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19 October 2020

Re: **2020 review of Barkly liquor licence conditions**

Dear Mr Goldflam

Tennant Creek alcohol restrictions were introduced in February 2018 by way of emergency powers. The decision to implement emergency restrictions was made directly in response to widespread concerns about the significant increase of alcohol-related offences, particularly domestic violence incidents, in Tennant Creek.

The current restrictions were implemented by NT Liquor Commission on 12 June 2020 following community consultation. At the time of the decision, the Commission 'referred to data from NT Police recording that following the imposition of the Emergency Restrictions, there was an immediate and substantial decrease in assault offences, alcohol related assault offences and domestic violence and alcohol related assault offences'

[https://justice.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/501967/barkly-s33-reasons-for-variation-120618.pdf](https://justice.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/501967/barkly-s33-reasons-for-variation-120618.pdf)

In more recent times, Data extracted from the NT Police PROMIS system on 01 September 2020 and made public via their website indicates that since the introduction of restrictions in Tennant Creek, Alcohol related assault is up by 48.1%.

CRIME	01/08/2018 - 31/07/2019	01/08/2019 - 31/07/2020	% CHANGE
Assault	262	315	20.23
Domestic violence related assault	178	239	34.27
Alcohol related assault	158	234	48.1
Sexual assault	8	9	12.5
House break-ins	156	152	-2.56
Commercial break-ins	122	113	-7.38
Motor vehicle theft	45	28	-37.78
Property damage	340	417	22.65

<https://pfes.nt.gov.au/police/community-safety/nt-crime-statistics/tennant-creek>

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### **Police Auxiliary Liquor Inspector (PALI)**

PALI are in place on each bottle shop in Tennant Creek. They stand in clear view and they interact well with customers. Information from BRADAAG service users suggests that people wanting to purchase alcohol will choose which bottle shop to purchase from depending on which PALI is stationed there. Some service users state that if certain PALIs are stationed at a particular location, they may be refused service as they do not have somewhere to consume the alcohol, whereas other PALI's will allow them to purchase regardless of the address given. It is clear to see that on differing nights, there will be lengthy queues at one bottle shop and no one queuing at another. As PALI's are moved through the bottle shop locations regularly, service users move through the bottle shop locations to seek an easier purchase.

### **Banned Drinkers Register (BDR)**

The BDR was re-introduced to the Northern Territory (NT) on 1 September 2017. The BDR requires all Territorians and visitors to the Northern Territory wanting to buy takeaway alcohol, to show photo ID. The BDR identifies people who are banned from purchasing takeaway alcohol and stops their purchase. Its purpose is to assist in reducing alcohol-related harm to individuals, families, and the community.

The BDR does not prevent individuals from purchasing 'On-Premise' alcohol at a restaurant or bar.

### **Take Away -v- On Premise**

On any given day in Tennant Creek you will see queues of people lined up on the main street waiting to get into the local pubs, waiting to buy their first alcohol of the day. The costs of drinking on premise is far higher than purchasing take away alcohol. People do not appear to drink less since the introduction of the BDR, they simply spend more money. Once the bottle shops open at 16.00, you will see the lengthy queues to buy alcohol move from the pubs and restaurants to the bottle shops where alcohol is much cheaper.

### **Alcohol Floor Price**

On 1 October 2018, the Northern Territory Government introduced a minimum unit price for alcohol. The minimum floor price was set at \$1.30 per standard drink contained in the alcohol product. As the costs of purchasing alcohol in Tennant Creek is already higher than most areas on the Northern Territory, alcohol floor price had very little impact on our community and prices stayed pretty much the same.

### **Tourism**

In a period where COVID-19 has had a significant impact on tourism across the Northern Territory, it is difficult to assess whether current alcohol restrictions have impacted tourism. It is however, evidenced that *'there are negative economic impacts on tourism and hospitality where the effects of alcohol abuse deter both locals and tourists from spending time (and money) in town centres at night. These costs are substantial and their consideration alongside the positive impacts of tourism and hospitality would provide a more complete picture of economic impacts associated with alcohol'*.

<https://www.phaa.net.au/documents/item/2287>

In addition, the 48.1% increase in alcohol related assaults previously mentioned may have an impact on tourism in Tennant Creek. It would be difficult to establish that alcohol restrictions would impact negatively on tourism.

## Community

The Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census indicates that Aboriginal Peoples make up 51.3% of the Tennant Creek population.

Of the families in Tennant Creek, 21.7% were single parent families.

[https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC70251](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC70251)

Tennant Creek is a town populated by at-risk groups and the availability and accessibility of alcohol has a significant impact on our community members.

Many Tennant Creek youth can be seen wandering the streets at night. Many of these youth reside in Community Living Areas (Town Camps) identified as low socio-economic areas.

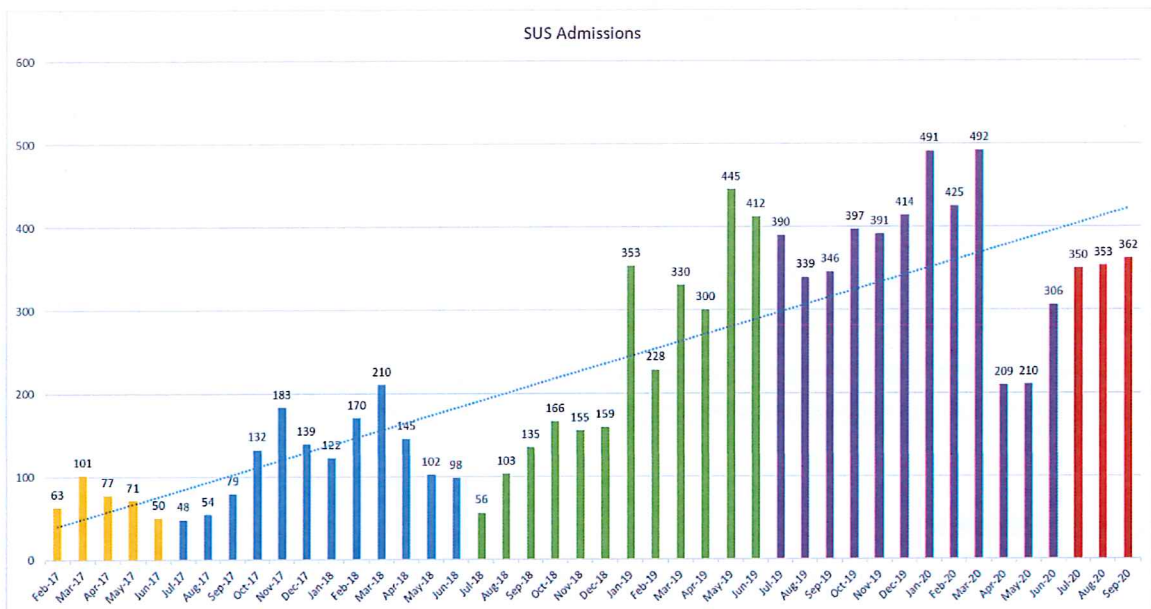
At times when royalty payments are made, many people travel into Tennant Creek from dry communities and our population swells enormously. There is limited housing available and many visitors sleep in the yards of friends and family, many consuming alcohol during their stay.

## Sobering Up Shelter

Since the introduction of Alcohol Restrictions in Tennant Creek, BRADAAG Sobering Up Shelter have seen an increase in people presenting intoxicated.

Admissions to Sobering Up Shelter were impacted during April / May 2020 because of biosecurity restrictions implemented by the NT Government.

Despite the BDR and no Takeaway alcohol being available in Tennant Creek on a Sunday, BRADAAG Sobering Up Shelter admits an average 8 people each Sunday who are intoxicated.



Data provided by NTG and collected via Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set system. Contact [Yvonne.Leutwiler@nt.gov.au](mailto:Yvonne.Leutwiler@nt.gov.au) for further information or data.

## **Police Protective Custody -v- A Safe Place to Stay**

Section 128 of the Police Administration Act 2007, states that:

*'Where a member has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is intoxicated with alcohol or a drug and that that person is in a public place or trespassing on private property the member may, without warrant, apprehend and take that person into custody'.*

The Sobering Up Shelter is a facility which is used for people being taken into Police Protective Custody. NT Police record clients that they bring into BRADAAG Sobering Up Shelter in their data.

BRADAAG Sobering Up Shelter has seen a significant increase in clients who are self-presenting. As a result, Protective Custody and Emergency Department Admissions in Tennant Creek have seen a significant decrease.

Data provided through Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set system show that during the financial year 2019 – 2020, there were 3724 people who self-referred compared to 386 who arrived in Police Protective Custody.

AODP Sobering-Up Shelter Apprehension and Referral For Period 1/07/2019 to 30/06/2020 For Tennant Creek Region Only											
Apprehension By	Aboriginal but not Torres Straight Islander origin		Torres Straight Islander but not Aboriginal origin		Both Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander origin		Neither Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islander origin		Not Stated/Inadequately Described		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	
(Not recorded)	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Bradaag - Staunton St.	19	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Family/Friends	6	9	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	
Hospital	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Night Patrol	139	94	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Police	224	153	0	0	2	4	0	2	0	1	
Self-Referred	1,228	2,443	0	0	4	4	0	43	1	1	
St John Ambulance/Hospital	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Data provided by NTG and collected via Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set system. Contact [Yvonne.Leutwiler@nt.gov.au](mailto:Yvonne.Leutwiler@nt.gov.au) for further information or data.

## **Roadhouse Takeaway**

Take away alcohol is being sold at several roadhouses on the outskirts of Tennant Creek.

There is no PALI in place on the roadhouses. People have an opportunity to buy alcohol from the roadhouse and either consume the alcohol whilst driving their vehicle or bring this alcohol into a restricted area of Tennant Creek.

A suggested method to manage take away alcohol at roadhouses would be to issue a licence that only allows service to bona fide lodgers at the premises or invited guests of the lodger (in the presence of the lodger) for consumption on the premises.

### **Alcohol restrictions**

For BRADAAG, alcohol restrictions in Tennant Creek have failed to reduce alcohol consumption in the town. Many clients admit that they move between bottle shops to buy alcohol.

Streets such as Bornite st, Limonite St and Sheelite St are frequented most nights by multiple people consuming large quantities of alcohol. Many of these people do not reside at houses in these streets. Many are visiting Tennant Creek from other areas. There appears to be a high incidence of Police call outs to these streets.

Many BRADAAG clients report that secondary supply is rife and that they are being charged around \$350.00 for a bottle of Rum. The restrictions imposed in Tennant Creek appear to have provided some with a very lucrative business opportunity.

As life goes on in Tennant Creek, people continue to consume alcohol at high risk levels, youth continue to roam the streets at night and alcohol related assaults continue to be a major concern.

Kind Regards,

**Jason Martin**  
**Corporate Services Manager**

**BRADAAG**

**Barkly Region Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Group - Aboriginal Corporation**

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