
NORTHERN TERRITORY LICENSING COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Alice Springs alcohol restrictions proposal

The Northern Territory Licensing Commission will be asking Alice Springs licensees for their views on a proposal to ban the takeaway sale of long neck beer and to treat Green Ginger Wine as a fortified wine in the township.

The move follows increased representations to the Commission about the unintended outcomes from the introduction of a new Liquor Supply Plan for Alice Springs in October last year.

“That plan saw a product switch away from cask wine and port to beer in large glass containers,” Commission chair Richard O’Sullivan said. “And as a result of that switch there’s been a marked increase in broken glass rubbish. This broken glass is not only a blight on the environment, it is also dangerous to have lying around.

“This problem has become of such concern the Commission believes a ban on long neck beer and a restriction on Green Ginger Wine - 13.9 % alcohol and used as a cheap substitute for fortified wines - may help alleviate the situation.”

The Commission has been told CUB Alice Springs sales figures for long necks for 1 Oct to 31 Dec 2006 showed 46,260 800 ml bottles sold, compared with the period 1 June to 31 Aug 2006 where 17,532 800 ml bottles were sold.

“As well, police have told us there’s been some increase in incidents involving broken bottles,” Mr O’Sullivan said.

He said the Commission had been also encouraged by the results of similar restrictions implemented for the AFL match in Alice Springs in early March.

“The restrictions were part of a highly coordinated effort involving many different measures and were effective,” he said.

Licensees have 28 days to put their views to the Commission on the proposed restrictions. Mr O’Sullivan added the public restricted area (dry area) application decision would be handed down in early May.

Media contact: Lorelei Fong Lim, 89357409 or 0401116728

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