements. In exercising that discretion, the Director had regard to the fact that the event is the second in a series secured for Darwin through to 2029, is widely publicised through television, radio and social media, and is to be held within the dedicated, purpose-built Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex, which is not situated within a residential area.
18. Notwithstanding the exemption from public notice, on 20 August 2026, the Director notified the Department of Health, Northern Territory Police and the City of Darwin of the application pursuant to s 56(4) of the Act.
19. The Director informed the Commission that no comments or other information were received from the notified parties following that process. The Commission was also informed that the event organisers have separately engaged with Northern Territory Police in relation to police attendance and general public safety arrangements for the event.

Compliance history

20. The event was conducted in a substantially similar manner in 2025, when the liquor licence was held by Northern Territory Major Events Company Pty Ltd, without incident or identified compliance issues. The Director advised the Commission that Tourism and Events NT had engaged two third-party operators for the 2026 event, each responsible for liquor operations within separate licensed areas.
21. The Applicant is one of those operators. The Director advised the Commission that the Applicant is well known to the Director and has a satisfactory compliance history in relation to other licences held.

The referral

22. On 26 August 2026, pursuant to s 59 of the Act, the Director referred the application to the Commission.
23. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation issued on 4 July 2025, the application was determined by a single member of the Commission on the papers, without conducting a public hearing. In determining that a public hearing would not be worthwhile, regard was had to the nature of the application, the material before the

Commission and, importantly, the absence of any identified compliance issues associated with the conduct of the event in 2025.

24. The Director provided the following documents to the Commission with the referral **(the brief)**:

- a) Application for liquor licence
- b) Liquor licence and conditions of MXGP of Australia 2025 and previous Decision Notice
- c) MXGP of Australia Information Event Plan 2026
- d) Affidavit and Declaration of Associates pursuant to s 54 of the Act
- e) Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex – Racetrack Hire Agreement for Supercars 2026
- f) Venue Boundary Map and Bar placement
- g) Evacuation Map
- h) Beat the Heat Map
- i) Event Services Map
- j) Traffic Management Plan
- k) 2026 Event Season Work Health and Safety Management Plan
- l) Smoking Management Plan
- m) Public interest and community impact assessment summary pursuant to ss 49 to 52 of the Act
- n) Email correspondence from Applicant confirming application and consent

ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

25. In accordance with s 59 of the Act, the Commission has considered the matters relevant to this application, including:

- a) the Applicant's affidavit required by s 54;
- b) the results of any investigation conducted into the application under s 58;
- c) 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;
- d) the financial stability and business reputation of the Applicant;
- e) the general reputation and character of the Applicant's secretary and executive officers; and

- f) whether the Applicant and the nominee designated by the Applicant are fit and proper persons to hold the licence.
26. In accordance with s 49 of the Act, the Commission has also considered whether issuing the licence is in the public interest and whether the licence will have a significant adverse impact on the community.

The applicant

27. The Applicant has provided sufficient documentation regarding the planning and management of the event. The Commission is satisfied that the Applicant is a suitable body to operate the liquor licence for this event.

The applicant's associations

28. Section 54 of the Act requires an applicant to provide an affidavit disclosing whether certain persons may be able to influence the applicant or expect a benefit from the applicant if the licence is granted. The Commission is satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the disclosure requirements of s 54 and that, for the purpose of this application, no issues of concern arise in respect of any associates of the Applicant.

The suitability of the applicant's premises

29. The premises are located within the Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex in Darwin, several kilometres from the Darwin CBD and outside a residential area. The event will be conducted on a purpose-built motocross track within the complex, with extensive spectator areas and facilities capable of accommodating the anticipated attendance. The Commission has determined that the premises are suitable for the supply and consumption of liquor in the manner set out in the application.

The financial stability and business reputation of the applicant

30. The Commission is satisfied that the Applicant has a satisfactory business reputation and is financially stable for the purpose of this application. No matters of concern arise in relation to the general reputation or character of the Applicant's secretary or executive officers.

Whether the applicant and nominee are fit and proper persons to hold a licence

31. Having considered the material before the Commission, including the Applicant's compliance history and the information provided in support of the application, the Commission is satisfied that the Applicant is a fit and proper person to hold the licence and that Mr Fitzpatrick is a fit and proper person to be the licence nominee.

Whether issuing the licence is in the public interest

32. To determine whether issuing the licence is in the public interest, the Commission is required to consider how issuing the licence would advance the following objectives set out in s 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; and
 - j) reducing or limiting increases in anti-social behaviour.
33. Having considered each of the objectives in s 49(2) of the Act, the Commission is satisfied that issuing the licence is in the public interest. The event is expected to provide tourism and recreational benefits to the Territory, attracting local, interstate and international visitors while also providing a substantial program of activities and entertainment for the local community and families.
34. In addition to hosting international-level motocross competition, the event includes a range of family and children's activities throughout the day. The nature and programming of the event demonstrate that the consumption of liquor is ancillary to, rather than a primary focus of, the event. The Commission considers that the application particularly advances the objective of increasing recreational and tourism benefits for the local community. The security and patron welfare arrangements associated with the event also support the objectives of safeguarding public order and safety and protecting the safety, health and welfare of patrons.

Whether issuing the licence will have a significant adverse impact on the community

35. In determining whether issuing the licence will have a significant adverse impact on the community, the Commission is required to consider the matters set out in s 49(3) of the Act:
- 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 s 50; and
 - j) any other matter prescribed by regulation.
36. There are no other matters prescribed by regulation. In accordance with s 49(3)(i) of the Act, the Commission has also had regard to the community impact assessment guidelines issued under s 50 of the Act. Having considered the matters identified in those guidelines, including the location of the proposed licensed premises, the benefits of the event to the local and broader community and the consultation undertaken in relation to the application, the Commission is satisfied that those matters do not give rise to any additional concerns regarding the potential impact of the licence on the community.
37. The Applicant has engaged an experienced security provider to provide licensed crowd controllers for the event in accordance with r 68(2) of the Regulations. The Commission was further informed that the event will have a significant police and security presence.
38. Having considered these matters, and having particular regard to the brief duration of the event, its location in a non-residential area, the security arrangements in place and the absence of any identified compliance issues associated with the conduct of the event in 2025, the Commission is satisfied that issuing the licence will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.
39. Having considered all of the matters required by ss 49 and 59 of the Act, the Commission is satisfied that:
- a) the Applicant and nominee are fit and proper persons;
 - b) issuing the licence with a major event authority is in the public interest; and
 - c) issuing the licence with a major event authority will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.

Purposes of the Act

40. Pursuant to s 3(4) of the Act, the Commission has had regard to the primary and secondary purposes of the Act in exercising its power to issue a licence with a major event authority.
41. Relevant secondary purposes of the Act under s 3(2) include regulating the sale, supply, service, promotion and consumption of liquor in a way that:
 - a) contributes to the responsible development of the liquor industry and associated businesses in the Territory; and
 - b) stimulates the tourism and hospitality industries.
42. Major events of this nature, which attract local, interstate and international visitors to the Territory, contribute to the responsible development of associated businesses and stimulate the Territory's tourism and hospitality industries. Having regard also to the harm-minimisation measures and other safeguards associated with the event, the Commission considers that the grant of the application is consistent with the primary and secondary purposes of the Act.
43. For these reasons, the Commission has determined that the application should be granted and that a licence with a major event authority be issued on the conditions set out at the commencement of this Decision Notice.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

44. Pursuant to s 31(1), read with s 60(3) of the Act, the decision set out in this Decision Notice is reviewable by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT). Section 94(3) of the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2014* (NT) provides that an application for review must be filed within 28 days after the relevant day for the decision.
45. In accordance with s 31(2) of the Act, the persons who may apply to NTCAT for a review of this decision are the Director and the Applicant.



Michaela Malone

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
7 September 2026

ANNEXURE A

HOSPITALITY FACILITY – DELAWARE NORTH

- Exclusive Suites
- Valley View Terrace
- Skybox (Chief Ministers)

PUBLIC BAR FACILITY – FIERY AMIGOS

- Bar 1
- Bar 2 A & B
- Bar 3
- Bar 4
- Bar 5
- Bar 6
- Holeshott Hotel & Hideaways

VENUE BOUNDARY

