



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
13<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**Petition**

Registration No.	32
Title	Repeal floor price and re-introduce repeal legislation
Presented on	12 February 2019
Presented by	Member for Spillett (Lia Finocchiaro)
Referred to	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for consideration to debate
Date referred	13 March 2019
Response due	1 July 2019
Response received	29 March 2019
Response to be presented	7 May 2019

**Petition**

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

We, the residents of the Northern Territory call on the Territory Government to cease penalising responsible drinkers for the actions of a few and instead focus efforts on targeting its efforts to decrease antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related crime through targeted interventions

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

The Northern Territory Government

1. Immediately agree to repeal the floor price, which was passed in the Legislative Assembly as part of the *Liquor Amendment (Minimum Pricing) Bill 2018* on 22 August 2018
2. Reintroduce and pass the *Liquor Amendment (Repeal of Minimum Pricing) Bill 2018*, as introduced into the Legislative Assembly by the Northern Territory Opposition on 31 October 2018
3. Work constructively and cooperatively with the community and Opposition to ensure other legislation that unfairly penalises responsible drinkers and retailers is either repealed or not introduced in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, including legislation targeting corner stores and other responsible retailers
4. Prioritise this matter with urgency to protect the community from the recent increases in antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related crime

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.

## **Response**

The legislation in question created a minimum unit price for alcohol in the Territory, which primarily affects the price of the cheapest wines and fortified wines. The floor price was recommended by a comprehensive, evidence-based review that involved extensive stakeholder consultation with Territorians. This recommendation, along with a wide variety of measures, has been implemented to tackle alcohol-related harm. Alcohol-related harm not only has an impact on individual Territorians who suffer harm, but involves substantial taxpayer costs, as taxpayers must foot the bill for the increased demand on health services, the criminal justice system, and impacts to the Territory economy.

The floor price targets problem drinking, and in particular is a disincentive to persons developing into future problem drinkers. International examples show that young people, for example are particularly price-sensitive, and form their alcohol consumption habits at a young age. The floor price does not affect the price of most alcohol products, and ensures that all but the cheapest alcohol is still available at the usual price. It is part of a package of liquor reforms that will address alcohol-related harm for the benefit of all Territorians, at a minimal cost to moderate consumers,

I thank the petitioners for expressing their views, and the Member for Spillett for bringing this petition to the attention of this Assembly. Government will continue to develop reforms to liquor legislation to address alcohol-related harm, including anti-social behaviour. These reforms will continue to be informed by substantial stakeholder engagement and will continue to focus on evidence-based solutions.