

HERE'S CHEERS TO FINAL NOD FOR DAN MURPHY'S -
LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO REACH CRUCIAL DECISION
Northern Territory News, Friday, 18 December 2020, page 4.
[Timeline]

2015

Dan Murphy's announces they're beginning to search for a site for a Darwin superstore.

DECEMBER 19, 2016

The NT government amends to Liquor Regulations to make it a condition of a grog shop licence that the retail floor space is limited to 400sq m.

DECEMBER 22, 2016

Woolworths applies to substitute an existing licence for a Dan Murphy's store. It threatens to take the NT government to court.

MARCH 9, 2017

Woolworths applies to the Federal Court of Australia to have the amendments made under the Liquor Amendment Regulations 2016 declared invalid on the basis that they were not within the regulation-making powers of the government.

APRIL 27, 2017

An independent review into alcohol in the NT – the Alcohol Policies and Legislative Review (Riley Review) is established to tackle the high level of alcohol harm in the NT.

AUGUST 1, 2017

Woolworths withdraws its case against the NT government from the Federal Court.

OCTOBER 19, 2017

The Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report makes a range of recommendations to reduce alcohol harm in the NT. The NT government has implemented almost all of these recommendations.

FEBRUARY 5, 2018

The Northern Territory government announces legislation to re-establish an NT Liquor Commission.

JULY 19, 2018

Woolworths lodges an application to build a Dan Murphy's liquor outlet on the corner of Osgood Drive and Bagot Road, Eaton.

JUNE 4, 2019

Woolworths commences its next legal action, applying to the NT Liquor Commission to open the first Dan Murphy's store in Darwin. The application was opposed by many groups.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

The NT Liquor Commission denies the application for substitution, noting the "potential for a significant increase in harm due to the use of liquor, over and above that already occurring within the community areas",

OCTOBER 1, 2019

The Northern Territory government overhauls the Liquor Act 1978 in response to the 2017 Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review Final Report (the Riley Review).

OCTOBER 18, 2019

The FARE & PAAC Report examines data following the introduction of NT's most comprehensive alcohol reforms, including the Riley Review recommendations, and finds there has been a significant effect in reducing alcohol-related violence.

OCTOBER 18, 2019

Woolworths appeals the NT Liquor Commission decision to the NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT).

DECEMBER 23, 2019

NTCAT dismisses Woolworths application on the grounds that it wasn't open to Woolworths to make the application. It says "an application to the Commission pursuant to s46A of the 1978 Act for the substitution of other premises, could only be made in relation to premises that existed".

JANUARY 6, 2020

Woolworths applies the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory for leave to appeal the Tribunal decision.

MARCH 24, 2020

The Scrutiny Committee report is tabled in parliament and the Liquor Amendment Bill is introduced and passed before parliament is suspended due to COVIC-19.

APRIL 23, 2020

Woolworths lodges an application to have the case reconsidered at NTCAT.

APRIL 29, 2020

An independent evaluation finds alcohol reforms aimed at cutting alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour and harm across the Northern Territory are working.

MAY 15, 2020

There is an NTCAT directions hearing for the Woolworths application, setting out the time frame for the case.

OCTOBER 22, 2020

Having sought a number of delays to the NTCAT proceedings, Woolworths is granted a further delay and the full hearing is adjourned to early 2021.

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

The NT government introduces legislation to bypass the independent Liquor Commission process. Two days later it is passed by parliament.

NOVEMBER 13, 2020

The NT Liquor Commission's 15 person board threatens to resign after the Territory government outlines a plan to hand a decision on a proposed Dan Murphy's to the government's Director of Liquor Licensing.

NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Under the Liquor Further Amendment, the Director of Liquor Licensing is required to decide on the Woolworths' Dan Murphy's application within 30 days of receiving Royal Assent.

DECEMBER 12, 2020

Dan Murphy's is informed it has the go-ahead to have a store in Darwin.