



## CASUARINA ALL SPORTS CLUB

269 Trower Road, Casuarina NT 0810  
PO Box 41834, Casuarina NT 0811  
Phone: 08 8929 0600 Fax: 08 8945 1939  
Email: [manager@casclub.com.au](mailto:manager@casclub.com.au)

Wednesday, 28 June 2017

Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review  
C/- Department of Health  
PO Box 40596  
Casuarina NT 0811

Dear Review Panel,

Casuarina All Sports Club is the Northern Territory's largest licensed club, and one of the most entrenched community organisations in Darwin. The Club prides itself on its steep history of community engagement and responsible service of liquor and gaming services.

The Casuarina All Sports Club is a non-for-profit licensed club that distributes all its profits to its foundation clubs and wider community sporting groups and charity organisations. Our foundation clubs are;

- NT Cricket Association
- NT Eight Ball Association
- Darwin Basketball Association
- NT University Pirates Rugby Union Association

The Casuarina All Sports Club provides entertainment services such as, Dining, Bar, Gaming, Live entertainment, and drive thru Bottleshop to approx. 18,000 members. We employ approximately 57 hospitality workers at any one time. And in the past 7 years contributed more than \$2.7 million in cash and in-kind support to our local community in the form of sponsorship, community events and fundraising.

As General Manager of the Casuarina All Sports Club, I wish to support the ClubsNT and AHA (NT) submission. And make further comment to the following issues that pertain specifically;

### **1. Liquor license fees and taxes**

Casuarina All Sports Club strongly oppose any proposal for the introduction of any liquor license fee that will impose additional financial burden to an already strained industry. The combination of a small population base, diverse geographical challenges, higher operating costs, coupled with Australia's highest gaming taxation rates, puts us in a different category from other jurisdictions.

Further financial imposition will most certainly reduce funding away from community activities and support. Given the current economic down turn, the Casuarina All Sports Club are still burdened with operational overheads inflated from the Inpex boom. Rent still remains one of our major expenses and is an example of this. The unexpected increase in Gaming Tax has left us dismayed at governments lack of knowledge in the Hospitality industry. Recently the Fair Work Commission handed down its annual wage review with an increase of 3.3% as of 1<sup>st</sup> July, a further burden on top of lowering prices to maintain market share. And in addition to this, local government imposed higher wages costs with the introduction of Weekend Penalty rates over one of our busiest trading period - Christmas and New Year.



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The recent gaming tax increase is a major financial burden that has suddenly been forced upon the industry, and any further strain will significantly impact the club's ability to continue funding our sporting organisations.

### 2. Licensed Trading hours

We support ClubsNT and AHA (NT) with regard to maintaining the status quo for off-premise trading hours on Sunday. Any further relaxation in this regard will only increase availability and activities related to alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

### 3. Liquor license categories

We support ClubsNT request for more favourable conditions with regard to earlier trading hours with NO alcohol. This would also offer an opportunity for licensed clubs to be more involved in community club events and meetings. For example: if a local sporting club would like to hold a meeting/AGM prior to licensed trading hours, then this requires the approval of the Director-General. This imposition seems antiquated and un-necessary.

Annexure 1 - is a suggested Draft NT Liquor License Category Table for Licensed Clubs, to which we offer our support.

### 4. Responsible practice and RSA

At the Casclub we are committed to the responsible service of alcohol. For club staff that are on the 'coalface' everyday, empowering our staff with the knowledge and qualifications enforces a universal approach between venues and provides public awareness surrounding these issues.

### 5. Liquor Accords

As Chair of the Darwin Northern Suburbs Liquor Accord, we are focused on a collective approach to resolving our local issues with practical solutions, quickly and proportionately. We support the concept to mandate measures for all takeaway outlets through the adoption of a Code of Practice. We also recommend the NT Government provide financial assistance to those Liquor Accords for promotional material and public awareness campaigns.

It was also disappointing that the Darwin Northern Suburbs Liquor Accord did not receive the attention that was due by Licensing NT, given the submission took 4 months to approve.

### 6. Liquor pricing and advertising

We support actions to curb excessive discounting for both on-premise and takeaway. We believe this could be managed with respective Codes of Practices.

Our support would include the possible introduction of minimum pricing for takeaways that are managed by the venues and are enshrined in legislated. We would not support minimum pricing that is managed as a form of government taxation, which would ultimately see price distinctions between smaller and larger operators.



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### **7. Banned Drinkers Register (BDR)**

As General Manager of the Casuarina All Sports Club, I was invited by AHA (NT) to participate in a working group that allows industry and government to work collectively on the implementation of the BDR.

The Casclub remains concerned that the existing BDR system, is outdated. On the other-hand we congratulate government for making an effort to meet industry concerns with the implementation of the Drive-thru App, and request a continued focus on how this will impede venue and customer interactions, given the sheer volume of transactions that the club currently experiences, which is some 4,000 – 6,000 per month in our Bottleshop.

### **8. Density**

We feel that the industry is saturated with licensed premises, and we support empowering a liquor commission/panel with more robust guidelines based on density and community needs.

The proliferation of take-away liquor outlets in the NT is a burden on our community and subsequently a contributing factor to alcohol related anti-social behaviour. We support the NT Governments position on limiting the public floor area of takeaway outlets to 400sqm. And suggest an immediate reduction in the number of takeaway licenses.

### **9. Youth and patron education**

Youth and cultural education are an important aspect to engaging our members in responsible behaviour. There is no doubt that education prior to the legal age has benefits in the long term, and leading by example at the Casuarina All Sports Club has been an important initiative.

Just as importantly, cultural education around ethnic and indigenous groups plays an important role. We support further government education initiatives for youth and cultural education, and the continuation of such initiatives as the Sober Bob campaign. This can be further enhanced with financial support for Liquor Accords to help deliver the message that is relevant to our local community.

### **10. Discrimination**

Currently there is a lot of uncertainty around the rights of venues when dealing with the sale and supply of alcohol to members of the indigenous communities if there is a high likelihood of consuming the alcohol in and around public spaces. Further education is required as to what powers the licensee has with regard to refusing service without the fear of being persecuted for discrimination. Clear guidelines are required to provide support for licenses around refusal of service. Consultation with indigenous communities should be developed and if agree to restrict supply and sale of alcohol, this should then be supported by legislation without fear of persecution.

This issue will not be resolved by the BDR, and we must empower licensees to act in the best interest of these people without being persecuted under the Territory or Commonwealth racial discrimination legislation.



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I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Review Panel for consideration of the above issues.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Russell Reid', is written over a horizontal line.

Russell Reid  
General Manager



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### **ANNEXURE 1.**

Draft Class of Liquor license for Clubs.

#### **Club Licence**

Principal Purpose: A premises where the sale of liquor is available to members and bona fide guests of any incorporated club/s that participates in or promotes sport and recreational activity. Inclusive of visitors from interstate, overseas, residents who reside more than 15km from the club, and persons attending a function. The sale of liquor is for consumption on or off the premises.

#### **CLASS 1**

<b>Class 1 (A)</b>	<b>Class 1 (B)</b>
<p><u>Liquor Trading Hours:</u> 7 days a week - <b>10am to midnight</b></p> <p><u>Gaming Trading Hours</u> 7 days a week - <b>8am to midnight</b></p> <p>No Trading Good Friday and Christmas Day unless accompanying a substantial meal. There is the ability for licensees to advise the Director of Licensing for a 2 hour extension on the Eve Public Holiday's.</p> <p><u>Conditions:</u> Gaming is permitted <b>There is no facility for take-away alcohol</b> Members register and visitors sign in book must be kept and maintained.</p>	<p><u>Liquor Trading Hours:</u> 7 days a week - <b>10am to midnight</b></p> <p><u>Gaming Trading Hours</u> 7 days a week - <b>8am to midnight</b></p> <p>No Trading Good Friday and Christmas Day unless accompanying a substantial meal. There is the ability for licensees to advise the Director of Licensing for a 2 hour extension on the Eve Public Holiday's.</p> <p><u>Conditions:</u> Gaming is permitted <b>Take away alcohol is permitted</b> – trading hours for bottleshops is 10am to 10pm – Sunday to Friday and 9am to 10pm on Saturday &amp; Public Holidays (Excluding Good Friday &amp; Christmas Day). Alcohol purchases for consumption on a golf course are excluded from the BDR protocol. Members register and visitors sign in book must be kept and maintained.</p>



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### CLASS 2

Class 2 (A)	Class 2 (B)
<p><u>Liquor Trading Hours:</u> 7 days a week - <b>10am to 2am</b></p>	<p><u>Liquor Trading Hours:</u> 7 days a week - <b>10am to 2am</b></p>
<p><u>Gaming Trading Hours</u> 7 days a week - <b>8am to 2am</b></p>	<p><u>Gaming Trading Hours</u> 7 days a week - <b>8am to 2am</b></p>
<p>No Trading Good Friday and Christmas Day unless accompanying a substantial meal.          There is the ability for licensees to advise the Director of Licensing for a 2 hour extension on the Eve Public Holiday's.</p>	<p>No Trading Good Friday and Christmas Day unless accompanying a substantial meal.          There is the ability for licensees to advise the Director of Licensing for a 2 hour extension on the Eve Public Holiday's.</p>
<p><u>Conditions:</u>          Gaming is permitted  <b>There is no facility for take-away alcohol</b>          Members register and visitors sign in book must be kept and maintained.</p>	<p><u>Conditions:</u>          Gaming is permitted  <b>Take away alcohol is permitted</b> – trading hours for bottleshops is 10am to 10pm – Sunday to Friday and 9am to 10pm on Saturday &amp; Public Holidays (Excluding Good Friday &amp; Christmas Day).          Alcohol purchases for consumption on a golf course are excluded from the BDR protocol.          Members register and visitors sign in book must be kept and maintained.</p>





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### CLASS 3

Class 3 (A)	Class 3 (B)
<p><u>Liquor Trading Hours:</u> 7 days a week - <b>10am to 4am</b></p>	<p><u>Liquor Trading Hours:</u> 7 days a week - <b>10am to 4am</b></p>
<p><u>Gaming Trading Hours</u> 7 days a week - <b>8am to 4am</b></p>	<p><u>Gaming Trading Hours</u> 7 days a week - <b>8am to 4am</b></p>
<p>No Trading Good Friday and Christmas Day unless accompanying a substantial meal.</p>	<p>No Trading Good Friday and Christmas Day unless accompanying a substantial meal.</p>
<p>There is the ability for licensees to advise the Director of Licensing for a 2 hour extension on the Eve Public Holiday's .</p>	<p>There is the ability for licensees to advise the Director of Licensing for a 2 hour extension on the Eve Public Holiday's .</p>
<p><u>Conditions:</u> Gaming is permitted</p>	<p><u>Conditions:</u> Gaming is permitted</p>
<p><b>There is no facility for take-away alcohol</b> Members register and visitors sign in book must be kept and maintained.</p>	<p><b>Take away alcohol is permitted</b> – trading hours for bottleshops is 10am to 10pm – Sunday to Friday and 9am to 10pm on Saturday &amp; Public Holidays (Excluding Good Friday &amp; Christmas Day. Alcohol purchases for consumption on a golf course are excluded from the BDR protocol. Members register and visitors sign in book must be kept and maintained.</p>

### Limited Club Licence

Principal Purpose: A premises where the sale of liquor is available to members and bona fide guests of an incorporated clubs that participates in or promotes sport and recreational activity. The sale of liquor is for consumption on or at the licensed premises.

Trading Hours: 7 days a week 10am to midnight – with a maximum of 10 hours trading per week.

Conditions: No gaming

There is no facility for take-away alcohol

Members' register and visitors sign in book must be kept and maintained.