

IN THE MATTER

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

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by **H&H
PUTARURU LIMITED** for the
renewal and variation of the ON
Licence pursuant to s.120 and
127 of the Act in respect of
premises situated at 57-61 Tirau
Road, Putaruru, known as "**Hog &
Hounds Sports Bar.**"

BEFORE THE SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Murray Clearwater
Member: Cr Josiah Teokotai
Member: Cr Kerry Purdy

HEARING at Tokoroa on 29 April 2026

APPEARANCES

Mr. Jaspreet Singh- director of the applicant company
Mr. Manpreet Singh- shareholder for the applicant

Ms. Mary Fernandez – for the Chief Alcohol Licensing Inspector – in opposition
Ms. Rose Marriner – Alcohol Licensing Inspector
Sergeant Greg Weston– Police Alcohol Harm Prevention Officer – in opposition
Constable Sam Putai witness for the Police
Sergeant Victoria Edmonds witness for the Police
Constable Connor Scott witness for the Police
Sergeant Lee Riddick witness for the Police
Constable Antony Camp witness for the Police (BOE received as hand up by
consent.)

Ms. Ashleigh Mail – for the Medical Officer of Health (MOoH) – in opposition

RESERVED DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

Background

1. In April 2024, **H&H Putaruru Limited** applied for the renewal and variation of the On Licence in respect of premises situated at 57-61 Tirau Road Putaruru known as the Hog & Hounds Sports Bar.” The activity is a tavern style business with a pool table and 9 gaming machines. The whole of the premises was designated as a **Restricted Area**. The applicant sought a relaxing of the designation from Restricted Area to Supervised Area.
2. All three agencies opposed the renewal and variation of the licence.
3. Ongoing discussions and additional incidents resulted in considerable delays, and this application should have been brought to the DLC some time ago.
4. The delays have worked in the favour of the applicant as it appears there has been an improvement in the management of the tavern in recent times.

Applicant's Evidence

5. Manpreet Singh appeared before us representing the company. He had the sole director of the company, Jaspreet Singh, seated with him. They chose to present the case to the DLC without legal counsel, which was, of course, their right to do so.
6. Manpreet Singh told he has had many years of experience in bars and hospitality generally. He quickly acknowledged that “looking back” there were times where they should have anticipated risk better and managed some situations earlier.
7. He also put on the table that they no longer sought a change in designation to Supervised Area. He agreed that the bar layout was not conducive to ‘families with babies’ wanting to eat pizza in the bar.
8. He said the company has taken the concerns expressed by the agencies seriously and have introduced robust training and improved their systems. They employ local people and security and invest in them and the local community. In support of that he presented 15 or more letters of support from local organisations that they have sponsored over the years.
9. He had some additional material specific to the incidents that the Police were going to give evidence on but did not refer to that material until he presented his closing submissions.
10. He wisely accepted that they had not managed rising intoxication levels early enough and they had learnt from those incidents that the police were going to

present to the Committee.

11. The company would have been better served to have retained a lawyer to assist them present their case more chronologically.
12. He said they would accept a One-way Door from 10.00pm if the DLC thought it was necessary.
13. He was asked about a photo of him on his Instagram page that the Police had discovered. He said he was working at a pizza shop in Tauranga in 2024 when an order came through from the headquarters of the headhunters gang.
14. He agreed to make the delivery and met up with members of the gang, some of whom he knew through working out at the same gym. He conceded it was not a good look for him to have proudly posted the picture on his Instagram page and to have an 'association' with local gang.
15. In closing he said they have learnt many lessons over the last couple of years and there had been more than 30 compliant inspections in recent times. They were committed to running a safe and responsible operation.

Police Evidence

16. Sergeant Weston appeared for the Police and told us that he had had no less than 6 meetings with the management of Hog & Hounds between December 2022 and January 2026. His NAHV data report showed 502 alcohol related calls within 2 kilometer radius of the premises during the last 3 years of which at least 26 were directly related to Hog & Hounds.
17. He agreed with the Committee's comment that there had been a number of incidents involving intoxication in and around the bar in 2022-2024 but other than a very high excess breath alcohol apprehension in November 2025 things had been better in recent times.
18. He was asked to rate the 4 taverns and hotels in Putaruru from best to worse. He said Hog & Hounds was still the highest risk premises for Police.
19. Sergeant Weston then called four Police witnesses to give evidence of their observations when attending incidents at the Hog & Hounds.
20. Constable Sam PUTAI told us that on Friday 16 December 2022 he attended a call at around midnight that involved a vehicle striking two people outside of Hog & Hounds. He conducted patron assessments of some of the people he spoke to and recorded those observations in his notebook. He deemed a number of those persons as intoxicated according to the Intoxication Assessment Tool.

21. Sergeant Victoria Edmonds told us that at about 12.30am on the 29th of January 2023 she attended a disorder complaint at Hog & Hounds. She too conducted patron assessments and deemed the person she spoke to as intoxicated. Her colleagues also assessed other patrons as intoxicated.
22. Constable Connor Scott told us that on Friday 9 June 2023 he attended a fight at the Hog & Hounds. He asked staff for the in-house CCTV footage, but it was never provided. He warned both males for fighting as he was unable to ascertain who was to blame.
23. Sergeant Lee Riddick told us about a compliance inspection he undertook at about 10.30pm at the Hog & Hounds on the 23rd of August 2024.
24. He deemed a number of the patrons present in the bar as intoxicated. He spoke with the duty manager, Abhinav Gulati, who said he had closed the bar, and no one was still drinking. This was despite the fact that drinks were still with the patrons at the leaner.
25. Sergeant Riddick became involved in a dispute with another manager who claimed that the patrons were only 'influenced' by alcohol and that they were not intoxicated. That manager was Manpreet Singh.
26. That incident was unsavory and brought no credit on the bar and its staff. We are satisfied that a number of the patrons were intoxicated on this occasion.
27. Constable Antony Camp's evidence was handed up by consent. His evidence was that he dealt with an intoxicated driver at 10.43pm on 22 November 2025 who blew 1008 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath who told the Police that he had been drinking at the Hog & Hounds.
28. This matter is still before the Court. Sergeant Weston made the comment that any driver blowing 1008 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath would have been visibly intoxicated.
29. Sergeant Weston also produced a BOE relating to an apprehension of two persons in a car in the Hog & Hounds car park on Friday 24 April 2026, smoking methamphetamine only 4 days before the hearing. Whilst not seeking to tag the incident on the applicants, the Police asked the committee to take note of the types of clientele that frequent this bar.
30. In closing the Sergeant called for a severe sanction to send a message to this bar. He believed they still had quite some distance to go before they were fully contributing to the Community.

Inspector's Evidence

31. The Inspector's report was taken as read and Ms. Marriner outlined her finding during a compliance inspection on the 6th of April 2024.
32. At about 10.45pm she saw patrons that she believed were intoxicated and noted that the staff were still serving shots. It was her impression that staff were not intervening and managing intoxication levels as they should. She also saw an underage person in the premises who was known to her.
33. Ms. Mary Fernandez closed for the inspectorate and sought a raft of conditions including better outside lighting, no sales of shots, additional security, and a OWD with differing times on different days.

MOoH Evidence

34. Ms. Mail reminded the DLC that Putaruru was a high deprivation area with a vulnerable community and that the elevated level of suitability should be applied.
35. There was already high levels of alcohol related harm in the township and Hog & Hounds had been contributing to the reduction of amenity and good order in the area.

Relevant legislation

Section 3 of the Act states the purpose of the Act as follows:

- (1) The purpose of Parts 1 and 3 and the schedules of this Act is, for the benefit of the community as a whole, –**
 - (a) to put in place a new system of control over the sale and supply of alcohol, with the characteristics stated in subsection (2); and**
 - (b) to reform more generally the law relating to the sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol so that its effect and administration help to achieve the object of this Act.**
- (2) The characteristics of the new system are that–**
 - (a) It is reasonable; and**
 - (b) Its administration helps to achieve the object of this Act.**

Section 4 states the object of the Act as follows:

- (1) The object of this Act is that –**
 - (a) The sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and**
 - (b) The harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.**

- (2) *For the purposes of subsection (1), the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol includes –*
 - (a) *Any crime, damage, death, disease, disorderly behaviour, illness, or injury, directly or indirectly caused, or directly or indirectly contributed to, by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol; and*
 - (b) *Any harm to society generally or the community, directly or indirectly caused, or directly and indirectly contributed to, by any crime, damage, death, disease, disorderly behaviour, illness, or injury of a kind described in paragraph (a).*

36. Sections 131/132 of the Act provides the criteria that the licensing committee must have regard to in deciding whether to **approve a renewal** of the licence:

131 Criteria for renewal

- (1) *In deciding whether to renew a licence, the licensing authority or the licensing committee concerned must have regard to the following matters:*
 - (a) *the matters set out in paragraphs (a) to (g), (j), and (k) of section 105(1):*
 - (b) *whether (in its opinion) the amenity and good order of the locality would be likely to be increased, by more than a minor extent, by the effects of a refusal to renew the licence:*
 - (c) *any matters dealt with in any report from the Police, an inspector, or a Medical Officer of Health made by virtue of section 129:*
 - (d) *the manner in which the applicant has sold (or, as the case may be, sold and supplied), displayed, advertised, or promoted alcohol.*

The clauses in 105 that we must consider are:

- (1) *In deciding whether to issue a licence, the licensing authority or the licensing committee concerned must have regard to the following matters:*
 - (a) *the object of this Act:*
 - (b) *the suitability of the applicant:*
 - (c) *any relevant local alcohol policy:*
 - (d) *the days on which and the hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol:*
 - (e) *the design and layout of any proposed premises:*
 - (f) *whether the applicant is engaged in, or proposes on the premises to engage in, the sale of goods other than alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments, and food, and if so, which goods:*
 - (g) *whether the applicant is engaged in, or proposes on the premises to engage in, the provision of services other than those directly related to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments, and food, and if so, which services:*
 - (h) *.....*
 - (i) *.....*
 - (j) *whether the applicant has appropriate systems, staff, and training to comply with the law:*
 - (k) *any matters dealt with in any report from the Police, an inspector, or a Medical Officer of Health made under section 103.*

The Reasons for the Decision

Criteria to be considered.

Section 105(1)(a) The Object of the Act

37. Section 105(1)(a) of the Act requires that the licensing committee must have regard to the Object of the Act.
38. Following the Auckland Supreme Court decision, we are also required to ‘read together’ both the **Purpose, and the Object of the Act**. Notably, and very relevantly, to this case, Section 3 talks about the administration of the Act should be “**for the benefit of the community as a whole.**”
39. The High Court in Christchurch Medical Officer of Health v J & G Vaudrey Ltd¹ confirmed “*there is no presumption that a new licence or renewal of an existing licence will be granted: Thus, when the relevant body receives an application, they must consider it against s 105 in deciding “whether to issue a licence”. There is no presumptive position, and certainly no foregone conclusion. I think the reality of the position is that if the object of the Act cannot be achieved by the application, then it cannot succeed.*”
40. The Committee must undertake an evaluative approach and adopt a merits-based assessment of the application and measure it against the Object of the Act.
41. To assist us in that task, we examine the other relevant criteria we must consider.

Section 105(1)(b) Suitability of the Applicant

42. Section 105(1)(b) provides that the applicant must be a suitable person, or entity, to hold a licence. In this regard, the suitability of the applicant is challenged by the agencies.
43. As we recorded earlier in this decision, the delays in bringing this application to the DLC, whilst frustrating for the applicant, has probably saved them from having the renewal of the licence refused.

Suitability has been defined in many judicial forums.

¹ Christchurch Medical Officer of Health v J & G Vaudrey Ltd

In Re Sheard [1996] 1 NZLR 751² Holland J said :

“Obviously, the applicant’s past conduct will be very relevant to the consideration of suitability. The real issue is whether the evidence of that past conduct will indicate a lack of confidence that the applicant will properly carry out the obligations of a licensee.”

44. It was clear to the Committee that the staff had probably become ‘immune’ to the level of intoxication of some of their patrons and it was tolerated until incidents occurred and then they had to deal with intoxicated patrons brawling in the bar, in their carpark, and on the street.
45. Manpreet Singh behaviour on the night of 23 August 20224 was totally unacceptable, and he did himself, and the applicant company, no credit at all.
46. The Committee was more than satisfied that on more than one occasion patrons were allowed to be on premises whilst intoxicated and allowed to become intoxicated on licensed premises.
47. However, in recent months there has been improved compliance and acknowledgement from the applicant that they could have, and should have, done better in those earlier days.
48. But actions speak better than words. The ball is still very squarely in the court of the applicants to regain the respect of the agencies and the DLC.

Section 105(1)(c) Relevant Local Alcohol Policy

49. South Waikato District Council does not have a Local Alcohol Policy. There is nothing for us to consider.

Section 105(1)(d) The days and hours of operation of the licence

50. The current licensed days and hours are **Sunday to Tuesday 10.00am to 11.00pm, Wednesday 10.00am to 12.00 midnight, and Thursday to Saturday 10.00am to 1.00am the following day.**
51. They are within the default national maximum trading hours for on licences.

² Re Sheard [1996] 1 NZLR 751

52. In closing the applicant consented to a 10.00pm OWD across all days of the week.
53. This must be consistently applied with **no exceptions**.

Section 105(1)(e) The design and layout of any proposed premises

54. The design and layout of the premises is like an old retro public bar with a pool table and gaming room. A Restricted Area designation is still necessary.
55. The lighting of the outdoor area and car park is inadequate and must be improved.

Section 105(1)(f) Whether the applicant is engaged in or proposes on the premises to engage in, the sale of goods other than alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments, and food, and if so, which goods.

56. No other goods are sold.

Section 105(1)(g) Whether the applicant is engaged in or proposes on the premises to engage in, the provision of services other than those directly related to the sale of alcohol, low and non-alcoholic refreshments, and food, and if so, which services.

57. There are 9 gaming machines on site.

Section 105(1)(j) Whether the applicant has appropriate systems, staff, and training to comply with the law.

58. It became clear during the hearing that from 2022 to mid-2024 staff did not have the skills or knowledge to manage intoxication or identify high risk situations developing such 21st birthday party groups turning up and not making the responsible decision and turning them away if they were intoxicated.
59. There now appears to have been a commitment from Mr. Singh to increase training sessions both in house and with an external provider to ensure that they have the skills and physical presence to take action when situations arise.
60. It was good to hear of the procedures in place to stop the 'rugby buses' coming in late at night with potentially intoxicated persons on board.
61. Incidents will happen in licensed premises from time to time and licensees should use them as learning experiences. They should conduct a full debrief with staff, take appropriate disciplinary action with staff **and patrons** and put in measures to prevent a reoccurrence.

Section 105(1)(k) Any matters dealt with in any report of the Police, an Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health under Section 129

62. The agencies were opposed to the renewal and, in particular, the request for an easing of the designation from Restricted Area to Supervised Area.

Section 131 of the Act says we must also have regard to whether the amenity and good order of the locality would be likely to be increased, by more than a minor extent, by the effects of a refusal to renew the licence.

63. There was significant evidence of public disorder, and willful damage and violence presented to the Committee but most of it was 18 months to 3 years ago.
64. The Committee will be required to weigh up the effects of a refusal to renew over a restrictive renewal as **sought by the applicant** in their closing submissions.
65. Overall, the Committee is persuaded that a renewal can be approved but with a suite of discretionary conditions that we have decided are necessary to help keep this bar on the improve. We believe this will assist in helping to achieve the Object of the Act.
66. We intend to restrict the sale of poured hard shots from **8.00pm**. Shots are a high risk offering and create rapid intoxication if not managed overtly. Care must be taken to prevent stockpiling before 8.00pm and we are sure the regulatory agencies will be conducting frequent compliance inspections to monitor this condition.
67. These conditions will be in place until August 2027 when again they can be reviewed at renewal time. If there are positive reports from the agencies some of the conditions may be able to be relaxed or further tightened if problems are still occurring.

The Decision

The South Waikato District Licensing Committee, pursuant to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 **approves** an application by **H&H PUTARURU LIMITED** for the renewal of the ON Licence in respect of premises situated at 57-61 Tirau Road Putaruru, known as **“Hog & Hounds Sports Bar”**, subject to conditions.

The Licence is renewed for **3 years (effectively 14 months from today’s date)** from the expiry of the current licence and a Replacement Licence is to be issued with the conditions stated below:

1. Alcohol may be sold or supplied for consumption on the premises only on the following days and hours: **Sunday to Tuesday 10.00am to 10.00pm and Wednesday 10.00am to 12.00 midnight and Thursday to Saturday 10.00am to 1.00am the following day;**
2. The whole of premises is designated as a **Restricted Area** at all times.
3. **An experienced, and competent COA certificated Crowd Controller must be on duty from 8.30pm to close on Thursday to Saturday nights;**
4. **No poured hard shots are to be sold after 8.00pm; No stockpiling is to be permitted.**
5. **A professional review of the outdoor lighting is to be conducted within 30 days of this decision, and the car park area is to be flood lit during the hours of darkness to discourage anti-social and criminal behaviour.**
6. **A One-Way Door (OWD) shall apply from 10.00pm every Wednesday Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. No entry from that time, exit only.**
7. Drinking water is to be provided to patrons free of charge from a water supply prominently situated on the premises;
8. The Licensee must have available for consumption on the premises, at all times when the premises are open for the sale and supply of alcohol, a reasonable range of non-alcoholic and low-alcohol beverages,
9. **Food must be available for consumption on the premises at all times the premises are open for the sale and supply of alcohol, in accordance with the sample menu supplied with the application for this licence or menu variations of a similar range and standard. Menus must be visible, and food should be actively promoted,**
10. A properly appointed certificated or Acting or Temporary Manager must be on duty at all times when the premises are open for the sale and supply of alcohol, and their full name must be on a sign prominently displayed-in the premises,
11. **Requests from the Police or the Inspector for CCTV footage must be complied with within 48 hours of the request.**
12. The Licensee must provide information, advice and assistance about alternative forms of transport available to patrons from the licensed premises,
13. The Licensee must display:

- a. At every point of sale, signs detailing restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol to minors and intoxicated persons;
- b. At the principal entrance to the premises, so as to be easily read by people immediately outside the premises, a sign stating the ordinary hours of business during which the premises will be open for sale of alcohol;
- c. A copy of the licence is attached to the premises so as to be easily read by persons attending the premises.

The Licence will expire on **27 June 2027**

DATED at TOKOROA this 12th day of May 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Clearwater', is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Murray Clearwater
Commissioner
For the South Waikato District Licensing Committee

NOTE

Sections 152 to 155 of the Act relating to the right to appeal this decision are in effect. This decision has no effect for 10 working days from when the decision is provided to the parties to permit an appeal to be lodged with ARLA.