

Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

Decision Notice

MATTER: Application for a variation of liquor licence conditions

APPLICANT: Southern Districts Football Club Incorporated

PREMISES: Norbuilt Oval
Freds Pass Reserve
20A Bees Creek Road
FREDS PASS NT 0822

LEGISLATION: Part 5 Division 5 of the *Liquor Act 2019*

Decision of: Southern Region Manager - Licensing & Compliance

DATE: 25 May 2026

DECISION

- For the reasons set out below and in accordance with section 112(2) of the *Liquor Act 2019* (the Act), as a delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing (the Director), I have determined to grant the variation of liquor licence to the Southern Districts Football Club Incorporated (the Applicant) for the sale of liquor between updated hours of:

	Start		End	Hours	Minutes
Sunday	12:00PM	to	4:30PM	4	30
Monday	5:00PM	to	7:00PM	2	
Tuesday	5:00PM	to	8:30PM	3	30
Wednesday	5:00PM	to	9:30PM	4	30
Thursday	5:00PM	to	9:30PM	4	30
Friday	5:00PM	to	7:00PM	2	
Saturday	12:00PM	to	11:30PM	11	30
				2	
			Total Hours	32	30

- Removal of the condition limiting trade to a maximum of 30 hours per week.
- No other changes are made to the licence or authority.

BACKGROUND

4. Southern Districts Football Club Incorporated AFL Masters teams require additional trading hours on Wednesdays during the Dry season and applied for approval of a special event for a period of 19 weeks. The purpose of the application was to extend trading hours by 2.5 hours on the specified day.
5. In considering the application, it was noted that the outcome sought by the applicant could be more appropriately addressed by way of a variation to the existing licence conditions, rather than through the granting of a special event approval for an extended period.
6. The application for a special event for a period of 19 weeks is not supported in its current form.
7. It is recommended that the licence instead be varied to:
 - a. remove the existing condition limiting trading to a maximum of 30 hours per week; and
 - b. retain the current licensed trading times; and
 - c. increase the licensed trading hours on the specified day, Wednesday by 2.5 hours.

This approach more appropriately reflects the nature and duration of the change sought and ensures the licence conditions accurately authorise the proposed trading arrangements.

8. The licensed premises are the Norbuilt Oval, Fred's Pass Reserve, with no immediate surrounding residential dwellings. Given that the request is to extend the licence by 2 hours and 30 minutes on 1 day per week for a social drink after a recreational activity, it does not pose a risk of undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to people who reside or work in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises.
9. The matter, having been lodged and processed in accordance with the provisions of the Act, was referred to the delegate of the Director in the usual manner on 20 May 2026.
10. For completeness, the discretion was exercised to exempt this matter from the public notice requirements pursuant to section 57(2A) of the Act.
11. On 4 July 2025, the Commission delegated additional matters to the Director for determination, and this application falls within the matters which may now be dealt with under those delegations.
12. Accordingly, this matter may be determined under delegation.

NOTIFICATIONS, PUBLIC NOTICES AND OBJECTIONS

13. The licensee was not required to publish notice of the application given the nature of the matter and the isolated location of the premises.
14. Notification of the application was provided to those prescribed in section 111(3) of the Act, with no adverse comments having been received from any party.

COMPLIANCE

15. There is no history of non-compliance with the liquor licence conditions.

APPLICATION

16. The application included the materials prescribed by the Act including suitable supporting materials.
17. The application is minimal in nature, being an increase of 2 hours 30 minutes to the overall licence.
18. The applicant applied for approval of a special event for a period of 19 weeks, seeking an extension of trading hours by 2.5 hours on the specified day.
19. It is recommended that, rather than approving a special event authority for the 19-week period, the licence be varied to remove the condition limiting trading to a maximum of 30 hours per week. The current licensed trading hours would otherwise remain unchanged, except for the specified day, Wednesday, which would be extended by 2.5 hours.
20. There were no other proposed changes to the conditions of the licence.
21. It is also of note that this will still have the licensee trading below the maximum hours prescribed in regulation 45 of the *Liquor Regulations 2019*.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

22. Section 58 of the Act enables the Director to investigate an application as considered appropriate. No materials have been discovered or provided to indicate there are any adverse matters in relation to this application.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

23. I am satisfied with the materials provided regarding the financial stability and business reputation of the Applicant.

FIT AND PROPER PERSON

24. Section 59(3)(g)(i) of the Act requires the decision-maker to consider whether the applicant and, as the applicant is a body corporate, its nominated licensees are fit and proper to hold a licence.
25. The Applicant has nominated Ms Joanne Kathleen Burgess and Mr Shane Andrew Coleman as nominees.
26. The Applicant has provided sufficient materials to demonstrate that they are suitable and meet the requirements in relation to financial stability.
27. Having considered the materials provided, I am satisfied that the Applicant, Ms Joanne Kathleen Burgess and Mr Shane Andrew Coleman remain fit and proper persons to hold a licence and act as nominees.

PUBLIC INTEREST AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

28. In accordance with section 112 of the Act, I have considered the public interest and community impact requirements and am comfortably satisfied that the removal of the condition will not be against public interest and is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the community.
29. Section 3(4) of the Act requires a person exercising a power under this Act to have regard to both the primary and secondary purposes of the Act.

30. As required by that section this decision has been made in a manner consistent with those purposes

CONSIDERATION CRITERIA

31. In accordance with section 112 of the Act, I have considered:

- (a) The applicant's affidavits required by section 54;
- (b) The results of an investigation into the applications conducted by Licensing NT personnel;
- (c) In the absence of objections, the responses of the stakeholders to which notification was provided;
- (d) The suitability of the area; and
- (e) The financial stability and general reputation and character of the applicant and their nominees, being Ms Joanne Kathleen Burgess and Mr Shane Andrew Coleman

32. In accordance with section 112 (1)(d) of the Act, I have also considered whether issuing the variation to the Applicant is in the public interest, and whether the granting of the variation will have a significant adverse impact on the community.

33. There has been no opposition to this application and no adverse comments, nor any compliance issues with this licensee.

REVIEW OF DECISION

34. Section 27 of the Act provides any decision of a delegate of the Director is reviewable by the Director with subsection (1) prescribing the persons who may apply for a review of the decision.

35. An application for a review of a decision must be made to the Director within 28 days after written notice of the decision is given to the person, in the form approved by the Director stating the grounds on which it is made and the facts relied on to establish the grounds.

36. The persons who may seek a review of this matter, with reference to section 27(1) of the Act, the Licensee, NT Police, Department of Health, Litchfield Shire Council.

Mark Wood

Southern Region Manager – Licensing & Compliance

Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

25 May 2026