

# Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

## Decision Notice

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<b>MATTER:</b>	Application for a material alteration to licensed premises and variation of conditions of the licence
<b>LICENSEE:</b>	Humpty Doo Bowls Club Incorporated
<b>PREMISES:</b>	Humpty Doo Bowls Club Humpty Doo Recreation Reserve 85 Challoner Circuit HUMPTY DOO NT 0836
<b>LICENCE NUMBER</b>	FLL1329
<b>LEGISLATION:</b>	Part 4 Division 2 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i>
<b>DECISION OF:</b>	Southern Region Manager Liquor – Licensing & Compliance
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	10 February 2026

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### DECISION

1. For the reasons outlined below in accordance with section 97 and section 112 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (the Act), and with reference to the delegations provided by the Northern Territory Liquor Commission (the Commission) dated 4 July 2025, as a delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing (the Director) I approve the application by the Humpty Doo Bowls Club Incorporated for the material alterations to the premises, being an expansion of the approved licensed area and a variation of the hours of trade respectively in the manner below:
  - a. The hours of trade, with reference to regulation 45 of the *Liquor Regulations 2019*, are varied to the following:
    - Seven days a week from 10:00 to 23:00 hours
    - No trading on Good Friday and Christmas Day.
  - b. The approved licensed area is increased as described in Annexure 1 of this notice.
  - c. The licensee must ensure food is available for purchase at all times when liquor is being sold.

### REASONS

#### BACKGROUND

2. On 17 December 2025, an application was lodged by the licensee for an expansion of the approved licensed area and also a variation to the hours of trade.
3. The application was for material alterations to the premises pursuant to section 95(1)(a) of the Act being a significant increase in the area of the premises used for the sale, supply, service or consumption of liquor.

4. The hours of trade were limited to 30 hours per week in aggregate with no trade provided for on a Tuesday or Thursday.
5. The licence was originally issued as a special licence under the *Liquor Act 1978* and referred to colloquially as a continuing special licence, which was used to provide a vehicle for small community groups and clubs to operate for limited hours per week.
6. The special licence was subsequently converted on a like for like basis when the *Liquor Act 2019* was introduced.
7. On 4 July 2025 the Liquor Commission conditionally delegated a number of matters to the Director for determination, these applications fall within those delegations and limitations allowing for them to be determined by the Director or her delegate.

#### APPLICATION

8. The application included the materials prescribed by the Act.
9. There were no proposed changes to the conditions of the licence other than the additional hours and the application was simple in nature and uncontroversial.

#### PUBLICATION & CONSULTATION

10. The nature of the matters and operation of the premises supported the position to exempt the licensee from the public notice requirements, with a delegate exercising their discretion pursuant to section 57(2A) of the Act.
11. Notification of the application was provided to those prescribed in subsections 96(6) and 96(6A) of the Act, with no adverse comments having been received from any party.
12. Whilst not providing any adverse comments, the Department of Health did recommend the licensee ensure food was available for purchase during the hours of operation.
13. The licensee confirmed although the content may vary, there is always food available during their hours of operation. The example given is bacon and egg sandwiches on a Sunday morning, BBQ's and also simple bar snacks and finger food being available.

#### ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

14. The existing licensed area that had been approved and under which this licence has operated only included the clubhouse, not the bowling green.
15. It is an accepted tradition in lawn bowls that players consume drinks whilst playing and therefore they have likely been inadvertently operating outside of their licence all along. It would be a nonsense to suggest that players have not taken their drinks onto the bowls rink to date.
16. The additional area will correct this error and provide the licensee with the ability to hold family events and the like in the other areas of the premises.

17. It is noted the proposed area does include the carpark of the premises, for obvious reasons this is unlikely to be used however is included for the potential to be used for any special event the licensee may wish to use it for. Again, this is on the basis of flexibility and not every day unfettered use.
18. It is on this basis that the proposed expansion of the licensed area falls within the definition of a material alteration<sup>1</sup>.
19. The licensee is a voluntary organisation that does not operate, nor intends to operate, each day like a traditional golf club or other commercial licensee, they simply want flexibility to operate when they wish, noting the minimal nature of the operation and the natural resource constraints placed on a small voluntary organisation.
20. The licensee also confirmed there is food available at all times.
21. There has been no opposition to this application and no adverse comments, nor any compliance issues with this licensee.
22. The limited nature of the operation and also the conditions on the licence provide comfort that these changes will not result in any adverse outcomes or harm to the community.

#### **Public interest and community impact requirements**

23. In accordance with section 97 of the Act, I have considered the public interest and community impact requirements and am comfortably satisfied that the alteration and variation to hours will be in the public interest, and that it is unlikely it will have any adverse impact on the community.
24. The changes provide greater flexibility to the small community club and its members.
25. 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, with the primary purpose focussing on harm minimisation.
26. As required by that section this decision has been made in a manner consistent with those purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> *Liquor Act 2019*, s95 (1)(a).

## REVIEW OF DECISION

27. Section 27(1) of the Act provides for those persons prescribed to seek a review of a delegate's decision by the Director.
28. 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 approved form stating the grounds on which it is made, and the facts relied on to establish the grounds.



**Mark Wood**  
Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing  
10 February 2026

## ANNEXURE 1

