

3 July 2017

Please quote: 3562620 AM:kl

Chair Mr Trevor Reilly  
Review of the NT Alcohol Policies and Legislation

Via - alcohol.review@nt.gov.au

Dear Mr Reilly

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Northern Territory Government's review of NT Alcohol Policies and Legislation.

As the level of government most closely aligned with community aspiration, Council considers the impact of alcohol harm on community wellbeing and amenity to be an area of great concern requiring substantive change. There is a wealth of evidence indicating legislative and policy amendment is required to realise a safer community for all.

Council's submission (**Attachment A**), is informed by extensive work in the area of community safety and wellbeing since 2014 that evolved out of growing concern for the adverse impacts alcohol harms have on community life. Council has endorsed a community informed plan entitled Safer Vibrant Darwin 2016-2019 to guide its efforts over the next few years to foster a safer community where alcohol and public intoxication is less featured as social harm. A copy of the Plan is attached (**Attachment B**).

Council particularly assert concern for the following areas:

- Change to Licensing with an emphasis on the growing number of requests to extend service hours across 365 days per year including Good Friday and Christmas Day and trading hours beyond 2am. Council does not support trading beyond 2am.
- The large number and density of packaged liquor outlets is of great concern across the municipality coupled with the myriad of social order issues occurring in public spaces and places. Council receives daily reports of complaint in this regard of compromised amenity and public intoxication impacts.

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- The need for improvements to sobering up care facilities must be considered urgently to operate 24/7 or at minimum to mirror alcohol availability across the municipality. Shelter facilities, temporary accommodation and safe shelter facilities must also be culturally sensitive and functional.
- The negative impact that Commonwealth legislation has on the municipality. The operation of point of sale controls in various forms across the Northern Territory, with the exception of Darwin continues to have an adverse impact as displacement of vulnerable population groups occurs. Consideration of an alternative approach is required.

Please find attached Council's submission.

Yours sincerely



**KATRINA FONG LIM**  
**LORD MAYOR**

Attached