
NORTHERN TERRITORY LICENSING COMMISSION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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A practical approach to development

The Licensing Commission has streamlined its procedures when dealing with a proposed commercial development - a move that is expected to have positive benefits for developers.

The change means building developers are able to apply for a conditional liquor licence at the same time as they apply to the Development Consent Authority (DCA) for a development permit.

"In the past, developers have been required to have DCA approval for a development before they could apply for a liquor licence," Commission member John Brears said.

"This process resulted in delays in a project – especially if a public hearing was required before a licence could be granted. It also meant developers had to complete the DCA approval process for a liquor outlet with no certainty that they would in fact be granted a liquor licence.

"Now, developers are encouraged to lodge their liquor licence applications at the same time as they lodge their DCA application. "

"The public advertising of the licence application can then start and if there are no objections or concerns, a conditional liquor licence can be granted to the developer at a much earlier stage than previously possible," Mr Brears added.

"One of the conditions will be obtaining DCA approval. It will only be in cases where there are concerns or a public hearing is required that the decision of whether or not to grant a liquor licence will have to await DCA approval."

In creating this new procedure, the Commission sought the views of, and consulted with, the Darwin City Council, the DCA, the Property Council, major local developers, the Royal Institute of Architects, Building Designers Association, and the Territory Construction Association.

"There was overwhelming support for the conditional approval procedure and we have already implemented this process," Mr Brears said.

"It's important to note that this change does not mean there is any lessening of the careful consideration the Commission gives to liquor licence applications." Mr Brears said. "The general public are assured the opportunities to comment on a proposed liquor licence remain."

Mr Brears said guidelines and a flowchart on the process will be posted on the Commission's website.

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