

Submission to the Northern Territory Liquor Commission

From: Pearl Randhay – Locals Alice Springs

Subject: Final Submission – Response to Proposed Licensing Conditions (Own Initiative Inquiry)

Date: 18 December 2025

Summary

Locals respectfully submits this response to the Northern Territory Liquor Commission's proposed licence variations arising from the Own Initiative Inquiry. Locals is a modern, food-led café and bar operating exclusively during daytime hours from 7:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Alcohol service at Locals is ancillary to food service and is predominantly limited to wine, gin and cocktails. Beer is the lowest-selling alcoholic product. There is no evidence linking Locals to anti-social behavior or alcohol-related harm.

Locals is authorised under its licence to sell alcohol independently of food service. As is common in hospitality settings, some patrons choose not to order a full meal, or any meal at all, and instead enjoy a glass of wine or cocktail during their visit. This practice is lawful, occurs in a seated and controlled environment, and does not alter Locals' overall food-led, low-risk operating model.

Locals also notes the practical competitive impact of the proposed conditions. Alice Springs Brewing Co routinely every year expands its trading hours to include breakfast and lunch service during peak tourist seasons. If Locals were subject to restrictive alcohol conditions that effectively limit lawful daytime service, patrons—particularly groups of friends or visitors—are likely to choose alternative venues where such restrictions do not apply. In group settings, it is common for patrons to share meals or for some individuals not to order a full meal at all. The proposed conditions would therefore divert daytime trade away from Locals and towards competitors such as Alice Springs Brewing Co, causing material commercial harm without any demonstrated public safety benefit.

The proposed conditions, particularly any requirement restricting service to mid-strength alcohol, are unsupported by evidence, disproportionate, and unworkable. Mid-strength wine, cocktails and gin do not exist. As applied to Locals, the proposed conditions would operate as a de facto prohibition rather than a harm-minimization measure.

Venue Background and Risk Profile

Locals currently operates from **7:00 am until 2:30 pm**, providing full café-style food service throughout the day. The venue **intends to recommence dinner service in early 2026**, which will operate as a **food-led, seated hospitality offering**. The venue caters to a high-end, low-risk clientele in a controlled and hospitality-focused environment

Locals has not been identified by NT Police or Licensing NT as a problematic venue.

Sections 3 and 49 of the Liquor Act 2019 (NT) require that harm minimisation be pursued in a way that recognises the public interest in the lawful sale and service of alcohol. The proposed conditions fail this test when applied to Locals.

The conditions are not the least-restrictive means of achieving harm minimisation and are therefore disproportionate and inappropriate.

Conclusion

Locals respectfully submits that the proposed licensing conditions should not be imposed. They are unsupported by evidence, disproportionate, and inconsistent with the public interest.