

Mr Tony Sievers
Chairperson
Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee
Department of the Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

12 June 2019

Dear Mr Sievers

LIQUOR BILL 2019 SUBMISSION

Alice Springs Town Council appreciates an opportunity to comment on the Liquor Bill 2019.

We acknowledge the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee's reporting requirements for the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, to recommend whether the Assembly should pass the bill; whether the Assembly should amend the Bill; whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals; and whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament.

The process to suitably repeal the dated Liquor Act 1978 has been very thorough. It is positive that recommendations from the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report (the Riley Review) October 2017 and that feedback from the exposure draft of the Liquor Bill 2019, has been integrated into the current Liquor Bill 2019. Rewriting of the Liquor Act, providing a coherent framework whilst simultaneously removing confusing and inconsistent provisions, has appropriately occurred.

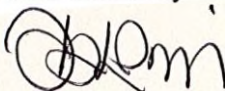
Alice Springs Town Council considers that the draft Liquor Bill 2019 should be passed and that the Bill has sufficient regard for the rights and liberties of individuals. The complementary Statement of compatibility with Human Rights upholds this. Whilst differing stakeholders will have strong volitions pertaining to elements of the Bill and potential amendments – particularly retail outlets and social welfare agencies, Alice Springs Town Council does not have any specific recommendations for amendment.

From a Town Council operational perspective, staff appreciate strengthening and standardisation of liquor licencing. Additionally, greater prescribed clarity related to material alterations (clause 91), ensuring that significant alterations require an application have been well received. Ongoing licencing liaison with Council about such proposed alterations is beneficial. It is also advantageous for disclosure of community impact and public interest assessments, for any parties that request them (clause 45).

Explicitly addressing anti-social behaviour (Part 10) is particularly pertinent. There continues to be a genuine concern amongst Council's rangers, with regard to licensed premises in the Alice Springs CBD and an often large flow of patrons, at 1400hrs, when take-away alcohol becomes available. As such, any changes to legislation which stringently regulate responsible sale and consumption of alcohol are well perceived.

If you require additional feedback, please e-mail: rmooney@astc.nt.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Skye Price".

Ms Skye Price
DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

