Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

Decision Notice

MATTER:	Complaint pursuant to section 160 of the *Liquor Act 2019*
LICENSEE:	S&J George Pty Ltd
PREMISES:	The NT Rock Bar
LEGISLATION:	Part 7, Division 3 of the *Liquor Act 2019*
DECISION OF:	Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing
DATE OF DECISION:	13 November 2026

DECISION

1. For the reasons set out below as a delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing (Director), I upheld a complaint against the licensee, S&J George Pty Ltd (the licensee) for having breached the *Liquor Act 2019* (Act) on 17, 22 and 23 September 2026 by:
   a. Contrary to section 293(1) of the Act and regulation 83(1) of the Liquor Regulations 2019 (Regulations), the licensee failed to ensure that a light meal was available for purchase during the hours of operation on three separate occasions; and
   b. Contrary to section 293(1) of the Act, and regulation 83(2) of the Regulations, the licensee failed to operate their kitchen until 1.5 hours before the close of the licensed premises on three separate occasions.
   c. Contrary to section 160(1)(g)(ii) of the Act, as the licensee's licensed premises is no longer being used in compliance with the licence and authority.
2. Upon completion of the investigation, I am satisfied that the following action should be taken:
   a. Pursuant to section 163(1)(d) of the Act and with reference to Schedule 6 of the *Liquor Regulations 2019* being:
      i) section 293(1) of the Act, regulation 83(1) – 5 penalty units = $970.00 (not including any levies); and
   b. Pursuant to section 163(1)(b) of the Act, issue the licensee with a formal warning in relation to the premises failing to have the kitchen open 1.5 hours before close, and not retaining the appearance of a café, restaurant or eatery.

REASONS

Background

3. 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 Jolyon William George.

4. Section 293(1) of the Act provides that a licensee commits a contravention where they intentionally engage in conduct that results in a breach of a condition of their licence or authority and are reckless in relation to that result.
5. Regulation 83(1) specifies that the holder of a Restaurant bar authority must have light meals available for purchase by patrons during the hours of operation.
6. Regulation 83(2) specifies that the holder of a Restaurant bar authority must have their kitchen open during the hours of operation until 1.5 hours before the close of the licensed premises.
7. Section 160(1)(g)(ii) of the Act states grounds exist for a complaint if the licensee's licensed premises is no longer being used in compliance with the licence and authority.
8. On 17, 22 and 23 September 2026, inspectors from Alice Springs attended the premises to conduct inspections.
9. During the inspections it was established that no light meals were available for purchase, the premises kitchen was not open, and the premises did not appear as a café, restaurant or eatery.

THE COMPLAINT

10. On 5 October 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) and 160(1)(g)(ii) 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.

    (g) The licensee's licensed premises is no longer being used in compliance with the licence and authority.

11. 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.
12. A delegate of the Director accepted the complaint on 5 October 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.
13. On 19 October 2026, the licensee provided a response to the particulars of the section 160 complaint. The licensee did not dispute the allegations set out by Licensing NT.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

14. 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.
15. In determining an appropriate disposition in this matter, I am required to apply the principles of proportionality, parity and deterrence.

16. The disciplinary action must be proportionate to the seriousness of the contravention and the harm arising, or potential for harm because of these matters.

17. 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 and a formal warning.

18. I am confident there is unlikely to be any future similar issues, however, should these matters arise again, a more severe penalty will be considered.

19. The licensee has not disputed the allegations and has acknowledged failure to meet their obligations in relation to the incident. The licensee has since taken remedial action to address these issues and ensure future compliance with the Act. Accordingly, the licensee should be afforded appropriate consideration for this acknowledgement and subsequent remedial action, which has been a significant factor in determining the disposition of this matter.

20. Within 14 days of making this decision the Act requires the complainant, licensee and the Commission to be given a copy of the notice.

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.



Bernard Kulda
Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

13 November 2026