

Northern Territory

Alcohol Policies

And Legislation

Review

Submission from Daly Waters Historic Pub

BEST WAYSIDE INN 2017

The Current situation and Licence. 26th July 2017

THE PUB

The Daly Waters Pub, is recognised as a Northern Territory Icon for both Australian and International tourists alike. Our excellence as a tourist destination within the Northern Territory has been rewarded with nine out of the last thirteen years with wins in the AHA NT awards as Best Wayside Inn, three Brolgas in the category of Restaurant and Catering and numerous other National awards. Investment in the business has been in excess of one million dollars in the past 15 years. Of our patrons, 99% of which are travelling tourists who call at the PUB to have a meal, beverage, overnight in the caravan park/accommodation and enjoy our famous BEEF & BARRA and the dry season entertainment.

These people travel in all types of road vehicles from cars, caravans, coaches, campervans, motor bikes and some even arrive by private plane. The PUB employs 10 to 11 people who live on premises for the full 12 months with another 8 to 10 during the peak tourist season between March and October who are also housed on premises. Yes, the season is lengthening.

Days and Hours of Trade.

Bar trading hours are currently 7.00am to 11.00pm, with the Wayside Inn option of 11.00pm to 7.00am. This portion of the licence is never used to its full capacity, and most nights the PUB is closed by 11.00pm.

Takeaway hours are 10.00am to 10.00pm, with Saturdays being 9.00am to 10.00pm. On calculations over the past 12 months sales history of which we keep a close eye on for our own records show our total takeaway sales equal to 3.08% of our total sales.

We are not affected by the days of the week syndrome and some weeks the Friday and Saturday trade will be half of a Monday, Tuesday trade. We have no "most popular day for drinking". Our regular local population of locals can still be counted on one hand. We do not sell cask wine, fortified wine or containers larger than 1.125ltrs. All beers and spirits are offered for takeaway sales, but remain restricted to 1 carton per car and spirits are also restricted to 1 bottle per car. Once again, we do not have "a most popular day for purchasing takeaways" We embraced the BDR in its earliest form and in our time using this piece of equipment registered nil results for the scanning. RSA is used with almost all employees even when not involved in the service of alcohol, and is now a pre-requisite of employment. We do on numerous occasions have large numbers of visiting international tourists by coach who arrive at the PUB for brunch and early lunch from 8.30am some days.

Our aim is to provide regulated sales of on premises alcohol, food, beverages and accommodation in a relaxing, friendly and safe environment with take away being a secondary minimum market for supply. Our takeaway sales are carried out over the counter and we do not have a bottle shop style selling area. We also have no discount liquor price advertised nor offered and no display areas. A

range of lower alcohol beer 1.9% to 3.8% is promoted via a price variance as opposed to heavy beer for consumption on premise, this price variation is also reflected in take away prices and we find a greater trend toward the lower priced lower alcohol products. Food continues to be our largest growth category rising by 10% to 12% continuously per annum over the last 4 years. These facts and figures show the trends in trading and also should be used in consideration to any suggested licence changes. We have no close communities and since our self-imposed restrictions on takeaway, visits by travelling Indigenous has decreased.

Alcohol and Legislation Review pertaining to Daly Waters Pub

There is no doubt a need from time to time to revisit these areas, as change in habits, population, travel types and the public expectations influence the styles and needs of licences and their conditions. We consider our business to be strictly tourism and road travel based.

Licence Fees:

Introduction of any Licence Fee to our business is seen as money grab by the NT Government. It will gouge into development dollars from what profit the business is able to secure. It will increase the Red Tape we all so love to create. More time will be needed to police the extra regulations and reporting on these, another added cost.

An introduced licence fee along with the 3.3% wage increase looming, possibility of increases in superannuation, price increases from liquor & food supplies due in the next 2 months and the ever-increasing cost of utilities will probably see the demise of some smaller traders. So, from us a NO to any licence fee.

Minimum pricing/excessively cheap alcohol.

We have margins that need to be maintained to keep the business viable and be able to offer the service and met expectations of the customers. Cheap alcohol is most definitely not the way to go, not only does it ruin our margin it will increase the affordability of large quantities of alcohol. While we do not recommend the setting of "minimum price", sense should prevail on all discounting of alcohol.

Takeaway Regulations

Current regulations maintain our total sales of takeaway to 3% of total trade and the reintroduction of the BDR are sufficient to manage takeaway in our establishment. Restrictions applied to one area, see a move of problem drinkers to other areas where the problem drinker emerges in an otherwise problem free zone. Examples have been seen in historic Tennant Creek restrictions with Thirsty Thursday moving problem drinkers to Alice Springs or Katherine during its heyday. No doubt certain outlets and towns require some type of regulation/accord, but there appears to be ample powers with concerned stakeholders being included in the decision-making process.

New Takeaway outlets

While a moratorium restricts growth, development and increased employment, sensible evaluation, siting, needs, location, size and density of population etc. still appears to be a more reasonable approach for additional or new takeaway licences.

Remote area liquor restrictions.

Not having a lot to do with these areas personally, but having read extensively on the matter, there is a great move toward self-regulation in these GRA regions with permits, the use of a register system in some, the re-introduction of the BDR and with some areas being alcohol free, All, of this has been achieved with consultation between parties with a vested interest.

Best practice for Liquor Accords.

All accords should be aimed at the overall fix of problems where the problems exist and not be a blanket accord from somewhere else. Accords put into place will need to reflect the true problems associated with the area and region and also take into account the reaction to nearby areas and regions.

Liquor Licence Categories and Licence Conditions.

As stated in the Issues paper prepared for the review, there are currently plenty of categories and plenty of licence variations, even in the same category there are licence variations that do not reflect the category. We seem to refer to Mitchell Street and Waterfront in Darwin as the CBD. While hotels in towns such as Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek as regional and the rest fall into others. Reasonable suggestion would be to set the location geographically, set the core business as it stands, e.g. Hotel, Motel, stand-alone Restaurant, Wayside Inn, Bottle Shop etc, (review this as a bi-annual test) issue the appropriate licence category and then add all its accords, amendments, and controls as applicable to each licence. There should always be fairness in restricting trade and offers by licensees to change trading terms be given serious consideration.

TBL & BDR.

Temporary Beat Locations, seemed to have some positive effect at the beginning of the program but tended to lose impact after a few months as problem drinkers became wary of these efforts and used other methods to obtain alcohol. While the BDR older system was time consuming it did allow direct interaction with a suspected banned drinker and staff at the point of sale.

Licensing.

Licensing Inspectors and Police have the powers by law to impose penalties and issue warnings and infringement notices and also act on complaints received. It nearly always appears that licensees are guilty until proven innocent. Every licensee has the desire to run their business in accordance with the licence and are at the coal face and have firsthand knowledge and experience with their patrons.

Summary.

We feel the present prevailing regulations, fees, reporting and controls along with the reintroduction of the BDR more than suitable to control the licensing at the Daly Waters Pub.

Yours Sincerely



Lindsay Carmichael

Owner/ Manager Daly Waters Pub

