

# LICENSING COMMISSION

## PRESS RELEASE

18 October 2006

The Stuart Caravan and Cabin Park has been granted a very limited, restricted liquor licence by the Licensing Commission.

“In arriving at this decision, the Commission spent much time considering the concerns raised by objectors,” Acting Commission Chair Brenda Monaghan said.

“We listened very closely, during the full hearing in Alice Springs, to both sides of the debate. The decision to grant this limited licence takes into account undertakings by the Licensee, the tourist industry benefits and the concerns and support raised by witnesses appearing at the hearing.”

The licence is similar to liquor licences already in place at a number of Alice Springs accommodation venues where alcohol availability is strictly limited to guests.

Conditions include:

- It only allows a six (6) pack of beer or mixed spirits OR a bottle of wine to be purchased
- The sale of liquor must be to registered guests only, who must show their gate key as proof of identification
- The sale of liquor is restricted from 4pm to 8pm daily
- Liquor is only to be consumed within the Caravan Park
- All sales must be recorded with name, site number and alcohol purchased.

The Licensee also undertook not to advertise the availability of liquor externally.

Other considerations noted by the Commission include:

- The application predates the twelve (12)-month moratorium on the granting of takeaway licences and must be decided in accordance with the principles set out in the *Liquor Act*. The Commission was clear that it would only grant the licence if the neighbourhood amenity could be protected.
- The licence application was supported (9:1) by the Alice Springs Town Council and by a competitor, the MacDonnell Range Holiday Park.

- The Caravan Park is being upgraded and a considerable improvement to facilities has already occurred. Its target market is the international and interstate tourist.
- 10 to 15 percent of their guests are international tourists arriving in Alice Springs by plane or the Ghan. They do not have their own transport. 70 percent of guests are over sixty (60) years of age and only five percent are younger than thirty (30). There are a dwindling number of permanent residents (35 at present) who cause no problems and live quietly.
- The proprietors are experienced, responsible Licensees. There appears to be no antisocial behaviour within the Tourist Park and no evidence of guests causing problems in the neighbourhood. It is well-maintained and appears to be well run.

“Finally but most importantly, there is no evidence that the restrictive licence granted to the Caravan Park will cause any problems whatsoever in the neighbourhood nor that it will contribute to the alcohol related issues experienced in Alice Springs,” Ms Monaghan said.

Racing Gaming and Licensing will be monitoring the premises to ensure that its sale of alcohol meets the conditions and objectives of its licence.

For a full copy of the decision go to:

<http://www.nt.gov.au/ntt/commission/decisions.shtml>

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