

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Local Alcohol Policy?

A Local Alcohol Policy is a set of decisions made by council/s in consultation with their community about the sale and supply of alcohol. The policy can set the maximum trading hours, where and how alcohol can be sold. The District Licensing Committee must consider the policy when making decisions on applications for a licence.

Why do we have a joint Eastern Bay of Plenty policy?

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act) states that two or more territorial authorities may adopt a single local alcohol policy for their district. Whakatāne, Opotiki and Kawerau District Councils have decided to retain having a joint Local Alcohol Policy to ensure a consistent approach throughout the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Why is Council reviewing its Local Alcohol Policy?

Council is required to review the Local Alcohol Policy every six years. The current policy was adopted in 2016.

What are the key changes being made to this policy?

1. The policy has been condensed and wording has been simplified where possible to provide clarity to applicants and the District Licensing Committee, and to remove reference to requirements which are already set out in the Act.
2. Objectives have been included to clearly provide the councils' position and aims for each of the districts.
3. The draft policy has been developed to align provisions across all three districts, with no differences between each district included.
4. Any application for a new on or off licence must be for a premise located in a zone designed for commercial or business activities under the relevant District Plan, unless resource consent is granted.
5. Trading hours are proposed to be aligned across all three districts as follows:
Off-licences: 9am – 10pm (Supermarkets 8am-10pm*)
On-licences: 9am – 12pm
Club licences: 9am - 12pm
Special licences: case by case
6. Provision around new licences and proximity to sensitive sites has been reworded to better reflect and align with District Plans and provide the District Licensing Committee better discretion on applications near sensitive sites.
7. The definition of sensitive premises/facilities has been extended to include primary and secondary schools, childcare facilities, children's playgrounds, places of worship, marae, and medical centres.
8. Example discretionary conditions applicable to each licence type have been included to provide more visibility as to what can be imposed.

Why is the Whakatāne District Council asking about supermarket trading hours?

Whakatāne District Council is asking the community whether they would like to see maximum trading hours for supermarkets in the Whakatāne District align with those proposed for other off-licenses. This would mean that supermarkets in the Whakatāne District could only sell alcohol between 9am and 10pm.

In the current operative LAP (which this draft will replace), supermarkets have been able to open slightly earlier (8am) than other off-licence premises (9am) so that alcohol sales could align with supermarket opening hours. Whakatāne would like the community to consider aligning supermarket opening hours to other off-licence premises for consistency.