The Territory Government is inviting the community to have its say on the Public Dry Areas Legislation, said Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing, Syd Stirling.

“We believe this Legislation will be an effective tool in the Territory’s fight against alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour,” said Mr Stirling.

“We are now seeking public comment on the laws that will enable parts of urban areas throughout the Territory, like neighbourhood parks, to be declared dry.”

The discussion paper says that under the legislation, a local government council, the Director of Licensing or the Police Commissioner will be able to make an application for a public area to be dry.

“It is expected that these applications will be based on community wishes. The Northern Territory Licensing Commission will conduct an inquiry into the application to determine if the area will be restricted from alcohol consumption,” said Mr Stirling.

“If Public Dry Area legislation is applied there will be a penalty attached to breaching it. A proposed $500 fine may be imposed and the alcohol taken away.

“The seizure of vehicles carrying alcohol will not apply in these restricted areas.”

The Minister said the discussion paper is available for comment until 11 August, before being introduced to Parliament in the August sittings.

Copies of the paper can be obtained from the Northern Territory Treasury website:


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