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C/- Department of Health

PO Box 40596

CASUARINA NT 0811

29 June 2017

**Re: NT ALCOHOL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION REVIEW 2017**

Sent via email: [Alcohol.Review@nt.gov.au](mailto:Alcohol.Review@nt.gov.au)

Dear Members of the Review Panel

My name is Andrew Case and I am a shareholder and General Manager for Epsomm Pty Ltd which holds the 'Tavern' licence for the Humpty Doo Tavern, located on Lot 2207-2648 Freds Pass Road, Humpty Doo.

The Humpty Doo Tavern is open from 10am to midnight seven days a week. We take pride in the facilities we offer our patrons, including a Beer Garden, Sports bar with full keno and TAB facilities, Gaming Room with 20 of the latest machines and a Bistro and Bar, complete with brand new Children's Play Area and a bottleshop.

We have recently invested over \$1.5 million back into the pub through extensive renovations to ensure it continues to meet the community's expectations and high standards.

Food is a big focus of the Humpty Doo Tavern, with meals available all day from 11am until 9pm and our extensive menu has something for everyone including the freshest Aussie seafood, house-made desserts, traditional pub fare and restaurant quality specials. Last year we won Gold Plates at the NT's restaurant Awards for Best Family Restaurant and also Best Casual Dining.

Given our location, The Humpty Doo Tavern works hard to attract locals living out this way to become our regular patrons, and we are lucky to have a lot of those. We also work on building our profile in order to get tourists to pull off the Stuart Highway and visit our venue.

I support the current Review into alcohol laws, I think getting an independent panel to look objectively at the amount of alcohol outlets and volume of alcohol is overdue, particularly since the lifting of the takeaway moratorium by the previous Government.

While this area is growing in terms of population, I don't think the population supports the amount of new liquor licences we have seen in areas such as Palmerston, Zuccoli, Bakewell, Pinelands and Coolinginga. I think there is now an oversupply of liquor in this area, and support the Government's moratorium on new takeaway outlets, as well as restricting the size of all takeaway

outlets to 400sq M. There is more work to be done in this space, including strengthen the takeaway guidelines, as previous applicants have been able to argue their way around the 'greenfield' site definitions.

I don't support the introduction of annual licence fees or risk-based licensing, as I believe it is just another tax on my business and revenue raising exercise by Treasury and the Government. The Humpty Doo Tavern can not afford any more taxes, we are still grappling with the substantial increase in tax we now have to pay for our gaming machines, with further increases to this to come in the following years. This could not have happened at a worse time for us, given the \$1.5 million renovation we have just undertaken.

I think the current trading hours are sufficient and support a status quo on these, including the restrictions on takeaway hours for stores.

The Humpty Doo Tavern offers discounts at our bottle shop, but not what I view as excessive discounts, like other outlets, where a bottle of wine is less than \$5 and a 2L casks can sell for under \$15. **I would support a floor price on all takeaway alcohol of \$1.20 to \$1.30 and see this a fair initiative to rid our community of excessive cheap products that can cause alcohol-related harm.**

**I think the Banned Drinker Register is a fair initiative by Government** to address our high and problematic alcohol consumption (as compared to other jurisdictions in Australia). While the new technology for bottle shops is still being developed, I am hopeful that it will assist our operations in implementing the BDR, particularly during our busy periods.

**The Humpty Doo Tavern supports Industry best practices, see the use of Codes of Practice as a way to mandate this and cull the practice of excessive discounts and irresponsible supply of alcohol.** There could be several Codes of Practice develop to assist both industry and the regulator; one being for on-premise, another one for takeaway outlets and the other to promote high standards by our customers – through a Patron Code of Conduct.

These Codes of Practice would ensure an even playing field for all operators. I think at the moment there is an 'ad hoc' nature to enforcement and compliance from both regulators and industry. I often see extreme discounting of drinks promoted for sale on premise, down to as low as \$3, which I believe can cause irresponsible and excessive consumption, but nothing seems to be done about it from a Licensing perspective.

All of my staff have their RSA accreditation and I support the continued practice of obtaining this universally accepted certificate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ac', with a large, loopy flourish above it.

Andrew Case  
Director