



Deemat Pty Ltd - ABN 44009626813

P.O BOX 1846 KATHERINE NT 0851

T: (08) 89717288 - F: (08) 89717299

mail@katherinehotel.com - facebook.com/kirbyskatherine

KATHERINE HOTEL LIQUOR REVIEW SUBMISSION

My name is Cassandra Harney. My Husband Robert and I have been General Operations Managers of the Katherine Hotel since July 2013, Licensees from October 2015. The Katherine Hotel would like to offer our formal support to the submission made by the AHA (NT) and welcome the opportunity to raise the following issues affecting ourselves.

BDR/POSI's

The Katherine Hotel believes the TBL's/POSI's are problematic because they are racially discriminatory, operationally intimidating, disproportionately impact our drive-thru business and, in the end, serve to simply geographically relocate the problem they were implemented to solve.

Our staff witness first-hand the extreme variation between officers in their judgement on who can and can't purchase alcohol on a day to day basis. The KH has been informed by police that "[Members do not limit the amount of alcohol a person purchases](#)" however time and time again, we witness officers limiting quantities of only Indigenous persons based on the personal beliefs of the officer of what could be consumed by said person.

There are also circumstances of officers (minority not the majority) checking the identification of only Indigenous customers and waving all customers of non indigenous appearance through, with no attempt what so ever to check their identification, or inquire where their alcohol is to be consumed. We believe these actions make our establishment guilty by association and we are then seen by our customers to be racist also.

One consequence, felt by our drive through retail liquor outlet of these interventions, was that "legal" shoppers have chosen to use BWS walk in liquor store, as the police check is primarily just a 'nod' and not the full vehicle search/registration check our outlet's customers are subjected to.

The Katherine Hotel strongly believes it is evident the TBL's/POSI's have geographically relocated the alcohol problems affecting our town, to Darwin and surrounds. This has dramatically affected the overall economic wellbeing of the Katherine community. This is evident by the number of retail shop closures/downsizes. We are also aware of another business (a café) due to close its doors at the end of this tourist season.

The POSI's have also caused the surrounding Katherine communities to bypass Katherine and travel to Darwin. The large increase of services by passenger transport companies (ie Bohdi Bus etc) is evidence of this effect.



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We support the reintroduction of the BDR Territory wide. We believe the only way forward in dealing with alcohol related issues, is the implementation of all alcohol restrictions/policies placed on selected retail liquor outlets, to be implemented Territory wide. With the outcome to avoid the mass populations shifts experienced by remote townships when these restrictions/policies, targeted only in remote areas, are in place. For the future of the Territory and to minimize the alcohol related issues we face, a united stance must be made rather than band aid solutions in selected areas.

SECONDARY SUPPLY

The Katherine Hotel believes the issue of secondary supply in our town as a result of the POSI's has not been addressed as an issue of importance to date. Our on-premise venue regularly turns away many patrons when we open for trade at 10am due to intoxication. These patrons are known to our staff of being unable to purchase take away liquor from retail outlets, and these patrons will openly admit to purchase from a secondary supplier. A secondary supplier, who is not regulated, and makes a highly inflated profit off the desperation of the vulnerable.

LIQUOR LICENCE FEES - RISK BASED LICENSING

The Katherine Hotel does not support an annual liquor licence/risk based licence fee. We believe our venue employs all assets in our power to mitigate antisocial behavior in and around our venue, to avoid a negative impact on our community. With licensing standard CCTV, patron identification scanners operational for late night trade, licensed crowd control officers, RSA Marshalls, in house policy's/ staff training and our strict adherence to the liquor act and our own venues liquor license, we believe any imposition of an annual license fee will by definition reduce our business profitability and divert funds from the aforementioned patron care measures.

The regions in the Northern Territory are already struggling with the downturn in trade. The Government has increased Taxes on Gaming Machines and another Tax imposed would threaten the viability of our venue. We already collect over \$200,000.00 in GST revenue from our on premise trading, as well as the excise tax charged by the wholesalers also has GST on top. This will be at risk should we close our business and any assessment of Licence fees should take this into account.



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PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Katherine Hotel believes there is no adequate public transport in Katherine. Taxi services are frequently understaffed and of those staff working, many will not transport to, or from, licensed premise.

We have personally met with the operational leaders of all taxi services in Katherine to resolve this issue. Although they agreed to all measures of driver safety we put in place, they still fail to supply taxis in an appropriate time frame, if at all. Whilst we have recently purchased a second-hand courtesy bus to help move patrons quickly and efficiently from the CBD during late night trade, we have run into multiple issues with staffing this service. This is due to not having any staff with the skills, or willing to obtain the skills, to meet the license requirements a driver of such a service requires. High staffing turnover in remote areas is also a factor in this.

PERSONAL PATRON ACCOUNTABILITY

We feel a major problem of today's society is the mentality that it's 'someone else's fault'. The Katherine Hotel believes licensed venues are aware of the great responsibility involved with operating a licensed premise. We also believe that added measures of responsibility are required for patrons themselves, to minimize antisocial and dangerous behavior, in and around licensed premises. We believe this can be achieved by imposing large fines, for those endangering their fellow patrons and the community with antisocial behavior. A consenting adult, who chooses to consume alcohol, and behaves in a dangerous and anti-social manner or refuses to leave a licensed premise, needs to be held accountable for their actions. By imposing and correctly enforcing these fines there is a responsibility/deterrent placed back on patrons, encouraging them to be accountable for their actions.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

The Katherine Hotel is in complete agreement with the AHA (NT) on this issue.

"The widespread consumption of illegal and so-called 'recreational' drugs continues to be a contributor to anti-social, criminal and violent behaviour in and around licensed premises and in the community more generally. The Northern Territory has historically high rates of illicit drugs use in its adult and youth populations. Further, Territory Governments have identified a specific problem in relation to crystal methamphetamines ('ice') and the associated harm and offending in the community. It is our view that any official consideration of the regulatory environment related to the mis-use of alcohol should implicitly acknowledge the complementary harms associated with the widespread consumption of illicit drugs by Territorians."

The Katherine Hotel supports mandatory drug testing of persons detained by police during incidents in and around licensed premise.



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We thank the Review Panel for their time in reading our submission. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss it further.

Regards,

Cassandra & Robert Harney
Licensees & GOM
Katherine Hotel