



## Objecting to Alcohol Licenses

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 gives communities a say. The Purpose of the Act is to Promote safe and responsible alcohol use, and minimise harm from excessive drinking (e.g. crime, health issues). Recent changes to the law make objecting easier.

### Why Objecting Matters

- ~**76–79%** of adults drank alcohol in the past year, ~**16%** drink in a hazardous way.
- Hazardous drinking is **higher among Māori and young** people. Māori youth are exposed to **five times the amount of alcohol advertising** compared to other ethnic groups.
- ~**900 deaths each year** are linked to alcohol, **26.6% of suicides** involve alcohol
- ~**29,000 hospital stays** and ~**129,000 ACC claims** relate to alcohol harm.
- ~**1,800–3,000 babies** born each year may have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).
- Alcohol involved in around **20%** of fatal crashes.
- Alcohol harm costs ~**\$9.1 billion per year**; including, health care, crime, and social harm.
- Alcohol tax brings in only about **\$1.3 billion/year**
- The Alcohol Levy collects ~**\$16.6 million/year**, the sole source of funding for Health to address alcohol-related harm and related activities (0.18% of the cost of harm per annum)

### Real-Life Example

“In Tokoroa, after a bottle store closed, alcohol-related emergency admissions dropped from 188 and 3 deaths (2020–2021) to 99 admissions and 1 death (2021–2022). One licence can make a huge difference.” — South Waikato DLC, May 2023

### Types of Alcohol Licenses

- On-licence: Bars, restaurants, caterers – alcohol consumed on-site.
- Off-licence: Bottle stores, supermarkets, online retailers – alcohol taken away.
- New licences last 1 year; renewals last 3 years.

### Alcohol Harm in Communities

- Litter, noise, violence, graffiti
- Underage drinking
- Health and safety concerns
- Impact on community facilities, parks, schools, and public spaces

### How to Object

1. Object within 25 working days of public notice.
2. Include: Your contact details, Grounds for objection, Your signature and date.
3. Objections don't have to be long – just outline concerns.
4. You can object entirely or suggest conditions (e.g. reduced hours, no RTDs).

## Grounds for Objecting – refer to Section 105, Sale and Supply Alcohol Act

- S105(a) Unsafe drinking or increased harm.
- S105(b) Unsuitable business owners, unaware of harm and risks.
- S105(c) Breach of local alcohol policy (LAP).
- S105(d) Unsuitable hours or days of sale.
- S105(e) Traffic or parking issues, poor premises design or risky advertising.
- S105(f)/(g) Selling goods (f)/services (g) attracting minors with alcohol or increased risk of harm.
- S105(h)/(i) Reduced amenity and good order (e.g. more crime, noise, vandalism), sensitive sites nearby (e.g. schools, marae, parks), or existing proliferation of licenses and harm (i).
- S105(j) Lack of staff training or safety systems.

## Privacy

You can apply for a non-publication order to keep your identity confidential. Community Law may be able to assist with this.

## What Happens Next?

- Council confirms receipt of your objection. You can appeal if your objection is denied.
- Objection shared with applicant, Police, and Medical Officer of Health.
- You may be invited to a hui (attendance is optional).
- You will be asked to provide your Evidence and be given a date it is due.

## Evidence is Essential!

- Personal stories and observations. You're an expert on your community!
- Photos, videos, petitions.
- Police or health data.
- Social media posts or online reviews.
- Statistics like the Index of Multiple Deprivation: <https://imdmap.auckland.ac.nz/download/>

## Calling Witnesses

You can bring witnesses to the Hearing who've seen harm or have relevant expertise.

## Hearings

- You must attend for your objection to be considered.
- District Licensing Committee hears all parties.
- You'll be sworn in and can speak to your concerns.
- Committee may discuss licence conditions.
- A decision will not be made at the hearing. You will be advised at a later date.

## Need Help?

Visit Community Law's website for more info: [www.communitylaw.org.nz/alcohol](http://www.communitylaw.org.nz/alcohol)