

# Proposed legislative amendments

## Proposed amendments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984 (JLOM Act)

### Background

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) has heard concerns from communities with Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) about the significant health and community safety impacts that result from the use of turbo yeast and other emerging substances in making homemade alcohol.

Turbo yeast enables accelerated and large scale production of homemade alcohol with high levels of alcohol and it ferments within approximately 24 hours. Further, this process does not require a commercial home-brew kit.

DATSIP is committed to responding to community concerns through proposed amendments to the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984* (JLOM Act).

The proposed amendments will apply in nine discrete Indigenous communities where homemade alcohol offences are in place: Aurukun, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mornington Island, Napranum, Pormpuraaw, Woorabinda, and Wujal Wujal (eight Alcohol Management Plan communities with zero carriage limits) and Doomadgee (as a prescribed community area).

### Proposed amendments

On 22 August 2018, the proposed amendments to the JLOM Act were introduced into the Queensland Parliament as part of the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

The proposed amendments to the JLOM Act will capture and prohibit existing and emerging substances (such as turbo yeast) that can be used to make homemade alcohol.

Specifically, the amendments will prohibit the possession of a substance or combination of substances (other than home-brew concentrate) with the intention of using the substance or substances to make homemade alcohol.

The new offence provision is not intended to capture lawful possession of ordinary household substances (for example, yeast, sugar, fertilisers or multivitamins). The offence provision will be triggered by a person's intention to use the substance or combination of substances to make homemade alcohol, exhibited where the substance or substances are not being used for their ordinary purpose.

### Consultation on the proposed amendments

The Bill has been referred to the Economics and Governance Committee for detailed consideration. The Committee will table its report in Parliament on 5 October 2018.

The Committee will consider any public submissions on the proposed amendments.

Further information on the Committee process, including how to make a submission and a copy of the Bill and explanatory notes, is available at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/EGC/inquiries/current-inquiries/RevenueOLA2018>