

22 February 2021

Acting Deputy Chairperson  
NT Liquor Commission  
Darwin, NT

Dear Mr. Goldflam,

**RE: Additional information to proposed variation of the conditions of license**

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide additional feedback following the Commissions hearing in Tennant Creek on 2 February 2021 in relation to changes to liquor licensing conditions within the Barkly Region. Council has previously provided written submissions on the proposed changes.

Council, being a key stakeholder and representing the residents of the Region would like to provide the following additional feedback on the provided documentation following the hearing on 2 February.

Council has conducted an open and transparent public survey to gauge resident's views on the current and proposed alcohol restriction. The results of that survey are attached for the commission's information. While the results are not surprising it does show that a section of the community is asking to be heard on the issue of restrictions. The survey also asked for feedback on proposed flexibility within the existing restrictions.

Council has previously raised the matter of the commission cherry picking data. We believe that the Barkly statistics need to be compared to other regions to assist in assessing how effective the restrictions have been in reducing crime and alcohol related harm.

Crime Change % 2019-2020	Tennant Creek	Alice Springs (per 100,000)	Palmerston Per 100,000	Darwin Per 100,000
Alcohol related assaults	Up 53.01%	Up 14.45%	Up 30.85%	Up 22.98
Domestic violence	Up 31.88%	Up 29.76%	Up 14.34%	Up 23.02%
assaults	Up 24.03%	Up 20.49%	Up 9.38%	Up 20.72%

From the above statistics you can see the alcohol restrictions are having little to no effect on reducing violent crime in Tennant Creek, while in other jurisdictions where there are either no or fewer restrictions the increases are smaller. Property crime is down against huge numbers the previous year but at present property crime is on the increase with Alcohol being the number one target of criminals. This leads us to the conclusion that restrictions do not work.

Consumption levels should also be compared against Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs and Katherine so there is a fair comparison of what is being consumed in the Barkly compared to other regions, this data does not appear to be publically available. It is also important to note that many Barkly residents do buy Alcohol in Tennant Creek along with other visitors so it's not just Tennant Creek residents purchasing alcohol.

During the hearing there was questioning about the amount of alcohol being transported into the Barkly from other areas. The police response was not very clear with only a very small number of people being charged or detained. The question that should have been asked is how much alcohol have police seized and tipped out, the response would be 'lots' as many seizures are occurring.

### **Elliott**

The below comment is from a concerned Elliott Resident, Mr. Bob Bagnall.

We are concerned that the Commission did not give adequate advice to the Elliott Community that a public meeting was planned for Tennant Creek in early February. It is disappointing that the Commission did not see fit to hold a public meet in Elliott and consult within the community.

Elliott has extremely strict liquor restrictions that limit takeaway supply to approximately 50% of Tennant Creek. This not only affects the majority of the population who do not abuse alcohol but encourages secondary supply. The Commission may not be aware of this, but local people certainly know that a huge amount of alcohol comes into the town from other outlets up and down the track. Further, although current restrictions allow for limited purchases from the two licensed outlets, one outlet is rarely open which has reduced supply by approximately a further 50 percent. The Local Authority has worked on an Alcohol Management plan since 2009, but unfortunately governments have failed to sign off on the document. The plan addresses supply reduction strategies.

Further there is no doubt Elliott is slowly dying, evidenced by the following comparison figures from 2020 and 1988.

<b>What</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>2020</b>
Population	650	300
Pub	24 hr wayside inn licence	normal pub licence 12-10pm closed Sundays
Alcohol limit	unlimited	6 pack beer
Fuel	4 outlets	2 outlets
Shops	4	2
Fast food	3	2
Motel rooms	35	0
Mechanics	3	0
Builders	2	0
Electrician	1	0



Painter	1	0
Refrig mechanic	1	0
Rural Contractors	4	0

It is almost certain a good proportion of those that have left Elliott have done so to access alcohol in towns with less stringent alcohol restrictions. This also impacts on indigenous culture with people moving off country.

It is concerning that the proposed restrictions on the 3 hotels are those that are frequented by indigenous people. Are we promoting a racial divide?

#### **Banned Drinker Register (BDR) Clarification**

Council is seeking some clarification on the BDR numbers.

During the hearing in Tennant Creek the Police Superintendent stated that the number of people on the BDR was approximately 200, however we believe within the Territory there are around 3400 (approximately 1.7% of the population) on the BDR. Council would like to know how many people residing in the Barkly are currently on the BDR, with these numbers being compared against the number on the BDR in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Palmerston. We are assuming this information would not be confidential as it would be general information.

#### **Takeaway trading hours**

As covered at the hearing, the current trading hours for takeaway liquor are too restrictive. The commissioners present discussed extending these hours to earlier in the day, this sounds like a good solution to the current situation of people standing in the heat and presenting a poor image of Tennant Creek. While Council do support restrictions being in line with Alice Springs, an extension to hours would be well received.

### Council Motion

The below motion was move into Ordinary Council and refers to the license review for the commissions information.

#### 18.7 LIQUOR COMMISSION RESPONSE

*The report will be dealt with under Section 65(2) (ciii) of the Local Government Act 2008 and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2008. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person.*

#### MOTION

##### That Council:

- a) Receive and note the report
- b) Move this item and papers into ordinary

#### RESOLVED

Moved: Cr. Hal Ruger

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Ronald Plummer

**CARRIED UNAN.**

Resolved OCCS 21/21

ACTION ITEM: CEO to add details of the crime rate levels as a result of the restrictions, including vehicle accidentence linked to illegal alcohol sales.

ACTION ITEM: Contact the minister and ask for the Barkly Region's decision to be taken from the LC.

Also not that the commission did not follow the NTG's community consultation policy. Add details from Alpururulam community for alcohol running.

Points for Mayor McLaughlin to raise:

- Restriction of hours of trading: with effects like long queues.
- Crime rate: investigate the number of break-ins where only alcohol is taken.
- The commission cherry picking statistics and leaving important ones out.
- Defamation of the people who live in the Barkly
- Lack of communication and lack of community consultation
- Closing: we want the same restrictions Territory wide. The focus should be on prevention, treatment and education.
- With regards to restrictions, the Barkly should adopt the same restrictions as in Alice Springs, where these restrictions have proved to be effective.
- LC continues to refuse to engage with Elliott.



Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback, if you require any additional information or clarification please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

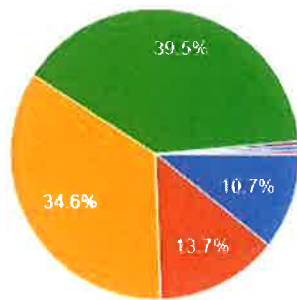
Jeffrey McLaughlin  
Mayor  
Barkly Regional Council

CC: Michael Gunner, Chief Minister



Do you support the current liquor restrictions?

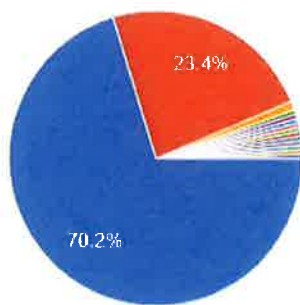
205 responses



- Yes support
- Yes but they should be stronger
- No they should be eased
- No I don't support they should be completely removed
- Permit System
- Same as the rest of the NT
- Opening Hours for bottle shops should be longer

Should there be more flexibility with the current limit of purchasing 36 standard drinks per day? (one 24pack of full strength beer)

205 responses



- Yes
- No
- thttt
- Mixed drinks ie Wine and Beer
- if you not on BDR then you should be..entitled to purchase what you wan
- No Limit at all
- Open from 10Am and close at 10pm
- Permit System

▲ 1/2 ▼

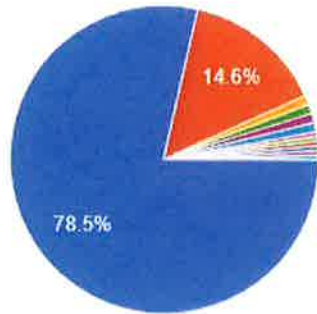
- Well even at least let there be more choice i.e- let me buy a bottle of wine... For and a six pack of beer for my partners how is coming home from a week out bush or allow a mix of beer
  - Ideally a six pack of beer with 2 bottles of wine - and 4 bottles of wine
  - 12 standard beers at pro rata carton prices, 1 bottle of wine
  - Be able to purchase less.
  - NA
  - You should be able to purchase as much as you want.
- Surely that's not has bad a getting a bottle of spirits.





## Do you consume alcohol?

205 responses



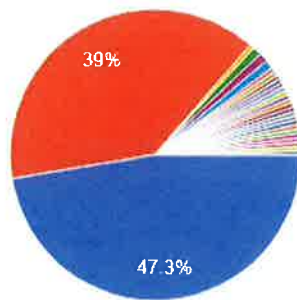
- Yes
- No
- Rarely
- gth
- Sometimes
- sometimes
- Sometimes not all the time
- i've just stopped drinking in January

1/2 ▼

- I rarely drink.
- not on a regular basis 1 or 2 a year
- Sometimes
- Yes, but only on licensed premises. I do not drink at home

## Do you purchase alcohol within the Barkly?

205 responses



- Always
- Sometimes but also buy outside the Barkly
- Only buy outside the Barkly
- Don't purchase
- e5ht5h
- I do not
- I dont buy from Bottle shops buy purc... purchase while ennoying dinner.
- When needed

1/4 ▼

- Non drinker
- No purchases of alcohol
- Don't live here it's a test - Tash @ TDT
- never
- Alice springs
- I don't buy alcohol
- No
- Only purchase if buying a gift for a birt... Birthday (e.g.) Spirits

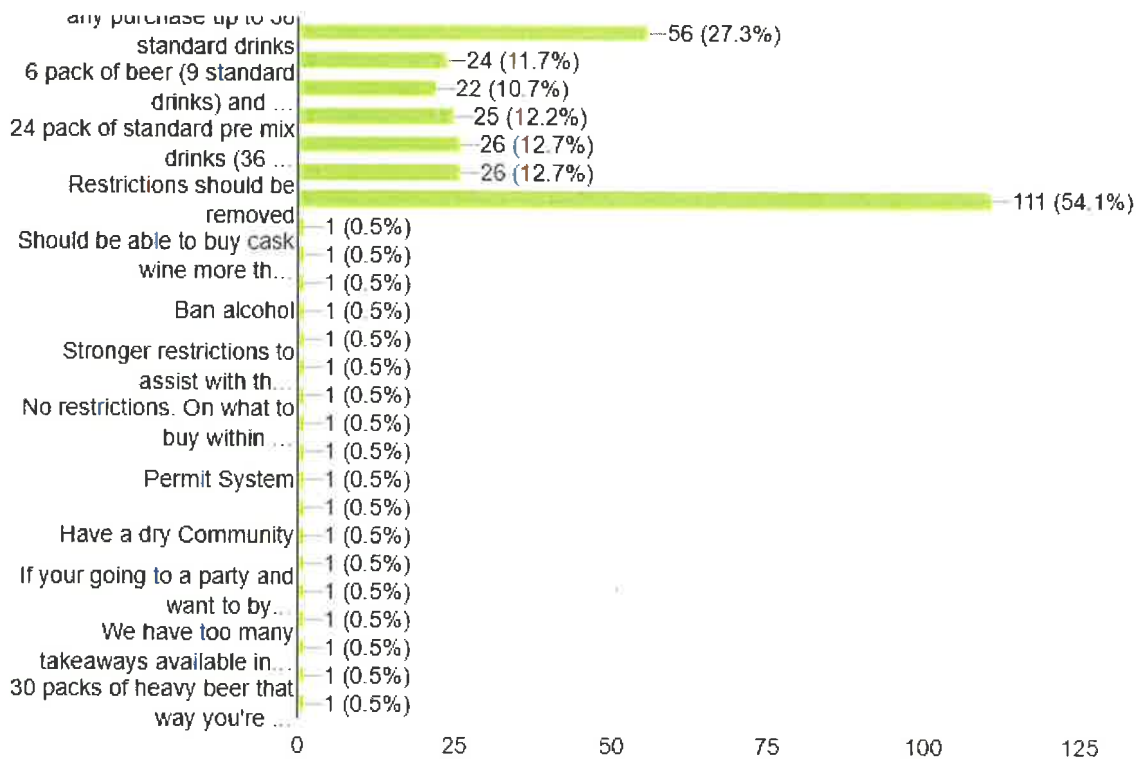
- living overseas now
- I don't purchase
- No I don't.
- Majority of the time in the Barkly but w... When outside I take advantage and buy what I want
- very rarely
- depends where I am at the time
- NO never
- N/A

- Can't purchase on line because of Postcode discrimination which is ileagile
- NA
- I do purchase when in Tennant Creek



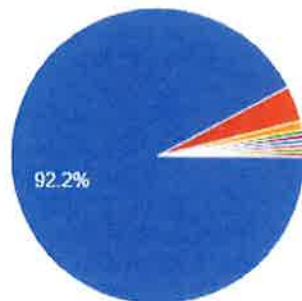
What flexibility should be allowed within the current restrictions? Check all that you agree with

205 responses



Are you a Barkly resident?

205 responses

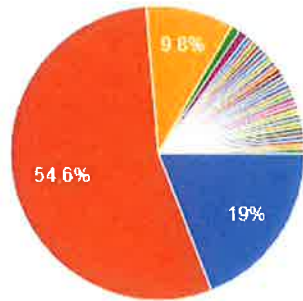


- Yes
- No
- hhthjtwj
- Ex resident was planning on returning, but not anymore with problems that ar... Are taking place. Family comes
- Working Holiday Visa but here for work first
- I come and go.
- Contractor
- use to live in Tennant Creek
- NA



# What do you think Barkly restrictions should be? – if any

205 responses



- The same as Alice Springs
- Restrictions should be the same across the Territory
- They should stay as they are
- etheht
- No restrictions
- They should be designed for Tennant Creek conditions
- Target the problem drinkers
- Removed

1/5 ▼

- Made tougher, back to thirsty Thursday
- Ban alcohol
- No restrictions, people should be free. To decide for themselves
- No takeaway alcohol
- Stronger restrictions to assist with the. Issues surrounding alcohol in the Barkly
- Drink only in a licensed venue
- None
- Make it easier mate sell unlimited to th. The locals and kick the out of town people out
- This should be a community decision f... From our elected representatives advised by a liquor commission
- Stronger restrictions
- Permit System - Allows regular ourcha... purchasing or individual restrictions to be applied
- If you have a criminal records for viole... Violence – don't allow or if your not working don't allow services
- They should largely stay the same, I a... Agree with the attempt to try to control the volume of alcohol into households.
- No alcohol
- Residents/Tennants only to purchase... At outlets
- stop the apartheid of drinking. treat Al... Alcohol as a symptom not the problem
- Dry Community
- make it a dry community
- None of the above a six pack a day pe... per person
- The restrictions are not making any dif... Different crime rate is higher and people are still getting drunk so ease of the restrictions would be good as it is not a crime to drink but we in the barkly are made to feel like criminals every time we go to buy alcohol
- 4 alcohol takeaway locations in a town... Of 2000 people is far too many. The restrictions need to be stricter
- Opening should be retained at 16:00 -... 19:00 but they should not be restricted
- None, if at all
- Shouldn't be any
- They should be removed
- Restrictions are fine, bottleshop hours need to be longer
- Tougher

