

DIRECTOR OF LIQUOR LICENSING NOTICE OF INTENTION TO EXERCISE OF EMERGENCY POWERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 257 OF THE *LIQUOR ACT 2019*

Section 257(1)(b) of the *Liquor Act 2019* (the Act) authorises the Director of Liquor Licensing (the Director) to impose a condition of a liquor licence in an emergency where the Director is of the opinion that the condition is in the public interest.

On 18 March 2020 the Chief Health Officer (CHO), under section 52 of the *Public and Environmental Health Act 2011*, issued a Declaration of Public Health Emergency. The CHO has issued further directions since 18 March 2020 and the declaration of the Public Health Emergency remains in effect and is likely to remain in effect for the foreseeable future.

In my capacity as Director I am satisfied that the declaration by the CHO enlivens the Director's emergency powers under section 257 of the Act.

The directions issued by the CHO include restrictions on public gatherings and directions aimed at enforcing social distancing.

Despite those directions, the Commissioner of Police has raised with me serious concerns that certain members of our communities are not complying with the CHO's directions and are continuing to congregate in public areas in significant numbers for the purpose of consuming liquor. This irresponsible activity has the real prospect of impacting negatively on the health and well-being of the wider community, including citizens who are genuinely complying with the restrictions.

In the interests of protecting all NT communities I have determined, pursuant to section 257(1)(b) of the Act, to impose the following condition on all liquor licences that are required to use the Banned Drinker Register to authorise the sale of takeaway liquor:

Prior to completing a transaction for the sale of takeaway liquor licensees are required to scan an approved form of identification for the purpose of the Banned Drinker Register requirements. Approved forms of identification include details of the customer's address.

Where a customer presents an identification that indicates that the person resides in a place in the Territory that is not in the region where the purchase is taking place, licensees are required to ask the customer to satisfy them that they have a lawful place at which to consume the liquor within the region in which the liquor is purchased.

In the event the customer is unable to satisfy the licensee in that regard the transaction is to be refused. Example: A customer produces a form of identification indicating that the person resides in the Katherine region at a bottleshop in the Greater Darwin region. Unless the customer is able to satisfy the licensee that they have a lawful place in the Greater Darwin region at which to consume the liquor the transaction is to be refused.

This condition is effective from 10.00 am on Monday 30 March 2020.

This condition remains in place for a period of seven days and is likely to be further extended while the Declaration of Public Health Emergency remains in effect.

Philip Timney Director of Liquor Licensing

28 March 2020