

Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

Decision Notice

MATTER:	Complaint pursuant to section 160 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i>
LICENSEE:	S&J George Pty Ltd
PREMISES:	The NT Rock Bar
LEGISLATION:	Part 7, Division 3 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i>
DECISION OF:	Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing
DATE OF DECISION:	14 May 2026

DECISION

- For the reasons set out below as a delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing (the Director), I upheld a complaint against the licensee, **S&J George Pty Ltd** (the licensee) for having breached the *Liquor Act 2019* (the Act) on the 26 February 2026 by:
 - supplying liquor to another person who was intoxicated, contrary to section 285(1) of the Act; and
 - failed to remove that same person who was disorderly, quarrelsome and incapable of controlling their behaviour, contrary to section 141(1) of the Act.
- Pursuant to section 163(1) of the Act, on completion of the investigation I am satisfied on the balance of probabilities, that the licensee or their employees have acted contrary to section 141(1) and section 285 of the Act on 26 February 2026.
 - I take into account the licensee's response and also their overall compliance history. It is on the basis of all the materials that it is my decision to issue an infringement notice for both breaches pursuant to section 163(1)(d) of the Act and with reference to Schedule 6 of the *Liquor Regulations 2026* being:
 - section 141(3) of the Act – 3 penalty units (\$567.00); and
 - section 285(1) of the Act – 5 penalty units (\$945.00);
 - in total - \$1,512.00.

REASONS

Background and assessment

- S&J George Pty Ltd is the holder of liquor licence 80818127 (the licence) for the premises known as "The NT Rock Bar", situated at Shop 2, 78 Todd Street, Alice Springs NT 0870. The nominee is Mr Jolyon William George.

4. Section 285(1) of the Act specifies the licensee or the licensee's employees commit an offence if they intentionally sell or otherwise supply liquor to another person who is on or in the licensed premises and is intoxicated, and the person is reckless in relation to those circumstances.
5. Section 141(1) of the Act specifies the licensee and the licensee's employees must exclude and remove from the licensed premises any person who is violent, quarrelsome, disorderly or incapable of controlling the person's behaviour, other than a person residing in or lodging at residential accommodation on or in the licensed premises.
6. On 3 March 2026, a complaint was received alleging two male patrons exited the premises while being actively engaged in a physical altercation. The allegation continues to claim one of the males entered an adjoining premises, stole a knife and ran back outside whilst the second male continued fighting with a third male, and following the altercation the second male continued drinking inside the premises.
7. Footage was obtained from the premises to investigate the allegations, a review of which indicates a male (M1), described as Aboriginal in appearance, with short curly black hair, wearing an 'Eazy E' black t-shirt, black pants with black boots, enter the premises at 14:02 hours. Throughout M1's time in the premises, he is observed to 'humbug' other patrons for liquor on multiple occasions and consumes approximately 6 beverages.
8. From 16:11 hours, M1 displays noticeable signs of a deterioration in his behaviour, resulting in him being removed from the premises by a crowd controller at 16:15 hours.
9. He is subsequently admitted back into the premises by another crowd controller at 16:26 hours. He is then observed to purchase an alcoholic beverage from the bar at 16:43 hours, during this purchase there was minimal engagement with the male by the bartender, and he is then observed to spill the drink down his front when he walks away from the bar and walks into a door frame.
10. The review of CCTV footage supports the allegation the male was displaying signs of intoxication from 16:11 hours, and was intoxicated when he was sold liquor at 16:43 hours.
11. The altercation referred to by the complainant occurs between M1 and another male (M2) at 16:52 to 16:59 hours. A crowd controller removed M1 for a second time at 16:54 hours for displaying being quarrelsome and disorderly behaviour towards M2. Both males appear to be in an agitated and quarrelsome state towards one another, however no physical violence occurred inside the premises between the two.
12. Shortly after at 16:54 hours, M2 exited the premises with a third male (M3) who attempted to de-escalate the incident between M1 and M2, with M3 being seen to forcefully hold M2 and push him back through the main entry of the premises.
13. At 16:55 hours, M1 entered the main entry of adjoining premises and is then observed to depart those premises holding an object that appeared to be a knife. He then attempts to re-enter the Rock Bar with a crowd controller seizing the knife and removing him from the premises.
14. At 16:59 hours M2 is observed to exit the premises and speak to Police who had been called to attend by the complainant.
15. The review of CCTV footage confirms there is a noticeable decline in M1's behaviour during both periods he was in the premises and he is clearly disorderly, quarrelsome and incapable of controlling his behaviour, and that the licensee or the licensee's employees should have again excluded M1 from the premises at 16:26 hours.
16. For the avoidance of doubt, his first removal was in compliance with the requirements, it is his subsequent entry to the premises that gives rise to breaches by this licensee.

THE COMPLAINT

17. On 14 April 2026, a complaint was lodged with the Director pursuant to section 160 of the Act, the grounds for the complaint being pursuant to section 160(1)(b) of the Act in that:
 - (b) The licensee or the licensee's employee contravened another provision of this Act or the regulations, whether or not it constitutes an offence.
18. The complaint was in the approved form specifying the grounds for the complaint, was signed and lodged with the Director in compliance with the requirements of section 160(2) of the Act.
19. A delegate of the Director accepted the complaint on 27 April 2026, within the 14 day prescribed period and the licensee was given a notice of the substance of the complaint and invited to provide a response in compliance with section 162(1) of the Act.
20. On 27 April 2026, the licensee provided a response to the particulars of the section 160 complaint. The licensee disputed both allegations set out by Licensing NT.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

21. On completion of the investigation, as a delegate of the Director I may do any of the following:
 - Take no further action if satisfied that there are no grounds or evidence to justify taking further action, or the matter does not warrant taking further action;
 - Give the licensee a formal warning in relation to the complaint;
 - Mediate the complaint;
 - Issue an infringement notice in relation to the complaint;
 - Enter into an enforceable undertaking with the licensee; or
 - Refer the matter to the Commission for disciplinary action.
22. In determining an appropriate disposition in this matter, I am required to apply the principles of proportionality, parity and deterrence.
23. The disciplinary action must be proportionate to the seriousness of the contravention and the harm arising, or potential for harm as a result of these matters.
24. Having regards to previous like matters, the objective level of seriousness, the licensee's submission, along with previous penalties imposed for other matters, I have determined the appropriate action to take against the licensee is to issue an infringement notice.
25. Within 14 days of making this decision the Act requires the complainant, licensee and the Commission to be given a copy of the notice.
26. For completeness, I extend the time prescribed in section 163(3) of the Act pursuant to section 318 of the Act to 4 June 2026.
27. The licensee has, with qualifications, not disputed the allegations and accepted they had failed in their obligations in relation to this incident. They should therefore be afforded the benefit of such a concession, which has strongly influenced the disposition taken.
28. With regards to the allegation of failing to remove that patron, I accept the submission of the licensee in that but for the intervention of his companions, the licensee's staff would have removed him from the premises in accordance with the requirements.

REVIEW OF DECISION

28. Section 27 (1) of the Act provides that an affected person for a delegate decision may apply to the Director for a review of the decision.
29. Section 27(2) of the Act sets out the procedures for applying for a review of a delegate decision. Such application must be made within 28 days after written notice of the delegate decision is given to the affected person unless the Director extends the time allowed for making an application.
30. The affected persons in this matter is the licensee of The NT Rock Bar and the relevant inspector.



Mark Wood

Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

4 June 2026