

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
DECISION NOTICE AND REASONS

CITATION: *APPLICATION FOR LIQUOR LICENCE WITH MAJOR EVENT AUTHORITY FOR THE TOP END BULL SPECTACULAR* [2025] NTLiqComm 13

REFERENCE: LC 2025-010

APPLICANT: Rodeo Promotions NT Ltd

PROPOSED PREMISES: Fort Hill Parkland
Anchorage Court
DARWIN CITY NT 0800

LEGISLATION: Part 3 Division 4 of the *Liquor Act 2019*.

HEARD BEFORE: Ms Jodi Truman (Deputy Chairperson)

DATE OF DECISION: 24 April 2025

Decision

1. For the reasons set out below and in accordance with section 48 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT) (**the Act**) and the delegation issued on 28 October 2019 authorising a single Member of the Northern Territory Liquor Commission (**the Commission**) to issue a licence with a major event authority, the Commission has determined to issue a licence to Rodeo Promotions NT Ltd (**the applicant**).
2. The Commission approves the appointment of Ms Katherine Simpson (**Ms Simpson**) as the licence nominee
3. The licence authorises the supply, sale, service and consumption of liquor on 4 July 2025 from 1700 hours to 2359 hours.
4. The licensed premises is the area (**the licensed premises**) bounded in a continuous red line and depicted on the plan at page 46 (of 148) of the brief of evidence provided to the Commission under cover of a memorandum signed by Mr Mark Wood (**Mr Wood**), Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing, dated 16 April 2025 (**the brief**).
5. The boundary of the licensed premises must be clearly identified and access to the premises must be restricted in a manner that allows for effective supervision by the licence nominee.
6. 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**).

7. The following additional conditions are fixed:
- a. The nominee must be present during all trading hours, supervise the sale of liquor and ensure compliance with these conditions.
 - 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. Persons under 18 years must not be engaged in the sale or supply of liquor.
 - d. The licensee must comply with the “Industry Code of Practice for the Promotion of Liquor”, provide a safe drinking environment, prevent irresponsible or excessive consumption of liquor and ensure all staff are properly instructed to watch for and prevent drink spiking.
 - e. Liquor may only be sold in opened cans or plastic containers. There is to be no glass.
 - f. No alcoholic drinks that contain more than 1.6 standard drinks in one vessel may be sold or served
 - g. A staggered decline of alcohol served must be implemented as follows:
 - i. no more than four alcoholic drinks may be sold to any one person at any one time before 21:00 hours;
 - ii. no more than two alcoholic drinks may be sold to any one person at any one time from 21:00 to 23:00 hours; and
 - iii. no more than one alcoholic drink may be sold to any one person at any one time from 23:00 to 23:59 hours.
 - h. All patrons must be issued with colour coded wristbands upon entry clearly identifying patrons who are:
 - i. 18+ years of age; and
 - ii. under 18 years of age.
 - i. No patron is to be sold, consume or possess liquor if they are not wearing an 18+ wristband.
 - j. 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.

- k. 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.
 - l. The licensee must make soft drinks and water available from the bar and also from separate outlets for patrons under 18 years of age.
 - m. The licensee must establish and maintain at least one designated "Alcohol Free Zone".
 - n. No liquor shall be permitted to be sold, supplied or consumed in the competitors area.
 - o. The licensee must clearly display signage identifying the locations where smoking is permitted and that the premises are otherwise a No-Smoking area.
 - p. The licensee shall ensure compliance with NTFRS Special Event Requirements throughout the conduct of this event.
 - q. The licensee shall exclude or remove from the premises any person who is wearing the colours, insignia or emblems of an outlaw motorcycle gang.
8. The licence will be issued immediately following the receipt by the Director of the applicant's updated Public Liability Insurance policy for this event.

Reasons

The Application

9. The applicant, which is a public company limited by guarantee, has applied for a licence to sell liquor at Fort Hill Parkland, Anchorage Court, Darwin City at the event known as the "Top end Bull Spectacular". This is the first time this particular event will be held and is described as:
- "... a community event with the opportunity to showcase the best local and interstate bull riders. Events include mini, junior, novice and open events. The event attracts regular rodeo visitors and offers a new experience for locals and tourists. It appeals to families, both in spectating and competing. This is an all-ages event."
10. The applicant seeks to sell liquor between 1700 hours and midnight on Friday 4 July 2025. The applicant estimates a crowd of 3,000 patrons to attend the event and has therefore applied for a liquor licence with a major event authority.
11. This is a ticketed event, and the applicant intends to offer a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages including heavy, light, mid and full-strength alcohol content options. Entertainment in addition to the bull riding will be offered with a solo artist commencing from 17:00 hours to 18:30 hours followed by live bands from 21:00 hours until midnight. There will also be a VIP bar.

Consultation

12. The Commission was informed by the Director that the application was advertised via the NT News on 22 March 2025 and published on the Director's website. A green sign was also placed on display at the proposed location. The Director was satisfied that the applicant had complied with the requirements to advertise the application.
13. In accordance with section 56 of the Act, notification was given to Department of Health, NT Police and the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Services (**NTFRS**). Notice was also given to St Johns Ambulance given the nature of the event.
14. There was no objection to the application from the Department of Health. No response was received from Northern Territory Police or St Johns Ambulance.
15. Conditional support of the application was provided by NTFRS providing the applicant "ensured compliance with NTFRS Special Event Requirements". The applicant confirmed verbally to the Delegate of the Director that these would be complied with on 22 April 2025. The Director therefore proposed that as a result of that agreement an additional condition should be included within the licence to ensure compliance.
16. Following the public consultation, no objections were received.

The licensee's record of compliance

17. As earlier noted, this is the first time that this particular event will be held at this proposed location, however the Director advised that the "Rodeo Promotions NT" had "held similar events at other locations in the past with minimal compliance issues/concerns".
18. The Commission notes that the Chair issued a licence with a major event authority to the applicant in 2024¹, and within those reasons set out the compliance of the applicant for prior events held in 2023.
19. There were no concerns raised by the Director to the application and it is apparent that the applicant has addressed any issues regarding traffic and event management in this application.

The referral

20. On 16 April 2025, pursuant to section 59 of the Act, the Director referred the application to the Commission. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation issued on 28 October 2019, I determined the application as a single member of the Commission "on the papers" without a public hearing, which I considered

¹ *Rodeo Promotions NT Pty Ltd Application for a Liquor Licence with a major event authority* [2024] NTLiqComm17, LC2024/010

would not have been worthwhile given there were no objections to the application and due to the nature of the event and its length.

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

- a. Application for liquor licence with major event authority.
- b. Various documents relating to the proposed nominee, Ms Katherine Simpson.
- c. Community Impact Assessment and Public Interest Criteria.
- d. Hazard and risk assessment.
- e. ASIC records and probity documents.
- f. Certificate of currency.
- g. Event Management Plan.
- h. Security arrangements.
- i. Site plan with the proposed licensed area outlined in red.
- j. Affidavit and Declaration of Associates pursuant to section 54 of the Act
- k. Evidence relating to public notification of the application.
- l. Smoking Management Plan.
- m. Event Traffic Management Plan.
- n. Correspondence with stakeholders

22. Additional information was also provided including Current and Historical Company Extract and various emails between Licensing NT and the nominee on behalf of the applicant.

ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

23. In accordance with s 59 of the Act, I have considered:

- a. the applicant's affidavit required by s 54.
- b. 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.
- c. the financial stability and business reputation of the body corporate.
- d. whether the applicant and the nominees designated by the applicant, are fit and proper persons to hold a licence.
- e. whether each associate of the applicant is a fit and proper person to be an associate of a licensee.

24. In accordance with s 49 of the Act, I have also considered whether issuing the licence is in the public interest, and whether the licence will have a significant adverse impact on the community.
25. I am satisfied that the Applicant has complied with the requirements of ss 54 and 55 of the Act.
26. Although the proposed premises have not hosted this event in the past, it is apparent that arrangements have been made to help facilitate an event of this nature. The application sets out that the venue will have:
- “... entrance points ... included in all promotional material. Signage will be erected in appropriate locations to direct patrons. Security at all gates”.
27. I am satisfied that the proposed premises are suitable for the supply and consumption of liquor in the manner set out in the application.
28. I note that in the Chair’s decision notice issued on 24 April 2024, he referred to the Commission’s earlier assessment of the applicant on 21 February 2023 as being suitable to hold a liquor licence with a major event authority for a similar event. In doing so, the Commission referred to the following statement by the Applicant ([2023] NTLiqComm 6 at [29]):
- “Rodeo Productions NT is a not-for-profit equine sporting business formed in 2022. The business directors have been involved in the rodeo industry over the past 40 years. All four directors operate their own successful companies and established the not-for-profit to give back to the rodeo community. The company will be holding clinics and other activities focussed on youth and the sport’s growth.”
29. In this regard, I note that I was informed by the Director that the nominee for this event was the nominee at the event given approval for on 7 September 2024 and that the ASIC Current and Historic Extract confirms only one change since 2022 to the applicant entity, being the removal of Jodi Abela as a Director.
30. Accordingly, given this history and only small change, I find that the previous findings concerning the Applicant’s financial stability, general reputation and character can be utilised on this occasion and are satisfactory for the purpose of this application.
31. Further I consider that the Applicant and Nominee continue to be fit and proper persons to be granted a liquor licence with a major event authority.
32. I have also had regard to the public interest and community impact requirements in s 49 of the Act. I particularly take into account the following matters:

- a. The proposed premises are located in an area that although has residential it is a multi-use location that frequently has public events where large numbers are in attendance, for example New Years Eve celebrations and events associated with the Darwin Festival.
 - b. The proposed event is of relatively short duration
 - c. The Applicant has demonstrated the capacity to run similar events successfully.
 - d. The licence conditions imposed are calculated to reduce the risk that patrons will drink to excess and cause alcohol-related harm.
33. I note that as part of the referral provided by the Director, the insurance policy for the applicant is due to expire in May 2025 (i.e. prior to this proposed event). I therefore sought additional information regarding the applicant's insurance and was informed the following response was provided by the applicant to Licensing NT:
- “Our Public Liability Insurance policy will be renewed by the Australian Bushman's Campdraft and Rodeo Association (ABCRA) whom we affiliate our rodeos under in May of this year and I will forward it to you when I receive the updated version. We cannot run our rodeos without this.”
34. As a result, I have made it a condition that this licence will not issue until the updated policy has been received by the Director.
35. I am otherwise satisfied that issuing the licence with a major event authority is in the public interest and will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.
36. 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. I consider that the issue of the licence and authority with the conditions imposed is consistent with the purposes of the Act.
37. Accordingly, the Commission has determined to issue the licence with a major event authority on the conditions set out at the commencement of this Decision Notice.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

38. 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.

39. In accordance with section 31(2) of the Act, the persons who may apply to NTCAT for a review of the decision are the Director and the applicant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jodi Truman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JODI TRUMAN

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
24 April 2025