

ORIGINAL PAPER

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Mr Des Crowe
Chief Executive officer
Australian Hotels Association
PO Box 3270
DARWIN NT 0801

By email: admin@ahant.com.au

Dear Mr Crowe

RE: AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION NT SURVEY

Thank you for the opportunity to present the position of Territory Labor on the issue of concern to the AHA (NT).

Attached please find our responses to your survey.

Territory Labor acknowledges the valuable role the AHA plays in providing representation to an industry which is of great importance to the employment and economic growth of the Territory.

I look forward to responding to any other issues you may raise.

Yours sincerely

Michael

MICHAEL GUNNER
Leader of the Opposition

RESPONSE TO THE AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION (NT) QUESTIONS

ISSUE	RESPONSE
Maintain the status quo on the gaming regime	Yes Labor will maintain the current regime but will cap current arrangements.
Maintain status quo on gaming taxation	Labor will maintain the current taxing regime.
Responsible service of gambling education and training program	Labor will work with the AHA to ensure an industry education and training program for your industry. We will support the AHA with training and education funding of \$180 000 a year for three years. We will also wish to work with the industry to reduce its long term reliance on backpacker and 457 visa workers through greater training of locals for employment.
Retain Sunday trading restrictions	Labor will not change Sunday trading arrangements preventing standalone bottle shops and liquor stores from trading.
Maintain the existing hours for on premise licensed venues	Labor will maintain existing hours.
Provide certainty to licensing regime and licensees, including no risk-based licensing fee or categories be introduced	Labor will not introduce an annual liquor licensing regime, annual liquor licensing fees or risk based licensing fees or categories.
New licensing regime	Labor does not support the current Director General regime believing that this restricts decision making. We also believe all expertise of the industry has been removed. We will undertake an assessment of this system if elected and will consult broadly with the industry and community about the best regime to introduce.
License applications Density of licensed premises	If elected, Labor will cap the issuing of all takeaway liquor licenses unless it is associated with a restaurant in an accommodation service. Applications for takeaway licenses in green fields suburbs will be considered but within strict guidelines.
In principle licensing applications require prior planning approval and term to complete new build.	We will introduce guidelines to this effect.
Public area of bottle shops	We will restrict the public area of a bottle shop to a maximum of 400 square metres.
Shor term letting (unregulated Accommodation)	Labor will undertake a review into the unregulated accommodation market.
Sewerage	Labor is prepared to undertake a review of the issues raised in this section.

Takeaway ID systems consultation	Labor will re-introduce the Banned Drinkers Register. Consultation will occur with industry on how this will be re-introduced. Labor will hand the decision making on temporary beat locations, where, when and how often, back to police.
Smoking	Labor will not be changing smoking arrangements in our first term.
Continued funding	Labor will renew existing funding programs for 3 years.
ISSUES FROM 2012 BY NUMBER	
Item 21: Code of Practice Off premise advertising and promotions.	Labor supports this.
Item 22: Local Government	Labor will use powers under the Local Government Act to prevent special levies or rate to licensed venues and late night venues.
Item 23: Buy back	Labor will not rule out any options in dealing with the issues arising in some places but we will not be introducing a general program of buy back.
Item 24: Reasonable defence.	The AHA position makes sense and will be supported by Labor.
Item 26: Mandatory drug testing	Labor's position remains as it was in 2012.
Item 27: Wet canteens / licensed social clubs	Labor supports the introduction of alcohol management plans in regions across the Territory. We will ensure that all voices are heard in the decision making around these plans. We will respect the wishes of local decision makers as to how to manage alcohol in their region.
Item 28: Cross-border trade	Labor is sympathetic to the issues raised by the AHA in this issue. In an effort to get real figures on alcohol consumption we do need to understand the level of purchase by liquor licensees. We will work with industry to determine the best way of obtaining this information.
Item 36: Container Deposit legislation	Labor supports container deposit legislation and the scheme.

Item 37: Taxi Service	Labor will continue to support the sensible growth of the taxi industry. We will continue to work with the AHA and City of Darwin Council on continuing a secure taxi rank in the Darwin CBD in addition to establishing a second one based on need. Labor will provide regulations allowing Uber to operate in the Northern Territory.
Item 38: Major Event Strategy	Labor will strongly support major events. We will also bring back the Arafura Games.
Item 40: Support for the AHA	Labor supports the AHA and believes that in our previous government and into the future we will work with the AHA as partners in the development and growth of the hospitality industry. We will engage, communicate with and support the industry and organisation.