

Director of Liquor Licensing

Decision Notice

MATTER:	Application for the grant of a major event authority
LICENSEE APPLICANT:	Oceanview Developments Pty Ltd
PREMISES:	Darwin River Tavern 185 Darwin River Road Darwin River
OBJECTORS:	Nil
LEGISLATION:	<i>Liquor Act 2019</i> – Part 3 and 4
DECISION OF:	Director of Liquor Licensing
DATE OF DECISION:	24 July 2025

DECISION

1. As the Director of Liquor Licensing (Director), I approve the application by the licensee Oceanview Developments Pty Ltd for the grant of a major event authority additional to those existing on liquor licence 80304941, for operation at the premises known as the Darwin River Tavern for Saturday, 16 August 2025 between the hours of 11:00 and 01:00 (the following day).
2. The conditions applicable to this authority are those prescribed in Part 4 Division 12 of the Liquor Regulations 2019 pertaining to a major event authority and the following condition proposed by the licensee:
 - a. Function Centre, VIP area and main Rodeo arena will be fully operational, but no spirits or wine will be served, will predominately be premix drinks, ciders and beer only.
3. Additionally, those conditions (a) through (q) imposed by the NT Liquor Commission (Commission) on their May 2025 and June 2025 rodeos by decision notice dated 7 May 2025 apply to this authority.

BACKGROUND

4. Pursuant to section 52 of the *Liquor Act 2019* (Act), Mr Paul Winter, the Director of Oceanview Developments Pty Ltd, lodged an application for a major event authority on 19 May 2025.
5. The application was incomplete, and the remaining materials were provided on 9 July 2025.
6. The application is for a major event being the Darwin River Muster to be held at the premises which has held several similar events over the last few years.
7. The premises are licensed however, the patron number expected for this event enliven the major event authority threshold of more than 1,500 persons.

CURRENT SITUATION

8. The application is for an expansion of the existing substantive licence to allow for the major event in conjunction with the traditional operation of the premises under licence 80304941.

9. For completeness, the area proposed for the event is approved as being the area particularised in the application materials.
10. The licensee has conducted these or similar events previously with no compliance issues identified.
11. The applicant has provided the material prescribed in section 52 of the Act including:
 - an affidavit made under section 54;
 - evidence necessary to satisfy the onus specified in section 51; and
 - the application fee.

NOTIFICATIONS, PUBLIC NOTICES AND OBJECTIONS

12. The application was subject to the public notice provisions of section 57 of the Act.
13. In pursuance of section 56(4) of the Act the application was notified to the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Executive Officers of the Department of Health and Litchfield Council.
14. Although not a statutory requirement, as is practice, notification of the application was sent to the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and Liquor Compliance.
15. No adverse comments were received from any party nor were any objections lodged by members of the public.

APPLICATION

16. The applicant has provided a comprehensive suite of materials in support of the application including all materials prescribed by the Act.
17. The authority sought by the applicant is in pursuance of section 47(1)(o)(i) of the Act.
18. The determination of applications of this nature has been conditionally delegated to the Director by the Commission.
19. For completeness and in an abundance of caution, this matter was originally referred to the Commission as it was arguable whether it fell within the parameters of the conditional delegations.
20. On 22 July 2025, the Commission confirmed they were satisfied the matter fell within the delegations and returned the matter to the Director for determination.
21. The application is materially the same as those previously granted by the Commission and the licensee operates these premises under the substantive licence 80304941.

DISCLOSURE OF PERSONS

22. Section 54 of the Act requires the applicant to make an affidavit disclosing each person who, if the licence is issued, may
 - (a) be able to influence the applicant; or
 - (b) expect a direct or indirect benefit from the applicant.
23. I am satisfied with the materials provided by the applicant in relation to this requirement and note the applicant holds the substantive licence.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

24. Section 58 of the Act enables the Director to investigate an application as considered appropriate. No materials have been discovered or provided to indicate there are any adverse matters in relation to this application.

25. The event is to be operated for all material purposes in the same manner as those previously held in May and June 2025.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

26. No examination was undertaken in relation to the applicant's financial stability as they operate the substantive licence and therefore are assumed to be a fit and proper person by effect of section 51(3) of the Act.

FIT AND PROPER PERSON

27. Section 59(3)(g)(i) of the Act requires the decision maker to consider whether the applicant and as the applicant is a body corporate, their nominated licensee, are fit and proper to hold a licence.
28. The applicant provided materials in support of this, and Mr Winter is to be the licensee's nominee in pursuance of section 53(3) of the Act and is nominee for the substantive licence.
29. Having considered the materials provided I am satisfied the applicant and Mr Winter is a fit and proper person to hold a licence and act as nominee.

ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

30. As this application is materially the same as previous events which were considered by the Commission and approved, it is proper the Director be persuaded by those matters examined in the earlier decisions.
31. Those considerations and positions, especially in relation to the public interest and community impact are contained in the respective decisions notices and it is therefore unnecessary to further examine them here as they are common across these matters.
32. I am satisfied the applicant has complied with sections 54 and 55 of the Act and the premises are suitable for the supply and consumption of liquor in the manner set out in the application.
33. Having regards to the foregoing, I am satisfied that the issuing of the licence as sought is in the public interest and will not have an adverse effect on the community.

REVIEW OF DECISION

34. Section 29 of the *Liquor Commission Act 2018* provides for any decision of the Director to be reviewable by the Commission.
35. The persons who may apply for a review of the decision are the applicant and any person who made a submission, complaint or objection during the process that resulted in the decision.
36. An application for review of this decision must be made to the Commission within 28 days of the decision notice, in the form approved by the Commission and state the grounds on which it is made.



Melissa Garde
Director of Liquor Licensing
24 July 2025