

NORTHERN TERRITORY LICENSING COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

10 October 2007

MITCHELL STREET - REVIEW OF LICENSED PREMISES

The Licensing Commission, AHA and Licensees are working together to address antisocial behaviour in the early hours on Darwin's Mitchell Street and CBD.

The Northern Territory Licensing Commission Chairman, Richard O'Sullivan, has welcomed a voluntary approach over changes to licence conditions to prevent the mass exodus from the main venues in the early hours and the consequential problems this creates.

Mr O'Sullivan stated, "common sense approaches to be discussed and agreed upon include venues with a late licence having a 3am lockout, up to an hour for drink up time after the licence expires with soft drinks and water available, and during this last hour, for increased lighting and softer (calming) music to be played."

Mr Sullivan said the Commission will also seek voluntary approval from Licensees later this month for increased "footprint" camera surveillance claiming, "increased camera coverage around the exit areas of premises will enable better monitoring of incidents which frequently occur immediately outside the premises".

Following incidents of violence, antisocial behaviour and disorderly exiting of the late night venues, the Licensing Commission announced a review of the licence conditions for all Darwin City late night venues. Written submissions received in the review will also be taken into consideration.

The Licensing Commission hopes effective solutions to the problems will be voluntary rather than imposed under the Commission's regulatory powers. This will result in quicker implementation and without the requirement for costly hearings.

A meeting between the Licensing Commission, licensees and the AHA will take place later this month to finalise the measures and set a start date to make Darwin City a safer place after the closing of late night venues. Such measures should combine with the late night mini bus / taxi rank, with security, being proposed in partnership with Council, Government and Industry.

Contact: Katie Fowden, 8935 7409 / 0401 116 728
