



Sent via email: AlcoholReview@nt.gov.au

To the Review Panel

My name is Michael Marshall and I am the nominee for Wisdom Bar and Cafe, located 48 Mitchell St, which has a 'tavern' licence.

The owners of Wisdom are a local Darwin family, the McCourts. Wisdom first opened 2006 and has always been a popular spot for locals, as well as tourists. We have a laid back pub that has a great alfresco dining area and pride ourselves on the extensive menu we offer our customers. Recently Wisdom has undergone some renovations and we have more planned for our venue to ensure its continued success.

We do get concerned that Government will introduce more taxes without any consultation and consideration for current operating conditions, as was the case with the substantial increase in gaming tax. We do not support any further taxes, fees or levies being placed on our business, so do not support annual licence fees or risk based-licensing fees.

So many local businesses rely on the successful of our business, as well as all our staff. We currently employ 33 people. Given Wisdom's location in the heart of Darwin's entertainment precinct - we would like to see more support and consideration by all levels of Government on making the city a vibrant and safe destination for all.

I know there has been a lot of talk recently about this, but for many years, there does not seem to be planning from a licensing, government or council perspective on what an 'entertainment' precinct should look like. It seems to have been a case that any liquor licence application or variation by any operator has been granted, this has impacted severely affected established licences. While I'm not advocating for the reestablishment of the Licensing Commission, I do think that there needs to be more consideration for the proper planning of entertainment precincts in terms of the density of licences premises in the same area.

Wisdom supports industry codes of practices, specific to entertainment precincts and we have been an active participant in Darwin CBD accords. Given accords are voluntarily, we think mandatory industry codes of practice play an important role in ensuring a consistent and fair playing field for all licensees. We support the status quo on trading hours and would like to see more transparency in license categories and licensing decisions.

Wisdom is an active participant in all meetings with Licensing and Police and support the work of both of these authorities.

We more than anyone want to see a safe and vibrant city in order to promote more people to enjoy what the city has to offer. Thank you.


Michael Marshall