

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:	24 April 2026

DECISION

1. For the reasons set out below, as a delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing (Director), pursuant to section 161(2)(b) of the *Liquor Act 2019* (Act), I have determined not to accept a complaint against the licensee, S&J George Pty Ltd, for the premises known as The NT Rock Bar, Shop 2, 78 Todd Street, Alice Springs, alleging that on 24 March 2026:
 - a) the licensee or the licensee's employee contravened another provision of this Act or the regulations, whether or not it constitutes an offence by failing to take reasonable steps to comply with the condition imposed on the licence by the Northern Territory Liquor Commission dated 16 February 2026 for practices relating to disturbances pursuant to section 160(1)(b) of the Act.
2. Pursuant to section 161(1)(e) of the Act the complaint is not accepted on the grounds that it fails to disclose any conduct that contravenes, or is likely to contravene, the Act.
3. Pursuant to section 318 of the Act, on the basis of the time that has been required to analyse evidence including CCTV footage, I extend the time prescribed in section 161(2) of the Act to 24 April 2026.

REASONS

Background

4. S&J George Pty Ltd is the holder of liquor licence 80818127 for the premises. The nominee is Mr Jolyon William George.

5. The licence is issued with the following authorities:
 - a) restaurant bar authority
 - b) late night authority
6. On 25 March 2026, a person made allegations by means of an Incident Form emailed to the Director of Liquor Licensing (the Director) against the licensee.
7. An inspector was tasked to undertake a preliminary investigation into the allegations, including the acquisition and review of CCTV footage of the period.
8. The inspector subsequently lodged a complaint with the Director, in the approved manner, with reference to section 160(2) of the Act on 24 April 2026.

THE COMPLAINT AND ALLEGATIONS

9. The allegations are:

Between the hours of 1315 and 1340: The altercation commenced directly in front of NT Rock Bar on the roadway and continued moving along the street towards the burrito shop. At all times, the incident remained in the immediate vicinity of the premises and posed an ongoing risk to public safety.

- *Multiple patrons exit NT Rock Bar and within moments become involved in a physical altercation.*
- *The altercation escalates quickly into violent behaviour, including physical assaults.*
- *The incident occurs directly outside the premises, within the immediate vicinity and line of sight of staff/security.*
- *The behaviour poses a serious risk to public safety, including:*
 - *Physical injury to participants*
 - *Risk to passing vehicles and pedestrians*
- *The situation continues for a period without effective intervention.*
- *Staff and/or security personnel are visibly present and observing the incident.*
- *There is no immediate or effective intervention to:*
 - *De-escalate the situation*
 - *Separate the individuals involved*
 - *Contact police*
- *The altercation occurred in a public area with exposure to traffic*
- *There was a real risk of serious injury or fatality*

10. Police were called to attend by this informant.
11. The inspector, in undertaking their preliminary inquiries into these matters, reviewed footage of the period alleged and has provided a fulsome summary of the alleged incidents observed through the requested CCTV footage, which has been viewed to assist in the determination of this matter.

ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE

12. It is not in dispute there was a violent incident involving patrons that had attempted to enter, or had been in the premises.
13. A review of the CCTV footage confirms the four main protagonists in this matter had walked across from the premises to the Alice Springs Town Council lawn area and it is near vehicles parked on that side of the road that the fight commenced at 13:32 hours.
14. The fight continued until 13:33 hours before quickly recommencing, then ceasing and again recommencing for short periods.
15. All parties appear to then walk in a northern direction towards Todd Street and are yelling at each other for a short period and meet outside of a food outlet further along the street and the fighting appears to stop at 13:35 hours.
16. The decision¹ of the Commission under which this complaint is based reads:

4. The Commission varies the conditions of the nominated licences and the Lasseters Hotel Casino licence by inserting the following condition:

Practices relating to disturbances

The licensee must take reasonable steps –

(a) to prevent undue offence, annoyance, disturbance, noise or inconvenience to people who reside, work, study, worship or attend facilities that provide goods or services in the vicinity of the licensed premises, resulting from entertainment or activities on the licensed premises or the conduct of people making their way to or from the licensed premises; and

(b) to ensure public order and safety.

17. Section 5 of the *Private Security Act 1995* is of relevance to this matter and reads:

5 Crowd controllers

In this Act, a crowd controller is a person who, in respect of premises licensed under the *Liquor Act 2019*, a place of entertainment, a place to which the public has access or a public or private event or function, as part of his or her duties, performs the function of:

- (a) controlling or monitoring the behaviour of persons;
- (b) screening persons seeking entry; or
- (c) removing persons because of their behaviour,

or any other prescribed function.

18. The staff and crowd controllers employed by the licensee's duties are limited to those within their licensed premises, they have no specific powers other than those of an ordinary citizen to render assistance when outside of the licensed premises.
19. The incident happened across the road from the premises and appears to have been observed by employees of the licensee.
20. On that basis the staff member should have called the Police to attend, but it appears they did not. This failure is not a matter for consideration under the *Liquor Act 2019*, nor does it constitute a breach of the conditions of their licence or the Act.

¹ Northern Territory Liquor Commission, *Decision Notice, OWN INITIATIVE VARIATION OF CONDITIONS OF ALICE SPRINGS LIQUOR LICENCES* [2026] NTLiqComm 5 at [4].

21. On the evidence before me, I am not able to form the opinion the licensee or their employees have failed to comply with the condition imposed by the Commission, as the events are outside of their control and cannot directly be attributable to their operations being the cause of the incident.
22. The violent behaviour of the individuals are a matter for them and a result of their actions, with no causal link to the licensee.
23. It is for the reasons articulated above that I have formed the opinion the allegations fail to disclose any conduct that contravenes, or is likely to contravene, the Act.

REVIEW OF DECISION

24. The above decision is made in my capacity as a delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing.
25. Section 27 of the Act provides for a person prescribed in that section to seek a review by the Director of a delegate's decision.
26. For completeness, section 161(4) of the Act prescribes this matter is not reviewable by the Liquor Commission or the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal.



Mark Wood
Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

24 April 2026