



Noonamah Tavern & Rodeo

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To the Review Panel,

My Name is Tony Innes and I am the owner and licensee for the Noonamah Tavern, located on the Stuart Highway in Noonamah.

The Noonamah Tavern is open 7 days a week and has full bar facilities pokies, Tab, Keno and a drive thru bottleshop. We try to provide rural residents with as much entertainment as possible, with live bands each week, and we host a number of huge rodeo events throughout the year.

Our rodeos are very popular with local residents, as well as Darwin residents, we see 1000's of people attend each one. An event this size is a challenge to manage and I commend my staff and security company for the job they do and fully support police and licencing input and presence as well.

The grey area for me as licensee is when we do have patron's that get too intoxicated (which is hard to manage at large events) and does happen by law we must remove them from the licensed area, my concern is the liability to me as licensee if they then drive and cause an accident is there a provision in the licensing act where barred patrons can be kept in the licensed area and monitored/given water etc until such time as transport can be arranged etc... free busses would help this.

Our dry season Rodeo's employ dozens of locals and support sporting teams and charities. We are considered a major event yet we get no government support for free busses to support road safety. We offer free camping and pay for busses ourselves to take people home for free covering the rural area and back to Palmerston. If the government is serious about road safety and drink driving why don't they support events like this with free busses?

We work together with both licencing and police to do our best to maintain a safe environment for people to attend our event and I fully understand the issues we have with intoxication and alcohol related violence. We are doing our best to minimise this. Free busses would help us immensely.

I personally believe that Offenders should have ankle bracelets that trigger as they enter the bottle shop, rather than scan everyone. There the ones that have broken the law! Not everyone else. Licensees are not compensated for extra wages to implement the BDR – hopefully the mobile scanner will be less time than the previous system. I think the BDR should have a \$20 minimum purchase.

I don't see anything to address online sales - no one has an answer yet how this will be controlled. Also what happens with social media and sites such as buy, swap & sell.

I would also like to raise an issue with security requirements for licence extensions. An example of this is we have recently requested a licence extension to cover a fenced carpark area where people can view classic cars between 11am – 6pm and have a drink whilst doing so. No bar in this area. Alcohol will be served from the main hotel bar in plastic and cans only. It is during the day and was considered low risk. We estimated 300-400 may visitors throughout the day yet licencing still required 5 security guards even though it was a low risk event. As a previous two-time winner of the community service award we pride ourselves on giving back to the community but the costs of putting functions on is becoming increasingly unviable. Without the hotel industry, there would

be very little entertainment in Darwin. It is a major employer also yet we seem to cop nothing but bad publicity lately.

We like to run events such as the rodeo and car show, but get concerned about the future of such events when Government places more taxes and fees on to our business, like they have done recently with the gaming tax.

I don't support the introduction of annual fees or any other form of tax/fee/levy being lumped on to my business for no other reason than to penalise licensees.

At the moment the Noonamah Tavern is able to afford to go the extra mile and financially support, sponsor and fundraise for the following organisations (over the last 12 months):

- Southern Districts Football Club
- Australian Masters Squash Championships
- Croc's Netball Association
- AACO Rugby Team
- Acacia Hills Motor Cross Association
- Swamp Dogs Ruby Association
- Douglas Daily Cricket
- Bees Creek School
- Taminmin College
- Defence Child Care Centre
- Variety NT
- Vietnam Vets – ANZAC Day
- Leukaemia Foundation through UGLY Barmaid promotion
- Beyond Blue
- SHC Grand Nationals – Grace McDonald
- Katelyn Simpson – NRCA Australian Junior Barrel Championships
- Scurvy Dogs – Barra Nationals Fishing Competition
- Barrarinas – Secret Women's Fishing Competition -
- Car Wash – Baby Max
- Smile-A-Mile
- 1st Berrimah Scout Group
- Top End Rumble – Car Show
- Finke Desert Race – Off Road Auto's

In addition to this we also organise a couple of large fundraisers each year, with the most recent two being the Noonamah Frog Races and our Charity Golf Day which raise in excess of \$30K. We have various groups fundraising within the Hotel and Rodeo's selling anything from Raffles tickets to Lucky number boards, meat trays etc. Vietnam Vets, Katelyn Simpson & Grace McDonald. We also make numerous donations of Rodeo Tickets, Food & Beverage Vouchers to groups for fundraising e.g. Bees Creek School, Taminmin, Douglas Daily Cricket.

Barring Patrons is a difficult issue for us to manage, especially for rural licensed premises. On premise, we can manage ok! We can monitor small groups/put them on water and arrange transport or get a sober bob to take them home.

All my staff involved in the sale and service of alcohol hold a RSA and I support this qualification. On top of that we have a number of house policies to support the overall management of the Tavern.

Please contact me should you require any further information.

Tony Innes.

