

3 February 2023

Committee Secretariat
Justice Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

By email: justice.submissions@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

DCC SUBMISSION ON SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL (COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Community Participation) Amendment Bill (the Bill).

Submission

2. The DCC supports changes proposed in the Bill that:
 - enhance community participation in the alcohol licensing process
 - ensure the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol is undertaken safely and responsibly
 - minimise the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol
 - improve the effectiveness and efficiency of decision-making processes
 - meet the obligations of the Treaty of Waitangi.
3. The DCC has had a LAP in place since 2019. It supports proposed changes that enable communities to set their own rules to reduce alcohol harm, and which reflect the specific characteristics and challenges of different communities.
4. In its LAP, the DCC notes local context and the challenges arising from its unique geography and its demographics, including:
 - a compact urban core with a high proportion of licensed premises clustered around the Octagon
 - as the second largest city by land area in Aotearoa New Zealand, licensed premises serve an important social function in smaller suburban and rural centres
 - as a tertiary education hub, there are proportionately more 15-24 year olds, many arriving in Dunedin when they reach the legal age to purchase alcohol (18 years)

- student accommodation is clustered in the North Dunedin area, housing young people at the age when they want to socialise with others, and with student parties also attracting non-students to the area.
5. The DCC supports changes that reduce discrepancies in outcomes between communities and businesses when lodging objections to license granting and renewals, that is: any person may object (as an individual or group representative) and a person who is a trade competitor of the applicant may only object only if they are directly affected by the application in a way that does not relate to trade competition or its effects.
 6. The DCC supports changes to the licensing hearing process that make the process more welcoming and accessible for community members and representatives, such as removing cross-examination, unnecessary formality at hearings, and flexibility around how people can participate (e.g. by telephone).
 7. The proposed changes in the Bill align with the DCC's Dunedin's Social Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2023, and its strategic direction for vibrant and cohesive communities, and for healthy and safe people.
 8. The DCC is committed to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to working in partnership with mana whenua and maata waka. Its view is that consistently successful engagement with iwi Māori results in better decision making, more robust and lasting solutions and more engaged people and communities.
 9. The DCC sees reducing harm from hazardous drinking as an important avenue to better improve outcomes for Māori. Māori are disproportionately impacted by alcohol harm. Article Two of the Treaty of Waitangi guarantees Māori authority over their taonga, including their hauora (health). The inequity that Māori experience currently, should be a focus of the government's efforts to reduce harm caused by hazardous drinking.
 10. The DCC is concerned that there is no reference to the Treaty of Waitangi in the Bill, and urges the Justice Committee to remedy this in the draft legislation.

Conclusion

11. The DCC is pleased to submit in overall support of the amendments to the Bill.
12. The DCC would welcome the opportunity to speak to its submission at any hearings.

Yours faithfully



Jules Radich
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN