30 June 2005

CONCERN OVER WOOLWORTHS SMITH STREET LIQUOR LICENCE

Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing Syd Stirling today said he was disappointed that Woolworths in Smith Street, Darwin, has been granted a takeaway liquor licence by the Licensing Commission.

“The Government and other stakeholders are working hard to address issues of anti-social behaviour in our community. Often that behaviour is fuelled by grog,” he said.

“Another liquor licence won’t help that.

“We don’t need more liquor licences in Darwin’s CBD – and certainly not ones near schools and churches.

“The Licensing Commission operates independently from Government.

“However, I intend to meet with the Acting Chair of the Commission as soon as possible to discuss how Commission guidelines can be made to more clearly reflect Government policy on anti-social behaviour.

“Takeaway alcohol is already accessible enough, particularly in Darwin. There is no need to increase accessibility even further.”

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