

Alcohol in City of Darwin controlled places policy

Policy No. 8061.100.E.R

1 Purpose

The intent of this policy is to guide City of Darwin and the broader community on the management of alcohol sale and consumption in City of Darwin controlled places.

2 Scope

This policy applies to the sale and consumption of alcohol across City of Darwin controlled places. This policy does not cover City of Darwin's comment on commercial liquor licence applications.

It also applies to those who wish to hold events in City of Darwin controlled places where alcohol is sold or consumed and refers to the process of securing a permit or authority to do so.

3 Policy statement

In the Northern Territory, the sale, supply, service, promotion, and consumption of alcohol is governed by the Northern Territory Government under the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT). Consumption of alcohol in any public place in the Darwin Municipality is prohibited, except where the owner/occupier of that public place gives their permission for people to consume alcohol in that area.

Excessive alcohol use and public intoxication can have negative effects on community amenity and safety. City of Darwin encourages responsible consumption, sale and service of alcohol to support harm minimisation.

City of Darwin does not support the use of its controlled places where the primary focus of activity is the selling, promotion, or consumption of alcohol.

This policy promotes a planned and consistent approach to the consumption and sale of alcohol in City of Darwin controlled places. City of Darwin seeks to make available access to its places in an equitable manner for the benefit of all in the community.

3.1 Exceptions for alcohol sale or consumption in City of Darwin controlled places

Under the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT) consumption of alcohol in any public place in the Darwin municipality is prohibited, except where the controller of that place gives their permission for people to consume

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alcohol. Consuming alcohol in City of Darwin controlled places is prohibited unless the alcohol is being consumed:

- o in an exempt area indicated by signage
- o at an event for which an authority or permit has been issued under *City of Darwin By-Laws 2023* (NT)
- o with a permit for consumption
- o at a licensed venue with an appropriate authority issued by Licensing NT and subject to legislative controls under the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT).

3.2 Authority or permit

An event on City of Darwin controlled land which includes the sale of liquor must have an event authority or permit issued and a licence from Licensing NT. Applicants are to meet all legislative obligations and timeframes required as part of the application process, under the procedure of City of Darwin or Licensing NT. Information, timelines and support are provided on City of Darwin's website.

Applications may be made for a permit to consume, not sell, alcohol in a prohibited public place within City of Darwin controlled land for special events or functions. The permit requires the endorsement of the Northern Territory Police and, when issued, allows the consumption of liquor by guests of the permit holder only. Permits are issued at the discretion of City of Darwin.

City of Darwin reserves the right to refuse event and consumption applications or to cancel permits issued in its controlled places.

3.3 City of Darwin facilities

City of Darwin owns several properties where alcohol is sold. The occupier is required to apply for a Liquor Licence through Licensing NT and is subject to legislative controls under the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT). As part of this application the occupier is required to seek consent for a Liquor Licence from City of Darwin.

3.4 Alcohol signage in the municipality

City of Darwin provides signage which delineates areas where alcohol consumption is permitted, rather than erecting signage throughout the municipality to indicate every area that alcohol consumption is not permitted. The community should always assume alcohol cannot be consumed in public areas unless signage indicates otherwise.

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4 Definitions

Authority (as in licence) means an authority or liquor licence granted by the NT Liquor Commission. Authorities are managed and monitored by Licensing NT.

Harm minimisation means, in line with the Australian Government’s National Framework of Drug and Alcohol Policy, policies, programs, practices, and strategies which aim to reduce the harms associated with drug or alcohol use. Harm minimisation does not condone illegal or improper use of substances, however supports the reduction of harms to individuals, their families, and the broader community.

Licensing NT means the body that supports the Liquor Commission in enforcement, reporting, investigating, and monitoring laws and requirements under the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT).

Liquor Act 2019 (NT) means the legislation that governs the sale, supply, service, promotion and consumption of all forms of liquor and alcohol products for the purpose of minimising their associated harm and for related purposes.

Permit means an authorisation or documented permission by the relevant agency or authority to undertake an activity that is otherwise not allowed.

5 Legislative references

Liquor Act 2019 (NT)

City of Darwin By Laws 2023 (NT)

6 Procedures / related documents

2151.001.I.N Event Application/Permit

6201.002.I.N Comprehensive Events and Activities Application

7 Responsibility / application

The General Manager Community is responsible for managing the implementation and review of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed every four years or as required.

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