



Local Alcohol Policy and Alcohol Control Bylaw 2022 **Decision Document**

We've undertaken a review of our current alcohol regulations and found they could do more to reduce alcohol related harm in our communities.

We have two tools to help manage alcohol – the Local Alcohol Policy, and Alcohol Control Bylaw.

The Local Alcohol Policy helps the community have a say on who can sell alcohol, how and where, by guiding licensing decisions. The Alcohol Control Bylaw sets out where drinking alcohol in a public area is not allowed.

Two minor changes to the draft LAP have been made following consultation. These are the removal of unneeded one-way door requirements for on-licences and clarifying when new licences for bottle stores in the Te Puke-Maketu ward may be granted.

No changes to the draft Bylaw have been made following consultation.



Key Changes

Policy changes

- Alcohol stores (off-licences – this includes bottle stores, grocery stores and supermarkets) will not be able to sell alcohol past 9pm across the Western Bay of Plenty district.
- No new licences will be issued for bottle stores across the Te Puke-Maketu ward (except where an existing store changes hands or moves to a new premises close by).

Bylaw change

- The public alcohol ban zone (Alcohol Control Area) is extended to the whole of Te Puke urban area, not just the town centre.

Why was it being reviewed?

The policy and bylaw were adopted in 2015 and 2016 respectively and are required for review under the legislation.

What did the consultation say?

135 submissions were received, with eight submitters also choosing to speak to their submissions.

The majority of submitters supported the proposed changes to our policy and bylaw.

A mix of individuals, businesses and health agencies submitted on the Policy. Submitters raised points regarding alcohol harm, suggested adding further restrictions or conditions, supported the current policy approach, and suggested other actions be taken.

Council consulted on the draft Policy and draft Bylaw between 5 November and 6 December 2021, people submitted online, by email and through hardcopy responses.

Next steps

The Local Alcohol Policy is now 'Adopted' and Council has resolved for it to become operational on 21 August 2022. This means that no appeals on the provisional policy were received and Council can give notice to licence holders of the upcoming changes. This allows time for formal notification and for businesses to prepare for any changes. Council will contact impacted licence holders before the changes come into force. This is part of a prescribed legislative process.

The Bylaw was adopted by Council on 6 April and will become operational one month later on 6 May 2022, to allow time for signage to be prepared and placed.

Council has also committed to a number of other actions outside of the Policy and Bylaw to help address alcohol related harm in our communities. These include:

- Increasing public awareness of new alcohol licence applications and renewal applications for on-licences, off-licences and club licences.
- Seeking a wide diversity of candidates for the District Licencing Committee and consider who is included on the appointment panel.
- Council will meet with the Police to outline submitters' concerns and seek greater Police -Council collaboration.
- Responding to future Central Government-led work on Alcohol reform.
- Considering alcohol harm as part of the current Community Safety Policy Review.

Would you like to know more?

For full copies of the LAP or the Alcohol Control Bylaw, please visit our website at www.westernbay.govt.nz/bylaws or ask at one of our libraries and service centres.

Full copies of the reports are also available on our website as part of the Policy Committee meeting held 10 April 2022. To view please visit our website www.westernbay.govt.nz/policy-committee.

