

22 March 2018

Manurewa Local Board Submission to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Renewal of Licences) Amendment Bill (No. 2)

Background

With a population of 82,242 (as per the 2013 census data) Manurewa has one of the youngest median ages of all local board areas. With more than a quarter of Manurewa's usual residents children (aged 0 to 14 years).

The median personal adult incomes are lower than that for the whole of Auckland. The area, in general, is acknowledged as a low socio-economic area with the social issues that come with that.

The Manurewa Local Board has consistently advocated for a sinking lid approach to the number of off licences in Manurewa, particularly where these are located in neighbourhood shopping centres and in sensitive areas such as early childhood centres and schools.

The board has had extensive input from members of the community indicating that reducing alcohol-related harm is very important to them, and has supported communities to make submissions on applications in their area.

Submission

The Manurewa Local Board supports the intent to reduce alcohol related harm by the amendment of section 133 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Renewal of Licences) Amendment Bill (No. 2) which is endeavoring to limit the number of off licence outlets in sensitive areas, but also wants to ensure the minimisation of unintended consequences.

The board agrees with the points made in the Auckland Council submission in relation to this bill in that:

1. The Local Alcohol Policy process is subject to legal challenges which delays implementation of the Policy and due to this the Auckland Council's draft Alcohol Policy is still not in effect.
2. This bill presents an opportunity to address issues with the local alcohol policy process.
3. Having a local alcohol policy in force is vital to this bill having practical application

4. The bill only applies to off licences. A club, tavern or on licence could be established in the sensitive areas with no consequence.
5. The bill needs to be balanced to minimize potential negative impacts on established business, employment and economic growth.
6. More central government guidance is needed to address what is a complex, lengthy and expensive process for councils to undertake.

Yours sincerely



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