

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Alcohol Policy:

**Lifting of Stronger Futures Alcohol Bans on Town Camps
and Remote Aboriginal Communities**

The Stronger Futures bans on Alcohol in Town Camps, Out-stations and Remote Aboriginal Communities throughout the Northern Territory was lifted on 16 July 2022.

1. Exactly what consultation had been undertaken to prepare Town Camps, Out-stations and Remote Communities for this significant change?
 2. Please provide details of the consultation process undertaken with all these communities, including details of exactly what organisations, leaders or groups of people you consulted with.
 3. Please provide a detailed account of the consultation process undertaken with the individual Alice Springs Town Camps effected by the changes.
 4. Please provide details of all consultations done with individual communities, town camps and out-stations effected by the change across the NT?
 5. Did the consultation process go beyond the letter from the NT Government advising the 400 Town Camps, Out-stations and Remote Aboriginal Communities of the changes and their choice to opt in to keeping the alcohol bans in place?
 6. The NT Government tender for the work to consultation was not let. Please provide details of:
 - What date(s) was this tender advertised by the NT Government
 - What date the tender applications closed for this tender
 - How many tender applications were received for this work
 - Why was there no successful tender identified
 - How much funding did the NT Government allocate to undertake these consultations
 7. If this work was not allocated by tender to an external provider, then who undertook this work?
 8. Was the consultation work advertised in the tender undertaken by anyone?
 9. Will there be extra Police provided to Town Camps, Out-stations and Remote Aboriginal Communities that decide to allow people to consume alcohol?
 10. Will there be extra Domestic and Family Violence Services provided to the effected Town Camps, Out-stations and Remote Aboriginal Communities that decide to allow people to consume alcohol?
-

ANSWERS:

1. There are 281 communities and town camps which are covered by pre-existing General Restricted Area (GRA) arrangements under the *Liquor Act 2019*. All of these reverted to previous alcohol restrictions from 17 July 2022.

There are 60 communities with populations of more than 20 people, which are not covered by GRAs. Consultations with these communities was the priority focus.

Engagements have occurred in each region with a list of communities provided at **Attachment A**.

A cross-agency effort has been applied, led by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) to identify impacted communities, town camps, outstations and community living areas and engage with community members directly, and through their community representatives and peak representative bodies (e.g. Land Councils, Traditional Owners, Elders, Community Service Providers etc).

Engagement processes have included face-to-face meetings, briefings, online meetings, phone calls, letters, fact sheets, website content. Methods have varied to suit the circumstances, preferences and stakeholder availability. Communications have ranged from small groups of a few key people to larger gatherings of people from multiple community groups and stakeholders.

Engagements undertaken and continuing include:

- Correspondence to registered land owners sent on 26 April 2022.
- Meetings held with stakeholders, including Aboriginal peak organisations and non-government organisations to share information and respond to any matters or concerns raised.
- Direct engagement with community members, primarily those that may be impacted by changed restrictions, but also those in GRAs to ensure understanding that restrictions on alcohol remain in their communities.
- Follow up offers of briefings made through a range of forums, to assist communities to fully consider their options.

Information, including changing requirements, community choices, fact sheets, maps, lists of communities and their alcohol restriction status, has been provided to Peak Aboriginal representative organisations, community members and service providers. More broadly, information is provided to the public via the regularly updated website: <https://nt.gov.au/law/alcohol/bans-and-dry-areas/changes-to-alcohol-restrictions-in-nt-communities>

2. Refer to answer to question 1.

In addition to the communities at Attachment A, entities engaged include:

- Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory
- AMSANT
- Northern Land Council
- Central Land Council
- Tiwi Land Council
- North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
- Congress
- Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Ingkerreke Outstations Resources Services
- Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation
- Central Desert Regional Council
- MacDonnell Regional Council
- Chamber of Commerce including Tourism Central Australia
- Alice Springs Town Council
- Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Elliott Police
- Barkly Regional Council
- Manungurra Corporation
- Burudu
- Gwalwa Daraniki Association
- Bagot Advisory Group (Administration) and Deed Administrator
- 15 Mile (Palmerston Indigenous Village)
- Knuckeyes Lagoon
- Railway Dam (One Mile Dam)
- Acacia Larrakia
- Registered land owners engaged through this process
- Incorporated associations under NT legislation
- Land trusts
- Corporations formed under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)*
- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation
- Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation
- Anindilyakwa Land Council

- Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation
- East Arnhem Regional Council
- Yalu Aboriginal Corporation
- National Indigenous Australian Agency
- AnglicareNT (East Arnhem office)
- ARDS Aboriginal Corporation (including running Yolŋu radio stories in language)
- GEBIE Aboriginal Corporation
- Mantiyupwi Directors
- Tiwi Islands Regional Council
- Wurrumiyanga Multi Agency Community and Child Safety Committee

Over 254 engagements, including meetings, discussions and briefings on the cessation of Stronger Futures legislation, have occurred so far across the Northern Territory, involving multiple NT Government agencies and providers. This engagement has been supplemented with many oral and written communications via phone calls, emails, letters and informal communications.

3. Consultation with Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation (TCAC) on behalf of the Alice Springs Town Camps commenced before the Northern Territory legislation was introduced and passed in March/May 2022. TCAC Board members include the Presidents of each of the Town Camp Housing Associations.
 - The former Chief Minister and the current Chief Minister have met with the Tangentyere Board and Local Decision Making sub-committee.
 - CM&C officers met with the TCAC Board prior to the legislation changing.
 - CM&C and Police met again with the TCAC Board on 3 August 2022. The Chief Executive Officer confirmed that TCAC intends to take a lead on alcohol harm minimisation in Town Camps.

Meeting held with Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Service Board to provide further information on changes to alcohol restrictions and reiterate the continued offer to meet and discuss with community members.

In addition, meetings have been held with community members and land owners, both printed and verbal information has been provided, as well as online information via the website. Information has been provided at Local Authority meetings and community meetings where opportunities have been available.

4. Refer to responses to questions 1, 2 and 3.
5. Yes.

6. The NT Government maintains an Across-Government Panel Contract for Professional Advisory Services which was established through a public tender process and covers a range of consultancy and advisory service settings. A request for quotation (RFQ) for a consultancy services work package was issued to engage the services of an experienced Consultant with expertise to develop a best practice approach for alcohol in remote and regional communities in the Northern Territory.

The RFQ was issued 3 May 2022 to four companies with no responses received. This procurement was estimated at \$60 000.

Consultants have been engaged to work with Bagot and Elliott/Barkly communities based on community preferences. These work packages were provided through Tier 1 procurements.

7. CM&C, supported by a range of key stakeholders, other NT Government agencies including the Departments of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, and Health, and representative bodies as referenced in responses to questions above.
8. Refer to responses to questions 6 and 7.
9. Policing resource distribution is an operational matter for the NT Police Force.
10. The NT Government has invested nearly \$160 million into tackling domestic, family and sexual violence. The NT Government also recently provided an additional \$5.7 million to assist community-based services in response to domestic, family and sexual violence across the Territory.

Region
Central Australia Region
16 Mile Camp
Akngwertnarre
Alice Springs
Amoonguna
Antere
Anthelk Ewlpaye
Anthepe
Aper Alwerrkngge
Atitjere
Atji Creek
Beer St Bore
Bloodwood Bore
Charlotte Waters
Engawala
Ewyenper Atwatye
Foxalls Well
Hoppys Camp
Ilperle-Tyathe
Inarlenge
Irklancha Atwacha
Irrerlirre
Itwiyethwenge
Kaltukatjara
Karnte
Kungkayunti
Larapinta Valley
Mount Nancy
Mpwetyerre
Mt Eaglebeak
New Ilparpa
Ngankiritja
Nturiya
Nyewente
Orrtipa-Thurra
Santa Teresa
Spotted Tiger
Utily
Yuelamu
Barkly Region
Burdu
Elliott North Town Camp
Elliott South Town Camp
Gleeson Creek Outstation

Attachment A

Jangirurlu (Jingaloo) Outstation
Kurntapurra
Lily Hole Outstation
Ngurrara
Powell Creek Outstation
Wogala
East Arnhem Region
Bayagida
Dhipirrinjura
Garanydjirr
Milingimbi
Mooronga
Big Rivers Region
Baghetti
Barunga
Beswick
Bulman
Crabhole
Fitzroy Station
Garawa 1
Garawa 2
Goolminyini
Jilkminggan
Jodetluk
Katherine
Kewulyi
Manangoora
Manyallaluk
Mara
Menngen
Miali Brumby
Minyerri
Mole Hill
Mount Catt
Mulggan
Munyalini
Muruning
Ngukurr
Numbulwar
Pine Creek Compound
Rittarangu
Sandridge
Snake Lagoon
Wallaces Lagoon
Walpiri
Wandangula

Attachment A

Weemol
Werenbun
Wurlbu
Yanyula
Top End Region
Alamirra
Amangal Indigenous Village
Araru Point
Belyuen
Buffalo Farm
Buni-Inwunbuluk
Cannon Hill
Emu Point
Fossil Head
Gumeragi
Gunbalanya
Hawk Dreaming
Hunters Camp
Irgul Point
Kapalga
Merrepen
Milikapiti
Naiiyu
Paradise Farm
Patonga (Airstrip)
Peppimenarti
Red Lily
Sandy Bay
Spring Peak
Wadeye
Wauk
Woodycupaldiya
Wooliana
Wurrumiyanga
Darwin, Palmerston And Litchfield Region
Acacia Larrakia
Bagot
Darwin
Humpty Doo
Knuckey Lagoon Indigenous Village
Kulaluk
Minmarama Park
Palmerston Indigenous Village
Railway Dam
Tree Point