

LICENSING, REGULATION AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Liquor Legislation Amendment Act 2007

Questions and Answers

Q What will these changes mean for licensees and liquor permit holders?

A The *Liquor Legislation Amendment Act 2007* does not remove any existing liquor licences or permits in the Northern Territory. If a Special Restricted Area declaration is made in an area where there are current permit or licence holders, these will also remain in place unless the Northern Territory Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing exercises discretion to impose special licence conditions or modify, suspend or revoke a permit. This could happen at the same time as the making of the declaration or at any other time.

Q Can the Northern Territory Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing impose special licence conditions on licensees not in a Special Restricted Area?

A Yes. The Minister may impose special licence conditions where it is urgently needed and for the wellbeing of communities that might be affected by the operation of a licence. This is not restricted to licensees in Special Restricted Areas. A special condition could be imposed on a licensee if their operation impacts on a Special Restricted Area or other affected communities.

Q How do these amendments fit with amendments made by the Commonwealth Government to the Northern Territory Liquor Act?

A While the Commonwealth amendments to the Northern Territory *Liquor Act* will impose liquor restrictions on most Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory amendments under the *Liquor Legislation Amendment Act 2007* are capable of broader application. The Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing can impose liquor restrictions on any area that meets the criteria set out in the Act.

The Commonwealth amendments only apply for 5 years, and can be repealed earlier. The amendments in the *Liquor Legislation Amendment Act 2007* are ongoing.

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Q Will the police be able to enter my home at any time to check if I have liquor in my possession?

A No, not unless they reasonably suspect that a breach of a General Restricted Area declaration or a Special Restricted Area declaration is occurring. The police will have powers to randomly search persons or vehicles to detect the commission of any offence under a General and Special Restricted Area declaration.

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