

Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

Decision Notice

MATTER:	Application for the grant of a licence with restaurant and catering authority
APPLICANT:	Larrakia Cultural Centre Limited
PREMISES:	Larrakia Cultural Centre 29 Stokes Hill Road DARWIN NT 0800
LEGISLATION:	<i>Liquor Act 2019</i> – Part 3 and 4
DECISION OF:	Southern Region Manager – Licensing and Compliance
DATE OF DECISION:	6 August 2026

DECISION

1. As a delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing (the Director), I approve the application submitted by Larrakia Cultural Centre Limited (Larrakia) for the grant of a liquor licence with a restaurant authority and a catering authority, for the premises under construction and to be known as the Larrakia Cultural Centre, located at 29 Stokes Hill Road, DARWIN NT 0800.
2. The licence is granted in accordance with the delegations issued by the Northern Territory Liquor Commission on 4 July 2025 and pursuant of section 60(1)(a) of the *Liquor Act 2019* (the Act), with reference to section 47(1)(b) of the Act, being a restaurant authority and section 47(1)(m) of the Act, being a catering authority.
3. The operating conditions in relation to the restaurant authority are in accordance with Part 4, Division 15 and to the catering authority are in accordance with Part 4, Division 5 of the *Liquor Regulations 2019* (the Regulations).

BACKGROUND

4. Pursuant to section 52 of the Act, the Larrakia Cultural Centre Limited lodged an application for a licence for a restaurant authority and a catering authority on 11 June 2026.
5. The proposed premises is under construction and to be known as the Larrakia Cultural Centre with a business goal to establish itself as a leading Aboriginal cultural tourism attraction in the Northern Territory focusing on balancing cultural integrity with commercial viability.

6. The business will operate through multiple areas including exhibition and gallery, retail store, kiosk, venue hire facilities, makers workshops and restaurant area.
7. The proposed trading hours of the licence are from 10:00 hours to 22:00 hours, 7 days a week.
8. The Applicant has provided the material prescribed in section 52 of the Act including:
 - a. an affidavit made under section 54;
 - b. evidence necessary to satisfy the onus specified in section 51; and
 - c. the application fee.

NOTIFICATION, PUBLIC NOTICES AND OBJECTIONS

9. Changes to the Act, commencing on 22 June 2026, classify this application as a low-risk application under section 52A of the Act.
10. As a low-risk application, and having regard to the nature of the application, the application was not required to be advertised by public notice.
11. Accordingly, no public notices were required for this matter.
12. In pursuance of section 56(4) of the Act, the application was notified to the Commissioner of Police (Police), the Chief Executive Officers of the Department of Health (DoH), Darwin Waterfront Corporation (DWC).
13. Although not a statutory requirement, as is practice, notification of the application was sent to the Liquor Compliance (Compliance) and Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS).
14. Police advised they had no objections to the application.
15. No response has been received from any other stakeholders regarding the application.

APPLICATION

16. The Applicant has provided a comprehensive suite of materials in support of the application including all materials prescribed by the Act.
17. The authority sought by the Applicant is in pursuance of section 47(1)(b) and 47(1)(m) of the Act.
18. The determination of applications under section 60(1) of the Act has been conditionally delegated by the Liquor Commission to the Director of Liquor Licensing. The limitation, including the authorities which may be granted under delegation being a restaurant and catering authority.

19. The Director further delegated these powers to me by instrument.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONS

20. Section 54 of the Act requires the Applicant to make an affidavit disclosing each person who, if the licence is issued, may

- (a) be able to influence the applicant; or
- (b) expect a direct or indirect benefit from the Applicant.

21. I am satisfied with the materials provided by the Applicant in relation to this requirement.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

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

23. A fulsome Business Plan was provided detailing the nature of the business.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

24. I am satisfied with the materials provided for the financial stability and business reputation of the applicant.

FIT AND PROPER

25. Section 59(3)(g)(i) of the Act requires the decision maker to consider whether the Applicant, including the nominee designated by the Applicant, is a fit and proper to hold a licence.

26. Current circumstances do not reasonably allow for an examination of the suitability of the directors of the company. This is not an uncommon situation for organisations of this nature, making probity examinations of the individuals problematic and impractical. It is also noted they will not be involved in the daily operations of the premises.

27. Accordingly, in the absence of probity for the directors, an Enforceable Undertaking has been proposed by Larrakia for the Director's consideration. This undertaking is in line with similar ones where directors are stopped from any involvement with the daily operations or management of the licence.

28. All supporting documents are provided in support of Mr Valentin Corchado and he is to be the licensee's nominee in pursuance of section 53(3) of the Act.

29. Having considered the materials provided, I am satisfied with the applicant, Larrakia Cultural Centre Limited and nominee, Mr Corchado, are fit and proper to hold a licence.

PUBLIC INTEREST AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

30. Section 49 of the Act requires the decision maker to be satisfied if the applicant is fit and proper, the licence or authority is in the public interest and will not have a significant adverse impact on the community.
31. The first branch of the requirement has already been addressed.
32. It remains to consider whether the application is in public interest, to do so consideration must be given to the objectives prescribed in section 49(2) of the Act which include:
- a. Minimising the harm or ill health caused to people, or a group of people, by the consumption of liquor;
 - b. Ensuring liquor is to be sold, supplied, served and consumed on or in licensed premises in a responsible manner;
 - c. Safeguarding public order and safety, particularly when large numbers of people would be attracted to licensed premises or an area adjacent to those premises;
 - d. Protecting the safety, health and welfare of people who use licensed premises;
 - e. Increasing cultural, recreational, employment or tourism benefits for the local community area;
 - f. Promoting compliance with this Act and other relevant laws of the Territory;
 - g. Ensuring each person involved in the business conducted at licensed premises receives training suitable to the person's role in the business;
 - h. Preventing the giving of credit in sales of liquor to people;
 - i. Preventing the practices that encourage irresponsible drinking;
 - j. Reducing or limiting increases in anti-social behaviour.
33. In determining whether there would be a "significant adverse impact on the community" section 49(3) of the Act prescribes the decision maker "must consider the following":
- a. The risk of undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to people who reside or work in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises or who are using, or travelling to or from, a place of public worship, a hospital or a school;
 - b. The geographic area that would be affected;
 - c. The risk of harm from the excessive or inappropriate consumption of liquor;
 - d. The people or community who would be affected;
 - e. The effect on culture, recreation, employment and tourism;
 - f. The effect on social amenities and public health;
 - g. The ratio of existing liquor licences and authorities in the community to the population of the community;

- h. The effect of the volume of liquor sales on the community;
 - i. The community impact assessment guidelines issued under section 50;
 - j. Any other matter prescribed by regulation.
34. The Act is clear in that the applicant bears the onus of satisfying the decision maker of the relevant matters, irrespective of whether no objections were received as is the case in this matter.
35. In relation to the issue of the community impact and public interest, those matters have previously been published under section 6A of the *Liquor Act 1978* and in force immediately before the commencement of the *Liquor Act 2019* and are taken to be community impact assessment guidelines issued under section 50 of the Act.
36. Those matters remain as previously published in numerous decisions by the Liquor Commission and I am guided by these decisions.

CONSIDERATION CRITERIA

37. Consideration must be made of the applicant's affidavit, the results of any investigation, objections and responses, the suitability of the premises along with the appropriateness of the applicant to be a licensee.
38. With regards to the matters raised in section 49(2) of the Act, I note the following:
- a. Minimising the harm or ill health caused to people, or a group of people, by the consumption of liquor is to be minimised:

I am satisfied the provision of liquor is complementary to the restaurant operations and a natural part of the services to be provided by the licensee.
 - b. Ensuring liquor is to be sold, supplied, served and consumed, on or in licensed premises in a responsible manner:

Having considered all the material, it is unlikely any liquor sold, supplied, served and consumed will be done so in an irresponsible manner.
 - c. Safeguarding public order and safety, particularly when large numbers of people would be attracted to licensed premises or an area adjacent to those premises:

The Director considers that public order and safety are unlikely to be jeopardised by the operation of the licence, because of its nature of business.
 - d. Protecting the safety, health and welfare of people who use licensed premises:

The policies developed by the Applicant applicable to the premises are considered to adequately protect the safety, health and welfare of people who are likely to use the licensed premises during its hours of operation.

- e. Increasing cultural, recreational, employment or tourism benefits for the local community area:

The primary intention of the licence is to establish itself as a leading Aboriginal cultural tourism attraction in the Northern Territory focusing on balancing cultural integrity with commercial viability.

- f. Promoting compliance with this Act and other relevant laws of the Territory:

There are no materials provided which would suggest the Applicant will not comply with the Act and any other relevant laws.

- g. Ensuring each person involved in the business conducted at licensed premises receives training suitable for the person's role in the business:

I am satisfied the Applicant will appropriately manage and supervise service staff.

- h. Preventing the giving of credit for the sales of liquor to people:

No issues have been raised to suggest there is any concern in relation to this objective.

- i. Preventing the practices that encourage irresponsible drinking:

No issues have been raised to suggest there is any concern in relation to this objective.

- j. Reducing or limiting increases in anti-social behaviour:

No issues have been raised to suggest there is any concern in relation to this objective.

39. Turning to the matters under section 49(3):

- a. The risk of undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to people who reside or work in the vicinity of the proposed licensed premises or who are using, or travelling to or from, a place of public worship, a hospital or a school:

There is no material to suggest there is a significant risk of undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience likely to be caused by the granting of the licence with restaurant and catering authority.

- b. The geographic area that would be affected:

It is highly unlikely to affect the geographic area.

- c. The risk of harm from the excessive or inappropriate consumption of liquor:

As previously indicated, there are no materials to suggest there will be excessive consumption of liquor.

- d. The people or community who would be affected:

It is unlikely to be significant adverse impact on the community by granting of the licence to the Applicant.

- e. The effect on culture, recreation, employment and tourism:

The venture is expected to generate positive recreation, employment and tourism benefits.

- f. The effect on social amenities and public health:

It is unlikely there will be any significant adverse impact on the social amenities and public health by the granting of this licence to the Applicant.

- g. The ratio of existing liquor licences and authorities in the community to the population of the community:

It is my opinion this matter is not considered to be a relevant matter in this application given the nature of the venture and the location of the premises.

- h. The effect of the volume of liquor sales on the community:

For the same reasons as above, this factor is not considered to be of significance in the circumstances of this application.

- i. The community impact assessment guidelines issued under section 50:

These have been considered and referred to earlier in this notice.

40. Having regards to the foregoing, I am satisfied that the issuing of the licence as sought is in the public interest and will not have an adverse effect on the community.

REVIEW OF DECISION

41. Section 27 of the Act provides for the applicant or a person who made a submission to the subject of the decision, to seek a review of a decision made by the delegate of the Director.
42. The Director delegated the determination of applications made under section 52 of the Act by instrument to the person from time to time holding, acting in or performing the duties of the position listed in the Schedule of that instrument. This decision was made by a person referred to in that schedule.
43. An application for review must be lodged with the Director within 28 days after written notice of the decision is given to the person and must be in the form approved by the Director, stating the grounds for the review and the facts relied on to establish the grounds.
44. Accordingly, the affected people in relation to this decision are Larrakia Cultural Centre Limited, Police, Health and Council.



Mark Wood

Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

6 August 2026