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# NORTHERN TERRITORY LICENSING COMMISSION

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## MEDIA RELEASE

4 Sept 2009

### **Consultation on possible restrictions in the Darwin/Palmerston and rural area**

The Licensing Commission has decided to consult with Darwin, Palmerston and rural area residents about possible restrictions and/or removal of cheap and problem takeaway liquor products, particularly four and five litre wine casks.

The Commission began its consideration of the issue when research brought to its attention and public comment showed some low cost alcohol products may be contributing to significant harm in the community.

“It is a significant issue requiring evaluation and consultation – it may not be a panacea for alcohol problems in Darwin/Palmerston but there’s enough information around to show it’s worth considering,” Commission Chairman Richard O’Sullivan said.

“Product limitations could be effective in reducing alcohol related harm but there is a wide range of options open to us in addressing large volume cheap alcohol products which is why we’d like to hear from the community.”

Mr O’Sullivan said the Commission would first seek consultations with a wide range of stakeholders from the liquor industry and Indigenous groups through to health and police and community workers.

“From there, we’ll determine the format of at least one public meeting each in the municipalities of Darwin, Palmerston and the rural area,” he said.

“We’ll also be seeking written submissions from the public and stakeholders over the next two months.

“We’ll not be rushed on this but equally we hope to consider everything in a timely manner.”

Members of the public who want to see the decision and the Terms of Reference should go to: [http://www.nt.gov.au:8080/justice/commission/public\\_consultation.shtml](http://www.nt.gov.au:8080/justice/commission/public_consultation.shtml)

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