

Alcohol (Control of Alcohol in Public Places) Bylaw Review 2026 Statement of Proposal

This statement of proposal is prepared under sections 83, 147, 147A, 147B, 155, 156, 159 and 160 of the Local Government Act 2002.

INTRODUCTION

We are reviewing the Alcohol (Control of Alcohol in Public Places) Bylaw and would like to know what you think.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) provides the power for councils to make alcohol control bylaws in areas where there is evidence of a high level of alcohol-related crime or disorder. The current bylaw was introduced in 2004 and prohibits people from bringing, possessing or consuming alcohol in a designated public area of central Dunedin (with some exemptions). The NZ Police enforce the bylaw. The bylaw is due for review.

PROPOSALS AND OPTIONS

Central city alcohol ban - no change proposed



Following initial community engagement, it is proposed to **retain the current central city alcohol ban** (with some exemptions). This helps to reduce violence, disorder and unsafe behaviour and is in

response to requests from the Police, evidence provided by the Police on the high level of crime and disorder in this area, and community feedback.

Option 1: Retain the permanent central city alcohol ban (proposed).	
<i>Advantages</i> • Greater ability to protect public health and safety and to protect public from nuisance. • Greater ability to reduce the high level of crime and disorder in this area. • Responds to requests and feedback from the Police, other organisations and the community.	<i>Disadvantages</i> • Potentially restrictive for some members of the public.
Option 2: Do not retain the permanent central city alcohol ban.	
<i>Advantages</i> • Less restriction for some members of the public.	<i>Disadvantages</i> • Removes an effective tool to address some alcohol related issues in this area. • Limited ability to protect public health and safety and to protect public from nuisance. • Limited ability to reduce the high level of crime and disorder in this area.

Logan Park sports hub area – introduce a permanent alcohol ban



It is also proposed to **introduce a permanent alcohol ban in the Logan Park sports hub area**. This would help to reduce some alcohol related issues in this area including crime and disorder. This area regularly has temporary alcohol bans in place, such as for planned events. The proposal to introduce a permanent ban is in response to requests from the Police and other organisations, as well as evidence about the level of crime and disorder in the area.

Option 1: Introduce a permanent alcohol ban in the Logan Park sports hub area (proposed).	
Advantages Provides a stronger, more consistent tool than regular temporary bans to reduce the level of crime and disorder.	Disadvantages More restrictive for some members of the public.

• Greater ability to protect public health and safety and protect the public from nuisance. • Responds to requests from the Police and other organisations.	
Option 2: Do not introduce a permanent alcohol ban in the Logan Park sports hub area (status quo).	
<i>Advantages</i> • Less restriction for some members of the public.	<i>Disadvantages</i> • Lost opportunity for a more effective tool to address some alcohol related issues in this area. • Lost opportunity to protect public health and safety and to protect public from nuisance. • Lost opportunity to reduce the level of crime and disorder in this area.

Other proposed changes

Other changes are proposed to clarify and simplify the bylaw and these are detailed here:

Section	Proposed change	Reason
Title	Amend to <i>Alcohol Control Bylaw</i>	To be clearer and simpler.
Purpose	Add a <i>Purpose</i>	To be clear about the purpose of the bylaw.
Explanatory notes	Add explanatory notes e.g. • about the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 requirements • about special licences, Council resolutions, temporary alcohol bans, powers of the Police, and offences.	• Required by section 14 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025. • For extra clarification.
Public notice of resolution	Amend that Council must notify any resolution for a temporary alcohol ban by signage <i>where it is practicable and reasonable to do so.</i>	To better reflect requirements of the Act.

Powers of the Police	Remove some detail that duplicates the Act whilst referring to it, and providing an explanatory note.	To simplify this section.
Warning by the Police	Remove this section that duplicates the Act and provide an explanatory note.	To simplify this information.
Offences	Add more detail about infringement offences including an explanatory note.	To provide more information and explanation, and to better reflect the Act.
Schedule B – Specified Restricted Places	Add Logan Park sports hub area to Schedule B.	To reduce alcohol related harm in this area. In response to requests from the Police and community feedback.
Throughout bylaw	Wording amendments	To modernise, clarify and simplify the language.

While there has been some interest in alcohol bans in other areas such as North Dunedin, South Dunedin, and sportsgrounds, it is not proposed to introduce alcohol bans in these areas at this stage. This is because there is insufficient evidence of crime and disorder here and a ban may not be justified as a reasonable limitation on people’s rights and freedoms.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Council is making this bylaw under the Local Government Act 2002. The special consultative procedure is used for the review consultation, as provided by the Act. If a special consultative procedure is used, that provides for the statement of proposal to include a report on any relevant determinations made under section 155 of the Act. The Council made those determinations at the following meetings:

- At its meeting of 25 March 2026, the Council determined that a bylaw is the most appropriate way to address some alcohol related issues in Dunedin.
- At its meeting of 3 September 2026, the Council determined that the proposed Alcohol Control Bylaw 2026:
 1. is the most appropriate form of bylaw, and
 2. does not give rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

The intent of the bylaw is to regulate the consumption of alcohol in public places, the bringing of alcohol into public places, and the possession of alcohol in public places to protect public health and safety and protect the public from nuisance. In this sense, limiting the right of people to consume,

bring, and possess alcohol in certain areas are proportionate responses and are considered justifiable limitations to protect public health and safety.

REGULATORY STANDARDS ACT 2025 REQUIREMENT

To meet new requirements under the Regulatory Standards Act 2025, secondary legislation (such as bylaws) adopted by the Dunedin City Council after 1 July 2026 must be assessed against principles of responsible regulation set out in the Act and an explanatory noted included in the bylaw.

DOCUMENTS

See the draft Alcohol Control Bylaw showing the proposed changes.

HAVE YOUR SAY

What do you think about the proposed bylaw? Are proposed changes appropriate?

Please fill out the feedback form so we can take your views into account.

1. Where to from here?

- Public submissions period closes **5 pm Friday 23 October 2026**.
- Hearings will be held around **November 2026**. During hearings you can verbally present your position to the Council.
- The Council considers submissions and decides on any changes to the bylaw.
- The Council adopts the reviewed bylaw.