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14 June 2019

Dr Jennifer Buckley  
Committee Secretary, Committee Office  
Department of the Legislative Assembly  
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DARWIN NT 0801

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Dear Dr Buckley

City of Palmerston Submission - Inquiry to the Liquor Bill 2019

The City of Palmerston welcomes the opportunity from the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee to make a further submission to its inquiry of the Liquor Bill 2019.

In our previous submission, the City of Palmerston stated their support of the Exposure Draft Liquor Bill 2019 which provides a coherent framework for the operation of the liquor industry and "to minimise the harm associated with the consumption of liquor that recognises the public's interest in the scale, supply, service, promotion and consumption of liquor".

We were pleased to receive a response letter from the Executive Director, Giovina D'Alessandro, Alcohol Review Implementation Team responding to the City of Palmerston submission dated 29 April 2019 and subsequently confirming our submission formed part of the evidentiary material Government considered as part of the rewrite project.

We note, that the comment in our submission regarding the register of licensees has been provided to the relevant government agency for consideration and look forward to hearing the outcome of this recommendation.

The following comments were submitted in our previous submission which we would still like to be taken into consideration.

#### Unclear Definitions and Inconsistency of Words

In the Bill we noted unclear definition of words, and believe by addressing and clarifying these minor changes, the Bill would be clearer and more effective.

Examples:

1. *The following person and bodies may appear at a hearing conducted by the Commission regarding a matter referred to in section 19(a), (b), (c), (d) or 9e*

No definition of the word "bodies".

2. *A person residing or working in the neighbourhood of the licensed premises or proposed licensed premises.*

No definition of the word "neighbourhood."

It is noted that within the Bill there appears to be some inconsistency with wording and/or intent, namely relating to timeframes.

There are clauses that specify a number of days and others that refer to "as soon as reasonably practicable".

This may not provide certainty or clarity. It is acknowledged however that it may be appropriate in some areas

#### Community Impact Assessment Guidelines

In our previous submission we made a recommendation to clause 46 (2) and again submit this for inclusion:

- Consideration of visitors to an area; tourists and persons visiting from neighbouring communities.

There are groups of people that are not readily captured in the census and other surveys, and include groups such as long grass populations, and persons visiting from neighbouring communities. These groups may have differing socio-economic characteristics and interests, to our resident populations and may result in alternative considerations.

#### Public Notice of Application

Thank you for clarifying clause 53 (2) that unless exempt under subsection (2), an applicant for a licence or an authority must, in accordance with the directions of the Director post the notice in the prescribed timeframes of 28 days and 42 days; however, we would like to still have the following added after subsection (1):

"but not less than 7 days after publication of the first notice"

We note the changes to clause 55 which strengthens this point to include the ability for the objector to respond in the same way an applicant can once they have adjusted their original application in line with the new information received.

We also note clause 163(4) which provides an ability for the Liquor Commission to hear a matter not referred to it by the Director. This is to ensure that matters that may come out in evidence during hearings that were not included in the referral can be dealt with in the hearing without having to file a new complaint.

#### Application for a Licence Authority

City of Palmerston supports the change to clause 53(6) which states that the Director of Licensing must now provide a copy of the public interest and community impact statement to any person who requests a copy.

We would welcome the invitation to participate in a public hearing on this issue.

Should you have any queries or concerns please contact Acting Director Lifestyle and Community, Amelia Vellar on [amelia.vellar@palmerston.nt.gov.au](mailto:amelia.vellar@palmerston.nt.gov.au) or (08) 8935 9975.

Regards



Luccio Cercarelli  
Chief Executive Officer

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