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This submission is made by Monsoons Party Bar on Mitchell Street Darwin.

We have had the opportunity to peruse the AHANT submission and support their submission.

We make the further comments:

1. Liquor Accord Measures

We support measures to regulate our Darwin late night entertainment precinct. Where an accord is wanting to introduce reasonable special restrictive trade measures we generally support this. However, actual or proposed measures will only work if all licensees have to comply with them. The lack of a uniform willingness amongst all licensees is the reason the Darwin Accord measures have failed and are not implemented by all venues.

We have found it frustrating that NT Licensing have not actioned requests by the NT Police, the AHANT and late night traders to introduce a specific code for the Darwin CBD. There needs to be a better process put in place so where such stakeholders agree to such a code that it can be swiftly introduced. It is almost as if Licensing NT want the late night traders to continue to trade without responsible codes and that they really don't want anything to do with promotional codes. Given we now have more traders for less patrons there has been some urgency and still is for this to be actioned. It might be better for a Liquor Advisory Group to be recommending changes to the Minister rather than letting these important measures remain stagnant in Licensing NT.

2. Risk based licensing

Over the years Darwin patrons have voted with their feet to make us the most popular venue in Darwin. Whilst we oppose liquor fees it would be concerning if they were introduced that popular venues will be stung just because more people want to go here.

Apart from the goods and services tax we collect we also pay a huge cost for music licensing, entertainment costs, security and wages generally. We are a leasehold business and don't have the benefit of accruing any capital value growth as other CBD businesses might. Having just invested heavily following an invitation by government to invest in expanding our gaming offering we are about to be slugged tax increases which will undermine our projected return on investment (the

very reason we bought the entitlements in the first place). We are expecting tough trading times in Darwin for the next few years and we are expecting trading pressure on all venues. One of the worst decisions impacting the tourism industry was the introduction of high backpacker taxes by the federal Government last year. Our drop off in backpacker numbers in 2017 can be attributed to this negative taxation grab by the federal government. Whilst they reduced the proposed taxation rate the impact has still been devastating

3. Patron Safety

Over the years we believe things have improved in the late night precinct. We know that incidents are down but we are troubled that the increase in the severity of violence has increased. We acknowledge that the illegal drug industry competes heavily with our industry and obviously does nothing to regulate the behaviour of its users. Not only have our security been faced with violent drugged offenders trying to get in we have also been called to intervene and assist the NT Police during such violent street acts. More needs to be done to keep our streets safer as the drug culture is not going away. We need to work on better strategies to keep these thugs away from Entertainment precincts so that they cannot even approach licensed venues. At the moment we cop the blame for all the violence in the streets. We are certainly keen to work on areas around issues related to licensed premises but the NT Government and City of Darwin need to take more responsibility for those persons causing havoc who are not our patrons. This is something that can be further advanced at accord meetings where workable solutions could be sorted out.

4. Entertainment

Our business is all about entertainment and ensuring patrons have a good time so they return to Monsoons again. We market ourselves to locals, backpackers, tourists and conference delegates and music is a key part of our business model. If all we did was sold liquor we would not be as popular. We also want our staff to enjoy their experience working with us. Hospitality is a great career, whether it be short term or long term and it is a rewarding service industry. Customer satisfaction is paramount so we do take our liquor responsibilities seriously. We are here for the long haul and want to have a sustainable business model. All these objectives are consistent with ensuring we have a safe entertainment venue in a safe entertainment precinct.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Binns

Venue Manager



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