

Far North District Council alcohol survey

We're asking people across the Far North to share their thoughts on alcohol in our communities. The council's aim is to support safe responsible drinking to reduce alcohol-related harm in our communities and district.

We would like to hear your views - your feedback will help council review alcohol free areas and help us create a Local Alcohol Policy.

Your response to the survey is anonymous. On average the survey takes 8 minutes to complete.

Submissions close on **Friday 30 May 2025**.

Your connection to the Far North

1. What is your main connection to the Far North?

NB. The Far North is the area north of Waipoua Forest on the West Coast and north of Hukerenui on the East Coast.

	Please tick
I have whakapapa (ancestral) connections to the Far North	
I live or work in the Far North	
I previously lived/worked in the Far North	
I have a holiday home in the Far North	
I have a business in the Far North	
I visit the Far North regularly	
I visit the Far North occasionally	
I don't have any connections to the Far North (please exit the survey)	

2. Please select the town/s where you have connections to the Far North

Select all towns where you have connections. If this is a rural area not close to any town, select the option near the end – 'Rural area not close to any town'.

	Please tick		Please tick
Ahipara		Ōpua	
Awanui		Ōtaua	
Broadwood		Ōtiria	
Coopers Beach		Paihia	
Haruru		Panguru	
Herekino		Pawarenga	
Hihihoreke		Pukenui	
Houhora		Rāwene	
Kāeo		Russell	
Kaikohe		Taipā	
Kaitāia		Taupo Bay	
Karikari Peninsula		Te Kao	
Kawakawa		Tokerau Beach	
Kerikeri		Tōwai	
Kohukohu		Waimamaku	
Mangonui		Waipapa	
Matauri Bay		Waipapakauri	

Moerewa		Waitangi	
Ōhaeawai		Whangaroa	
Ōkaihau		Whatuwhiwhi	
Ōmāpere		Rural area not close to any town	
Ōpononi		Another town	

Drinking alcohol in public in the Far North

The Far North has 23 towns where drinking alcohol in public is banned. These alcohol free areas help keep public safe.

3. Over the past two or three years, have you seen any people drinking alcohol in public places in the Far North such as parks, playgrounds, footpaths, streets, or beaches?

	Please tick	
Yes		CONTINUE
No		GO TO Q5
Not sure		

4. Please select the town/s where you saw this drinking in public

	Please tick		Please tick
Ahipara		Ōpua	
Awanui		Ōtaua	
Broadwood		Ōtiria	
Coopers Beach		Paihia	
Haruru		Panguru	
Herekino		Pawarenga	
Hihihoreke		Pukenui	
Houhora		Rāwene	
Kāeo		Russell	
Kaikohe		Taipā	
Kaitāia		Taupo Bay	
Karikari Peninsula		Te Kao	
Kawakawa		Tokerau Beach	
Kerikeri		Tōwai	
Kohukohu		Waimamaku	
Mangonui		Waipapa	
Matauri Bay		Waipapakauri	
Moerewa		Waitangi	
Ōhaeawai		Whangaroa	
Ōkaihau		Whatuwhiwhi	
Ōmāpere		Rural area not close to any town	
Ōpononi		Another town	

4. Specifically, where did you see this drinking in public?

Please be as detailed as possible e.g. the playground on the corner of X street and Y street. Please name the town/s involved if you saw this in more than one town.

5. What did you observe?

Please select the options that best describe what you saw

People drinking peacefully and not disturbing others	
Social gatherings that were peaceful and friendly	
Other positive things	
Disorderly behaviour e.g. people having a few too many, getting rowdy and bothering others nearby	
Littering e.g. leaving cans or bottles on the ground	
Violence or aggression	
Drinkers damaging property	
Drinkers being very noisy	
Drinkers vomiting or urinating in public	
Other negative things – please specify	

Local Alcohol Policy

The following questions will help the Council develop a Local Alcohol Policy

6. How concerned are you about the following possible alcohol-related issues in the Far North?

Issues	Please tick for each issue			
	Very concerned	Concerned	Not concerned	Not sure/ don't know
Impact of alcohol on people's physical health				
Impact of alcohol on people's mental health				
Road accidents				
Underage drinking				
Disorderly behaviour in public e.g. fighting				
Drink driving				
Domestic violence				
Economic impacts for households and communities				
Alcohol-related litter and property damage				
Calls on Police time and resources				

Number of places selling alcohol

7. What do you think about the number of places selling alcohol across the Far North?

Places selling alcohol	Please tick for each type of outlet			
	Too many	Too few	About right	Not sure/ don't know
Pubs, bars and taverns				
Restaurants or cafés that sell alcohol				
Social/sports clubs				
Supermarkets such as Countdown, Woolworths and Pak 'n Save				
Grocery stores selling alcohol – these are smaller than supermarkets and include Four Square stores and local dairies				
Bottle stores				

Things to consider when allowing new places to sell alcohol

Before answering the next question, please read the information below:

- many people in the Far North live in **high deprivation areas** with low average incomes, high unemployment, crowded homes, poor housing, and limited transport
- people in these areas often have **poor health** due to a lack of healthy food, healthcare, and safe housing and drinking alcohol can make these health problems worse
- New Zealand studies show that **more alcohol stores in an area** lead to more drinking and harm
- from Police statistics there is a **high level of alcohol-related crime** in the Far North including drink driving, domestic/whanāu abuse, and disorderly behaviour offences.

8. When places are issued licenses to sell alcohol how much should the following be considered...?

Things to consider	Please tick for each thing to consider			
	Strongly consider	Consider	Do not consider	Not sure/ don't know
Whether the proposed alcohol outlet is in a high deprivation area (this is explained above)				
Whether the area already has many places selling alcohol				
Whether the area has a high level of alcohol-related crime				

Hours that places can sell alcohol

The hours that places can sell alcohol are stated in their licences.

Some things to consider in setting opening and closing hours include:

- restricting late-night trading hours for places such as pubs, bars and taverns can lead to decreases in alcohol-related injuries, violence, drink driving, and hospital admissions
- earlier closing times may reduce policing and healthcare pressures and costs associated with alcohol-related incidents but may impact on the revenue of businesses selling alcohol.

Current **earliest times** that different types of outlets in the Far North can sell alcohol are listed below.

9. Which earliest opening time should apply for each type of premise?

Places selling alcohol	Please tick for each place			
	Should be allowed to sell alcohol earlier	Should <u>not</u> be able to sell alcohol till later	Current earliest times to sell alcohol are about right	Not sure/ don't know
Pubs, bars and taverns Current earliest allowed time to sell alcohol is 8am				
Restaurants or cafés that sell alcohol Current earliest allowed time is 8am				
Supermarkets such as Countdown, Woolworths and Pak 'n Save All supermarkets in the district are currently allowed to start selling alcohol at 7am				
Grocery stores selling alcohol – these are smaller than supermarkets and include Four Square stores and local dairies Current earliest allowed time is 7am				
Bottle stores Current earliest allowed time is 8am				

10. Which latest closing time should apply for each type of premise?

Places selling alcohol	Please tick for each place			
	Should be able to sell alcohol later	Should stop selling alcohol earlier	Current latest time to sell alcohol is about right	Not sure/ don't know
Pubs, bars and taverns Current latest allowed time to sell alcohol is 1am				
Restaurants or cafés that sell alcohol Current latest allowed time is 1am				
Supermarkets such as Countdown, Woolworths and Pak 'n Save Current latest allowed time is 10pm				
Grocery stores selling alcohol – these are smaller than supermarkets and include Four Square stores and local dairies Current latest allowed time is 10pm				
Bottle stores Current latest allowed time is 10pm				

Managing alcohol sales

11. How much do you agree with the following potential ways to manage alcohol sales in the Far North?

Ways to manage alcohol sales	Please tick for each way to manage alcohol sales					
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ don't know
Bars, taverns and clubs must take steps to reduce noise, especially if there are complaints						
No new alcohol outlets near homes						
No new alcohol outlets near schools, playgrounds, or childcare centres						
No new alcohol outlets near addiction or medical centres						
No new alcohol outlets near churches or marae						

One Way Door Rules

One-way door rules mean that after a certain time, people can leave bars, taverns, and nightclubs but can't come back in. E.G. if a bar closes at midnight, the rule might begin at 11pm. These rules are intended to protect neighbourhoods from late-night noise and lower the chances of fights, disorder, and crime.

12. How much do you agree with....? Please tick

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ don't know
Having one way door rules at bars, taverns and nightclubs where late-night issues have been reported in the neighbourhood						

Single Unit Sales

Studies show that alcohol harm increases when alcohol is very cheap. Single cans or bottles of beer, cider, or ready to drink beverages (RTDs) cost much less than a pack – some sell for as little as \$2 each. These single unit sales could be restricted, but these restrictions would not apply to spirits, wine, or craft beer. Some retailers argue that single unit sales help recover the cost of broken packs and suit visitors buying small amounts.

12. How much do you agree with....? Please tick

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ don't know
Not allowing retailers to sell single cans or bottles of alcohol that are normally sold as packs. They would be required to clip products together as 4-packs or 6-packs						

Advertising on the outside of bottle stores, groceries and supermarkets

In general alcohol marketing has been established as a cause for under-age youth to start drinking alcohol and to drink heavily once they start. Research also shows that heavy or problem drinkers can be more responsive to alcohol advertising, placing them at risk of harm.

One way to address this issue is to restrict advertising on the outside of alcohol stores.

However, some retailers rely on prominent advertising on the outside of their stores to attract customers, so restricting this advertising may affect their sales.

13. How much do you agree with....? Please tick

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ don't know
Limiting the level of alcohol advertising allowed on the outside of alcohol stores						

Buy Now Pay Later

Buy Now, Pay Later services like AfterPay let people buy now and pay later. These services have fewer rules than other payment options. Critics say this encourages impulse buying and debt and may lead people to buy more than they planned.

14. How much do you agree with....? Please tick

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ don't know
Not allowing alcohol retailers to offer Buy Now Pay Later options						

Online Alcohol Sales

Purchasing alcohol online can be very convenient for adults. However, many reports indicate that young people in New Zealand have been able to buy alcohol online without proper age verification, and that some online deliveries are made without confirming the buyer's age.

15. How much do you agree with....? Please tick

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure/ don't know
Requiring age checking for online alcohol sales at purchase time and on delivery						

About you

Note the survey is anonymous - your answers are only for analysis purposes.

16. What gender are you? Please tick

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonbinary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. How old are you? Please tick

Under 18 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 to 24	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 to 34	<input type="checkbox"/>
35 to 44	<input type="checkbox"/>
45 to 54	<input type="checkbox"/>
55 to 64	<input type="checkbox"/>
65 or more	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Which ethnic group/s do you belong to? Please tick

Select all that apply

Māori	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pākehā / NZ European	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Islands e.g. Samoan, Cook Island Māori, Tongan, Niuean	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian e.g. Chinese, Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

19. Are you responding as? Please tick

An individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	GO TO THE CONCLUSION
A business or organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTINUE

20. What is the name of your business/organisation?

Answering this question is optional. Responses will help us understand the different views of different types of businesses such as those with alcohol licences. Names of businesses will not be included in the survey report.

<input type="text"/>

In conclusion

Thank you for providing the Council with vital information on how alcohol sales should be regulated within our rohe/district and your takiwa/communities.

We'd love as many people as possible to respond to the survey. Please share the survey link with your friends and family.

If you are concerned about your own or someone else's alcohol use, you can visit the website:

www.alcoholdrughelp.org.nz or call the alcohol drug helpline on 0800 787 797.

Privacy Disclaimer

We value your privacy and are committed to protecting your personal information. Any information you provide in this survey will be used solely to inform Council's policy planning. Your responses will be collected and stored securely in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. Your personal information will not be shared with third parties, and it will not be used for any purpose other than that stated above. You have the right to access and correct your personal information at any time. If you have any concerns or questions about how your information is being handled, or about the survey in general, please email policyteam@fndc.govt.nz