



CHIEF MINISTER

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
chief.minister@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8936 5500
Facsimile: 08 8936 5576

Mr Alex Bruce
Chief Executive Officer
Hospitality NT

Email: admin@hospitalitynt.com.au

Dear Mr Bruce

Thank you for your correspondence dated 8 July 2020 seeking the Territory Labor Government's support for Hospitality NT's *Local Businesses, Local Jobs Plan*. I have responded to your Plan in the attached document.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting Australians hard and my Government is doing everything it can to soften the blow for Territorians.

As you know, my first priority is keeping Territorians safe.

Our hard borders are still there – we have Police on borders and in airports, forced quarantine for hot spots, and tough consequences for rule-breakers.

We saved jobs because of our hard borders. If coronavirus was let loose in the Territory, more jobs would have been lost and people would have died.

We are throwing the kitchen sink at saving jobs – including the Small Business Survival Fund (SBSF), the Home Improvement Scheme, cutting payroll and power bills, and tourism vouchers for locals.

You and Mr Paul Palmer, President of Hospitality NT have made significant contributions to the design and implementation of the \$50 million SBSF.

Thanks to these efforts, \$43.5 million in SBSF payments have already been approved. This is cash flowing directly to your members, keeping businesses afloat, people in jobs and food on tables.

As mentioned in your letter, a flourishing Territory hospitality industry employs 17,000 people and directly contributes \$1 billion to the Territory economy (\$3 billion indirect). While the industry is not at that point right now, like you, we believe it can get back there.

My Government believes in jobs, not cuts, and we will keep investing in Territorians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'M'.

MICHAEL GUNNER

29 JUL 2020

TAXATION

Taxes relating to the Hospitality Industry are set.

If elected, the Territory Labor Government will not bring in new taxes over the next term of government.

DEFERAL OF RISK BASED LICENCING FEES

There are currently no plans to defer risk based licencing fees.

Risk based licencing was a key recommendation of Justice Trevor Riley's review into alcohol in the Northern Territory.

Alcohol related assaults across the Territory have steadily decreased since we implemented the Review's recommendations, brought back the Banned Drinker Register (BDR) and stationed Police Auxiliary Liquor Inspectors (PALIs) at bottle shops.

There will be both a technical review of the *Liquor Act 2019* conducted 12 months following its commencement in October 2020 and a full review of the Act as soon as possible after three years from the date of assent to the Act.

RESTORE INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT OF THE LIQUOR ACT

There will be a technical review of the *Liquor Act 2019* conducted 12 months following its commencement, this will occur in October 2020. This review can consider Section 258 as part of its scope.

UNREGULATED ACCOMODATION

This Labor Government wants visitors to the Territory to have a safe and enjoyable stay.

In 2018, the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation (DTBI) engaged Ernst & Young to conduct a review of the short term private accommodation market in the Territory. The consultancy was overseen by a Review Steering Committee which included Hospitality NT.

It provided no recommendations, but did provide 27 policy options for NT Government consideration.

It also noted that "*States and Territories across Australia are currently reviewing the Short Term Holiday Letting (STHL) market. It is recommended that the NT Government does not implement any major reforms until the major reviews are completed*".

The Territory cannot ignore the current impact of the Coronavirus on resources and the significant challenges in developing an effective and manageable regulatory environment that does not add unnecessary red tape or excessive administrative burden.

Accordingly, the Northern Territory Labor Government will implement a simple STHL registration scheme to assist with the collection of basic data, and continue with public and industry consultation in order to achieve the best outcomes for consumers.

SUNDAY TRADING

No changes are currently planned for Sunday trading.

Justice Riley's alcohol review called for further restrictions on Sunday trading, but this government chose to maintain the Sunday trading status quo.

SMOKING / VAPING AND HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCTS

This Labor Government will commit to no further changes to smoking laws in licensed premises next term.

REGIONAL OPERATORS SUPPORT FUND

The Territory Labor Government has delivered unprecedented support for the hospitality and tourism sectors. From Turbo Charging Tourism to the Small Business Survival Fund, we have been there for the regional businesses, and we will continue to do so.

Many regional hospitality businesses have received survival payments and businesses improvement grants.

We have also provided thousands of Territorians with \$200 tourism vouchers so they can explore the Territory. Many of these vouchers will be used in our regions and will get people out of Darwin and travelling down the Stuart Highway and beyond.

This week I announced an additional two rounds of the local tourism vouchers and a new \$10,000 Business Rebound and Adaption Grant, which are dollar-for-dollar grants that will support small businesses affected by Covid-19.

TAKEAWAY MORATORIUM

As you know, we implemented the takeaway licence moratorium as another tool to protect Territorians alcohol related violence. Takeaway alcohol is the number one cause of that violence.

As per the requirements of the *Liquor Act*, the moratorium on takeaway liquor licenses will remain in place until 31 August 2023.

There will be a technical review of the *Liquor Act 2019* conducted 12 months following its commencement, this will occur in October 2020.

As per Section 320 of the *Liquor Act 2019*, a review of the Act to determine, whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives will be undertaken as soon as possible after three years from the date of assent to the Act. The report on the outcome of the review is to be tabled in the Assembly within 12 months after the end of the period of three years.

INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT

My Government has demonstrated greater recognition of the hospitality industry than any other State or Territory in this country during the nation's worst crisis since World War Two.

Only a Territory Labor Government will continue to provide the industry with the support it needs.

Some hospitality businesses have received in excess of \$100,000 in Northern Territory Government support since the pandemic began.

We have a plan to reconstruct the Territory economy and protect jobs. The CLP and Terry's Alliance will break promises and cut jobs, just like they did last time when they sacked hundreds of Territory workers and put up power prices 30%.