Northern Territory LIQUOR COMMISSION

2021-2022 Annual Report

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Chairperson's Message



The Northern Territory Liquor Commission (the Commission) has now been in operation for over four years and the terms of appointment for most Commissioners will be expiring in February next year. It is therefore appropriate that I record my appreciation for the efforts and commitment of all Commissioners who have served the Northern Territory well through their membership of this important institution.

As I acknowledged in the Commission's first Annual Report in 2018, its members have a wide range of skills and experience in health or legal work, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, community, and public sector organisations as well as previous involvement with the hospitality industry. That depth of knowledge has enabled the Commission to bring a broad, balanced view to the determination of the public interest issues that arise in the matters that come before it. Thank you for your support and the collegiality you have all shown in your conduct of the business of the Commission.

At its inception, the Commission sat within the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice. That department has long held responsibility for supporting the operations of the Territory's courts as well as a number of other independent statutory tribunals and agencies.

On 7 September 2020, in accordance with Machinery of Government changes, Licensing NT and the Commission were moved into the new Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) whose primary role as stated on its website is "the public Sector's coordinating agency for economic and industry development".

Although DITT has responsibility for the licensing and regulation of various specialist industry groups, the Liquor Act 2019 (the Act) is by no means confined to ensuring that the local liquor industry operates in accordance with nationally accepted standards of best practice.

The Act, and in particular the purposive section 3(1) makes it clear that when applying the public interest test to licence applications, the Commission must always endeavour to minimise the harm associated with the consumption of liquor whilst recognising the public's interest in the service and consumption of liquor. Accordingly, some proposals from businesses associated with the Territory's liquor industry, which might be regarded by DITT as beneficial for the overall development of business within the Territory, will not always be judged by the Commission as 'in the public interest'.

Similarly, when the department's officers bring disciplinary proceedings against a licensee for breaching a provision of the Act, the Commission is obliged to determine the matter impartially on the evidence and in accordance with the law. This is the case even where the complaint may

have emerged from a worthwhile campaign by the department to crackdown on unsatisfactory behaviour within certain sectors of the liquor industry.

While I do not imagine that anyone is going to argue that the Commission should not deal with complaints in a fair and impartial way, passions can be raised through the process of litigation that is fought and lost.

In my view, there is an inherent tension between the goal of promoting the economic development of the liquor industry and the responsibilities of the Commission under the Act. Those tensions will need to be carefully and sensitively managed if the Commission is to remain within DITT.

On behalf of all Commissioners, I must acknowledge the remarkable contribution Carolyn Parsell, our former Manager of Support Services, made to the operation of this Commission. Carolyn was with us from the start and used her forty years' experience within the Northern Territory Public Service to guide us through many real and potential challenges. Although she sat happily amongst her fellow staff members at Licensing NT, she had the maturity to realise that she had particular responsibilities to the Commission which would not always coincide with the views of her departmental superiors or fellow workers. She also had to play a "gate keeper" role ensuring that potentially prejudicial material which might have been put forward by a well-intentioned licensing officer didn't make it onto a Commission file and thereby compromise our consideration of a particular matter.

Carolyn handled her role as our chief administrative officer diplomatically and most professionally. Much of the Commission's success can be attributed to her wise and patient counsel. Both this Commission and the Northern Territory Public Service as a whole have lost an extremely loyal and valuable worker with Carolyn's retirement. We wish her the best with her future adventures.

The Commission's workload has continued to be affected through the delegation of noncontentious applications to departmental officers.

We have however, experienced a welcome increase in the number of applications related to the operation of licensed social clubs in remote Aboriginal communities. During the past year, the Commission granted a licence to the Bagala Aboriginal Corporation to operate a licensed social club in Barunga. It also approved a significant extension of premises for the Wuduluk Progress Aboriginal Corporation's social club at Beswick. The Commission also conducted an own motion review of the product restrictions in place at social clubs operating across remote Aboriginal communities, to support the aspirations of those clubs to include mid-strength mixed spirit drinks as an alternative to mid-strength beer.

Licensed social clubs are not necessarily the answer for all Aboriginal communities, however the Commission is committed to working with those remote Aboriginal organisations which are trying to develop their own strategies to promote the responsible consumption of liquor within their homelands.

The need to develop and implement these strategies was brought into sharp focus with the expiry of the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012 (Cth) on 16 July 2022, which brought to an end alcohol prohibitions in over 300 Aboriginal living areas across the Northern Territory. Residents of those areas can now obtain a declaration from the Director of Liquor

Licensing that the previous restrictions be reinstated on an interim basis for two years, to allow them sufficient time to develop alcohol management plans suited to their circumstances, wishes and needs.

One community that has shown commendable initiative to reduce serious levels of alcohol-related harm to its members is Yarralin, the leaders of which asked for restrictions to be placed on takeaway sales of alcohol in their district. In response, the Commission undertook an inquiry, convened a well-attended hearing in Yarralin, visited the three licensed premises concerned, and varied the conditions of those licences in a manner calculated to address the problems raised by Yarralin community members, while also meeting the needs of other people living in, working in and visiting the Big Rivers district.

Although the loss of Carolyn Parsell was a major concern for the Commission, we have been fortunate to finally secure the services of a new Commission Support Officer, Shandra Harris, who joined us in June 2022. She had extremely big shoes to fill but hit the ground running and has made an extraordinary effort to get across the role and responsibilities of the position. Thank you for all your initiative and hard work Shandra.

In closing, I once again acknowledge the ongoing support of our Minister, now the Chief Minister, Natasha Fyles. Despite her increased responsibilities, she has always made herself available to listen to our concerns and continues to maintain commitment to tackling the destructive consequences of alcohol misuse in the Territory.

Richard Coates

CHAIRPERSON

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION

Overview of the Liquor Commission

The Northern Territory Liquor Commission (the Commission) is an independent statutory authority with extensive powers to regulate liquor licensing in the Northern Territory. The Commission is a body corporate with perpetual succession, has a common seal and is capable of acquiring property, initiating litigation and being sued.

The Commission was established on 28 February 2018, by the *Northern Territory Liquor Commission Act 2018* (LCA 2018).

The Commission is supported in its functions by Licensing NT, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade by providing secretariat and administrative services, processing various liquor applications, investigating complaints, monitoring licensed venues and events, enforcing liquor laws and compiling reports.

Section 38 of the LCA 2018 requires the Commission at the end of the financial year to report to the Minister on its operations during the year and to give a report to the Minister within 3 months after the end of the financial year.

This report relates to the financial year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and is hereinafter referred to as "the reporting period".

Commission Proceedings

Section 16 of the LCA 2018 requires the Commission to convene as often as is necessary for the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions.

The Commission has discretion under section 21 of the *Liquor Act* 2019 (LA 2019) to conduct a hearing in relation to any matter on which it is to make a decision under the LA 2019. In addition, section 166(2) mandates the Commission to conduct a hearing into a matter referred to it for decision as to whether to take disciplinary action against a licensee.

Any hearing conducted by the Commission must be conducted in public unless the Commission is of the opinion that it is not appropriate in the circumstances because a hearing is likely to cause undue hardship to a person, commercial-in-confidence information must be protected, or conducting the hearing would not be worthwhile.

The Commission has the power to direct that the hearing, or part of the hearing, may be conducted in private or by way of written submissions only.

The Chairperson, in liaison with the Commission Support Unit, arranges for the Commission to convene to deal with a matter. Three members constitute a quorum: a presiding member, who must be either the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson and at least two other members, one of whom must be a health member.

The Commission may have more than one sitting at a time to deal with a matter.

Public Interest and Community Impact Test

The Commission may only issue a licence or an authority if satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person, that issuing the licence or authority is in the public interest and that the licence or authority will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.

To determine whether issuing a licence or an authority is in the public interest or would have a significant impact on the community, the Commission must consider how it would advance the objectives set out in section 49(2) of the LA 2019 and the matters set out in section 49(3) of the LA 2019.

The onus remains on the applicant to satisfy the Commission that issuing the licence or authority is in the public interest and will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.

During the reporting period, the Commission continued to apply the public interest and community impact test to certain applications it considered and determined.

Community Impact and Assessment Guidelines¹

The community impact assessment guidelines set out requirements for an applicant to address certain factors with respect to community impact, information about the location and areas in which the premise is proposed to be located; cultural, recreational, employment or tourism benefits for the local community area; and how the proposed additional liquor outlet will benefit the local and broader community.

Reasons for Decision

Decisions in relation to applications are made by the Commission following consideration of the application, relevant legislative provisions and conduct of public hearing, where considered appropriate. The Commission maintains records of all referred matters from the Director, the scheduling and conduct of public hearings and Commission determinations.

A decision notice is a written notice setting out the decision, the reasons for it; and right to a review of the decision through the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT).

Decision notices are published on the Commission website.

During the reporting period 49 decision notices were issued and published. This includes 4 decision notices for matters that were referred to the Commission in the previous reporting period.

As of the end of the reporting period, the decision notices relating to 5 matters were outstanding.

¹ The community impact assessment guidelines issued by the Minister (Gazette S16) remain unchanged since issued on 6 March 2018.

Delegations

The Commission is responsible for all decisions about the granting of licences and matters of discipline. However, it has the capacity under section 37 of the LCA 2018 to delegate its powers and functions under the LCA 2018 or the LA 2019, in writing, to:

- The Chairperson or another member;
- The Director of Liquor Licensing (the Director); or
- A public sector employee.

A delegation to the Chairperson or to the Director may be further delegated if the Chairperson or Director considers it appropriate.

Delegations are made in writing and relate to non-contentious or low-risk licensing matters only.

In 2020, the Commission delegated its powers and functions to the Director in relation to the issue of specific licences and authorities, including 21 recurring major events².

Review of Decision of Director

Section 29 of the LCA 2018 provides that any decision of the Director is reviewable by the Commission except:

- a decision under section 161(2) of the LA 2019 (acceptance of complaint or refusal of acceptance of complaint); and
- a decision of a delegate of the Director that is reviewable by the Director under the LA 2019.

The following persons may apply for review of a decision of the Director:

- (a) the applicant affected by a decision regarding an application;
- (b) any person affected by a decision regarding disciplinary action;
- (c) a licensee affected by a decision regarding the licence or authority held by the licensee;
- (d) any person who made a submission, complaint or objection during the process that resulted in the decision;
- (e) any other person given a right to review under the LA.

An application must be made to the Commission within 28 days after written notice of the decision is given to the person or any later date allowed by the Commission.

² Refer to Director of Liquor Licensing decisions website https://industry.nt.gov.au/publications/business/decisions/director-of-liquor-licensing-decisions

The application must be in the form approved by the Commission, state the grounds on which it is made; facts relied on to establish the grounds and be accompanied by the prescribed fee, if any. To date, no fee has been prescribed.

During the reporting period, there were no applications lodged for review of decision of the Director.

Code of Practice for the Responsible Advertising and Promotion of Liquor

Section 20 of the LA 2019 provides the Commission the discretion to establish codes of practice to regulate the following matters:

- (a) the advertising and promotion of liquor by licensees;
- (b) the conduct of business under a licence or an authority;
- (c) the operation of licensed premises;
- (d) the management of customers, purchasers and patrons by licensees, including the management of their safety;
- (e) the establishment of ethical standards and practices for licensees.

The Commission is mandated to publish any code of practice it establishes in the way the Commission considers appropriate.

It is a condition of a licence that the licensee comply with the provisions of any code of practice established and published by the Commission.

In 2020, the Commission established a Code of Practice for the Responsible Advertising and Promotion of Liquor. The publication and guidance note can be found on the Commission website at:

https://industry.nt.gov.au/boards-and-committees/liquor-commission/publications.

The Commission

Chairperson administers affairs of Commission

Section 9 of the LCA 2018 requires the Chairperson to administer the affairs of the Commission and to perform the functions imposed on the Chairperson under the LCA 2018 or another Act.

Members of the Commission

The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and original members were appointed by the then Attorney-General and Minister for Justice under the LCA 2018 for a 5 year term. The Minister for Alcohol Policy now holds this power and function.

Current membership details follow:

Name	Position	Appointment Expiry Date
Mr Richard Coates	Chairperson	27 February 2023
Ms Jodi Truman	Deputy Chairperson	27 February 2023
Mr Russell Goldflam	Member (and Deputy for Ms Truman)	27 February 2023
Dr Rob Parker	Health Member	27 February 2023
Professor Phillip Carson	Health Member	30 October 2023
Ms Elizabeth Stephenson	Health Member	4 June 2024
Mr Bernard Dwyer	Health Member	5 November 2024
Dr Sean Taylor	Health Member	22 February 2027
Ms Pauline Lewis	Health Member	Resigned in October 2021
Ms Christine Hart	Member	27 February 2023
Ms Sandra Cannon	Member	27 February 2023
Mrs Amy Corcoran	Member	27 February 2023
Ms Katrina Fong Lim	Member	2 November 2026
Mr Blair McFarland	Member	Resigned in April 2022

Policy and Procedures Manual

The Northern Territory Liquor Commission Policy and Procedures Manual seeks to provide Liquor Commission Members with information to assist in fulfilling their responsibilities as a member of the Commission in exercise of their powers and performance of functions under the LCA 2018 and LA 2019.

The Policy and Procedures Manual continues to be published on the Commission website at:

https://industry.nt.gov.au/boards-and-committees/liquor-commission/publications

Disclosure of Interest

Section 21 of the LCA 2018 requires a member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Commission, to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a member makes the disclosure, the member must not take part in any deliberation or decision in relation to the matter.

Subsection (4) requires the Commission to make and publish guidelines specifying the types of interest that a member must disclose.

Guidelines are included in the Policy and Procedures Manual which is published on the Commission website.

Commission Meetings

The Commission conducts meetings to determine issues across the range of its legislative responsibilities.

The Commission held its bi-annual meetings on 25 November 2021 and 25 February 2022.

Classification of the Commission and Remuneration

Members receive sitting fees and allowances in accordance with rates determined by the Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006 and Ministerial reclassification dated 20 November 2018.

The Commission is classified as a Class B1 Quasi-Judicial Body – Senior Appeals/Important Government Process with daily rates of \$959 for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson³ and \$719 for Members.

³ On 27 February 2019, Her Honour the Administrator acted on the advice of the Executive Council and determined the entitlements for the Deputy Chairperson to be the rate of the Chairperson.

Liquor Licensing Referrals

Matters to be determined by the Commission

The Commission is responsible for deciding the following matters under the LA:

- (a) an application to issue a licence or an authority;
- (b) an application to vary the conditions of a licence or an authority;
- (c) an application to substitute other premises for the licensed premises;
- (d) an application to approve a material alteration to licensed premises;
- (e) an application to authorise the transfer of a licence;
- (f) taking disciplinary action;
- (g) any other matter the Director refers to the Commission.

During the reporting period, the Director referred 53 matters to the Commission for consideration and decision. This consists of 45 applications and 8 disciplinary matters.

Six referrals had multiple applications from the same licensee which brings the total number of matters considered by the Commission to 60.

Summary of matters referred to Commission from 2020-21 to 2021-22 reporting period

Nature of Referral	2020-21	2021-22
Application for the grant of a liquor licence or authority	17	20
Application for variation of conditions of licence	10	10
Application for transfer of licence	1	0
Application for substitution of premises	1	1
Application to make material alteration to licensed premises	6	13
Application for major event authority	11	8
Disciplinary action against licensee	12	8
Total	58	60

A list of applications determined by the Commission by public hearing is at Annexure A.

Liquor Licences

Section 48 of the LA provides that the Commission may issue a licence and one or more authorities to an applicant.

The five (5) year moratorium on new takeaway liquor licences remained in place during the reporting period.

An application for a licence or an authority must be lodged with the Director in the approved form and manner and must be accompanied by:

- (a) an affidavit made under section 54;
- (b) a draft of the notice of the application required under section 57;
- (c) the evidence necessary to satisfy the onus specified in section 51;
- (d) a summary of the evidence referred to in paragraph (c) that is suitable for publication;
- (e) the application fee prescribed by regulation.

The Director has the power to accept or refuse to accept the application. On acceptance, written notice is given to the applicant of the public notice requirements and the Director informs the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency administering the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*, the Commissioner of Police and chief executive officer of the local council, if applicable.

Following the acceptance of an application and any investigation, the Director must refer the application to the Commission under section 59(1).

An application may be subject to objection under section 61 and in such case, the Director must comply with section 62 and give the applicant written notice of the grounds of any objection and right to respond to the objection.

During the reporting period, the Director referred 20 applications for the grant of licence or an authority to the Commission for consideration and decision.

Twenty hearings were held, including one licence application referred to the Commission in the previous reporting period, and one matter was heard by written submission only.

Three applications were refused, with one refused applicant being approved by the Commission upon resubmission. Two matters were yet to be determined at the end of the reporting period.

List of licence applications subject to public hearing from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

Applicant	Date of Hearing
Jigger & Tins Pty Ltd	21 July 2021
Blade Davies-Roundhill*	17 September 2021
SRGD Pty Ltd	17 September 2021
Fleurieu Holdings Pty Ltd	30 September 2021
Fleurieu Holdings Pty Ltd	30 September 2021
Nightcliff Fermentation Co Pty Ltd	7 October 2021
Lucky Saddle Pty Ltd	8 November 2021
CJ and DJ Lee	8 November 2021
Horizen Café Operations Pty Ltd	18 November 2021
Gillian Margaret Russell and Sally-Anne Dalglish	24 January 2022
Choice West Pty Ltd	27 January 2022
Bagala Aboriginal Corporation	8 February 2022
Sunshine House Holdings Pty Ltd	9 March 2022
Birch, Carroll & Coyle Limited	17 March 2022
Tamara Allen Pty Ltd	26 May 2022
Janes Hospitality Group Pty Ltd	7 June 2022
Fat Tuna Pty Ltd	16 June 2022
Inci Foods Pty Ltd	16 June 2022
Ranko Pty Ltd	16 June 2022
Ms Minnie Pty Ltd	17 June 2022

^{*} Application referred in previous reporting period

Variation of Licence Conditions

Section 110 of the LA 2019 provides for a licensee to apply to the Commission to vary the conditions of a license or an authority. Examples of license variations include an extension to the licensed area, change to trading hours or change of nominee.

The licensee is required to satisfy the Commission that the sought variation is in the public interest and would not have a significant adverse impact on the community.

The Commission must also consider the following:

- (a) the affidavit required by section 54;
- (b) any objection to the application made under section 61;
- (c) any response provided by the applicant under section 62;
- (d) the public interest and community impact requirements.

After considering the application and matters above, the Commission must decide to vary or refuse to vary the conditions of the licence or authority and give a decision notice.

During the reporting period, 10 applications for variation of conditions of licence were referred to the Commission for consideration, including one matter that was withdrawn by the Director.

Seven applications were approved, one application for variation was part-refused, and one matter referred in the reporting period will be heard and determined in the next reporting period.

List of applications for variation of conditions of licence determined from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Licensee	Determination
Hoggies Darwin Pty Ltd	Variation of the conditions of the licence in relation to premises concept, advertising and signage and outside dining area, approved pursuant to section 110 of the Act.
Lucky Saddle Pty Ltd	Small bar authority approved pursuant to section 48, material alteration approved as per section 97, and conditions varied to align with the inclusion of a condition pertaining to the Permit to Occupy Outdoor Dining Area issued by City of Darwin. Variation to hours of operation was refused.
Horizen Café Operations Pty Ltd	Small bar authority approved pursuant to section 60 of the Act, and additional Entertainment Conditions included.
Alice Springs Brewing Co Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved and subject to the conditions prescribed by Part 4 Divisions 1, 13 and 14 of the Regulations. Variation to conditions approved for Maximum Patron Numbers, Seating, and Noise Condition.
OMAD (NT) Pty Ltd	Variation of the entertainment condition of the licence approved pursuant to section 112(2) of the Act.

Fannie Bay Cool Spot Pty Ltd (Fannie Bay Cool Spot)	Variation of the trading hours condition approved pursuant to section 110 of the Act.	
Fannie Bay Cool Spot Pty Ltd (Foreshore Café and Restaurant)	Variation of the trading hours condition approved pursuant to section 110 of the Act.	
Thomas Chin Pty Ltd	Substitution of premises approved, and variation of conditions approved for trading hours, purchasing, Inspection of Records, Restricted Areas, Collector's Sets / Special Edition Wines, Sale of Liquor, and Hours of Delivery.	

Transfer of Licence⁴

Section 71 of the LA 2019 provides for a licence to be transferable from the licensee to another person. The transfer has no effect unless it is authorised by the Commission.

An application for transfer of licence is required to be lodged with the Director in the approved form and be accompanied by specific documents and prescribed application fee.

The Director must inform the following of the application, as soon as reasonably practical after receiving it:

- (a) The Chief Executive Officer of the agency administering the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*;
- (b) The Commissioner of Police;
- (c) The chief executive officer of the local council, if applicable.

After receiving the application from the Director, the Commission must consider it and decide whether to authorise the transfer, with or without conditions, or refuse to authorise the transfer of the licence. A decision notice must be given where the Commission refuses to authorise the transfer of licence.

During the reporting period, one application for transfer of licence was referred to the Commission and subsequently withdrawn.

Details of transfer applications referred from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Applicant	Determination
Sol (No. 6) Pty Ltd (Hidden Valley Tavern)	Application for transfer of licence referred by the Director on 24 March 2022. The application was before the Commission on 12 April 2022, and relisted for hearing on 27 April 2022. On 22 April 2022, the Applicant formally withdrew the application.

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⁴ Since January 2020, applications for transfer of licence have been considered and determined by the Director under delegation.

		The application was resubmitted to the Director for consideration under delegation in June 2022. The Director's decision has been made publically available ⁵ .
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Substitution of Premises

Section 75 of the LA 2019 provides for a licensee who wishes to substitute other premises for the licensed premises to apply for new licence for the new premises⁶. An application to substitute premises is made in the same manner as an application to vary conditions of the licence.

Instead of issuing a new licence, the Commission may, on application of the licensee, amend a licence to substitute other premises for the licensed premises if satisfied that the substitution satisfies the public interest and community impact requirements.

During the reporting period, one application for substitution of premises was referred and approved by the Commission.

Details of substitution applications determined from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Applicant	Determination
Thomas Chin Pty Ltd (Liquor Downunder NT)	Substitution of premises approved on 23 May 2022

Material Alterations

Section 96 of the LA 2019 provides for a licensee to apply to the Commission for approval of a material alteration to the licensed premises. Material alterations are limited to those set out in section 95(1) of the LA 2019:

- (a) a significant increase in the area of the premises used for the sale, supply, service or consumption of liquor;
- (b) a structural alteration to any part of the premises where liquor is sold, supplied, served or consumed:
- (c) a change to an entrance to or an exit from the premises;
- (d) a significant change to the external appearance of the premises;
- (e) a significant change to the premises' facilities related to the sale, supply service or consumption of liquor.

⁵ https://industry.nt.gov.au/publications/business/decisions/director-of-liquor-licensing-decisions

⁶ In March 2020, amendments to the Act commenced to allow the Commission to impose conditions on a substitution and to substitute premises that are yet to be constructed or are under construction.

An application must be lodged with the Director in the approved form and be accompanied by specific documents/materials. If the Director considers it to be in the public interest, the Director may require the applicant to publish notice of the application in a manner and time specified.

In considering the application, the Commission must consider the following:

- (a) any objection to the application made under section 61;
- (b) any response provided by the applicant under section 62;
- (c) the public interest and community impact requirements.

After considering the above matters, the Commission must approve or refuse to approve the material alteration and give a decision notice.

During the reporting period, the Director referred 13 applications for material alteration to licensed premises to the Commission for consideration and decision.

Eleven applications were approved, which includes one application determined by written submission. One application was heard by the Commission in the reporting period but not determined, and one referred application was scheduled to be heard in the next reporting period.

List of applications for material alteration to licensed premises determined from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Applicant	Determination
Air Raid Arcade Pty Ltd (Birth of Venus)	Material alteration approved on 21 July 2021
Air Raid Arcade Pty Ltd (Babylon Berlin)	Material alteration approved on 9 September 2021
Darwin Golf Club Incorporated	Material alteration approved on 21 September 2021
Lucky Saddle Pty Ltd (Moorish)	Material alteration approved on 17 November 2021
CJ & DJ Lee (Little Miss Korea)	Material alteration approved on 17 November 2021
Sea Breeze Nightcliff Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved on 18 November 2021
King Ash Bay Fishing Club Incorporated	Material alteration approved on 18 November 2021
Alice Springs Brewing Co Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved on 2 February 2022
Saltwater@Bundilla Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved on 9 March 2022
Fannie Bay Cool Spot Pty Ltd (Foreshore Café & Restaurant)	Material alteration approved on 3 May 2022
Club Eastside Incorporated- Club Eastside	Material alteration approved on 20 April 2022

Major Event Authority

Section 47 of the LA 2019 provides for authorities attached to a licence, including a major event authority which authorises the licensee to sell liquor for consumption on or in licensed premises, to patrons attending a single event that is to have at least 1,500 attendees, or have a significant effect on public transport or local amenities or requires more than a usual amount of emergency services or police supervision.

An application for a licence with a major event authority is made under section 52 of the LA 2019 and requires public notice of the application.

The Director is required to refer an accepted application to the Commission for consideration and decision except those applications the Director is authorised to deal with under delegation⁷.

The Commission delegated it power to issue a major event authority to a member of the Commission⁸. This has allowed for any application determined by a Commissioner under delegation to be decided on the papers.

During the reporting period, 8 licence applications with a major event authority were referred to and approved by a Commission member under delegation.

List of major event authorities issued from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Name of Licensee and Event	Determination
Ford Dynasty Pty Ltd (Red Centre NATS)	Major event authority issued on 30 July 2021
Darwin Waterfront Corporation	Major event authority issued on 22 December 2021
Summer Junkies Pty Ltd (Event - Midnight Oil Resist Tour)	Major event authority issued on 28 March 2022
Summer Junkies Pty Ltd (Carl Cox & Eric Powell's Mobile Disco)	Major event authority issued on 8 April 2022
Summer Junkies Pty Ltd (Flight Facilities)	Major event authority issued on 19 April 2022
Summer Junkies Pty Ltd - Icehouse Great Southern Land 2022	Major event authority issued on 29 April 2022
LCAT Activations Pty Ltd - Ministry of Sound Classical Concert	Major event authority issued on 31 May 2022
Katherine Turf Club Incorporated - Katherine Races	Major event authority issued on 10 June 2022

⁸ This delegation was enacted in October 2019, and has resulted in cost-savings due to not having to convene a quorum to determine the application.

⁷ In December 2020, the Commission delegated its powers and functions to the Director in relation to the issue of specific licences and authorities, including 21 recurring major events. This change has resulted in a significant reduction of applications being referred to the Commission for decision and further cost-savings.

Disciplinary Action / Complaints against Licensees

The granting of a liquor licence by the Commission brings with it a number of responsibilities for the licensee, both under the LA 2019 and in the conditions of their licence.

Section 160 of the LA 2019 provides for a person to make a complaint against a licensee on a number of grounds set out in subsection (1).

A complaint against a licensee must be made in the approved form, specify the ground of the complaint, be signed by the complainant and be lodged with the Director.

The Director has the power to decide to accept, or refuse to accept, the complaint. After making a decision to accept a complaint, the Director must give notice of the substance of the complaint to the licensee, the Director's intention to investigate the complaint and a right to respond to the complaint.

On completing an investigation, the Director is empowered to take the following action:

- take no further action if satisfied there are no grounds to justify taking further action or that the matter does not warrant further action;
- give the licensee a formal warning in relation to the complaint;
- mediate the complaint;
- issue an infringement notice in relation to the complaint;
- enter into an enforceable undertaking with the licensee in relation to the complaint;
- refer the matter to the Commission for disciplinary action.

A referral of a complaint to the Commission must specify details about any licensee response, the results of the investigation and the grounds for disciplinary action.

Section 165 of the LA empowers the Commission to take disciplinary action if satisfied that a ground for the disciplinary action exists and the disciplinary action is appropriate in relation to that ground.

The Commission may take any of the following disciplinary actions against a licensee:

- vary the conditions of the licensee's licence or impose additional conditions on the licence;
- suspend a licence;
- cancel a licence;
- impose a monetary penalty on a licensee in accordance with section 167;
- direct a licensee to take, or refrain from taking, a specified action;
- disqualify a person from holding a licence for a specified period.

The Commission may not take disciplinary action against a licensee by imposing a monetary penalty on the licensee for a contravention of the Act if the licensee has paid a sum to expiate an alleged offence after receiving an infringement notice in relation to the contravention, or

the licensee has been prosecuted for an offence in relation to that contravention, and the prosecution was not discontinued.

During the reporting period, the Director referred 8 matters to the Commission for disciplinary action. Public hearings were conducted in respect of all matters, not including the 2 matters withdrawn by the Director.

The Commission determined to impose disciplinary action in respect of 5 matters, which included one matter referred in the previous reporting period. In addition to this, one matter remains part-heard at the end of the reporting period, and one matter was heard in the reporting period but not determined.

List of disciplinary actions and / or complaints determined from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Date of		AU 15	
Hearing	Licensee	Alleged Breach	Determination
3 September 2021	Silvey Pty Ltd (United Wycliffe Well)*	Breach of section 141 – licensee intentionally sold or otherwise supplied alcohol to a person who was intoxicated. Breach of section 285 – licensee failed to exclude from the licensed premises two people who were incapable of controlling their behaviour and were intoxicated. Breach of section 293 – licensee contravened a licence condition multiple times by selling, serving or supplying liquor to people who did not also purchase and/or consume food.	Complaint upheld. Disciplinary action imposed – variation to the CCTV condition, and on-premises restrictions conditions added to liquor licence.
25 November 2021	NT Hotels Pty Ltd (Winnellie Hotel)	12 breaches of section 130 – licensee (or an employee of the licensee) sold liquor to an individual without completing a scan of an approved identification.	Complaint upheld. Disciplinary action taken against licensee of a suspension of licence permitting takeaway trade from 10:00 to 22:00 hours on Friday, 10 December 2021. Licensee directed to place signage in an area visible to public advising of suspension and failure to comply with BDR register. CCTV licence condition imposed.
11 March 2022	Crocosaurus Cove Pty Ltd (The Tap on Mitchell)	Breach of section 93 - licensee causes or permits its employees or patrons to cause	Complaint upheld. Disciplinary action imposed - variation to Entertainment

		undue and unreasonable noise on or in the licensed premises that affects the amenity of the neighbourhood. Breach of section 293(1) – the licensee intentionally engages in conduct that results in a contravention of a condition of the licensee's licence or authority and the licensee is reckless in relation to the result.	condition where "live entertainment" is permitted Sunday to Wednesday, 10:00 to 23:00 hours, and Thursday to Saturday as well as a day preceding a public holiday in the NT, 10:00 to 24:00 hours. Noise condition deleted and replaced, and conditions "Persons may remain on Premises" and "After Hours Snacks to be made available" are deleted as no longer relevant.
17 March 2022	PLS (NT) Pty Ltd (Pit Lane Liquor Yarrawonga)	128 breaches of section 130 – licensee (or an employee of the licensee) sold liquor to an individual without completing a scan of an approved identification.	Complaint upheld. Disciplinary action imposed - Suspend the condition of the liquor licence from 10:00 hours to 22:00 hours on Friday, 22 April 2022 and, pursuant to section 165(2)(e), place signage in an area visible to the public during the period of suspension.
30 March 2022	Deckmar Pty Ltd (Woodroffe Fresh Food Supermarket)	Breach of section 53(2) and 160(1)(b) – licensee exceeded the prescribed 25% cap on sales of liquor.	Matter withdrawn by Director. Commission dismissed matter pursuant to section 166(6)(a) of the Act.
6 May 2022	Mataranka Supermarket Pty Ltd	Breach of section 53(2) and 160(1)(b) – licensee exceeded the prescribed 25% cap on sales of liquor.	Matter withdrawn by Director. Commission dismissed matter pursuant to section 166(6)(a) of the Act.
17 June 2022	NT Water Ski Association — Darwin Ski Club - Complaint	12 breaches of section 93 - licensee causes or permits its employees or patrons to cause undue and unreasonable noise on or in the licensed premises that affects the amenity of the neighbourhood. Breach of section 293(1) – the licensee intentionally engages in conduct that results in a contravention of a condition of the licensee's licence or authority and the licensee is reckless in relation to the result.	Complaint upheld. Disciplinary action imposed - variation of the licence by way of deleting Club Condition (a)(iv) and varying Club Condition (b), imposing an additional Special Condition that requires the Licensee to provide the Director of Licensing at least 14 days' notice before the function/event, and imposing an additional Special Condition "Noise Management".

^{*} Application referred in previous reporting period

Pursuant to section 163(3)(c) of the LA 2019, the Director considered and determined 5 disciplinary matters during the reporting period.

Suspension of Licence by Police

Section 258 of the LA 2019 provides for the Commissioner of Police to suspend a licence or an authority on certain circumstances being an emergency or a natural disaster, riotous conduct, a breach of the peace or a threat to public safety. A suspension can have effect for a maximum of 48 hours. The Commissioner of Police must give written notice of a suspension to the Chairperson.

During the reporting period, the Commission received 3 notices of the suspension of licence from the Commissioner of Police. Of the 3 suspensions received, 2 were for the same premises in Alice Springs.

Variations to conditions initiated by the Commission

Under section 113 of the LA 2019, the Commission may, on its own initiative, vary the conditions of a licence or an authority. This does not include conditions added or varied by the Minister under section 88 of the LA 2019.

A copy of the Decision Notices for variations initiated by the Commission and associated documents are published on the Commission website at:

https://industry.nt.gov.au/boards-and-committees/liquor-commission/liquor-commission

Review of takeaway licence conditions in Victoria River Region

On 10 May 2021, the Walangeri Ngumpinku Aboriginal Corporation wrote to the Minister for Alcohol Policy concerning alcohol issues in the Yarralin community (a dry community) and surrounds. The letter was referred to the Commission for the purpose of considering the exercise of its powers under section 113 of the LA 2019 to conduct an inquiry on its own initiative with the view to considering whether restrictions on certain liquor products should be imposed on licensees in the Victoria River Region.

On 6 August 2021, the Commission conducted a public hearing at Yarralin which was attended by licensees and other interested parties. The Commission invited written submissions and proposed to publish all submissions, unless marked 'confidential'.

On 17 January 2022, the Commission issued written notice to affected licensees of the proposed variation of licence conditions and reasons for the variation and invited a response to the proposed variations by 14 February 2022.

On 3 March 2022, the Commission issued its Decision Notice under section 113 of the LA 2019, and varied the Special Conditions of the licence by deleting "Sales of Cask and Fortified Wine" and inserting "Takeaway Conditions".

Variation of conditions - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) condition

On 19 May 2021, the Commission received a written request from the Commissioner of Police to exercise its powers under section 113 of the LA 2019 and permanently vary the licence conditions for most takeaway liquor licences across the NT, except for those where the PALI system is in place.

The request proposed two variations:

 continuation of conditions imposed by the Director between September 2020 and April 2021 in the exercise of his emergency powers pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those conditions required licensees to satisfy themselves that purchasers of packaged liquor had a lawful residence at which to consume the liquor within the region in which the liquor was purchased; inclusion of a condition that is similar to a condition already imposed on licensees in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek whereby all licensed packaged liquor outlets must install and maintain CCTV equipment that records the point of sale for all takeaway liquor purchases.

On 22 September 2021, the Commission held a public hearing under section 115 of the LA 2019 at which NT Police, Hospitality NT and Retail Drinks Australia were represented and made submissions. The Director also attended to provide information to the Commission. After counsel made preliminary submissions at the hearing, the Commission determined that, for legal reasons, it would not exercise its discretion to impose a condition that purchasers of packaged liquor had a lawful residence at which to consume liquor.

On 29 October 2021, pursuant to section 113(2) of the LA 2019, the Commission issued written notice comprising proposed variations of licence conditions together with reasons and invited licensees to submit a response within 28 days of the notice.

On 20 December 2021, the Commission issued its Decision Notice under section 113 of the LA 2019. The notice imposes a condition on 139 licensees to install, maintain and operate a CCTV surveillance system at the point of sale to record items purchased, use of the BDR scanner, interactions between the purchaser and the salesperson and their appearances.

Variation of conditions – product restrictions

On 8 October 2021, in accordance with section 113(2) of the LA 2019, the Director issued a Memorandum dated 1 September 2021, that recommended the Commission undertake an inquiry with a view to vary the product restrictions placed on eight licensees. The product restrictions placed on the licensees were made at a time when there were little options for low and mid-strength products other than beer.

On 3 November 2021, the Commission issued written notice of the proposed variation of licence conditions to the following licensees and invited them to submit a response to the proposed variations within 28 days:

Warnkurr Sports and Social Club
 Pirlingimpi Community Club
 Beswick Community Store
 Malandari Store
 Heartbreak Hotel
 Nguiu Club

On 2 December 2021, the Commission issued its Decision Notice under section 113 of the LA 2019. The noticed allowed for cans of mid-strength liquor products (products with an alcohol/volume percentage not greater than 3.5%) to be an alternative to the mid-strength can beer in restricted liquor sales to residents of remote Indigenous communities. The notice also varied the takeaway trading hours for Milikapiti Sports and Social Club and Pirlangimpi Community Club for the week preceding Christmas.

Variation of conditions of liquor licences – Desert Oaks and Kings Creek Station

On 21 March 2022, the Director wrote to the Commission and recommended that the Commission consider whether to undertake an inquiry with a view to vary the conditions of the Desert Oaks liquor licence following the licensee's request to Licensing NT in February 2022. For many years, there has been an agreement not to sell takeaway liquor to Anangu from Imanpa. The licensee asked that this be made a condition of his licence as they believed that this is what the Imanpa community wanted.

On 1 April 2022, the Commission decided to undertake its own initiative inquiry with a view to varying the licence conditions of both Desert Oaks and Kings Creek Station liquor licence, and on 21 April 2022, initiated the review of the conditions and called for submissions from relevant stakeholders.

On 1 July 2022, the Commission issued written notice comprising proposed variation of licence conditions together with reasons for the proposed variations and invited responses within 28 days. Confirmation in support of the proposed variations was received on behalf of the licensees.

A public hearing was not conducted for this matter as the Commission considered that the consultations conducted were sufficient.

On 12 August 2022, the Commission issued its Decision Notice under section 113 of the LA 2019. The notice imposed a special condition on the licenses that there should be no sale or supply of any liquor for consumption on or off the premises to any Aboriginal person who is a resident or normally resides at the Northern Territory Communities of Docker River, Mutitjulu, Imanpa and Finke, or any of the communities or homelands on the Pitjantjatjara Lands in South Australia and the Ngaanyatjarra Lands in Western Australia. The sale or supply of liquor also extends to any person who intends to supply the liquor to a person who is a resident of, travelling to, through or from any of the aforementioned communities or homelands.

Review of Liquor Commission's Decisions

Section 31 of the LA 2019 provides for any decision of the Commission for which a decision notice is required is reviewable by NTCAT.

The following persons may apply to NTCAT for a review of the decision:

- (a) In all cases the Director;
- (b) In the case of a decision regarding a licensee or a licensee's licence, authority or licensed premises the licensee;
- (c) In the case of a decision regarding an application the applicant;
- (d) In the case of a submission, complaint or objection that was the subject of a decisionthe person who made the submission, complaint or objection;
- (e) In the case of a decision of the Commission under Part 4 of the LCA 2018 any affected person as defined in section 28 of the LCA 2018.

During the reporting period, the following matter was referred to NTCAT for review:

Date of Initiating Application	Parties	Orders Sought	Order
29 October 2021	SGRD Pty Ltd v Northern Territory Liquor Commission	That the Liquor Commission's Decision Notice dated 30 September 2021 be substituted by NTCAT's own decision granting the applicant a liquor licence with public bar, late night and BYO authorities.	dated 30 September 2021 be set aside, and substituted with the

Annexure A

List of applications determined in reporting period:

Date Referral Received	Nature of Matter	Name of Applicant/Licensee	Decision
01-Jun-21	Application for the grant of a licence or authority	Blade Davies-Roundhill	Licence with public bar and late night authorities refused pursuant to section 60(1)(b) of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
14-Jul-21	Application for the grant of a licence or authority	Jigger & Tins Pty Ltd	Licence with small bar and late night authorities issued pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> 2019.
			The term of the licence is for 10 years from the date of issue of the licence, pursuant to section 85 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
15-Jul-21	Application for material alteration to licensed premises	Air Raid Arcade Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved pursuant to section 97 of the Liquor Act 2019.
19-Jul-21	Application for the grant of a licence or authority	SGRD Pty Ltd (Bojangles Saloon and Dining) ^	Licence with public bar, late night, and BYO authorities refused pursuant to section 48 of the Liquor Act 2019.
19-Jul-21	Application for a Major Event Authority	Ford Dynasty Pty Ltd	Licence with major event authority issued pursuant to section 60 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
05-Aug-21	Application for the grant of a licence and Authority	Fleurieu Holdings Pty Ltd	Licence with restaurant bar and late-night authorities refused pursuant to section 48 of the Liquor Act 2019.
05-Aug-21	Application for the grant of a licence and Authority	Fleurieu Holdings Pty Ltd	Licence with catering and restaurant bar authorities issued pursuant to section 48 of the Liquor Act 2019.
20-Aug-21	Application for permanent variation of conditions of licence	Hoggies Darwin Pty Ltd	Variation of the conditions of the licence issued pursuant to section 110 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
26-Aug-21	Application for material alteration to licensed premises	Air Raid Arcade Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved pursuant to section 97 of the Liquor Act 2019.

27-Aug-21	Application for material alteration to licensed premises	Darwin Golf Club Incorporated	Material alteration approved pursuant to section 97 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
08-Sep-21	Application for the grant of a licence and Authority	Nightcliff Fermentation Co Pty Ltd	Licence with restaurant bar and late night authorities issued pursuant to section 48 of the Liquor Act 2019.
20-Oct-21	Application for material alteration, small bar authority and variation of conditions of licence	Lucky Saddle Pty Ltd	Small bar authority issued pursuant to section 48, material alteration approved as per section 97, and variation of conditions of licence approved pursuant to section 112 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> 2019.
27-Oct-21	Application for material alteration and new licence authority	CJ & DJ Lee	Small bar authority issued pursuant to section 48, material alteration approved as per section 97 of <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
01-Nov-21	Application for material alteration to licensed premises	Sea Breeze Nightcliff Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved pursuant to section 97 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
08-Nov-21	Application for additional liquor Authority and Variation to of conditions of licence	Horizen Café Operations Pty Ltd	Small bar authority issued pursuant to section 60 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> , and additional "Entertainment Conditions" included.
15-Nov-21	Application for material alteration to licensed premises	King Ash Bay Fishing Club Incorporated	Material alteration approved pursuant to section 97 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
06-Dec-21	Application for a Major Event Authority	Darwin Waterfront Corporation	Licence with major event authority issued pursuant to section 60 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
09-Dec-21	Application for the grant of a licence and Authority	Bagala Aboriginal Corporation	Licence with restaurant bar authority issued pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
17-Dec-21	Application for the grant of a licence and Authority	Choice West Pty Ltd	Licence with restaurant bar authority issued pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
07-Jan-22	Application for the grant of a licence and authorities	Gillian Margaret Russell and Sally-Anne Dalglish	Licence with small bar and catering authorities issued pursuant to section 48 of the Liquor Act 2019.

07-Jan-22	Applications for material alteration to licensed premises and variation of conditions of licence	Alice Springs Brewing Co Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved pursuant to section 96 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> , and variations of the conditions of licence issued pursuant to section 110 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
20-Jan-22	Application for variation of conditions of licence	OMAD (NT) Pty Ltd	Variation of the condition of the licence issued pursuant to section 112(2) of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
31-Jan-22	Application for material alteration to licensed premises	Saltwater@Bundilla Pty Ltd	Material alteration approved pursuant to section 97 of the Liquor Act 2019.
07-Feb-22	Application for the grant of a licence or authority	Sunshine House Holdings Pty Ltd	Licence and restaurant bar authority approved pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
23-Feb-22	Application for the grant of a licence or authority	Birch, Carroll & Coyle Limited	Licence and special venture authority issued pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> , and subject to special conditions.
08-Mar-22	Application for a liquor licence and major event authority	Summer Junkies Pty Ltd	Licence issued with a major event authority pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
18-Mar-22	Application for variation to licence conditions	Fannie Bay Cool Spot	Variation of the condition of the licence approved pursuant to section 110 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> 2019.
18-Mar-22	Application for a liquor licence and major event authority	Summer Junkies Pty Ltd	Licence issued with a major event authority with conditions pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> 2019.
18-Mar-22	Application for a liquor licence and major event authority	Summer Junkies Pty Ltd	Licence issued with a major event authority with conditions pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> 2019.
21-Mar-22	Applications for variation to licence and material alterations to licensed premises	Fannie Bay Cool Spot Pty Ltd	Variation of the conditions of the licence issued pursuant to section 110, and material alteration approved pursuant to section 96 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
31-Mar-22	Application for a Material Alteration	Club Eastside Incorporated	Material alteration approved pursuant to section 97 of the Liquor Act 2019.

06-Apr-22	Application for Liquor Licence and Major Event Authority	Summer Junkies Pty Ltd - Icehouse Great Southern Land 2022	Licence issued with a major event authority with conditions pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> 2019.
06-Apr-22	Application for Liquor Licence and Major Event Authority	LCAT Activations Pty Ltd - Ministry of Sound Classical Concert	Licence issued with a major event authority with conditions pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> 2019.
07-Apr-22	Application for Substitution of Premises and Permanent Variation	Thomas Chin Pty Ltd	Substitution of premises and permanent variation approved pursuant to sections 75 and 110 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> .
10-May-22	Application for a liquor licence with public bar and adult entertainment authorities	Circus Joseph Ashton Pty Ltd	Licence with public bar and adult entertainment R-rated authority with additional conditions issued pursuant to section 48 of the Liquor Act 2019.
10-May-22	Application for a Liquor Licence with a Major Event Authority	Katherine Turf Club Incorporated - Katherine Races	Licence issued with a major event authority with conditions pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> 2019.
24-May-22	Application for a New Licence and Authority	Tamara Allen Pty Ltd	Licence and restaurant bar authority approved pursuant to section 48 of the Act.
25-May-22	Application for New Liquor Licence	Janes Hospitality Group Pty Ltd	Licence and restaurant bar and late night authorities issued pursuant to section 48 of the Liquor Act 2019.
26-May-22	Application for a liquor licence with restaurant bar and late night authorities	Ms Minnie Pty Ltd	Licence and restaurant bar and late night authorities issued pursuant to section 48 of the Liquor Act 2019.
06-Jun-22	Application for a Licence	Inci Foods Pty Ltd	Licence and restaurant bar authority issued pursuant to section 48 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i> , with additional conditions imposed into the licence.

[^] Reviewed by NTCAT and determination available