

# Delegate of the Liquor Commission

## Decision Notice

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| <b>MATTER:</b>           | <b>APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL LICENCE</b>  |
| <b>REFERENCE:</b>        | <b>LC2018/019</b>   |
| <b>VENUE:</b>            | <b>The Buntine Pavilion</b><br>Katherine Showgrounds<br>11 Murphy Street<br>KATHERINE NT 0851 |
| <b>APPLICANT:</b>        | Alethe Abbey West   |
| <b>EVENT:</b>            | Dreaming Under the Stars  |
| <b>LEGISLATION:</b>      | Section 58 of the <i>Liquor Act</i> .   |
| <b>DECISION OF:</b>      | Ms Jodi Truman (Deputy Chairperson)   |
| <b>DATE OF DECISION:</b> | 8 May 2018  |

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### Decision

1. For the reasons set out below and in accordance with section 59(1) of the *Liquor Act* (“the Act”) I have determined to grant the special licence to sell liquor to Alethe Abbey West for the sale of liquor on Friday 1 June 2018 between the hours of 1700 hours and 2359hours.
2. The granting of approval is subject to the following conditions, namely:
  - a. The liquor shall be sold at the event known as “Dreaming Under the Stars” occurring at The Buntine Pavilion, Katherine Showgrounds, 11 Murphy Street, Katherine, in the Northern Territory (“the Premises”).
  - b. The sale of liquor must be supervised by one or more persons nominated by the Licensee (Nominee), who each hold a Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate, or equivalent qualification approved by the Director-General.
  - c. A nominee **MUST BE** present during all trading hours and must ensure compliance with the conditions.
  - d. The Nominee is identified as Mr Jeffrey Kevin Usher.

- e. Persons under the age of 18 years must not be used in the sale or supply of liquor.
- f. The boundary of the Premises must be clearly identified and access to the premises must be restricted in a manner that allows for effective supervision by the Nominee.
- g. Any person involved in Crowd Control, as defined under the *Private Security Act*, at the Premises must be licensed as required by that Act.
- h. Crowd controllers are to be employed as per industry standards as follows:
  - a. Two (2) licensed crowd controllers for the first one hundred (100) patrons and one (1) additional crowd controller for each one hundred (100) patrons thereafter.
- i. All liquor must be sold in open containers.
- j. No more than four (4) cans or bottles must be sold to any one person at any one time.
- k. The licensee must ensure that water, soft drink, low alcohol beverages and snacks are available during Trading Hours. Commercially bottled water may be sold, otherwise water must be supplied free of charge on request.
- l. Liquor must not be sold or supplied to an intoxicated person or to a person under the age of 18 years.
- m. The Licensee must comply with the “Industry Code of Practice for the Promotion of Liquor”, provide a safe drinking environment, prevent irresponsible or excessive consumption of liquor and ensure all staff are properly instructed to watch for and prevent drink spiking.
- n. Where the Licensee is operating from enclosed premises, the Licensee must prominently display on the licensed premises the “Maximum Patron Number” sign (if one has been issued by the Fire and Rescue Service) and must comply with maximum patron numbers as determined by the Northern Territory Fire Service from time to time.
- o. The Licensee must not do or permit or suffer any act, matter or thing whatsoever upon the Premises or any part thereof, or permit noise at a level, which must or may be to the annoyance, nuisance, grievance or disturbance of the occupiers or owners for the time being of the adjoining properties or the residential neighbourhood.
- p. The Licensee must comply with the Instructions of a Licensing Inspector, an authorised Member of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service or a delegate of the Chief Health Officer upon production of an identify card or other authorisation.

- q. All liquor purchased for sale under the authority of this licence MUST be purchased from a licensed retail outlet.
- r. The licensee must make a record of all liquor obtained for sale under this licence that identifies the source of the liquor and the type and quantity of each type of liquor so obtained.
- s. The licensee must record all liquor sold, including the type and quantity of that liquor and must record the manner of disposal of any unsold liquor.
- t. This licence must be located at the Premises during Trading Hours and must be produced on demand to a Licensing Inspector, a Member of the Police Force, an authorised member of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service or a delegate of the Chief Health Officer upon production of an identify card or other authorisation.
- u. The venue must clearly display signage to delineate the Non Smoking area from the Smoking Areas and must comply with smoking requirements contained in the *Tobacco Control Act*.
- v. Food and drinks are not permitted to be taken into any designated smoking areas.
- w. The Licensee or an employee of the Licensee shall exclude or remove from licensed premises any person who is wearing colours, insignia or emblems of an outlaw motorcycle gang (“Bikie Gang”).

## **Reasons**

### **Background**

3. Pursuant to section 58 of the *Liquor Act* (“the Act”), Alethe Abbey West applied to the Director-General of Licensing on 11 April 2018 for a special licence to permit the sale of liquor to patrons attending an event known as “Dreaming Under the Stars” occurring at the venue known as “The Buntine Pavilion”, located at the Katherine Showgrounds, 11 Murphy Street, Katherine, in the Northern Territory (“the Premises”).
4. The applicant is seeking to sell liquor between the hours of 1700 hours and 2359 hours on Friday 1 June 2018. The event is in support of “Dolly’s Dream Foundation” and is a charity auction and night of entertainment to raise funds and awareness of youth suicide and bullying. All funds raised will go to the foundation. There is to be an indoor and outdoor area with a designated bar area proposed to sell beer, wine and spirits with bar tickets to be sold from a separate area and identification checked at both sites.
5. It was stated in the application that it was estimated by the applicant that there would be approximately 350 persons in attendance. The applicant states that it is proposed there will be “hot and hearty finger food” provided by wait staff.

6. I am informed that the applicant is not known to Licensing NT and that this is the first time they have applied for a licence.

### **Consultation**

7. As this is an application for a special licence there is no requirement under the Act for advertising of such an application, nor is there provision for formal objections to be made concerning such an application. Despite this, a “usual practice” has developed for the Director-General to consult with relevant stakeholders concerning the application, namely the Department of Health (“DOH”), Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (“NTFRS”), NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (“NT Police”) and Katherine Town Council and seek their comment.

8. With respect to this application:

- a. The DOH had no adverse comment, but requested as follows:

“Health asks the Director-General of Licensing to consider patron and community safety & amenity when determining this application. Health requests the venue clearly displays signage to delineate the Non Smoking areas from the Smoking Areas.

Licensing is requested to remind the applicant that food and drinks are not permitted to be taken into any identified outdoor smoking area. In that regard could you please have the applicant acknowledge the following and provide a copy of the attached signs for their use:

- The applicant should acknowledge the licensed area as a smoke free area and must display No Smoking Signs (Attached). The application is subject to Section 5B of the Tobacco Control Act being identified as an Outdoor Eating and Drinking Area.
- Any area that is identified as a smoking area, pursuant to section 5B(5) of the Act, must be clearly designated as an area where no food or drinks may be taken. A sample sign has been produced for this purpose for the applicant to display on site”.

- b. The NTFRS had “no objections” to the application.

- c. The NT Police supported the application “contingent to:

- a. Secure storage of alcohol at all times - any alcohol that is left overnight needs to be secured away
- b. RSA for all staff handling alcohol
- c. Maximum 4 drinks per transaction with a staggered decline in drinks per transaction towards the conclusion of the event.

- d. No BYO
- e. Commercial bottled water to be readily available for low-cost purchase”.

d. The Katherine Town Council provided no response.

## Assessment of the Application

9. As previously noted, this is an application for a special licence under section 58 of the Act. That section is within Part VI of the Act. There are no specific criteria prescribed within the Act for consideration of an application for a special licence. Special licences exist under Part VI of the Act and are therefore not part of the definition of “licence” pursuant to section 4 of the Act, namely “a licence issued under Part III” of the Act.
10. As a result, it has previously been determined by this Commission that an application for a special licence is **not** a licence with respect to which I am bound to apply the public interest and community impact test as provided for under section 6 of the Act.
11. The Commission has previously noted however that pursuant to section 3(3) of the Act; it is clear that when “exercising a power or performing a function under (the Act) (the Commission) must have regard to the objects of (the Act) and must exercise the power and perform the function in a way that is consistent with those objects”.
12. Section 3 of the Act identifies the “Objects” as follows:
  - “(1) The primary object of this Act is to regulate the sale, provision, promotion and consumption of liquor:
    - (a) so as to minimise the harm associated with the consumption of liquor; and
    - (b) in a way that takes into account the public interest in the sale, provision, promotion and consumption of liquor.
  - (2) The further objects of this Act are:
    - (a) to protect and enhance community amenity, social harmony and wellbeing through the responsible sale, provision, promotion and consumption of liquor;
    - (b) to regulate the sale of liquor in a way that contributes to the responsible development of the liquor and associated industries in the Territory; and
    - (c) to facilitate a diversity of licensed premises and associated services for the benefit of the community.”

13. As I have been delegated the authority to make this decision, I too am bound by these objects and they have been considered carefully by me when determining this application.
14. As a result of the response received from DOH and NT Police I requested a copy be sent to the applicant for their consideration and response. I have been informed that in relation to the matters raised the applicant responded as follows:
  - a. In relation to the matters raised by the DOH, the applicant acknowledged the licence area as a smoke free area and would use the appropriate signage and ensure no food or drinks were taken into the smoking area.
  - b. In relation to the matters raised by the NT Police, the applicant confirmed each of the matters requested by police.
15. Having considered this application, particularly the nature of the application and the applicant's clear, prompt and sensible responses to the matters raised by various stakeholders, I am, on balance, satisfied that the objects of the Act have been sufficiently addressed and for the reasons outlined I have decided to grant the special licence as outlined at the start of this Decision Notice.

### **Notice of Rights:**

16. Section 120ZA of the Act provides that a reviewable decision is a Commission decision that is specified in the Schedule to the Act. A decision to issue a special licence subject to condition pursuant to section 59 of the Act is specified in the Schedule and is a reviewable decision. I am exercising the power to make a Commission decision pursuant to the delegation made to me by the Commission.
17. Section 120ZC of the Act provides that a person affected by this decision may seek a review before the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Any application for review of this decision must be lodged within 28 days of the date of this decision.
18. For the purpose of this decision, and in accordance with section 120ZB(1)(b) and (c) of the Act, the affected person is the applicant.



**JODI TRUMAN**  
Deputy Chairperson  
Northern Territory Liquor Commission