



31 July 2026

SECRETARY
LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
GPO BOX 3721
DARWIN NT 0801
E: LSC@NT.GOV.AU

RE: Submission – Liquor Amendment Bill 2026

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL 2026**

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission referred to this office on 27/07/2026, concerning the above. This letter may be tabled at Litchfield Council's next Council Meeting. Should this letter be varied or not endorsed by Council, you will be advised accordingly.

Council notes the proposed amendments to the *Liquor Act 2019* and supports measures that improve licensing efficiency, transparency and harm minimisation. However, Council considers that the Bill should more clearly integrate liquor licensing decisions with planning controls to ensure liquor-related approvals do not inadvertently conflict with the *Planning Act*.

Council would support amendment to section 75 to ensure that any transfer of a liquor licence to new premises, whether existing or yet to be constructed, is assessed against relevant planning requirements, including zoning, approved use, car parking provision and design considerations.

Council further notes that material alterations and transfers of licences are not currently referred to Development Assessment Services for comment. This creates a risk that planning non-compliance may not be identified before licensing decisions are made.

Council also recommends that section 61(4)(g) be amended to include the Development Consent Authority, as the statutory authority for development approvals, in the consultation process where an expansion of premises may result in non-compliance with the *Planning Act*.

These amendments would assist in ensuring consistency between liquor licensing and planning approvals, and would reduce the risk of conflicting statutory decisions.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the Planning and Development team at Litchfield Council.

Kind Regards,



Jaimie O'Connor
Planning and Development Program Leader

Cc: Alana Madden, Senior Advisor

