MINISTER WELCOMES INDEPENDENT MITCHELL STREET AND CBD STUDY

The Territory Government has welcomed today’s decision by the Licensing Commission to undertake a comprehensive independent study into the issue of licensed premises on Mitchell Street and the Darwin CBD.

Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing, Syd Stirling, said the study would evaluate whether or not we currently face a market saturation of premises on Mitchell Street in Darwin.

“This independent study will provide the Commission with information it needs to make decisions on Mitchell Street licenses while giving it a better understanding of how to responsibly develop the Darwin CBD,” he said.

“In addition to the Commission’s work in this area, Government will develop an Alcohol Management Plan for the precinct.

“Alcohol management is an important issue for the Territory - especially in our entertainment districts - and it is vital that we avoid practices that encourage irresponsible drinking.

“We will work with the community and businesses that have an interest or already operating in the CBD to make sure we get this right.”

Mr Stirling said Government wants Mitchell Street and the Darwin CBD to continuing developing responsibly as an entertainment district and that community imput would play a major role in both the study and management plan.

“As the Territory grows, we need to make sure it moves in the right direction, balancing lifestyle and safety with business and jobs,” he said.

“We want our entertainment precincts to be safe places for families and visitors to enjoy so we have to get the balance right.”

Mr Stirling congratulated the Commission for listening and responding to community concerns.

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