



**Dr Chris Burns**

MINISTER FOR RACING, GAMING & LICENSING

May 23, 2007

## **Ban on Takeaway Alcohol Licences Extended**

The Territory Government and the Licensing Commission have extended the moratorium on the issuing of takeaway liquor licences.

The Licensing Minister Chris Burns said the ban would continue until a new Liquor Act comes in to place.

“Part of the work being done on the new Liquor Act focuses on the social and economic consequences of takeaway liquor licences,” he said.

“It would therefore seem sensible to wait until we have a fuller picture of the situation before lifting the ban.”

In a major effort to tackle alcohol abuse, the Government and the Commission instigated a 12-month moratorium last June.

“Alcohol is the main cause of criminal and anti-social behaviour in the Territory. We need a Liquor Act that better acknowledges that,” Dr Burns said.

“The current Liquor Act became law in 1978 and since then has been amended 48 times. It’s time it had a revamp to better tackle the harm being done to Territorians through excessive alcohol consumption.

“The proposed changes will strengthen the issues surrounding harm minimisation, public safety and the public interest.

“We want people to enjoy a social drink – it’s the type of destructive drinking we want to stop.”

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