

Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

Decision Notice

MATTER:	Application for the declaration of restricted premises
APPLICANT:	Ms Kelly Knights
PREMISES:	Alice Springs Telegraph Station
STAKEHOLDERS:	NT Police & Department of Tourism and Hospitality
LEGISLATION:	Part 8, Division 5 of the <i>Liquor Act 2019</i>
DECISION OF:	Southern Region Manager Liquor – Licensing and Compliance
DATE OF DECISION:	19 June 2025

DECISION

1. For the reasons set out below as a delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing (the Director), I declare the premises known as the Alice Springs Telegraph Station and the areas falling within Lots 00941, 00943, 1686 and 5816, Town of Alice Springs to be restricted premises pursuant to section 188(c) of the *Liquor Act 2019* (the Act).
2. With reference to section 42 of the *Interpretation Act 1978* (NT), the declaration is for Sunday, 14 September 2025 only and expires immediately after that period.
3. Section 193(4) of the Act requires the Director as soon as practicable after making a decision to give a decision notice to the applicant.

REASONS

Background

4. On 17 June 2025 an application was lodged with the Director in the approved form by Ms Kelly Knights on behalf of Central Australian Parks Operations (Parks), the owners and controllers of the premises the Alice Springs Telegraph Station (the Telegraph Station) which falls within the lots listed in this notice.

Current Situation

5. Section 188 of the Act provides for Crown land *inter alia* to be declared restricted premises.

6. An application of this nature may be made by an owner or occupier of the place to be restricted in the approved from and lodged with the Director.
7. On Sunday, 14 September 2025 Music NT will hold the Bush Bands Bash 2025 at the Telegraph Station between the hours of 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm.
8. This is a ticketed event with a \$10 admission fee to be paid.
9. The event is sponsored by Commonwealth Government agencies as well as the Northern Territory Government, the Alice Springs Town Council and many other local businesses and artistic organisations.
10. This is an annual event which has grown and celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2024.
11. It is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, showcasing talented bands and artists from remote communities. It also marks the culmination of a four-day Bush Bands Business workshop, focused on developing performance skills and music business knowledge.
12. Many bands perform in their traditional languages, showcasing the diversity of Aboriginal culture provides a platform for indigenous bands and artists from remote areas to share their music and culture with a wider audience.
13. The organisers, as well as the owner of the area have had ongoing discussions with various agencies and entities in making the arrangements for this event, which is expected to attract a large number of people to the Telegraph Station on the day.
14. An approach was made to the Director by a representative of Parks to declare the Telegraph Station dry for the event, similar to the declaration for the Central Land Council's 50th Anniversary event in October 2024.
15. Subsequent to these discussions the application was made by Ms Knights on behalf of Parks for the declaration.

ASSESSMENT OF THE MATTER

16. As soon as practicable after the Director receives an application, the Director must consult with the owner and all occupiers of the place and the Commissioner of Police. This consultation may be conducted in any manner the Director considers appropriate.
17. No declaration may be made unless the Director is satisfied it is in the public interest or reflects the wishes of a majority of the occupiers of the premises and is practicable in the circumstances.

18. There are no occupiers of the place to consult with and the application has been made by the owner of the place. It necessarily follows the consultation requirements have been met.
19. The premises falls within the definition of Crown land.
20. There has been ongoing liaison between Police and the Director in relation to the wider conduct of the event in Alice Springs, with Police supporting this application and the declaration being made.
21. The declaration enlivens offence provisions in the Act if a person brings liquor into the restricted premises, possess it or consumes it. The declaration also provides powers to Police to enforce the declaration including powers of search and seizure.
22. In making a decision to declare premises restricted, the decision maker must consider the public interest and community impact of the decision along with the results of any consultation.
23. Music NT, who will host the event wrote to Parks on 1 April 2025 asking for "...the entire Telegraph Station event site (not just within the event perimeter) alcohol free for the 14th of September 2025. I understand at the CLC gig last year Parks applied for a liquor ban...".
24. All interested parties have expressed their desire to ensure the location and event is alcohol-free as with the Central Land Council event.
25. Ordinarily declarations of this nature are permanent or until the ownership or occupancy of the premises changes. At that time it expires.
26. This is a discretely different matter in that the declaration is required by the owner for one day only being Sunday, 14 September 2025.
27. There is a significant potential for alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour at the event if the declaration is not made and all parties are supportive of the event being family-friendly and alcohol-free.


CONSIDERATION CRITERIA

28. The Act prohibits the making of a declaration unless the Director is satisfied the declaration would be in the public interest, or interest or reflect the wishes of the majority of the occupiers of the proposed restricted premises.
29. Any determination must be made after considering the application, the results of any consultation and the public interest and community impact requirements.

30. Accordingly, I have considered this matter in line with matters particularised above.

REVIEW OF DECISION

31. As this a decision of a delegate of the Director a written notice of the decision must be given to an affected person stating the decision and reasons for it, as well as advise an affected person of their right to seek a review of the decision and the manner in which it may be done.
32. Section 27(1)(b) of the Act provides for an applicant to apply for a review of this decision within 28 days after the written notice is given to the person.
33. The application must be in the approved form and state the grounds for the review, and the facts relied upon to establish the grounds.
34. Accordingly, the affected persons in relation to this decision is the applicant Ms Kelly Knights, Music NT and NT Police.



Mark Wood
Delegate of the Director of Liquor Licensing

19 June 2025