Dr Chris Burns
MINISTER FOR RACING, GAMING & LICENSING

February 19, 2008

Alcohol ID Bill Introduced

Public takeaway alcohol venues in Alice Spring and the Katherine region will soon be required to use electronic ID technology when selling alcohol.

The Licensing Minister Chris Burns introduced the proposed legislation into Parliament today.

“The electronic ID system is aimed at reducing excessive and harmful consumption of alcohol,” Dr Burns said.

“Both Alice Springs and Katherine have recognised the unacceptably high levels of drinking in their towns and agreed to become “dry”. They have also imposed restrictions on the quantity and types of alcohol available.

“To complement these measures, the Territory Government will install an electronic ID system in public takeaway alcohol venues to further reduce alcohol abuse."

The system will identify:

- those with a prohibition or alcohol intervention order in place
- those whose court-imposed bail conditions prohibit alcohol consumption
- those with court-imposed domestic violence orders against them prohibiting alcohol consumption

The Liquor Legislation Amendment Bill provides for the establishment of an electronic photo ID system.

The system can recognise 19 forms of local and national photo ID and more than 150 international forms of identification.

Under the proposed legislation licensees will be required to scan all customers' photo ID before any takeaway alcohol sale. This will be a quick and efficient process.

Additionally it will be an offence to sell liquor to anyone prohibited by the system.

A breach will attract a maximum penalty of up to $2200 or an on-the-spot fine of $220. Prosecution or an infringement notice will also be available for each breach.

The proposed legislation will affect 12 venues in Alice Springs and 13 venues in Katherine, Mataranka, Pine Creek and Victoria River.

The Liquor Legislation Amendment Bill will be debated in the April Parliamentary Sittings.

Media contact: Andrea Adlam 0401 119467