

**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA**

**LIQUOR LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAST TRACK APPROVALS)  
ACT 2026**

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**Act No. 13 of 2026**

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# NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. 13 of 2026

An Act to amend the *Liquor Act 2019*, the *Liquor Regulations 2019* and the *Liquor Commission Act 2018*

[Assented to 4 June 2026]  
[Introduced 18 March 2026]

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

## Part 1 Preliminary matters

### 1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Liquor Legislation Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Act 2026*.

### 2 Commencement

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), this Act commences on the day fixed by the Administrator by *Gazette* notice.
- (2) If a provision of this Act does not commence before 20 March 2028, it commences on that day.

## Part 2 Amendment of liquor legislation

### Division 1 Liquor Act 2019

#### 3 Act amended

This Division amends the *Liquor Act 2019*.

#### **4            Section 4 amended (Interpretation)**

Section 4(1)

*insert*

**low risk application**, see section 52A(1).

#### **5            Section 5D inserted**

After section 5C

*insert*

#### **5D          Fit and proper person**

- (1) For this Act, in determining whether or not a person is a fit and proper person, the Commission:
  - (a) must have regard to subsection (2) and any matters prescribed by regulation; and
  - (b) may have regard to any other information the Commission considers relevant.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), a person is not a fit and proper person if the person, within the previous 10 years, was found guilty of an offence against any of the following laws:
  - (a) this Act;
  - (b) the *Liquor Act 1978* before its repeal;
  - (c) a law of the Commonwealth, a State or another Territory prescribed by regulation.
- (3) Despite being found guilty of an offence referred to in subsection (2), a person may be determined by the Commission to be a fit and proper person if the Commission considers the circumstances relating to the matter justify the determination.

#### **6            Section 10 amended (Powers and functions)**

After section 10(1)(f)

*insert*

- (fa) to decide applications to approve material alterations to licensed premises;

**7            Section 19 amended (Commission decisions)**

Section 19(d)

*omit*

**8            Section 49 amended (Public interest and community impact)**

(1)        Section 49(1)

*omit*

all words from "The" to "satisfied"

*insert*

Subject to subsection (5), the Commission may only issue a licence or an authority on an application if the Commission is satisfied

(2)        After section 49(4)

*insert*

(5) The Commission may, on a low risk application, issue a licence or an authority under section 60(1) if the Commission is satisfied the applicant is a fit and proper person without also needing to be satisfied of the matters specified in subsection (1)(b) and (c).

**9            Section 51 amended (Onus on applicant)**

(1)        Section 51(1)

*omit*

An applicant for a licence or an authority must

*insert*

On an application for a licence or an authority, other than a low risk application, the applicant must

(2)        Section 51(2)

*omit*

An

*insert*

Subject to subsection (2A), an

(3)            After section 51(2)

*insert*

(2A) For a low risk application, the applicant does not need to provide any information, or conduct any consultation, required by the community impact guidelines.

**10            Section 52 amended (Application for licence and authority)**

(1)            Section 52(2)

*omit*

all words after "authority"

*insert*

must be:

(a) lodged with the Director in the approved form and manner;  
and

(b) accompanied by the application fee prescribed by regulation.

(2)            Section 52(3)

*omit, insert*

(3) An application for a licence or an authority, other than a low risk application, must also be accompanied by the following documents and information:

(a) an affidavit made under section 54;

(b) the evidence necessary to satisfy the onus specified in section 51(1);

(c) a summary of the evidence referred to in paragraph (b) that is suitable for publication.

*Note for subsection (3)*

*Under section 52A(4), an applicant who lodges a low risk application under subsection (2) may subsequently be required to provide the documents and information referred to in this subsection if the Director makes a determination under section 52A(2) in respect of the application.*

**11            Section 52A inserted**

After section 52

*insert*

**52A        Low risk applications**

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a **low risk application** is an application under section 52(1) for:
  - (a) a licence with one or more authorities that are each of a type prescribed by regulation; or
  - (b) the addition to an existing licence of one or more authorities that are each of a type prescribed by regulation.
- (2) Within 14 days after a low risk application is lodged, the Director may, if the Director considers it to be in the public interest, determine that the application is not to be further dealt with in accordance with this Part as a low risk application.
- (3) On the making of a determination in respect of an application under subsection (2):
  - (a) the application ceases to be a low risk application for this Part; and
  - (b) any reference to a low risk application in sections 49, 51 and 57 does not include the application.
- (4) If the Director makes a determination under subsection (2), the Director must give the applicant a written notice that:
  - (a) informs the applicant the determination has been made; and
  - (b) requires the applicant to provide to the Director the documents and information referred to in section 52(3) in respect of the application.
- (5) A determination under subsection (2) is not reviewable by the Commission or NTCAT.

**12            Section 56 amended (Acceptance of application)**

- (1) Section 56(1)

*omit*

Within

*insert*

Subject to subsection (1A), within

- (2) After section 56(1)

*insert*

- (1A) If a determination is made under section 52A(2) in respect of the application, the decision under subsection (1) must be made by the Director within 21 days of the applicant providing the documents and information to the Director in accordance with the notice given to the applicant under section 52A(4).

### **13        Section 57 amended (Public notice of application)**

- (1) Section 57(1)(b)

*omit*

notice; and

*insert*

notice.

- (2) Section 57(1)(c)

*omit*

- (3) Section 57(2)

*omit, insert*

- (2) A low risk application is exempt from the public notice requirements of this section.

### **14        Section 59 amended (Consideration of applications)**

Section 59(4)

*omit*

### **15        Section 60 amended (Decision to issue licence or authority)**

Section 60(2)(a)

*omit*

exempted from public notice by the Director under section 57(2)

*insert*

exempt from the public notice requirements under section 57(2) or (2A)

**16           Section 137 amended (Responsible service certificate)**

Section 137(1)(b)

*omit*

3

*insert*

5

**17           Part 18 inserted**

After section 337

*insert*

**Part 18                   Transitional matters for Liquor Legislation  
Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Act 2026**

**338           Definitions**

In this Part:

***amending Act*** means the *Liquor Legislation Amendment (Fast Track Approvals) Act 2026*.

***commencement*** means the commencement of section 3 of the amending Act.

**339           Applications for licences or authorities before commencement**

- (1) Subsection (2) applies in relation to an application for a licence or an authority (a ***pending application***) that:
- (a) was made to the Commission under section 52 before the commencement; and
  - (b) had not been decided by the Commission under section 60 before the commencement.

- (2) The pending application must be dealt with and decided in accordance with the provisions of Part 4, as in force immediately before the commencement, as if Part 2, Division 1, of the amending Act had not commenced.

**340        Applications and approvals relating to material alterations before commencement**

- (1) Subsection (2) applies in relation to an application for approval of a material alteration to licensed premises (a ***pending application***) that:
- (a) was made to the Commission under section 96 before the commencement; and
  - (b) had not been decided by the Commission under section 97 before the commencement.
- (2) The Commission must continue to decide the pending application in accordance with sections 96 and 97 as in force immediately before the commencement.
- (3) A reference to an approval of a material alteration given by the Director in sections 98 and 99, as in force after the commencement, is taken to include a reference to:
- (a) an approval of the material alteration that was, before the commencement, given by the Commission under section 97; and
  - (b) an approval of the material alteration that is, after the commencement, given by the Commission in deciding any pending application in accordance with subsection (2).

**18        Act further amended**

The Schedule has effect.

**Division 2        Liquor Regulations 2019**

**19        Amendment of Regulations**

This Division amends the *Liquor Regulations 2019*.

**20 Regulation 4A inserted**

After regulation 4, in Part 1

*insert*

**4A Low risk applications**

For section 52A(1) of the Act, definition ***low risk application***, each authority listed in Schedule 2 with a specified risk classification of low risk or very low risk is prescribed.

**21 Schedule 2 heading amended (Risk classification for authorities)**

Schedule 2, heading

*omit*

regulations 10

*insert*

regulations 4A, 10

**Part 3 Amendment of Liquor Commission Act 2018**

**22 Act amended**

This Part amends the *Liquor Commission Act 2018*.

**23 Section 29 amended (Application for review)**

Section 29(1)(a)

*omit*

161(2)

*insert*

52A(2) or 161(2)

**Part 4 Repeal of Act**

**24 Repeal of Act**

This Act is repealed on the day after it commences.

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**Schedule Act further amended**

section 18

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Provision	Amendment	
	<i>omit</i>	<i>insert</i>
sections 95(1), 96(1), 97(1), (2), (3), (4) and (5), 98(1) and (2)(a) and (c) and 99(1)	Commission <i>(all references)</i>	Director
section 99(1)	Commission's	Director's

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