

COMMUNITY STORES



Central Land
Council
Alice Springs

WHAT IS THE MEASURE?

The National Emergency Response Act (Cth) introduces a Community Store licensing scheme, largely to allow for quarantined welfare payments to be held by licensed stores.

Under the scheme the Minister's Department may grant a Community Store licence having regard to the quality, quantity and range of groceries available, the finance and governance arrangements, and the store's ability to participate in income management.

The Department may appoint officers to assess a Community Store on these or other matters the Government thinks fit. A store must cooperate with appointed officers otherwise offences apply.

The Department may revoke a licence if it thinks a licence condition has been breached or that the store is not being operated in a satisfactory manner. If a store fails an assessment or has its licence revoked, the Minister may declare that the store assets become the property of the Australian Government.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY STORE

A Community Store is a business where one of the main purposes is the sale of groceries and drinks, but does not include a takeaway shop or a roadhouse.

WHERE DOES IT APPLY?

The scheme applies in "prescribed areas" being:

- all Aboriginal land granted under Land Rights Act (Cth)
- all community living areas granted under Lands Acquisition Act (NT)
- town camps declared by the Minister
- any other area in the NT declared by the Minister

and any other premises in the NT specified by the Minister.

WHEN DOES IT START?

18 August 2007

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS?

The scheme does not make it compulsory to have a licence nor must a store cease to trade if a licence is revoked.

However, store assets can **be seized** if the store fails an assessment or has its



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licence revoked.

The scheme does not apply to stores off Aboriginal land or community living areas unless specified by the Minister.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007 Part 7