Licensing Commission’s Decision A Positive For Nightcliff

Member for Nightcliff Jane Aagaard today applauded the decision by the Licensing Commission to approve the application by the Darwin City Council to declare parts of Coconut Grove, Nightcliff and Rapid Creek as Public Restricted Areas.

“This is a victory for the many residents and business owners who have worked as a community over the past 18 months to have this application approved,” Mrs Aagaard said.

“I am very pleased that our community has been heard and the people can reclaim their streets and parks.

“This has been a very long process and people have been patient but persistent and I thank residents and business owners for their support of the application.

“People deserve to be able to go about their ordinary business or recreation without being humbugged or harassed in their streets and parks.”

Mrs Aagaard said this was not about a prohibition for all of Nightcliff or its foreshore but was about stopping the minority of people who drink, loiter and humbug in certain areas and who create fear for residents and their families.

Mrs Aagaard said she was hopeful that this declaration together with the initiatives announced by the Government to tackle anti-social behaviour such as the night patrol, the increase in short-term accommodation and greater money for the Return to Home program will result in a significant improvement in our streets and parks.

“While I agree with the Licensing Commission and the Police that there will most likely be a displacement of some people to other areas of Darwin, there will also be a displacement of itinerants to the Alcohol Courts, the justice
system, short-term accommodation and rehabilitation as well as to their own communities.”

Mrs Aagaard thanked the Commissioners for their careful consideration of this application.

Media Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563