



Australian Government

Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

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25 January 2010

Mr Richard Chadwick  
General Manager  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 3131  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Chadwick,

I refer to your letter to Dr Jeff Harmer, Secretary of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), of 16 December 2009, reference C2009/1954, regarding applications for authorisation lodged by the Casuarina Precinct Stakeholder Committee. Dr Harmer has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The *Report on the Northern Territory Emergency Response Redesign Consultations* identifies that local solutions to control alcohol can be more effective than universally imposed restrictions. FaHCSIA recognises that the use of liquor accords can be effective in encouraging accord members to implement practical solutions to alcohol related problems and improve community safety without the need for mandatory legislation and enforcement.

FaHCSIA is currently working with the Northern Territory Government to reduce alcohol-related harm in Aboriginal communities and town camps in the Northern Territory. Given that the proposed Casuarina Business Liquor Accord concerns the supply of alcohol in a commercial area of Darwin, FaHCSIA is not able to provide detailed comment on the proposed accord or request for interim authorisation. However, FaHCSIA does offer in-principle support for the proposed Liquor Accord in so far as it aims to reduce alcohol-related harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours sincerely

Maurice Hermann  
A/g Branch Manager  
Indigenous Policy  
Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination

