

Dear Sirs

We have been the operators of Tennant Creek Hotel since 2005. Previously we held a liquor licence for the Three Ways Roadhouse from 1989-2003.

In that time we have seen multiple restrictions imposed on our businesses, most were voluntary. Our investment in the Tennant Creek region has been, and still is quite substantial.

We have been a substantial employer of local people in Tennant Creek over the years, and presently have 6 locals (3 of Aboriginal descent) employed at the Hotel.

There is a frustrating compliance area where we are subject to police discretion, that is not felt in larger jurisdictions. Any misdemeanour on our part will involve us having to spend many \$thousands defending our position in court, whereas a licensing inspector report for a breach would be heard by the licensing commission with very minimal cost.

It is important to ascertain will any studies be done on just how much the hospitality industry can absorb any perceived or possible fee/tax increases. We have been hit with several restrictions in the last few years and now with a pokie tax increase and possible license fees, does the government have any consideration for if an already struggling industry can handle anymore, or are they happy to see businesses close?

Further it is always one way traffic within the industry, we get imposed/requested restrictions/new laws time after time and never receive any incentives in return. For example licensees in Tennant Creek have done voluntary restrictions for over 3 years and never received any incentive from government to continue or expand them.

Current Restrictions;

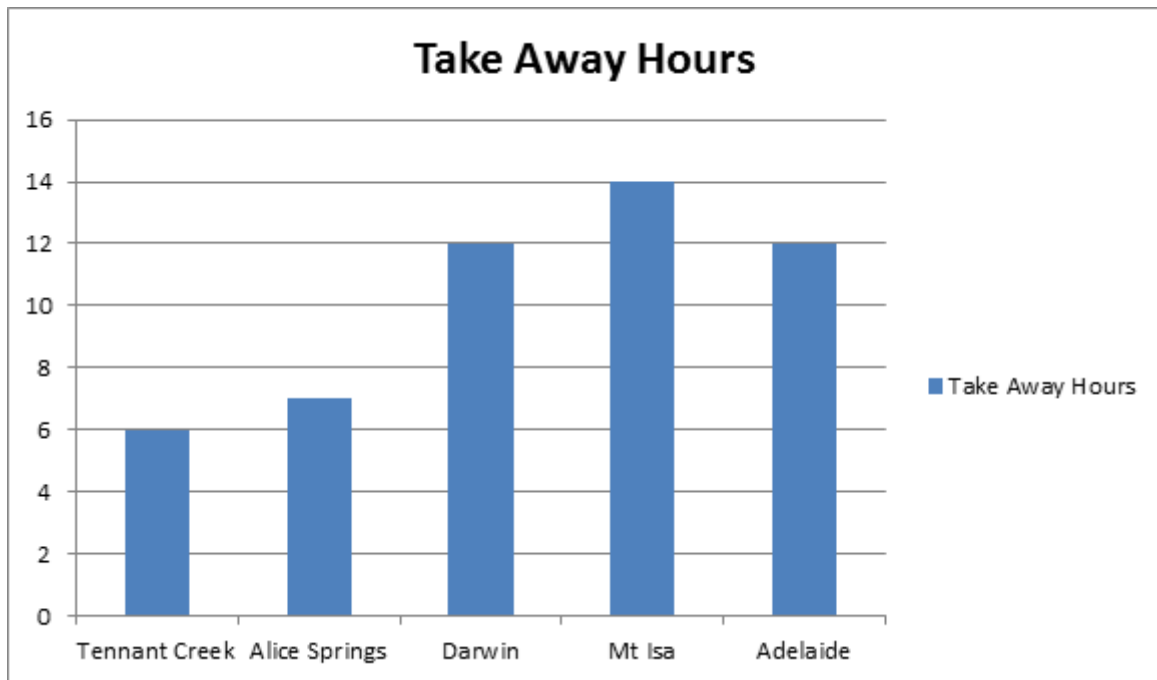
- TBLs
- Voluntary restrictions
- Short bottle shop hours 2pm-8pm Sun-Fri, 12pm-8pm Sat
- Restrictions on cask wine (must be below 2L), restricted to 4pm-6pm with ID
- Port or ginger wine cannot be purchased at anytime
- Long neck beer bottle cannot be purchased at anytime
- No advertising on external areas of the premises

Compare this to Mt Isa;

- Operating take-away hours 10am – Midnight (An extra 54hrs trading per week)
- No voluntary restrictions
- No restrictions on cask wine or beer (Cask wine sold in 5L cask)

Liquor Licence Fees; For what purpose? This will not assist in reducing consumption and will only add financial burden to an industry already struggling due to years of continued cut backs on our abilities to operate as a normal business.

Trading Hours: Trading hours are 2pm – 8pm Sunday to Friday and 12pm – 8pm on Saturday. A total of 44hrs per week. Also take into account that between 2pm – 3pm Sunday to Friday only mid-strength beer is available. A comparison below shows that Tennant Creek is already highly restricted in terms of takeaway hours;



Licensed Premises Density and Proliferation: Most venues are linked into BottleMart, Thirsty Camel, Bottle-o etc. Any commitments to restrictions on discounted items or advertising would need to take this into account. Also note that prior to TBLs all venues in Tennant Creek were independent and pricing was at minimum 30% higher on all items. Continued restrictions along with TBLs forced a more competitive market and venues sought advantages by lowering price.

Support Industry Codes Of Practice: We fully support industry code of practice, but would suggest that a customer code of practice should also be implemented.

Secondary Supply: Is almost completely ignored by any review or government organisation I have been involved in for the last 5 years. It is a continuing problem in Tennant Creek and contributes significantly to alcohol related crime in the town. For 5 years I have seen numerous restrictions come in relating to Licensed Venues, but have not seen one significant new police power to allow them to deal with secondary supply adequately. It seems all focus for secondary supply is on 'dry' communities and sufficient laws to combat it in regions such as Tennant Creek are ignored.

Liquor Pricing: Is this across all items? For example does it matter how much Light beer is discounted as opposed to wine.

Compliance: I have addressed this in detail in the past and made various complaints to different departments. At the present our relationship with Police/Licensing is good. However inconsistencies with TBLs is a continued issue, however with Sept 1 approaching this will most likely become a moot point.

Liquor Accords: Tennant Creek Liquor Accord continues to meet monthly. We have been one of the main driving forces behind the accord.

Impact of TBLs: TBLs continue to be inconsistent in terms of one officer may deny a patron, while another officer across the road at the next bottle-shop will approve them. Relocation of the issues continues as patrons from Tennant Creek will move to Darwin or Mt Isa.

“The mayor of Mount Isa, Tony McGrady says Territory Government alcohol grog restrictions at Tennant Creek are having the unwelcome effect of driving people across the border.”

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-01-31/tennant-creek-problem-drinkers-cause-problems-at-mt-isa/5231552?pfmredir=sm>

Permit System: Depends what you mean by a permit system? Most likely will not work unless all surrounding areas are involved, Ti-tree, Elliott, Threeways etc. However if the permits are too restrictive it will just send people to Alice Springs or Mt Isa and thus become another nail in the coffin of business.

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