



6 November 2018

Far North District Council  
KAIKOHE

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: ALCOHOL CONTROL BY LAW REVIEW**

This is the police response to the review of the existing alcohol by law review.

**Opening comments:**

The evidence of enforcement is difficult to message with current collection of data. Police action is often unreported, given the range of outcomes can be as simple as speaking to the individual/s concerned, advising them of the by law and getting those concerned to either remove the alcohol from the area or dispose of an open vessels there and then.

Given there is limited data, Police are providing anecdotal evidence and observations of police staff as the basis for this report.

**General comments**

Early intervention is key for the Police, to reduce both victimisation and offending caused by the effects of consumption of alcohol. Liquor bans allow the Police to intervene at a much earlier stage before a person becomes intoxicated.

Liquor bans provide the Police with an enforcement option that acts as a deterrent to alcohol consumption, when often over consumption would lead to fighting, disorder and violence. It also increases the safety of people in and around licenced premises and residential areas.

There isn't the same attraction for people to 'hang around' in towns and congregate and look for trouble since the implementation of the liquor ban areas. Police are not required to patrol CBD areas with the same amount of focus since the liquor bans were put in place because of the reduction of violence or alcohol impaired offending.

In areas where we have liquor bans the level of offending is not severe and the serious injury assaults are rare compared to what they were prior to the liquor bans and the other changes made to improve public safety.

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Having the liquor bans has the deterrent effect, with reduced calls for service in the area associated with reduced public place alcohol consumption and associated crime of fighting, disorder, violence and assaults. The community is safer as a result and feels safer.

### **Comment by alcohol control area**

#### **Ahipara**

The Ahipara area is a mix of holiday homes, day to day residential properties, and motel/hotel style accommodation. Holidays periods and summer will see increases in population, being a popular holiday location for families.

There used to be a lot of alcohol consumption in public places which would lead to disorderly, violent and assaultive behaviour, particularly in the vicinity of the beach access areas. The area would be left with evidence of alcohol consumption in the form of litter. There would be no sanction to consumption of alcohol in the area, making it difficult to take action to prevent such offences.

When the bylaw came in, police had additional powers to deal with the issues before they became an issue. The ability of police to take action in a preventive fashion, reduced the likelihood of increased violence, fighting and assaults. The level of alcohol related harm in the area has reduced.

#### Requested:

Tasman Heights Road, Reef View Road, Kokopu Stand Sandhills loop

Little evidence of offending or harm to the Tasman Heights Road, Reef View Road and Kokopu Sandhills Loop. That said the fear is that this area may present as an area where the consumption could take place on the basis of the rest of the area being a controlled area. We have the option to future proof as more families move into the area as it's a new subdivision and will over time see further buildings and development.

Police would also ask that the beach area parallel to the north most area of Nimiety Mile Beach, and 324 Foreshore Road being considered to expand the existing area to ensure the on-going safety of the entire area.

#### **Coopers Beach reserve**

The Coopers Beach area is a narrow piece of land beside SH 10. It is nestled amongst dwellings and motel complexes. The carpark area and playground and surrounding reserve was a popular place for youth and adults alike to concentrate and consume alcohol. This is also a popular area for tourists and locals to enjoy with families.

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Fighting and disorder would occur infrequently, but anyone entering the area would be exposed to risk by those consuming excessive amounts of alcohol. Real risk of disorder, fighting and assault occurred with the main issue being at night. Currently the area sees nil to little violence and/or alcohol consumption.

Reserve is not named. No evidence of issues with drinking on the beach reported by police staff.

### **Haruru**

The Haruru Falls area is primary residential with some light industrial and commercial areas. By and large, this area has not been the scene of a lot of fighting, disorder or assaults. There was infrequent assault and disorder in the area, often on Puketona Road closer to Paihia. The location is far enough away from the licenced premises in Paihia to not be affected. The area has seen growth in recent times, but still remains a safe environment for young and old alike. No obvious changes have been noted before or after the introduction of the liquor ban area.

### **Hihi**

Local police staff report that the area is not prone to public based drinking outside of the controlled area. The areas of risk have been identified and provide police with the ability to enforce the control area. The surrounding streets are not seen as posing any risk to the community if not controlled by the by law.

Police would submit that the area defined by the control remain the same, and ask that the period over New Year's Eve be included as a prohibited time.

### **Kaeo**

The Kaeo area is based on the retail area of the township. Few dwellings are contained in the designated area. There are a number of public areas contained in the immediate area, and a licenced off premise operates. Signage of the ban is in the area.

Police request that the liquor ban be included.

### **Kaikohe**

The Kaikohe area is a mix of commercial, industrial and residential dwellings. Traditionally it has had a number of licenced premises in and around Broadway, clubs

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(sports and volunteer) and a number of off licences. Traditionally, licenced premises have been poorly managed, which in turn leads to the over consumption of alcohol and the movement around the CBD area with alcohol from one premise to another. This in turn led to the discard of empty alcohol bottles and cans as individuals would migrate between venues.

Although there was an investigation that could be carried out under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act, the prospect of securing enough evidence to take further action would be challenging.

Prior to the introduction of the liquor ban area, the occurrence of public place drinking and disorder was high, and led to the community having fears of feeling safe. Drinking in carparks and public places was common. In terms of the wider area, public place drinking in reserve areas and also the spill out effects of parties were obvious.

Also, public place drinking in parks and residential areas meant that limited opportunities existed to deter the abuse of alcohol, and for police to take enforcement action to prevent further harm in the community.

#### Requested:

Evidence of times of littering and vehicles parked up and consuming alcohol in the area of State Highway 2 near the cycle lane and reserve area on Monument Hill. The area of Rowsell Heights Road should be included on the basis on that era not being fully developed with residential properties and mirrors the surrounding area.

#### **Kaitaia**

The Kaitaia area covers the residential and central business area of Kaitaia. The area has at times had a differing number of licenced premises. Traditionally, licenced premises have been poorly managed, which led to the over consumption of alcohol and movement around the CBD area with alcohol from one premise to another. This led to the discard of empty alcohol bottles and cans as individuals would migrate between venues. Although there was an investigation that could be carried out under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act, the prospect of securing enough evidence to take further action would be challenging.

Prior to the introduction of the liquor ban area, the occurrence of public place drinking and disorder was high, and led the community having fears of feeling safe. Drinking in carparks and public places was common.

In the wider area, public place drinking in reserve areas and the spill out effects of parties were obvious. Limited opportunities existed to deter the abuse of alcohol consumption in parks and residential areas, and for police to take enforcement action to prevent further harm in the community.

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In the residential area, alcohol related offending on the public areas has reduced and rarely do police come across anyone breaching the bylaw. The number of licenced premises in and around Kaitia CBD has reduced, and there have been improvements with the business practice of the licenced premises in particular. The standard of our licenced premises has also had an impact and no longer do we see patrons leaving one venue carrying their drink on their way to another premises. The introduction of certified security has also had an impact.

### **Kawakawa**

The Kawakawa area is covered by a mix of residential, commercial and industrial area. The area has had a differing number of licenced premises, all located within the CBD, with sports and club licences out of the immediate area.

Traditionally, licenced premises have been poorly managed, which leads to the over consumption of alcohol and movement around the CBD area with alcohol from one premise to another. This led to the discard of empty alcohol bottles and cans as individuals would migrate between venues. Although there was an investigation that could be carried out under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act, the prospect of securing enough evidence to take further action would be challenging.

Prior to the introduction of the liquor ban area, the occurrence of public place drinking and disorder was high, and led to the community having fears of feeling safe. Drinking in carparks and public places was common. Also, public place drinking in parks and residential areas meant that there were limited opportunities to deter the abuse of alcohol, and for the police to take enforcement action to prevent further harm in the community. In terms of the wider area, there was not the same extent of issues given the terrain of the township.

Whilst the introduction of the liquor ban hasn't completely stopped the migration of people with alcohol between licenced premises, it has gone some way to controlling it. It is rare to see anyone walking down Gillies Ave with alcohol from another premise. The level of offending is not as severe and the serious injury assaults are rare compared to what they were prior to the liquor ban and the other changes made to improve public safety.

The number of licenced premises in and around Kawakawa has remained the same, and there have been improvements with the business practice of the licenced premises in particular. The standard of our licenced premises has also had an impact and no longer do we see patrons leaving one venue carrying their drink on their way to another premises. The introduction of certified security has also had an impact.

### **Kerikeri (includes the Domain)**

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The Kerikeri Domain is a large public space enjoyed by all sectors of our community. It is central to the CBD of Kerikeri and adjacent to Kerikeri High School. With the area being a pedestrian collider between the CBD, the High School, Hone Heke Road and surrounding area, it was often a place for the consumption of alcohol. The area is surrounded by a supermarket (issued with an off licence), off licence premise and is in close proximity to an on-licence premise. With the consumption of alcohol in this area comes victimization, offending, and property damage. There was also litter left in the form of empty bottles and cans, and packaging.

Police were attending incidents of disorder and fighting, assaults and people suffering from the effects of excess drinking (intoxication).

Given the availability of alcohol in this location, it would be the obvious place for the consumption of alcohol. Groups regularly gathered in the domain area for the purpose of consuming alcohol, creating an atmosphere that would make our community feel unsafe. Families and older people would avoid the area. Students also would be exposed to disorder and fighting as they left school and walked through the area to the CBD. Assaults and disorder would take place at different times, day and night. At times, police would have to remain in the area to prevent violence, particularly at night due to poor lighting and alcohol impaired behaviour.

The liquor ban has created a deterrent to the poor behaviour and violence/assaults that were previously experienced in the area.

The liquor ban has allowed the police to intervene and take action with people consuming alcohol in the area, which has improved both the visible well-being of the area and increased safety for all that use the area. The ability to intervene not only reduces the risk of victimisation and offending, but also reduces the risk of injury, whether it be intentional or not. The risk of violence and need for sustained police presence has reduced. Also the entire feeling of the domain area has improved for the positive, people are less intimidated, particularly at night, and the number of individuals or groups found in the area at night has reduced. The level of offending is not as severe and the serious injury assaults are rare compared to what they were prior to the liquor ban and the other changes made to improve public safety.

The public have accepted the liquor ban areas and along with other control measures have greatly improved the domain as a place for entertainment/socializing, compared to the time before the liquor ban was introduced.

Early intervention is the key, Police are able to identify and approach potential people who could be an issue later in the night. Often the Police approach is graduated and usually a breach of the liquor ban is resolved by asking the person to tip out their liquor and deposit their bottle/can in a bin. It takes up minimal time and is more often than not a positive interaction with Police and does not involve a visit to the cells. There is also no longer any attraction for people to come into town and drink cheaper liquor out of their vehicles in a carpark. As Police have less demand in the CBD it allows for resourcing to be directed towards other matters like family harm incidents or road policing. There is also the deterrent effect, which has reduced the issue. People coming into the area now are safer and feel safe.

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Extending the area would continue to benefit the community. Kerikeri population and density of housing has increased. The benefits would enhance the feeling of being safe and would be consistent with other urban areas around the district.

### **Kohukohu**

The Kohukohu area covers the beach area and also the residential area behind. Whilst there is limited information about the on-going need for the control area, maintaining the status quo is the preferred option and again is consistent with other areas in the district.

A new sole charge police officer is in the area and has no historic knowledge of the behaviour in the area.

### **Lily Pond**

This area is down the end of a short road overlooking a river. It was often a gathering point for youth and other groups where drinking and anti-social behaviour would take place. There was little in the way of reported crime into the area, but police staff knew of isolated incidents that would occur including assaults, fighting and littering. The littering would often be in the form of empty alcohol bottles and cans. Infrequent fighting would occur in the area, disorder, assaults, and occasional 'boy racer' type driving.

In recent times there's been minimal calls for police service into the area. Having the liquor ban area has the deterrent effect (not being able to go to this location and consume alcohol without a sanction). The levels of violence and disorder have reduced to a point of being non-existent. With improved presentation and reduced litter, the area has a visible, safer feel. These factors contribute to making our community being safe and feeling safe.

### **Requested:**

The existing hours and dates be shifted to a holiday period 1 December until 31 January. and be a twenty-four/seven control area (in affect all day and night).

### **Moerewa**

The Moerewa area is covered by a mixture of residential, commercial and educational facilities. The area was traditionally an area where alcohol was consumed in a number of licenced premises. Patrons would move between the premises, often with alcohol in hand and discard empty alcohol bottles and cans as they walked between the two premises. Parties would take place and often spill over into the public areas, including the parks and sports grounds in the area. This would lead to assaults, violence and fighting.

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Prior to the introduction of the liquor ban area, the occurrence of public place drinking and disorder was high, and led to the community having fears of feeling safe. Drinking in carparks and public places was common. In terms of the wider area, public place drinking in reserve areas and also the spill out effects of parties were obvious.

Limited opportunities existed to deter the abuse of alcohol in parks and residential areas, and for the police to take enforcement action to prevent further harm in the community.

Since the introduction of the liquor ban, only one licenced premise operates in Moerewa, and the prevalence of public place consumption of alcohol is no longer evident. While it hasn't stopped, it has made massive inroads in preventing it. The level of offending is not severe and the serious injury assaults are rare compared to what they were prior to the liquor ban and the other changes made to improve public safety. The standard of our licenced premises has also had an impact and no longer do we see patrons leaving one venue carrying with them their drink on their way to another premises. The introduction of certified security has also had an impact.

Requested:

All of Wynyard St, Mason Ave, Pembroke St, Plunket St, Leaity St; Massey St, Ranfurly St and Simpson Park be included in the control area.

There is at times activity through the entire urban area of Moerewa, with parties spilling out into the public areas and roadside. In line with other control areas, enhancing public safety and feeling of being safe.

**Okaikau**

The Okaihau area covers a mix of residential, commercial, educational and sports clubs. There have been occasional issues with violence and assaults in the area, but they are infrequent and limited information shows a link between the consumption of alcohol and offending, whether it be an offender or victim.

The area has an off licence premise, with that premise also having a history of being an on licence, but not in recent times.

It has a rugby club rooms in the area and bowling club, both have club licences.

Requested:

The rugby ground area and carpark be the subject to the control area. Enhances safety and the feeling of being safe, also reduces the opportunities for disorder/fighting and assaults. As with other public spaces, there are other avenues including application for special licences to allow one off events that will allow possession and consumption of alcohol in the control area.

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### **Omapere:**

The Omapere control area is a mix of residential and retail. Often the area will increase with tourists and holidays year around. There is also holiday accommodation let out in the control area.

The liquor ban has allowed Police to intervene at a much earlier stage before a person becomes intoxicated. There is not the mass and blatant drinking in carparks and public areas.

There isn't the same attraction for people to 'hang around' in town and congregate and look for trouble since the implementation of the liquor ban area.

### **Requested:**

With the current control areas, and increased growth into the area, police would request the control areas between Opononi and Omapere be one continuous control area.

### **Paihia**

The Paihia area is a mix of residential, licenced premises, motel, hotels and tourist type accommodation. It also has a CBD, a large wharf area and associated businesses. It is a town that is a tourist hotspot.

Prior to the liquor ban, there were two areas that caused issues. The first being around the Williams Road area, and the second being the Kings Road area. Both areas were the scenes of alcohol related offending and victimisation. There were several poorly run licenced premises that promoted excess drinking, resulting in disorder, fights, assaults and in some cases extreme intoxication. Robberies were also occurring in the Williams Road area in particular.

This atmosphere attracted a lot of undesirable behaviours. Many people didn't actually enter any of the licenced premises and sat out in the street side loading from vehicles in the carparks like Williams Road and Kings Road. There were groups of youth that would also be in and around Williams Road looking for vulnerable people to fight or rob.

Often Police would have to have permanently stationed staff in Williams Road to prevent any violence erupting on the street. Police were often called away to attend another incident and almost immediately an issue would occur back in the CBD. This was a very resource intensive role for Police especially on our busy Friday/Saturday nights. Often these assault/fights resulted in serious injury, hospital/ambulance treatment and often involved more than two or three people against a single victim.

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People would have no problem walking between venues taking their drink with them (remember the majority of licenced premises were poorly run), discarding their empty bottle/can in the street. There were also many incidents of vomit and urination in the street as a result. This obviously wasn't pleasant for business owners the following day.

The liquor ban has allowed Police to intervene at a much earlier stage before a person becomes intoxicated. There is not the mass and blatant drinking in carparks anymore and often people breaching the liquor ban have just arrived into town and are finishing off their last drink before going into the licenced premises.

There isn't the same attraction for people to 'hang around' in town and congregate and look for trouble since the implementation of the liquor ban area. It is also worth noting that since the reduction of the licence hours for the premises in Williams Road and the immediate surrounding area, some of the serious assaults and robberies have stopped.

Whilst the introduction of the liquor ban hasn't completely stopped the migration of people with alcohol between licenced premises, it has gone some way to controlling it. The issue has moved from the Williams Road area to Kings Road. Consumption of alcohol along Marsden Road continues to pose a risk for the community.

The level of offending is not severe and the serious injury assaults are fewer compared to what they were prior to the liquor ban and the other changes made to improve public safety.

The number of licenced premises in and around Paihia has reduced, and there have been improvements with the business practice of the licenced premises in particular. The standard of our licenced premises has also had an impact and no longer do we see patrons leaving one venue carrying their drink on their way to another premises. The introduction of certified security has also had an impact.

Police are not required to patrol the CBD area with the same amount of focus. Focus has shifted down to Kings Road and Marsden Road areas, with a view to reduce violence or alcohol impaired offending.

The public have accepted the liquor ban areas and along with other control measures have greatly improved Paihia as a place for entertainment compared to the time before the liquor ban introduction.

In terms of the residential area, alcohol related offending on the public areas have reduced and rarely do police come across anyone breaching the liquor ban area.

### **Pukenui**

There have always been problems with people drinking alcohol at the commercial wharf. It is a place of industry where machinery is operated for loading fish, ice and supplies onto and off commercial fishing boats. There is a culture of having a beer after work down

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at the wharf, with the growing avocado industry in the area the culture continues to grow. There are multiple complaints from the Motel which is situated right next to the commercial wharf. Disorder, fighting and assaults have taken place at the wharf. In particular, the Coastguard has complained about intoxicated people trying to fight them near the Coastguard shed which is located at the wharf.

The reported incidents were at different times and days, with no trends. On that basis the bringing the area into a twenty-four/seven control would be the best way forward to ensure that the safety of the area was enhanced.

### **Rawene**

The Rawene control area is a mix of commercial, residential and retail. Often the area will increase with tourists and holiday-makers year around. There is also holiday accommodation let out in the control area.

The liquor ban has allowed Police to intervene at a much earlier stage before a person becomes intoxicated. There is not the mass and blatant drinking in carparks and public areas.

There isn't the same attraction for people to 'hang around' in town and congregate and look for trouble since the implementation of the liquor ban area.

Community and public in the area feel safe.

### **Russell**

The area is set amongst a residential and commercial area. It encloses a school and other public amenities.

A popular area for tourists year round, attracting both New Zealanders and internationals. Has a number of high profile events including Russell Birdman event and Coastal classic (yacht event)

Has previously been the scene of isolated alcohol fuelled assaults, fighting and disorder. It was evident with reports to police and also litter in the area indicating alcohol consumption.

Since the introduction of the first bylaw and subsequent increasing of the area to a 24/7 alcohol ban area, the area has improved and any reports of assaults, fights and property damage is the exception. The requirement to have a significant police presence in the area around major celebrations is still required, has improved the general behaviour and perception of safety.

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The control area has paved the way for improved behaviour which is evident today. The environment is safer for all that are in the area.

### **Taipa**

The area is set amongst a residential and commercial area. It also encloses an area school, an off/on licence, and a motel complex. This area would attract people to the estuary area and public places for consumption of alcohol. Given the lack of information from local police staff and police offences stats, it is unknown the extent of any issues prior to the liquor ban being in place. Consumption of alcohol is noted in the area, in particular along the beachfront and estuary, but unknown what the cause and effect of that was. Currently the area is the subject of little or no violence, and minimal consumption of alcohol in the alcohol by law area.

### **Taupo Bay**

This area is a mixture of holiday homes, serviced holiday accommodation and permanent residents. In the mid 2000's (2004 and onward) the area was the focal point for celebrations around holiday periods, with a mixture of locals and new people to the area. Obvious consumption of alcohol was evident in the area with alcohol bottles and cans found in the area. The behaviour would be alcohol fuelled, with reported fighting, property damage and also assaults. Correspondence from the local ratepayers to police would comment about the behaviour and request for increased police presence.

In the following years, with a limited alcohol bylaw in place, the behaviour continued, with limited powers to prevent the behaviour and violence. Disorder, fighting, assaults, and property damage were the norm in the area, particularly as it related to the holiday periods.

Since the introduction of the first bylaw and subsequent increasing of the area to a 24/7 alcohol ban area, the area has improved and any reports of assaults, fights and property damage is the exception. The requirement to have a significant police presence in the area around major celebrations has reduced due to the improved behaviour since this liquor ban came into effect. The residents group also commented about the improved behaviour in the area and were thankful for the effects made by police in the early years of the alcohol bylaw. This has paved the way for improved behaviour which is evident today. The environment is safer for all that are in the area.

### **Requested:**

Police request that the beach area be included in the control area.

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### **Tokerau**

Area has increased housing and permanent residents. Evidence now held by police show the area is more consistently prone to criminal behaviour. Fighting, assaults and disorder part of that increase.

The area sees a significant increase in population, and peaks during and around holiday periods and warmer months of the year.

#### Requested:

The control area become 24/7 in keeping with other parts of the community, is an effective tool for police to prevent victimisation and offending.

A wider area should be considered in light of the development, but would recommend that this be part of further discussions in the new year.

The Ramp Road area would also fall into this category, this is a freedom camping site and is often the scene of alcohol consumption, littering and disorder at times.

### **Waipapa**

The Waipapa area covers rural area, commercial, industrial and some residential areas. The area has one licenced on premise and two licenced off premises. Traditionally, licenced premises have been poorly managed, which led to the over consumption of alcohol and the movement in and out of the premises. In this case out onto a busy State Highway. Most of the issues in respect to violence and disorder would be around the on licence premise. Fighting, disorder and assaults would occur. Drinking in carparks and public places was common.

In terms of the wider area, public place drinking in reserve areas and also the spill out effects of parties were obvious around the residential area. (Mawson Avenue) The public have accepted the liquor ban areas and along with other control measures have greatly improved the Waipapa area compared to the time before the liquor ban introduction. In terms of the residential area, reduction in alcohol related offending on the public areas and rarely do police come across anyone breaching the bylaw as a result of the law.

### **Recommendations**

Police ask that the existing control areas in place be affirmed and in some cases enhanced. The benefits to the community and tourists help to improve the perception of safety and improve the ability of the police to enhance safety.

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This is supported by the lack of infringement notices issued in the area, and the acceptance by and large of the control areas by our community.

Police fear that the removal of the areas will impact negatively on the ability to maintain and enhance safety and reduce serious harm.

Alcohol is a consistent driver of crime and crashes in New Zealand.

Should you have any queries, I can be contacted at the Kerikeri Police Station.

Yours faithfully



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