

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIQUOR COMMISSION
DECISION NOTICE

MATTER: APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF THE CONDITIONS OF LICENCE

LICENCE NUMBER: 81401681

REFERENCE: LC2019/031

LICENSEE: **Adelaide River Show Society Inc.**

PREMISES: Adelaide River Show Society – Street Pavilion
Old Stuart Highway
ADELAIDE RIVER NT 0846

APPLICANT: Adelaide River Show Society Inc.

NOMINEE/S: Mr Ian Rixon

OBJECTOR/S: Nil

LEGISLATION: Section 32A, Part IV and V of the *Liquor Act*.

HEARD BEFORE: Ms Jodi Truman (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Kenton Winsley (Health Member)
Ms Christine Hart (Community Member)

DATE OF HEARING: 3 April 2019

DATE OF DECISION: 3 April 2019

Decision

1. For the reasons set out below and in accordance with section 32A(7) of the Liquor Act the Commission has determined to temporarily vary the conditions of the liquor licence for the premises known as the Adelaide River Show Society – Street Pavilion to provide as follows:
 - a. That the trading hours on ANZAC Day, being Thursday 25 April 2019, be between:
 - i. 07:00 hours and 15:59 hours.
 - b. That the trading hours on Adelaide River Race Day, being Saturday 1 June 2019, be between:

- i. 10:00 hours and 15:59 hours
 - c. That on Adelaide River Race Day, being Saturday 1 June 2019, no patrons shall be admitted to the premises after 20:00 hours.
 - d. That on both ANZAC Day and the Adelaide River Race Day in 2019, conditions 11, 12, 13 and 15 shall be suspended.
 - e. That on both ANZAC Day and the Adelaide River Race Day in 2019 during the trading hours on each day:
 - i. All liquor must be sold in open containers;
 - ii. No more than four (4) cans or bottles, or two (2) 750 mL bottles of wine (including sparkling wine), must be sold to any one person at any one time;
 - iii. Spirits must not be sold in containers with more than 5% alcohol by volume.
2. In accordance with section 32A(9) the variation of the condition of licence is to take effect as at Friday 5 April 2019.

Reasons

Background

3. Adelaide River Show Society Inc. (“the applicant”) currently holds a Club (Incorporated) Liquor Licence authorising the sale of liquor:
- a. for consumption on or at the licensed premises by a member of the club or by a visitor in the presence of such a member.
 - b. for removal and consumption away from the licensed premises **only** to financial members of the Club.
4. The licensee is the applicant and the nominee under the liquor licence is Mr Ian Sloan. On 6 March 2019 the applicant made application pursuant to section 32A of the Act for a temporary variation to their licence conditions with respect to a number of dates, being
- a. ANZAC Day;
 - b. Adelaide River Race Day; and
 - c. Adelaide River Show Day weekend.
5. The Director-General of Licensing (“the Director-General”) referred the application with respect to each of these dates to the Commission on 21 March 2019. The applicant’s current liquor licence makes no specific provision for any of these dates. It does however enable the applicant to trade seven (7) days per

week except Good Friday and Christmas Day. There is however no provision for trading prior to 15:00 hours on any of those days.

6. During the course of the hearing, the applicant requested an adjournment of its application with respect to the Adelaide River Show Day weekend. That application for an adjournment was granted. As a result this Decision Notice only deals with ANZAC Day and the Adelaide River Race Day.
7. In 2019, ANZAC Day falls on Thursday 25 April 2019. In accordance with the current conditions of the licence, the applicant can therefore commence trade from 16:00 hours on a Thursday. The applicant however seeks to trade on ANZAC Day from 07:00 hours to its usual hours of trade to provide for its:

“Traditional ANZAC Breakfast after the Adelaide River Dawn Service, live music in the afternoon as well as 2 up (with profits returned to the RSL)”.

8. In 2019, Adelaide River Race Day falls on Saturday 1 June 2019. In accordance with the current conditions of the licence, the applicant can therefore commence trade from 16:00 hours on a Saturday. The applicant however seeks to trade on Adelaide River Race Day from 10:00 hours to its usual hours of trade to provide for:

“Racing, fashions on the field, live music and DJ. There are 5/6 food vans selling a variety of styles of food on site until the evening to cater for the crowd. The club’s biggest fundraiser for the year and an iconic Territory event”.

9. In relation to these events, the Commission was informed that the applicant has provided services like those proposed for ANZAC Day 2019 for “the last 20 years at least”. In relation to the Adelaide River Race Day, the applicant informed the Commission it has been involved “for the last 20 years, but especially the last 10 years”.
10. With respect to this applicant, the Commission was informed by the Director-General of Licensing (“the Director-General”) that “a check of the records held at Licensing NT indicates that there are no adverse compliance issues against this licensee”.
11. It further appears on the evidence provided to the Commission that when issues have been identified in relation to events, the applicant has worked hard with Licensing NT officers and also NT Police and that the applicant has a proven and demonstrated capacity to be able to operate this venue and to comply with the conditions of its licence effectively in relation to both events.

Disclosure of influential persons or potential beneficiaries

12. The Commission notes that section 32A(1A) of the Act requires applicants to make an affidavit disclosing whether certain persons may be able to influence the applicant, or expect a benefit from the applicant, if the licence is granted. The applicant has filed such an affidavit via its nominee, Mr Ian Rixon.

13. The Act prescribes that upon the application being filed, together with the affidavit under section 26A, there must be investigations conducted by the Director-General in relation to the application. The Commission has received no information to indicate there have been any adverse matters discovered as a result of the investigation by the Director-General.

Advertising and Objections

14. The Commission was advised that the Director-General had exercised her discretion under section 32A(2) and not required the applicant to publish a notice of the application due to an assessment of the application and deeming there was insufficient public interest.
15. It is noted that section 32A(5) of the Act requires that the Director-General must inform:
- a. the Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) of the Department of Health (“DOH”);
 - b. the Commissioner of Police; and
 - c. if the application relates to premises within the area of a shire council or a regional council - the Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) of the council.
16. That occurred with respect to this application with the following response received:
- a. The DOH made no adverse comment.
 - b. The NT Police had no objections.
 - c. The Coomalie Community Government Council advised that “(i)f Adelaide River Police are satisfied with the variation the Council would have no objection and wish the ARSS club well for their 2019 calendar of events”.
17. Notice was also provided to the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service who advised that they also had “no objections” to the application.

Public Hearing

18. Pursuant to section 50 of the Act, the Director-General of Licensing (“the Director-General”) must refer *inter alia* applications under section 32A of the Act to the Commission. Therefore this application must be heard and determined by this Commission.
19. Pursuant to section 53 of the Act, the Chairperson of the Commission must fix the time and place for hearing and give notice to the relevant parties not less than 7 days before the hearing date. As stated earlier, this application was referred to the Commission on 21 March 2019. The hearing was fixed for 2.00pm on 3 April 2019 and notice was given to the applicant.

20. Pursuant to section 53 of the Act; the Commission is not bound by the rules of evidence and may inform itself in the manner it considers appropriate and conduct the hearing, or part of the hearing, by use of telephone or online facilities. A hearing must also be conducted in public unless the Commission considers that a public hearing is likely to cause undue hardship to a person. No such submission has been made to this Commission and there is no evidence to suggest any such hardship.
21. Mr Ian Sloan and Mr Ian and Mrs Jackie Rixon appeared on behalf of the applicant. Mr Jeff Verinder as representative for the Director-General of Licensing was also present to provide information and assistance to the Commission during the course of the hearing.

Assessment of the Application

22. As earlier noted, there were no objections to this application. Despite there being no objections made to the application lodged by the Applicant, the Act clearly provides that the Director-General of Licensing must refer these types of applications to the Commission for decision. In addition, section 6B of the Act makes clear that it is the Applicant who bears the onus of satisfying the Commission that the approval of the application meets the public interest and community impact test.
23. As is clear from section 6(1) of the Act; when considering or determining an application under the Act in respect of licensed premises, this Commission **must** apply the public interest and community impact test as relevant to the application. Section 6(2) of the Act provides that:

“For subsection (1), the public interest and community impact test requires consideration of the following objectives:

- a. harm or ill-health caused to people, or a group of people, by the consumption of liquor is to be minimised;
- b. liquor is to be sold, or sold and consumed, on licensed premises in a responsible manner;
- c. public order and safety must not be jeopardised, particularly where circumstances or events are expected to attract large numbers of persons to licensed premises or an area adjacent to those premises;
- d. the safety, health and welfare of persons who use licensed premises must not be put at risk;
- e. noise emanations from licensed premises must not be excessive;
- f. business conducted at licensed premises must not cause undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to persons who reside or work in the neighbourhood of the premises or who

are making their way to or from, or using the services of, a place of public worship, hospital or school;

- g. a licensee must comply with provisions of this Act and any other law in force in the Territory which regulate in any manner the sale or consumption of liquor or the location, construction or facilities of licensed premises, including:
 - i. by-laws made under the Local Government Act; and
 - ii. provisions of or under the Planning Act;
- h. each person involved in the business conducted at licensed premises must receive suitable training relevant to the person's role in the conduct of the business;
- i. the use of credit in the sale of liquor must be controlled;
- j. practices which encourage irresponsible drinking must be prohibited;
- k. it may be necessary or desirable to limit any of the following:
 - i. the kinds of liquor that may be sold;
 - ii. the manner in which liquor may be sold;
 - iii. the containers, or number or types of containers, in which liquor may be sold;
 - iv. the days on which and the times at which liquor may be sold;
- l. it may be necessary or desirable to prohibit persons or limit the number of persons who may be on licensed premises, on any particular part of licensed premises or in an adjacent area subject to the control of the licensee;
- m. it may be necessary or desirable to prohibit or limit the entertainment, or the kind of entertainment, which may be provided on licensed premises or in an adjacent area under the control of the licensee;
- n. it may be necessary or desirable to prohibit or limit promotional activities in which drinks are offered free or at reduced prices;
- o. any sale of additional liquor due to the grant of a licence or the relaxation of restrictive conditions will not increase anti-social behaviour.”

24. In addition, pursuant to section 6(3), the Commission must:

- a. consider the potential impact on the community in the area that would be affected by the outcome of the decision to grant or refuse an application or the changing of conditions of a licence and, in doing so, must have regard to:
 - i. the harm that might be caused (whether to the community as a whole or a group within the community) due to the excessive or inappropriate consumption of liquor; and
 - ii. the cultural, recreational, employment or tourism impacts; and
 - iii. the social impact in, and the impact on the amenity of, the locality of the premises or proposed premises; and
 - iv. the density of existing liquor licences within the community area; and
 - v. the volume of alcohol sales within the community area, and any increase in volume within the community area arising from the licence the subject of the application; and
 - vi. any other prescribed matter; and
- b. apply the community impact assessment guidelines.”

25. On 6 March 2018, pursuant to section 6A of the Act, the Minister by Gazette notice published community impact assessment guidelines for determining whether or not an application being considered or determined under section 6(1) satisfies the public interest and community impact test. Relevantly those guidelines are stated to

“... set out those matters that will be considered by the Commission when assessing the community impact of the application against the criteria set out in section 6A(1) of the Liquor Act”.

26. Those matters are identified as follows:

Criteria	Matters to be considered
The potential harm or health impact that may be caused to people, or any group of people within the local community area, due to the availability and accessibility of an additional liquor outlet.	Are there any ‘at-risk’ groups or sub-communities within the locality? This may include – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children and young people; • Aboriginal people normally resident within the locality and those Aboriginal people that might be likely to travel to the

	<p>locality from a dry community;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • migrant groups from non-English speaking countries; • people in low socio-economic areas; and/or • communities that experience high tourist/visitor numbers. <hr/> <p>Are there any community building, facilities and areas within the locality? Such facilities would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schools and educational institutions; • hospitals, drug and alcohol treatment centres; • accommodation or refuges for young or disadvantaged people; • child care centres; • recreational areas; • dry areas; and • any other area where young people may congregate or be attracted to. <hr/> <p>What policies and procedures will the applicant implement to minimise any potential harm or health impacts to these 'at-risk' groups or sub-communities</p>
<p>Information about the location and area in which the premises is proposed to be so as to assess any social impact on the community. This includes information about the density of licensed premises within the community area.</p>	<p>This may include crimes statistics, social profile information and the location of existing licensed premises.</p> <p>This could also include traffic and pedestrian impact and any plans developed to address these potential issues.</p>

Volume	<p>This may include projected sales volumes and marketing analysis, liquor type and customer demographic (where applicable this should be provided for both on and off premises sales).</p> <p>The Commission will consider information available to it about the current alcohol consumption rates for the community area.</p>
Any cultural, recreational, employment or tourism benefits for the local community area.	Will the proposed licensed premises provide economic benefits, cultural, recreational or tourism benefits or any additional employment opportunities and to what level?
Why the grant of a relevant application is in the public interest and how the additional liquor outlet will benefit the local and broader community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What additional services will be provided other than simply an additional outlet for the sale of liquor – this may include accommodation or dining? • Will the proposed licensed premises provide additional choices of service or products that are no available in the area? • Will the proposed premises provide liquor in a manner known to be safe and to minimise adverse impacts? • Will it use existing premises improve or add to existing premises or is it a new premises?

27. As can be seen from the above, there are a large number of matters that this Commission must consider and that the Applicant must address (and satisfy the Commission of) under the new public interest and community impact test and guidelines. The guidelines do make clear however that:

“... the Commission has the authority to consider a broad range of issues specific to each application and flexibility exists to assess each individual application on its merits”.

28. With respect to this application, the Commission considers it relevant to note that this is not an application for a new licence. This is an application to vary conditions of an existing licence that already enables the premises to be open for

trade, but to enable the applicant for 2019 only to be able to sell liquor on premises for periods during which it would not ordinarily be able to do so.

29. It is also relevant that the variations sought in this regard are to enable the applicant to trade for the purposes of specific events that it has been involved in for 20 years and about which there have been no formal compliance issues raised.
30. In terms of ANZAC Day, it is clear that the application is entirely centred on being able to provide for persons who attend ANZAC Day events in Adelaide River. The ANZAC Day events in Adelaide River have been conducted for many years and are widely known in the Territory as a particularly moving and respectful commemoration. The premises have been significantly involved in that time. For this event the applicant is not seeking to change the licensed area, merely to be able to cater for the persons expected to attend the ANZAC Day commemoration.
31. In terms of Adelaide River Race Day, again the application is entirely centred on being able to provide for persons who attend the race day events in Adelaide River. As was submitted on behalf of the applicant, the Adelaide River Race Day event *is* “an iconic Territory event”. One that is well known Territory wide and one that has been conducted for many years successfully. These premises are again a significant part of that event. The applicant is again not seeking to change the licensed area, merely to be able to cater for the persons expected to attend the popular Adelaide River Races.
32. The Commission notes that the applicant provided submissions in relation to the community impact assessment and identified that in relation to both events it would have in place a number of procedures to “minimise harm”. These included:
 - a. “Lock outs are to implemented from 8pm on race day;
 - b. No higher ABV RTD will be available;
 - c. Mid strength and light drink options will be available”.
33. As a result of these matters being part of the application, the Commission considers it appropriate that these procedures be included as part of the varied conditions of licence for both days, including a limit on the number of drinks provided to any one person at any one time.
34. The applicant has provided submissions addressing the public interest and community impact test and also the community impact assessment guidelines. Given the number of years that the applicant has successfully undertaken these events, the Commission is satisfied with the submissions made by the applicant addressing the test and guidelines.
35. In all of the circumstances, including the limited nature of the application, the processes put in place by the applicant to ensure appropriate service and consumption of alcohol at all times and that there is no evidence of any

compliance issues or particular adverse impact upon the community; the Commission is, on balance, satisfied that it is appropriate to vary the conditions of the licence as sought. Therefore, for the reasons outlined and having regard to the objects of the Act the Commission has decided to vary the conditions of the licence as outlined at the start of this Decision Notice.

Notice of Rights:

36. Section 120ZA of the Act provides that a reviewable decision is a Commission decision that is specified in the Schedule to the Act. A decision to vary the conditions of a liquor licence pursuant to section 32A of the Act is specified in the Schedule and is a reviewable decision.
37. Section 120ZC of the Act provides that a person affected by this decision may seek a review before the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Any application for review of this decision must be lodged within 28 days of the date of this decision.
38. For the purpose of this decision, and in accordance with section 120ZB(1)(b) and (c) of the Act, the affected person is the applicant.



JODI TRUMAN
Deputy Chairperson
Northern Territory Liquor Commission

8 April 2019