

## **ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

### **Question Taken on Notice**

**Question Number:** 5.2

**Output Number:** 1.1

**Date:** 18/06/2024

**From:** Mr Gerard Maley

**To:** Hon Brent Potter

**Portfolio:** Alcohol Policy

**Agency:** Chief Minister & Cabinet

**Subject:** Gove Peninsula liquor permit trial evaluation outcomes

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#### **QUESTION**

What are the outcomes of the evaluation of the trial concluded two months ago?

Additional question, but not formally taken on notice - What are the next steps?

#### **ANSWER**

On 1 October 2023, the Gove Peninsula Harmony Group (GPHG), with assistance from the NT Government, implemented a six-month trial to the Gove Peninsula Takeaway Alcohol permit System (the Trial). The Trial implements the GPHG recommendation to simplify the previous six-tier alcohol permit system to a four-tier system, removing the top unrestricted tier and establishing daily limits on the amount of alcohol that can be purchased. The primary objective of these permit changes is to enhance community safety, reduce alcohol related harms and combat secondary supply of alcohol. The trial was scheduled to cease on 31 March 2024.

Due to the mandated settling period for NT Government statistical data to be processed, NT Police, NT Health and Wholesale Liquor data for the first three months of the trial period was collated and available for the GPHG's consideration in mid-March 2024. NT Police and NT Health data has shown a decrease in alcohol related assaults across the Gove Peninsula and decrease in alcohol related presentations at the Gove District Hospital, while Wholesale Liquor data demonstrates a significant decline in the purchase of units of spirits.

On the basis of early positive data, community sentiment tracked via the 'Have Your Say' online survey and anecdotal evidence, the GPHG recommended a further 12 months with the trial ending 31 March 2025. This extension will allow for collection and evaluation of data over a longer period, allowing the GPHG to determine the effectiveness of the trial permit system in reducing alcohol-based harm in the East Arnhem Region and make a recommendation as to whether the new tier system should be retained ongoing or reconsidered. This recommendation was approved by the Director of Licensing (Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade).

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet continues to collate the data on behalf of the GPHG and will provide data quarterly to the GPHG for discussion and review. The data sets will be consistent with those outlined in Written Question 3.