

Functions of the Far North District Licensing Committee

Annual Report for the 12-month period ending 30 June 2022

Section 199 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 requires the Far North District Council submit an annual report. This report is for the 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 licensing period.

Name of District Licensing Committee

Far North District Licensing Committee

Committee Members

Role	Name	Email	Phone
Secretary	Katie Waiti-Dennis CQIA	katie.waiti-dennis@fndc.govt.nz	(09) 4015751
Chairperson	Kelly Stratford	kelly.stratford@fndc.govt.nz	02108731120
Deputy Chairperson	Ann Court	ann.court@fndc.govt.nz	0272955550
Member	Martin Macpherson	marmacpherson@gmail.com	0221679900
Member	Stewart Wright	cherrybaylodge@gmail.com	0210752627
Member	Kirsty Beard	kirstyparsonson0@gmail.com	0221679900
Member	Murray Clearwater	dlcommissioner7@gmail.com	02102788648

Licensing Inspectors

Role	Name	Email	Phone
Chief Licensing Inspector	Patrick Barber	patrick.barber@fndc.govt.nz	0275660624
Inspector	Christina Rosenthal	christina.rosenthal@fndc.govt.nz	(09)4015406
Inspector	Natasha Thompson	natasha.thompson@fndc.govt.nz	0275527957
Inspector	Emmanuel Platero	emmanuel.platero@fndc.govt.nz	0272830616
Inspector	Megan Edwards	megan.edwards@fndc.govt.nz	(09)4070420
Inspector	Te Orakiri Graham	TeOrakiri.graham@fndc.govt.nz	0272201326

Number of Licenses and Managers Certificates issued and refused in the 2021-2022 financial year

Within the Far North District there are a total of 252 licensed premises (49 clubs, 123 on license and 80 off licenses).

Note: the 2021-2022 financial year runs from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Licenses 2021-2022

Type of License	Number Issued	Number Refused	Number Withdrawn
On License	51	0	0
Off License	38	0	0
Club License	26	0	0
Special License	45	0	29

Manager's certificates 2021-2022

Number Issued	370
Number Renewed	229
Number Refused	1
Number Withdrawn	10

Number of Licenses renewed and refused in the 2021-2022 financial year

Licenses 2021-2022

Type of License	Number Issued	Number Refused	Number Withdrawn
On License	38	0	0
Off License	26	0	0
Club License	23	0	0

Comments on any changes or trends in the Committee's workload in 2021-2022

During 2021-2022 we continued to see a decrease in the number of special licenses issued. In 2021-2022 there were only 45 special licenses issued compared to 89 special licenses issued in 2020-2021. This is likely due to the uncertainty of holding an event due to COVID-19. The number of licenses (ON/OFF/CLUB) remain similar to last year.

Comments on any new initiatives the Committee has developed/adopted in 2021-2022

Quarterly newsletters are now being published. These newsletters help to remind operators of licensing requirements.

The DLC has opted to include Tikanga or Māori customs within hearing settings as appropriate.

Has your Committee developed a Local Alcohol Policy?

The Committee have not developed a Local Alcohol Policy.

Comments on the ways in which the Committee believe the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is, or is not, achieving its object. Note: the object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 is that:

- a) *The sale, supply and consumption should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and*
- b) *The harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.*

We now have a number of years' worth of case law in which to draw from in making decisions. The meaning of the Act is starting to come to fruition.

Comments on the manner in which COVID-19 has impacted on DLC Operations?

The only notable impact on DLC operations during COVID-19 is the delays in reports from the Police.

Understandably the Police have been very busy with the COVID19 response. This has caused delays in applications being filed with the Committee for a decision.

The “Immediate Modification Order 2020” was very restrictive compared to the Act, more specifically section 103 of the Act was replaced with 103(4) in the IMO which meant applications could only be determined by the DLC if a report from Police and the Medical Officer of Health was received. The delays in reports from the Police caused delays in allowing the DLC to make a decision on an application.

There have been occasions where applicants have struggled to complete their application for renewal in time, due to being in isolation.

Given the extended reporting time frames for agencies, this is having an impact on applicants for special licences. Event organisers need more certainty, an application getting to the full 30 working days causes concern when they have plant, equipment, venue and entertainers unconfirmed.

To what extent, if any, do you consider that achievement of the object of the Act may have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

During the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an increase in the number of Police incidents involving alcohol. The local “Alcohol Harm Reduction Officer” of the NZ Police has advised of the increase in the number of Police incidents where alcohol has been a factor. Whilst this cannot be directly linked to the operations of licensed premises, there would appear to be a link to a degree.

The Committee is also concerned around the increase in accessibility to alcohol and the quick delivery of alcohol as licensed premises increase their online sales / remote sales activities, for example in some areas, alcohol can be ordered online and then delivered to the customer within an hour of purchasing alcohol online. Online sales have increased significantly since COVID19. Specific regulations / rules in regards to COVID19 and online sales needs to be introduced to avoid confusion and uncertainty when it comes to these activities.

At the onset of the pandemic there was a housing crisis. The crisis has led to transitional housing moving into close proximity to licenced premises.

What changes or trends in licensing have you seen since the Act came into force?

The interest from hapu and iwi to engage in this space, and to have a say over licensing matters.

What changes to practices and procedures under the Act would you find beneficial?

Clear requirements within section 53 of the Act to ensure those providing food comply with the Food Act 2014 requirements. The Food Act 2014 requires most food businesses to be registered. Whilst we know that the Act and Food Act 2014 must be considered separately, if a licensed premises is offering food to comply with section 53 of the Act, they must also be registered (where required) under the Food Act 2014.

The need for stricter rules and regulations for licensed premises selling alcohol on line. Restriction on products that can be sold online and strict delivery times must be introduced.

Clear regulations on licensed premises selling alcohol on social media i.e. Facebook. Clear rules and guidelines need to be introduced which clarifies whether a licensed premises promoting their product on Facebook is acceptable or not.

The ability to add condition to prohibit high volume single serve alcohol in low socio and high alcohol harm communities, without acceptance from the applicant or the need for a hearing. A greater consideration of licensing in remote regions drafting practise or procedural amendments. Sometimes the Act doesn't fit our districts circumstances well.

Some advice to applicants about why they must have compliant water supply, their obligations to meet all other Acts.

Appendix

The following statistical information is attached:

1. Annual Return
2. Current List of Licensed Premises

Katie Waiti-Dennis
Secretary
Far North District Licensing Committee