



KAIKŌURA DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY

This Statement of Proposal is prepared in accordance with the decision-making and consultation requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 ("LGA"), including sections 76–83.

1. Introduction

Kaikōura District Council is reviewing its Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) in accordance with the requirements of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Local Alcohol Policies enable territorial authorities to determine local licensing settings within the framework established by the Act. A LAP may include provisions relating to the location of licensed premises, restrictions on new licences, maximum trading hours, discretionary licence conditions, and one-way door restrictions.

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the current policy remains appropriate for Kaikōura and whether any amendments are required to better support the safe and responsible sale, supply and consumption of alcohol, while minimising alcohol-related harm.

As part of the review, Council has considered feedback from New Zealand Police, Health New Zealand, local alcohol licensing officials, and elected members regarding the operation and effectiveness of the current policy. This feedback has identified a number of areas for consideration, including trading hours, one-way door restrictions, discretionary licence conditions, provisions relating to special licences and events, and the potential use of location-based policies.

Council has not made final decisions on these matters and is seeking community feedback before determining the final content of the Local Alcohol Policy. This Statement of Proposal outlines the matters being considered and provides an opportunity for residents, businesses, community organisations, licence holders and other interested parties to have their say

2. Background

The Council adopted its current Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) in 2020. The policy is now being reviewed through a Special Consultative Procedure, as required by the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act).

Feedback on the Current LAP

To inform the review, Council engaged with Health New Zealand, New Zealand Police, and local alcohol licensing and public health officials.

In response, New Zealand Police and Health New Zealand expressed support for a mandatory 1.00 am closing time for on-licence premises. Health New Zealand noted that international evidence demonstrates an association between later trading hours for on-licence premises and increased alcohol consumption and related harm, including violence and alcohol-impaired driving crashes. However, no Kaikōura-specific data was provided.

Health New Zealand recommended that off-licence premises be restricted to trading between 9.00 am and 9.00 pm and that a cap be placed on the number of off-licences. Health New Zealand advised that measures limiting the availability of alcohol through off-licence premises can reduce alcohol-related harm, as a significant proportion of such harm is associated with alcohol purchased from off-licences. They noted that more than 75% of alcohol consumed in New Zealand is purchased through off-licence outlets and that reduced trading hours have been associated with reductions in Police-recorded nocturnal assaults.

Both New Zealand Police and Health New Zealand expressed a preference for the one-way door restriction from midnight to be mandatory, rather than applied as a discretionary condition by the District Licensing Committee. However, Health New Zealand also acknowledged that the evidence regarding the effectiveness of one-way door restrictions is mixed.

For special events, Health New Zealand recommended a maximum of two drinks per purchase. New Zealand Police supported the use of certified crowd controllers at events.

Council Feedback

At a workshop held on 12 August 2026, elected members considered feedback from New Zealand Police, Health New Zealand, licensing officials, and Council officers regarding the operation and effectiveness of the current Local Alcohol Policy.

Following discussion, elected members indicated support for:

- retaining current maximum trading hours for on-licences and off-licences unless future local evidence demonstrates alcohol-related harm that may be reduced through shorter trading hours;
- introducing a location-based policy preventing new licensed premises from establishing within 100 metres of identified sensitive sites;
- retaining the current discretionary approach to one-way door restrictions;

- strengthening requirements for special licence events with 400 attendees or more through mandatory alcohol management plans; and
- requiring certified crowd control officers at entrance and exit points for larger alcohol-related events.

The draft Local Alcohol Policy has been prepared to reflect this direction, and Council is now seeking community feedback before making final decisions.

3. The Proposal Changes

The draft Local Alcohol Policy proposes the following key changes.

Location Restrictions

A new location-based policy is proposed restricting new licensed premises from establishing within 100 metres of:

- schools
- licensed ECE facilities
- marae
- churches/places of worship
- alcohol and drug treatment facilities
- social service providers delivering services to vulnerable persons

This policy does not apply to proposed premises located within the Commercial Zone (COMZ). Existing licensed premises would not be affected.

Special Licences and Large Events

Additional requirements are proposed for events with an anticipated attendance of 400 people or more. These include:

- mandatory submission of an Alcohol Management Plan as part of the special licence application process;
- certified crowd control officers at event entrance and exit points where alcohol is sold or supplied; and
- identification of any limits on the number of drinks sold per purchase, or alternative measures to manage alcohol-related risks, within the Alcohol Management Plan.

These measures are intended to support safe event management and minimise alcohol-related harm

4. Assessment Framework

In assessing submissions and determining the final content of the Local Alcohol Policy, Council will have regard to:

- the object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012;
- evidence of alcohol-related harm;
- local circumstances and community views;

- the likely effectiveness of proposed measures;
- whether proposed restrictions are proportionate to the issues identified;
- impacts on residents, businesses and visitors;
- practicality and enforceability; and
- the availability of less restrictive alternatives.

Council has not made final decisions on any proposed amendments and is seeking community feedback before determining the final policy

5. Options Considered

In accordance with sections 76-81 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council has considered a range of reasonably practicable options as part of its review of the Local Alcohol Policy. These options were informed by feedback from New Zealand Police, Health New Zealand, licensing officials, and discussion by elected members.

Trading Hours

Council considered the following options:

Option A: Retain existing trading hours (Preferred Option)

- On-licences: 8.00am to 2.00am.
- Off-licences: 8.00am to 10.00pm.

Advantages

- Maintains current business operating arrangements.
- Avoids imposing additional restrictions without clear local evidence of harm.
- Minimises impacts on hospitality businesses, residents and visitors.

Disadvantages

- May not achieve the reduction in alcohol-related harm that some research associates with reduced alcohol availability.
- Does not respond to recommendations from Health New Zealand and New Zealand Police for earlier closing times.

Option B: Reduce trading hours

- Reduce on-licence and/or off-licence trading hours below current levels.

Advantages

- May reduce alcohol-related harm associated with late-night alcohol consumption.
- Supported by Health New Zealand and New Zealand Police.

Disadvantages

- Limited Kaikōura-specific evidence demonstrating such restrictions are required.
- Could adversely affect businesses and consumer choice.
- May be perceived as disproportionate to the evidence available.

Council's preferred option is to retain existing trading hour settings and review them in future if local evidence demonstrates alcohol-related harm that may be reduced through additional restrictions.

Location Restrictions

Council considered the following options:

Option A: No location restrictions

- Continue the current approach with no separation distances from sensitive sites.

Advantages

- Maximum flexibility for applicants.
- No additional compliance or assessment requirements.

Disadvantages

- Provides limited guidance regarding the suitability of licensed premises near sensitive community facilities.
- Does not utilise powers expressly available under the Act.

Option B: Restrict new licences within 100 metres of sensitive sites outside the Commercial Zone (Preferred Option)

- Apply a 100-metre separation distance to new licences near schools, marae, places of worship, social service providers and similar sensitive sites.
- The restriction would not apply to premises located within the Commercial Zone (COMZ).
- Existing licensed premises would not be affected.

Advantages

- Provides greater protection for sensitive community facilities.
- Supports consistency and predictability in licensing decisions.
- Balances protection of sensitive sites with the need to maintain commercial activity and hospitality opportunities within the town centre.

Disadvantages

- May limit future location options for new licensed premises.
- A specific distance threshold may be challenged if not supported by sufficient evidence.

Council's preferred option is to introduce a 100-metre separation distance between new licensed premises and identified sensitive community facilities, while exempting premises located within the Commercial Zone (COMZ) and existing licensed premises and renewals. This approach seeks to protect sensitive sites while recognising the role of the Commercial Zone as the primary location for commercial and hospitality activities within the district.

One-Way Door Restrictions

Council considered the following options:

Option A: Retain the current discretionary approach (Preferred Option)

- Continue allowing the District Licensing Committee to impose one-way door restrictions where considered appropriate.

Advantages

- Provides flexibility to respond to specific circumstances.
- Allows conditions to be tailored to individual premises.
- Avoids imposing requirements where they may not be justified.

Disadvantages

- Less consistent than a district-wide mandatory approach.
- May result in different approaches being applied to different premises.

Option B: Mandatory one-way door restrictions

- Require one-way door restrictions for specified on-licensed premises.

Advantages

- Provides a consistent district-wide approach.
- Supported by New Zealand Police and Health New Zealand.

Disadvantages

- Mixed evidence regarding effectiveness.
- Removes flexibility from decision-makers.
- May impose compliance costs on businesses where risks are low.

Council's preferred option is to retain the existing discretionary approach.

Special Licences and Large Events

Council considered the following options:

Option A: Retain current provisions

- Continue the existing special licence requirements.

Advantages

- Minimal additional compliance requirements.
- Maintains flexibility for event organisers.

Disadvantages

- Provides less assurance regarding management of alcohol-related risks at larger events.
- Relies on case-by-case assessment.

Option B: Strengthen requirements for large events (Preferred Option)

- Require an Alcohol Management Plan for special licence events with 400 attendees or more.
- Require certified crowd control officers at entrance and exit points where alcohol is sold or supplied at events with 400 attendees or more.

Advantages

- Provides greater assurance that alcohol-related risks are identified and managed.
- Supports public safety and responsible event management.
- Reflects recommendations received through the review process.

Disadvantages

- Increases compliance requirements and costs for organisers of larger events.
- May create additional administrative requirements for some community events.

Council's preferred option is to strengthen requirements for larger events while retaining a proportionate approach for smaller events.

6. Consultation Process

The Council is required to consult using the Special Consultative Procedure, as committed to in the existing policy.

The review of the Local Alcohol Policy will be undertaken using the Special Consultative Procedure in accordance with the *Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012* and the *Local Government Act 2002*. The purpose of consultation is to seek community feedback on the draft policy and any proposed amendments before Council makes a final decision.

Consultation is proposed to run from 31 August 2026 to 2 October 2026. During this period, the Statement of Proposal, draft Local Alcohol Policy and supporting information will be made available on the Council website. Feedback will be sought through an online submission form, written submissions and other methods consistent with the Special Consultative Procedure.

The consultation programme will include a range of communication channels designed to maximise community awareness and participation. This includes media releases, newspaper advertising, Council website content, social media promotion and a radio advertising campaign.

Submitters will be given the opportunity to present their views to Council at a hearing scheduled for 21 October 2026. Following consideration of all submissions, staff will prepare a deliberations report evaluating feedback against the purpose and object of the Act. Recommendations will be presented to Council for consideration before a final Local Alcohol Policy is adopted.

The proposed consultation timetable is:

- 31 August 2026 – Consultation opens.
- 2 October 2026 – Consultation closes.
- 21 October 2026 – Hearings and Deliberations.
- 25 November 2026 – Final adoption of the Local Alcohol Policy.