

IN THE MATTER of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol
Act 2012 ("the Act")

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by **Tiu George
Te Amohanga CASSIDY**
pursuant to s.219 of the Act for a
Manager's Certificate

BEFORE THE FAR NORTH DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members: Mr. Murray Clearwater (Chairperson)
Mr. John Thorne (Member)
Mr Graeme Wright (Member)

HEARING at Kerikeri on 12 March 2026

APPEARANCES

Mr. Tiu George Te Amohanga CASSIDY -applicant
Mr. Wiebe Van Der Veen- Store manager- for the applicant
Ms. Michelle Ashdown – Far North Alcohol Licensing Inspector – in opposition
Sergeant Michelle Row – Police Alcohol Harm Prevention Officer (AHPO) – in
opposition

ORAL DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

1. This is an application by Tiu George Te Amohanga CASSIDY for a Manager's Certificate to manage a licensed supermarket known as Woolworths Kerikeri. The application came about after he failed to renew his previous certificate before it expired.
2. Tiu is a 31 year old local man and has been working in these premises since 2015. He attained the Licence Controller Qualification in November 2017.
3. This new application was lodged with Council in October 2025 and was enquired into and reported on by the Police and Inspector. The applicant disclosed two drink drive convictions, one on the North Shore in 2018 and another in Kaikohe in September 2024. The later was the result of a two car crash and a high reading of 1216 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath was recorded.
4. The DLC had no hesitation in setting the matter down for a hearing to examine the applicants drinking behaviours and decision making.

EVIDENCE OF THE APPLICANT

5. Tiu George Te Amohanga CASSIDY appeared before the Committee and spoke to us about his duties at the store. He told us that he believed he was a suitable

candidate for a Manager's Certificate and was fully conversant with the responsibilities and duties of a Duty Manager. He has recently been promoted to 'Availability Lead' and had tasks throughout the store.

6. He freely admitted incurring the convictions stating that the first one involved having a few beers and being pulled over at a Police Checkpoint. The second excess breath alcohol conviction arose from a night out drinking with friends during which he consumed about "18 RTDs."
7. When asked why he had drunk so much he said that he hadn't drunk alcohol for about 6 months prior to the crash. To his credit he self-referred to a course of Alcohol & Drug counselling and presented the DLC with a glowing report from his support worker.
8. Now he only drinks about once a month and he has learnt some skills like limiting consumption, leaving his car at home and arranging safe transport.
9. Mr. Weibe Van Der Veen is the local Woolworths store manager and appeared in support of his employee. He said he had known Tiu for 4-5 years and he has been impressed with his work ethics and loyalty to the company.
10. He said Tiu recent promotion was well deserved and he had faith in him to not reoffend.

EVIDENCE OF THE INSPECTOR

11. **Alcohol Licensing Inspector Michelle Ashdown** confirmed that she had no issue with Tiu's knowledge and skill set, but his suitability remained in question due to the alcohol related convictions.
12. She believed the applicant had a sufficient grasp of the provisions of the Act but recommended that the DLC follow the Osbourne decision and require a minimum standdown of 2 years from the date of the offence before a manager's certificate could be granted.

EVIDENCE OF THE POLICE

13. **Sergeant Michelle Row** confirmed the applicants convictions and produced the Caption Summary relating to the two car crash that caused considerable damage to the vehicles and minor injuries to both parties. She highlighted the very high reading on the 2024 conviction but also noted that Mr. Cassidy was co-operative with the attending Police and there were no other aggravating features.

THE LAW

Section 222 Criteria for manager's certificates

In considering an application for a manager's certificate, the licensing committee or licensing authority, as the case may be, must consider the following matters:

(a) the applicant's suitability to be a manager:

(b) any convictions recorded against the applicant:

(c) any experience, in particular recent experience, that the applicant has had in controlling any premises for which a licence was in force:

(d)any relevant training, in particular recent training, that the applicant has undertaken and evidence that the applicant holds the prescribed qualification required under [section 218](#):

(e)any matters dealt with in any report made under [section 220](#).

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

14. Overall, we are satisfied that Tiu Cassidy has sufficient knowledge and experience for the role of Duty Manager.
15. But the two convictions put a shadow on the application. These are not the actions we expect of a responsible certificated manager.
16. To his credit he appears to have learnt strategies to manage his drinking and not put himself, and others, at risk by him driving under the influence of alcohol.
17. He presented well at the hearing and was ably supported by his employer. He is currently appointed as a Temporary Manager.
18. Overall, we believe Mr. Cassidy needs to have two clear years from the date of the last offence i.e. 4 May 2024 before a Manager's Certificate can be granted.
19. In our oral decision at the hearing, we said we would call for fresh reports in September of 2026 being two years from his last **conviction date**.
20. We now confirm that ARLA has ruled that the standdown period should be from the **date of the offence**, not the subsequent conviction.

THE DECISION

21. There are three options open to the Committee. Grant the application now, refuse to grant the application, or adjourn the application for a period of time for the applicant to gain further skills and experience to prove to the agencies, and to this Committee, that he can manage medium risk premises and respond appropriately should challenging situations be encountered in his private life.
22. We have decided to **adjourn the application for 2 months** from the date of this decision and we will call for fresh reports from the Police and the Inspector in May of 2026, being two years from the date of the last offence.
23. Should positive reports be received from the agencies, the application may be granted on the papers in early June 2026, or this hearing will need to be re-convened.
24. The ball is firmly in the court of Mr. Cassidy to respect the trust that the DLC and his employer have placed in him.

UPDATE

25. The DLC is in receipt of updated reports from the Police and the Inspector that contain no matters in opposition and as per our decision of 22 March 2026 we grant a new managers certificate to Mr Cassidy.
26. We trust a valuable lesson has been learnt and we wish him well in his career with Woolworths Kerikeri.

DATED at Kerikeri 31st day of May 2026



Murray Clearwater
Commissioner/Chairperson
For the Far North District Licensing Committee

