

Decision
number:

17/OFF/009/2025

IN THE MATTER

of the Sale and Supply of
Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act)

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by **WHARF
ROAD TRADING LIMITED**
pursuant to Section 127 of
the Act for the renewal of
the OFF Licence in respect
of premises situated at 2-4
Market Street, Putaruru
known as **'FOUR SQUARE
PUTARURU'**.

BEFORE THE SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Application

This is an application by **WHARF ROAD TRADING LIMITED** for the renewal of the OFF Licence in respect of premises situated at 2 Market Street, Putaruru known as **'FOUR SQUARE PUTARURU'**.

The general nature of the business is that of a grocery store, and actual annual sales revenue figures have been provided showing that food products are the principal revenue stream at 57%.

The current days and hours are: **Monday to Sunday 7.00am to 9.00pm. No changes are sought.**

These are within the default national maximum trading hours for off licences of 7am to 11pm.

The business is a medium-sized, open-plan, Four Square franchised store with rows of shelves holding food products and other household goods. The single alcohol area consists of a beer chiller and an ambient temperature wine rack directly opposite.

The application was notified on council's website from the 24th of September 2025, and no objections were received from members of the public. Neither the report of the Police nor that of the Medical Officer of Health oppose the renewal of this licence.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The application is complete and contains all the necessary considerations as required under s.127 of the Act. It was duly advertised and no objection, matters in opposition or any notice of desire to be heard has been received.

The agencies appear to be satisfied that this business is a grocery store.

At least four certificated managers are appointed to the business. A certificated manager must be on duty at all times when the store is open for the sale and supply of alcohol.

The Committee is satisfied that the business is a grocery store and has a reasonably compliant Single Alcohol Area (SAA).

However, we said when first granting this licence in November 2024 “*This is a new build, and the SAA can be reassessed at renewal time in 12 months (time).*”

This was because during the construction process the row of chillers facing the wine racking was changed out for upright freezer cabinets without the knowledge of the regulatory agencies.

Now at renewal time the Inspector is understandably concerned that the SAA is not as ‘contained’ as it should be.

We have examined the current layout and have determined that it would not be ‘reasonably practicable’ to require the large freezer units to be relocated. We will however require the wine rack end facing the entrance of the store to be dead ended with no alcohol on the ‘end of aisle.’ (EOA).

That wine can be relocated elsewhere within the SAA or be racked where the firewood and coal is stacked at the end of the freezer units. The firewood and coal must be displayed elsewhere in the store outside of the SAA.

We also note the other non-compliances noted by the Inspector during the renewal period. Grocery stores have no special privileges under the licensing system and must operate compliantly at all times.

Subject to the above, I am satisfied that the matters to which we must have regard as set out in s.131 and s.112-114 of the Act.

DECISION

The District Licensing Committee Chairman, acting pursuant to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, **approves** an application by **WHARF ROAD TRADING LIMITED** for the renewal of the OFF Licence in respect of premises situated at 2 Market Street, Putaruru known as **'FOUR SQUARE PUTARURU'** subject to conditions.

The changes that we require must be completed within 14 days of the date of this decision.

The applicant is to prepare a new, dated, site plan of the SAA once completed and forward it on to the Inspector.

If the applicant does not wish to make the changes voluntarily the renewal will be set down for a hearing and we will hear evidence on the issue of SAA configuration.

Conditions:

The licence is subject to the following conditions:

1. Alcohol may be sold on the premises for consumption off the premises and supplied free as a sample for consumption on the premises, only on the following days and hours: **Monday to Sunday 7.00am to 9.00pm;**
2. No alcohol is to be sold on or delivered from the premises on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day or before 1.00 pm on Anzac Day;
3. No alcohol may be sold other than –
 - a. beer that complies with the appropriate New Zealand food standard for beer; or
 - b. mead that complies with the appropriate New Zealand food standard for mead; or

- c. fruit or vegetable wine that complies with the appropriate New Zealand food standard for fruit or vegetable wine; or
 - d. grape wine that complies with the appropriate New Zealand food standard for grape wine; or
 - e. a food flavouring, prepared for culinary purposes, that is unsuitable for drinking undiluted;
- 4. While alcohol is being supplied free as a sample, water is to be provided to patrons at no cost from a water supply prominently situated on the premises;
- 5. A properly appointed Certificated, or Acting or Temporary, Manager must be on duty, **at or nearby the point of sale**, at all times when the premises are open for the sale and supply of alcohol.
- 6. The Licensee must display signage as follows:
 - a. At every point of sale signage detailing the restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol to minors and intoxicated persons;
 - b. A copy of the licence attached to the inside of the premises so as to be easily read by people entering each principal entrance to the premises; and
 - c. A sign prominently displayed at the premises, which identifies by name the manager for the time being on duty.
- 7. **The “single alcohol area” for the premises is as described on the plan date stamped 5 November 2024.** The licensee must ensure that:
 - a. No alcohol is displayed, promoted or advertised outside the single alcohol area; and
 - b. No products other than alcohol, low-alcohol and non-alcoholic beer, wine or mead are displayed, promoted or advertised inside the single alcohol area.

DATED at TOKOROA this 23rd day July 2026



Murray Clearwater
Chairperson/Commissioner
South Waikato District Licensing Committee