



28th September 2018

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

Re: REVIEW OF TAKEAWAY LIQUOR LICENCE CONDITIONS - ALICE SPRINGS

Dear Mr Coates

Government policies and actions have real impacts on business prospects and this is particularly so in a developing economy like the Northern Territory.

The small size of the Alice Springs economy and its remoteness from major Australian centres accentuates the impacts of decisions made by the Northern Territory and Federal Governments.

The Alice Springs Major Business Group (ASMBG) is comprised of larger Alice Springs businesses and business leaders whose success depends on the prosperity of the Alice Springs and Central Australian economies and community. Each of the member businesses have a history of investment in Alice Springs and are committed to its future. Collectively, the ASMBG employs directly and indirectly over 1700 employees in Alice Springs alone, has invested over \$120 million in capital over the past 5 years and has an annual turnover of more than \$500 million.

The ASMBG was established in June 2018 for local major businesses to have a strong cohesive voice in advising and influencing Government on issues which are important to the immediate and future prosperity of the Alice Springs economy. The Group will have the capacity to provide advice and guidance for potential investors and collectively identify potential major projects that are beneficial to the economy through informing and influencing all levels of Government.

We are not a general business reference group. The Alice Springs Major Business Group will involve itself only in those issues the member businesses view as significant for the local economy.



The ASMBG acknowledges the significant issues associated with alcohol related harm in the community and supports the Government in mitigating these concerns. We do however have concerns on the impact to the Alice Springs economy through potential business closures, job losses and documented increasing tourism dissatisfaction as a result of conditions imposed without proper community consultation, substantiated data or supporting evidence.

A raft of additional compliance obligations have been imposed on licensees throughout Alice Springs however there has been no public documented evaluation as to the success or otherwise of these imposed obligations, including the recent introduction of the Takeaway Liquor License Inspectors and potential removal of shop-a-docket liquor discounts. Our view is any variations that are proposed for Alice Springs should not be based on statistical data from another region of the Territory.

History has shown that invariably there are occasional unintended consequences with any regulatory change. As such, the ASMBG recommends that no additional conditions are introduced until all current measures have been properly reviewed. Also, the ASMBG recommends the Liquor Commission should, as a priority, resolve the secondary supply issue prior to implementing any further conditions.

In addition, the recent announcement of liquor restrictions to be imposed during the Alice Springs Masters Games opening and closing ceremonies is simply unacceptable. This decision is a prime example of another non-consultative bureaucratic process that will have substantial consequences to the Masters Games reputation and viability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Batic', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dave Batic
ASMBG Chairman