



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Working together to protect our future

30 July 2026

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
Legislative Scrutiny Committee

By email: LSC@nt.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Northern Territory - Liquor Amendment Bill 2026

The Northern Territory Police Association (NTPA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Liquor Amendment Bill 2026.

The NTPA represents members of the Northern Territory Police Force who are responsible for enforcing liquor legislation and responding daily to alcohol-related crime, violence and public disorder across the Territory.

The Association's comments are made from an operational policing perspective. They are intended to assist Government in ensuring the proposed legislative amendments are practical, enforceable and capable of improving community safety while supporting frontline police.

The NTPA does not express a position for or against the policy objectives of the Bill. Rather, this submission provides technical observations intended to inform implementation and identify matters that may warrant further consideration.

The Bill proposes a range of amendments designed to improve the administration of the Liquor Act 2019, strengthen enforcement mechanisms, modernise licensing processes and reform alcohol protection arrangements through the General Restricted Area framework.

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Level 2, Suite 209 'Spirit on The Avenue' 12 Salonika Street, Parap NT 0820

GPO Box 2350, Darwin NT 0801 / ABN 36 709 591 145

www.ntpa.com.au

P +61 (0) 8 8995 9520

E correspondence@ntpa.com.au



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Working together to protect our future

General Comments

Alcohol-related offending continues to represent one of the most significant demands placed upon Northern Territory Police Force.

Police routinely respond to:

- alcohol-fuelled assaults;
- domestic and family violence;
- anti-social behaviour;
- property offences;
- public disorder;
- repeat offending involving intoxicated persons; and
- significant demand on emergency services.

Legislative reforms that improve the ability of police to prevent harm before serious offending occurs are generally welcomed, provided those powers remain clear, proportionate and operationally workable.

The NTPA supports legislation that provides certainty for officers exercising statutory powers, minimises ambiguity during operational decision-making and appropriately balances public safety with procedural fairness.

Specific Comments

Expansion of Applicable Offences

The Bill expands the offences that may trigger banning notices and exclusion orders to include a broader range of Criminal Code and Domestic and Family Violence Act offences.

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Level 2, Suite 209 'Spirit on The Avenue' 12 Salonika Street, Parap NT 0820

GPO Box 2350, Darwin NT 0801 / ABN 36 709 591 145

www.ntpa.com.au

P +61 (0) 8 8995 9520

E correspondence@ntpa.com.au



NTPA Comment

Operational experience demonstrates that alcohol-related harm is not confined to offences contained within the Liquor Act.

The proposed expansion better reflects the range of offending routinely encountered by police and provides greater flexibility when responding to escalating behaviour.

The NTPA considers this amendment likely to improve preventative policing by allowing intervention before further violence or disorder occurs.

The NTPA recommends that accompanying operational guidance clearly identify the circumstances in which each offence should appropriately trigger a banning notice to promote consistent Territory-wide application.

Extension of Banning Notices from 14 Days to 90 Days

The Bill extends the maximum duration of banning notices from 14 days to 90 days while preserving exceptions for employment, medical treatment and access to government services.

NTPA Comment

From an operational perspective, longer banning periods may provide greater opportunity to disrupt repeat alcohol-related offending.

However, the effectiveness of longer bans will depend upon:

- timely recording within police systems;
- officers' ability to readily verify active notices;
- consistent enforcement across districts;
- adequate review mechanisms.

The NTPA encourages Government to ensure operational systems are capable of supporting increased monitoring and enforcement over extended banning periods.

Consideration should also be given to monitoring:

- breach rates;



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Working together to protect our future

- repeat offending;
- impacts on police workload;
- measurable reductions in alcohol-related violence.

Such data will assist in evaluating whether the intended public safety outcomes are achieved.

Police Identification Requirements

The Bill clarifies that police identification need only be produced when an officer issuing a banning notice is not in uniform.

NTPA Comment

The amendment provides useful legislative clarification and reflects existing operational practice.

This clarification reduces unnecessary ambiguity for officers while maintaining transparency when police powers are exercised.

Police Power to Suspend Licences

The Bill refines the Commissioner's power to suspend liquor licences where alcohol-related violence, riotous conduct or breaches of the peace are occurring, and the licensee has failed to take reasonable steps or where an imminent public safety risk exists.

NTPA Comment

The NTPA supports legislative clarity regarding circumstances in which police intervention is appropriate.

The proposed requirement that reasonable opportunities first be provided to licensees appropriately balances regulatory fairness with operational necessity.

The NTPA recommends that implementation guidance include practical examples illustrating:

- what constitutes "reasonable opportunity";
- examples of reasonable preventative measures;
- circumstances amounting to an imminent threat to public safety.

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Level 2, Suite 209 'Spirit on The Avenue' 12 Salonika Street, Parap NT 0820

GPO Box 2350, Darwin NT 0801 / ABN 36 709 591 145

www.ntpa.com.au

P +61 (0) 8 8995 9520

E correspondence@ntpa.com.au



Clear guidance will assist operational consistency while reducing the potential for unnecessary disputes.

General Restricted Areas

The Bill replaces Interim Alcohol Protected Areas with General Restricted Areas and introduces a more structured framework for future variation or revocation, including community consultation requirements and community alcohol plans.

NTPA Comment

The NTPA notes the proposed framework introduces greater transparency and clearer decision-making processes.

The requirement to consult the Commissioner of Police and relevant agencies recognises the operational expertise police contribute regarding alcohol-related harm.

The NTPA recommends that police intelligence regarding offending patterns, emergency call data and operational impacts continue to form an important component of any future decisions relating to:

- new General Restricted Areas;
- variations;
- revocations.

Operational policing data provides an evidence base that complements community consultation.

Community Alcohol Plans

The Bill introduces community alcohol plans as part of applications to vary or revoke General Restricted Areas.

NTPA Comment

The NTPA supports evidence-based planning involving police, health agencies and communities.



Where alcohol restrictions are proposed to be reduced, community alcohol plans should include measurable indicators including:

- anticipated policing impacts;
- emergency service demand;
- domestic violence trends;
- alcohol-related assaults;
- hospital presentations;
- mechanisms for ongoing review.

This would support objective evaluation of outcomes following implementation.

Implementation Considerations

The NTPA notes that legislative reform alone does not ensure improved community safety.

Successful implementation will depend upon:

- updated operational procedures;
- officer education;
- timely amendment of police policy;
- appropriate ICT system capability;
- effective communication with licensees and communities.

Where new powers are introduced, adequate training should be delivered prior to commencement.

Conclusion

The NTPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Liquor Amendment Bill 2026.

Overall, the Bill introduces several practical amendments that may improve operational effectiveness and administrative efficiency while strengthening responses to alcohol-related harm.



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Working together to protect our future

The NTPA's primary interest is ensuring that the legislation remains clear, enforceable and capable of supporting safe and consistent policing outcomes across the Northern Territory.

The NTPA encourages Government to continue engaging with Northern Territory Police Force and the NTPA during implementation to ensure operational experience informs future policy development, training and evaluation of the legislative reforms.

Yours Sincerely



Nathan Finn
CEO / President

NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE ASSOCIATION

Level 2, Suite 209 'Spirit on The Avenue' 12 Salonika Street, Parap NT 0820

GPO Box 2350, Darwin NT 0801 / **ABN** 36 709 591 145

www.ntpa.com.au

P +61 (0) 8 8995 9520

E correspondence@ntpa.com.au