R]MINUTES OF THE KAIKŌURA DISTRICT COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING TO HEAR AND DELIBERATE SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY HELD ON 21st OCTOBER 2026 AT 9.00AM, IN TOTARA COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 96 WEST END, KAIKŌURA

PRESENT: Mayor C Mackle (Chair), Deputy Mayor V Gulleford, Councillor C Smith, Councillor J Diver, Councillor J McInnes, Councillor K Heays, Councillor M Redwood (present for part of the meeting)

IN ATTENDANCE: W Doughty (Chief Executive Officer), P Kearney (Senior Manager Corporate Services), D Hirst (Policy Planner), J York (Regulatory Manager), B Makin (Executive Officer-Minutes)

1. KARAKIA

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor T Blunt. It was noted that Councillor M Redwood would be leaving the meeting at 10.30am.

Moved: Deputy Mayor V Gulleford
Seconded: Councillor J McInnes

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Nil

4. Overview of responses for the draft Local Alcohol Policy

Council Officers advised that local evidence from New Zealand Police had been included within the agenda material. Matt Boyce and his colleagues were thanked by Council Officers for their assistance in obtaining the alcohol harm related information. The purpose of a Local Alcohol Policy was outlined, including that it should reflect local issues and assist the District Licensing Committee in decision making.

Council Officers noted that the review was not intended to redesign the policy, with the existing policy generally considered to be solid and largely working. A number of submissions indicated that the policy was fit for purpose and supported the draft as proposed, with limited feedback identifying significant concerns with the overall policy framework. A number of submissions focussed on the proposed sensitive sites provisions. The intention was not to allow an off-licence to establish adjacent to a sensitive site, but to provide an appropriate framework for the District Licensing Committee to consider applications. Reference was made to concerns raised by Liquor Land regarding situations where an existing licensed premise may be required to relocate and become constrained by sensitive site provisions.

Feedback relating to security requirements at events was outlined. Local evidence showed alcohol-related harm increased during September, aligning with major events such as the Hop and periods of increased Police presence. The District Licensing Committee already has the ability to work with applicants to determine appropriate security arrangements where required. Council Officers further commented that there was limited evidence to support reducing maximum on-licence trading hours from 2.00am to 1.00am, noting that many venues already closed before this time.

RESOLUTION

THAT the Council:

a) Receives this report for information.

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b) Considers the submissions received on the Draft Local Alcohol Policy 2026.
c) Considers the officer recommendations outlined in Attachment 1 and provides direction following the hearings and deliberations process.

Moved: Deputy Mayor V Gulleford
Seconded: Councillor C Smith

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. SUBMITTERS TO BE HEARD

9.13am – Ruth Berry (Wine Marlborough Ltd) (Via Teams)

The submitter spoke in support of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy.
Two key points from the submission were highlighted being that producer businesses such as wineries and distilleries differ from traditional off-licence bottle stores and should be considered separately within the policy. Marlborough has a distinction between cellar doors and off-licences within its Local Alcohol Policy and advised that similar changes are currently being considered through proposed legislative amendments. Also spoke in support of discretion around licensing hours to accommodate tourism experiences and events. Noted that activities such as tastings and visitor experiences may not align with standard trading hours and supported a framework that allows the District Licensing Committee to exercise judgement on a case-by-case basis.

9.17am - James Bishop (New World Kaikōura)

The submitter spoke in support of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy.
He highlighted New World's commitment to responsible alcohol sales, staff training and licensing compliance. Advised that 20 staff held LCQs and 17 staff held liquor licences. Regarding the proposed change to off-licence trading hours, the submitter commented that New World opens at 8.00am and that changing the alcohol trading commencement time to 9.00am would inconvenience customers and local businesses purchasing alcohol before trading hours, create operational challenges for online grocery orders, require changes to store layout, and increase the potential for errors. He further commented that approximately 1.2% of alcohol sales occur between 8.00am and 9.00am and considered there to be no evidence-based benefit in changing the commencement time. New World's current licensed trading hours are 8.00am to 8.00pm.

9.22am – Justine Schroder (Kaikōura A&P Show Committee)

It was confirmed that the full submission was included within the agenda.
The submitter spoke regarding the classification of the A&P Show as a large event and advised that it is a community-focused family event where the licensed bar is not the focus of the event. The submitter advised that the A&P Show applies for a special licence each year and operates under a robust alcohol management plan within a controlled environment.
The submitter advised that the A&P Show Committee supported Option B, including the requirement for an Alcohol Management Plan and a maximum limit of four drinks per person per transaction. Concerns were raised regarding crowd control requirements at entry and exit points to the event grounds, noting that these would require additional personnel and create a financial burden for a community-run event. The submitter considered that a more practical approach would be to focus any crowd control requirements on the licensed area only.
In response to questions, the submitter advised that approximately 60 people are typically within the bar area at any one time, with under 100 people during shearing events. The overall event attracts up to 2,000 attendees, with seating available for approximately 60 to 70 people within the licensed area.

9.29am – Justine Schroder

The submitter spoke as a local distillery owner and highlighted the tourism experiences being sought by visitors to the district. She advised that these experiences focus on storytelling, products, responsible drinking practices and tastings, rather than drinking events. The submitter commented

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that special licences are currently required for these experiences and that industry groups are advocating for alternative approaches, noting that a similar model operates in Victoria, Australia.
The submitter supported the objectives of alcohol harm minimisation but queried the current legislative framework for small operators seeking to respond to visitor demand. She requested that Council consider advocating for changes that would better enable educational tourism experiences and advised that discussions were occurring with Member of Parliament Stuart Smith regarding possible legislative amendments.
The submitter further commented that the cost of obtaining special licences can be high for low-risk events and advised that operators are limited to a maximum of ten special licences per year. She considered the administrative burden associated with obtaining licences to be significant.
The submitter advised that tastings are currently undertaken within the distillery, as this forms part of the off-licence premises, with a maximum of ten people able to participate at one time. Alternative options discussed included partnering with an existing on-licence premises to provide tasting experiences.

9.50am – Melinda Skinner (Esses Kaikōura)
The submitter advised that Esses Kaikōura operates as a high-end tasting room providing an educational experience for visitors. She commented that food and beverage experiences are an important part of tourism and that visitors travelling through the region are increasingly seeking opportunities to experience local products. The submitter expressed concern that reducing maximum trading hours from 2.00am to 1.00am would place unnecessary restrictions on businesses. She also supported creating a distinction within the policy between producer-based premises and traditional bottle stores.
The submitter advised that requests had been received for tasting experiences that could not be accommodated under the current licensing framework and supported the comments previously made regarding proposed legislative changes. Changes currently being considered at a national level would separate cellar door and tasting room operations from traditional off-licence premises.
The submitter requested that Council consider a separate definition for producer-based premises within the policy and noted that, should legislative changes proceed, the Local Alcohol Policy would better reflect those changes without requiring a further immediate review. She also advised that her off-licence is restricted to on-site sales and that a separate remote sellers licence is held for deliveries.

10.00am – Craig Smith (Liquor Land Kaikōura)
The submitter was generally in support of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy and the proposed sensitive site provisions. He noted that while the licence allows trading until 10.00pm, the business currently closes at 9.00pm. He commented that the business is community-minded and regularly supports local clubs and community organisations. The submitter raised concerns regarding situations where an existing licensed premise may be required to relocate due to circumstances beyond its control, such as a natural disaster or lease arrangements. He requested that consideration be given to including an exemption for existing licensed premises that are required to relocate, so they are not disadvantaged by the sensitive site requirements.

10.03am – (Annabel Begg Speaking on behalf of Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora) – Monica Theriault (Via Teams)
The submitter spoke in support of the general direction of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy but considered there was an opportunity to strengthen a number of provisions. An overview of alcohol-related harm was provided, noting that reducing the availability of alcohol and limiting its presence in higher-risk settings are recognised harm minimisation measures.
Support was expressed for reducing off-licence trading hours from 8.00am – 10.00pm to 9.00am – 9.00pm and reducing on-licence trading hours from 2.00am to 1.00am. Support was also expressed for the 100 metre sensitive site provision outside commercial zones, including extending the restriction to proposed locations and applying it to recreational facilities, community facilities,

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playgrounds, parks, reserves and healthcare facilities. One-way door restrictions and alcohol management requirements for large events were also supported.
In response to questions, it was noted that Health New Zealand preferred the sensitive site provisions identified within the Draft Local Alcohol Policy to remain mandatory rather than discretionary.

Councillor M Redwood left the meeting at 10.12am.

10.12am – Jennifer Lamm (Alcohol Healthwatch) (Via Teams)
The submitter advised that Alcohol Healthwatch is a national organisation that provides evidence and advice on Local Alcohol Policies. She commended Council for undertaking the review and noted that alcohol remains one of the most harmful drugs in New Zealand.
Support was expressed for measures aimed at minimising alcohol-related harm, including reducing off-licence trading hours to 9.00am – 9.00pm and implementing mandatory one-way door restrictions. The submitter also supported the inclusion of additional provisions available under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act, including restrictions relating to the location and concentration of licensed premises.
Concerns were raised regarding the proposed discretionary approach to sensitive sites, noting that this approach would be uncommon compared to other Local Alcohol Policies throughout New Zealand. Support was also expressed for additional discretionary conditions relating to special licences, restrictions on buy now pay later schemes, and restrictions on exterior price and product advertising.

10.20am – Zinnia Foster (Hospitality NZ)
The submitter spoke in support of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy and the proposed approach to trading hours. Support was also expressed for retaining one-way door restrictions as a discretionary provision, noting that evidence regarding one-way doors is mixed and that mandatory requirements can result in patrons moving into unsupervised environments. The submitter also supported the proposed approach to large events and alcohol management plans. Concerns were raised regarding the practical implications of mandatory crowd control requirements, particularly for community events, and clarification was sought on how attendance thresholds would be assessed to ensure a consistent approach.
Support was expressed for the proposed sensitive site provisions. The submitter requested that the definition of a social service provider be refined to include an identifiable and permanent facility, and sought clarification on how separation distances would be measured for licensing purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 10.26am and reconvened at 10.45am.

6. SUBMITTERS WHO CHOSE NOT TO SPEAK
The Council reviewed each of the submissions of those that chose not to speak. The submissions were noted, and additional comments were highlighted on the following submissions.

Toni Batey (Lions Club of Seaward Kaikōura – Submission #1
The submitter was not supportive of crowd control requirements for large events, noting that most events within the district are charitable or community events.
It was noted that special licence applications require an alcohol management plan and supporting information including site plans and event management details. The District Licensing Committee has the ability to consider event-specific circumstances and impose conditions where appropriate.

Toni Batey (Kaikōura A&P Show) – Submission #2
The submitter was not supportive of creating unnecessary compliance requirements for community-focused events.

Lisa Bond (Destination Kaikōura) – Submission #5

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The submitter was supportive of the current trading hours and the discretionary approach to one-way door restrictions. It was noted that the submission aligned with the officer recommendation for a risk-based approach to event management requirements.

Paula Cumming – Submission #6
The submitter was supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy and considered the policy fit for purpose.

Susanne Dunnett (Strawberry Tree Kaikōura) – Submission #7
The submitter was supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy, including retaining the current trading hours and avoiding licence caps or sinking lid provisions. Flexibility and case-by-case decision making were also supported.

Kevin Genet – Submission #8
The submitter provided no feedback.

Dorothy Halliday – Submission #9
The submitter provided no feedback.

Judith Javis – Submission #10
The submitter was supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy and considered the policy fit for purpose and well managed.

Jane Nelson– Submission #11
The submitter was supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy.

Douglas O'Callahan – Submission #12
The submitter was not supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy. No reason was provided.

Diane Rossiter (Lions Club of Seaward Kaikōura) – Submission #13
The submitter was not supportive of the proposed policy changes.

Julie Syme (Lions Club of Seaward Kaikōura) – Submission #18
The submitter was supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy and provided no additional feedback.

Melville Syme – Submission #19
The submitter was supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy and provided no additional feedback.

Alison Taylor (Lions Club Seaward Kaikōura) – Submission #20
The submitter was not supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy and provided no additional feedback.

Naemi Ueda – Submission #21
The submitter was not supportive of the Draft Local Alcohol Policy due to concerns regarding the expense and practicality of crowd control and alcohol management plan requirements for events. The submitter commented that attendance numbers alone are not a reliable indicator of alcohol-related harm.

7. DELIBERATIONS TO THE DRAFT LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY

Direction was sought on the key policy issues to assist Council Officers in preparing the final Draft Local Alcohol Policy. Any amendments arising from the hearings and deliberations process will be incorporated into the policy and presented to the Council meeting on 25 November 2026 for formal consideration and decision. The key issues raised were:

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- Sensitive sites
- Large events
- Trading hours
- Definition and trading hours of wine cellars

Sensitive sites

The proposed discretionary approach for sensitive sites and the role of the District Licensing Committee in considering applications on a case-by-case basis was discussed. Discussion included concerns raised by submitters regarding situations where existing licensed premises may be required to relocate and the need for the District Licensing Committee to retain flexibility when considering applications. Also discussed were the practical challenges associated with applying sensitive site provisions within a small district.

Support was expressed for retaining discretion for the District Licensing Committee when considering applications involving sensitive sites.

Direction was provided to retain a discretionary approach for sensitive sites.

Large events

The proposed approach to large events and the requirement for crowd control and alcohol management plans was discussed. It was noted that community events such as the A&P Show differ significantly from larger higher-risk events and that a risk-based approach would allow the District Licensing Committee to determine appropriate conditions based on the nature of the event.

Support was expressed for retaining discretion for the District Licensing Committee to determine whether additional conditions were required.

Direction was provided to retain a discretionary and risk-based approach for large events.

Trading hours

Submissions relating to trading hours, including local alcohol harm data, responsible drinking practices and the practical implications for licensed premises was discussed. Discussion focussed on whether off-licence trading hours should be reduced from 10.00pm to 9.00pm. Along with local alcohol-related harm statistics, existing trading practices within the district, evidence presented by submitters and whether there was sufficient evidence to justify a change in trading hours. Discussion also covered reducing maximum on-licence trading hours from 2.00am to 1.00am.

Councillor M Redwood rejoined the meeting at 11.45am.

Following discussion, the majority direction was to retain the current trading hours for both off-licences and on-licences.

Direction was provided to retain the current trading hours.

Definition and trading hours of wine cellars

Submissions seeking a separate definition for producer-based premises, including wineries and distilleries, within the Local Alcohol Policy was discussed. Discussion included the approach taken by other councils, including Marlborough District Council, and proposed legislative changes currently progressing through Parliament relating to cellar doors and producer tasting experiences. Discussion also considered whether a separate definition should be included within the Draft Local Alcohol Policy at this time.

It was noted that the current legislation may be amended in the near future and that the Local Alcohol Policy can be reviewed before the six-year review period where significant legislative changes occur.

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Council Officers advised that there was limited benefit in introducing a separate definition at this stage where no associated changes to trading hours or licence conditions were proposed.

A discussion was held on the requests from submitters for Council to support advocacy regarding proposed legislative changes that would enable greater flexibility for educational tasting experiences and reduce the administrative burden associated with obtaining special licences.

Direction was provided not to include a separate definition for producer-based premises at this time and to monitor proposed legislative changes.

The Council was supportive for advocacy relating to proposed legislative changes affecting producer tasting experiences and special licences.

8. CLOSE MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 12.00pm.

Chairperson _____Signed by

Date

THIS RECORD WILL BE HELD IN ELECTRONIC FORM ONLY

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