

Gillen Club
57 Milner Rd
Alice Springs NT 0870



27/9/18

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

Dear Mr. Coates

Re: REVIEW OF TAKE-AWAY LIQUOR LICENCE CONDITIONS IN ALICE SPRINGS

The Gillen Club is a Community Club with strong ties to Alice Springs & has a firm commitment to the responsible service & the reduction of related harms regarding alcohol. We are supportive of any genuine attempt to reduce alcohol related harms and note the recent efforts being made by the NT Government and related bodies. Whilst we acknowledge these efforts and some of the early data that may be coming from extraordinary measures such as those in the Barkly region, we would be opposed to any such measures being put in place in Alice Springs.

There have been strategies put in place in the Alice Springs region such as the Banned Drinker's Register, minimum floor pricing and the establishment of Police Auxiliary Licensing Inspectors that have only just, or not even begun to deliver quantifiable data.

We also point out that there could be improvements made to the current BDR system that would enable the easy identification of secondary supply which despite all the best efforts being made, remains a significant issue.

We would also go on to suggest that the early data and perceived effectiveness of the Tennant Creek restrictions do not take into account the displacement effect of these restrictions & the shift of problems to the Alice Springs and Mt. Isa areas.

We have genuine concerns that any further restrictions may do further damage to the Alice Springs region's already struggling tourism industry and also further alienate the majority of Alice Springs residents who do not misuse alcohol and contribute to the social problems that this town experiences.

Gillen Club
57 Milner Rd
Alice Springs NT 0870



Another risk we see is the eventual decline of population in Alice Springs, as those who see the continual addition of restrictions as a deterrent to living in the area.

We would like to put forward the following recommendations:

- No further restrictions are placed on the Alice Springs region until independent and proper evaluation is done on all measures currently in place.
- Further consultation with licensees by the Liquor Commission to evaluate the impacts of any proposed restriction.
- Further development of the BDR to include functionality which enables staff to flag suspicious purchasing in relation to secondary supply.
- A full review of all current liquor restrictions including, Sale of Light beer only before 10am on premise, 1 bottle per day limits of certain items and the restriction of sale of these items after 6pm and the prohibition of long necks, to evaluate whether these restrictions have any positive impact, given the additional layers of restriction eg. BDR & POSI's, vs. the confusion and inconvenience they create with tourists and law abiding drinkers.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on these matters. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me on 0889523749.

Regards



Kyle Pearson
General Manager – Gillen Club.