



Submissions on Queenstown Lakes District Council

Proposed Alcohol Ban Bylaw 2014

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Name: Name withheld by request

Submitter's Position on Current Bylaw: Partly Supports/Partly Opposes

Submission: My submission mostly related to sections 5 and 6 of the proposals. I don't think it would be good to be able to extend any of the liquor ban areas or times in Queenstown. Due to the nature of Queenstown (and other areas) for both locals and visitors I think it's essential to have the CBD area be as cosmopolitan as possible, where having a relaxing few beers or wines by the lake is possible. I realise there's a fine balance, particularly in Queenstown around the Bay area in the height of summer, but I think proper policing and/or signage should be appropriate to address any concerns. One thing that I read about was the possibility of going round and informing people on a busy night that the ban was about to come into place. Sometimes it does get a bit over the top on the bay with people taking in sofas etc, but when the atmosphere is right, it feels like you are on holiday. Although I'm not around town much later on to see any potential issues, one of my biggest issues around alcohol isn't the problems or the violence, it's the broken glass debris that can be left behind so perhaps there's some signage or policing that could be in place along those lines. There's hardly a day goes by that I'll enter the lake on Park Street kayaking, paddle boarding or swimming where I won't come across an empty bottle or broken glass which is really frustrating, and it can be even worse on the bay at peak times. I think some subtle signage in those areas would be very useful. That's everything for my submission. Regards

What the submitter would like the Council to do: I would like subtle signage about littering, cleaning up and the safety issues around broken glass. Although in an ideal world my next suggestion shouldn't be required, it would be good to extend cleanups and rubbish collection to look at broken glass, extending to around Park Street in Queenstown. I'm sure similar happens elsewhere. Even clean up days where the public is involved may not be a bad idea. Unfortunately I think it is mostly tourists that would leave this litter.

I DO NOT wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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Name: Name withheld by request

Submitter's Position on Current Bylaw: Supports

Submission: Would like to keep the Alcohol bylaw as it is.

What the submitter would like the Council to do: Nothing. Don't change anything.

I DO NOT wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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Name: Name withheld by request

Submitter's Position on Current Bylaw: Supports

Submission: I agree they should change it, after being in town last night before 9pm. My eldest child had shoes from a guy and his drunk mates thrown at her down the street. I am sick of living in a

town which tolerates this kind of behaviour, and makes it feel unsafe to want to go to town for a meal.

What the submitter would like the Council to do: Change to the proposed alcohol ban.

I DO NOT wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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Name: Name withheld by request

Submitter's Position on Current Bylaw: Partly Supports/Partly Opposes

Submission: I observed the affects of the laws in Queenstown during the last New Years holiday period. Frequently people drank on the beach, ignoring the new laws. Or they drank back at their accommodation. This is unfortunate as people who are so inclined shouldn't be encouraged to break the law, and should be out enjoying the environment and being sociable on the beach. Drinking on the beach, particularly before sunset is an important part of Queenstown culture and one of Queenstown's main attractions. Anyone who has a beer or cider and watches the sunset on the beach during summer can attest to this. There is never any unruly behaviour. Therefore the timings should be amended to allow drinking up until sunset- so visitors and locals can enjoy the outdoors environment during the holiday period, and the beautiful view. Forcing people to drink in their accommodation, or illegally drink on the beach, does not make sense and shamefully deters people from enjoying the natural environment and being sociable.

What the submitter would like the Council to do: Change the timings to allow public drinking on the beach/wharf in Queenstown up until sunset which reasonably should be 2100 hours.

I DO NOT wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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Name: alex cully

Submitter's Position on Current Bylaw: Partly Supports/Partly Opposes

Submission: Around xmas and nye the ban should be put in place but no restrictions the rest of the year.

What the submitter would like the Council to do: .

I DO wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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Name: Name withheld by request

Submitter's Position on Current Bylaw: Supports

Submission: Only way to solve the drinking problem in Queenstown is to get tough like some other countries. I also support on open liquor at any time .

What the submitter would like the Council to do: Get tough and don't be effected by the bar/liquor selling establishments lobbying.

I DO NOT wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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Name: Michael Clark

Submitter's Position on Current Bylaw: Partly Supports/Partly Opposes

Submission: My view is simply that the liquor ban should be broadened to include every day of the year. This would be for key areas of public interest such as the main beach areas close to the towns (within 500m) and the CBD areas of Queenstown Wanaka Glenorchy Hawea and Arrowtown. It is not in the interest of the area to have people being seen to be walking and drinking on our streets and foot paths at any time of the day. Walking our streets with alcohol that's is open and being consumed should be banned. As long as the people are within the normal trading area of a license holder that's okay.

What the submitter would like the Council to do: I would like to see the council get rid of people walking our streets and consuming alcohol at any time of the day. Primarily on the key areas that the visiting public use.

I DO NOT wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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Name: Reg Anderson

Submitter's Position on Current Bylaw: Opposes

Submission: I wish to support the law changes as recommended by the New Zealand Police i.e. changing the closing time for finishing the drinking of alcohol in public areas of Queenstown from 10 pm back to 8 pm. I operate a small business in this area and view a large number of people drinking on the public land, across the road from my business, over the past few years. Up to 8 pm most people will have a beer or a wine with their takeaways. However, from 8 pm onwards patrons arrive with their dozen packs of beer and commence to drink in an uncontrolled environment. Unlike the many licensed premises available, to those wishing to have a drink, there is no control on the amount of alcohol drunk and people are required to drink all their supplies as they cannot take them to the backpackers or to the licensed premises that they visit later on. Although I have no scientific proof it does appear that the language gets progressively worse the more alcohol that is consumed. The crime appears to be limited to public urination on the lake reserve. Whilst spaying each other with beer and swearing may not be outside the law my concern is that this type of behaviour is intimidating to many foreign tourists and creates a atmosphere that I would not be comfortable in exposing my children to. I am writing this submission on behalf of the many visitors that have observed, been offended and left the area due to the drinkers' actions. I recently observed a drunk guy making inappropriate comments to a young Asian woman. This is not the experience that I believe that our tourists should experience on the public land at the front of Queenstown. There have been some comments in regard to the rights of people to have a drink in public. I

consider we should be more concerned about the rights of our visitors to enjoy a peaceful sunset unhindered. The rights of drinkers are well and truly covered by the many bars in the area, some of which have outside facilities.

What the submitter would like the Council to do: I would like the council to amend the bylaw to finish drinking in public places by 8 pm. Patrols of the area by council employees or the Police.

I DO wish to be heard in support of my submission.

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**SUBMISSION ON QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL
ALCOHOL BAN BYLAW 2014**

To: Queenstown Lakes District Council
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Details of Submitter: The Southern District Health Board

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Our Reference: 14Oct06

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Introduction

Southern District Health Board (Southern DHB) presents this submission through its Public Health Service. This Service is the principal source of expert advice within Southern DHB regarding matters concerning Public Health. Southern DHB has responsibility under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities. Additionally there is a responsibility to promote the reduction of adverse social and environmental effects on the health of people and communities. With 4,250 staff, we are located in the lower South Island (South of the Waitaki River) and deliver health services to a population of 308,500. Public health services are offered to populations rather than individuals and are considered a “public good”. They fall into two broad categories – health protection and health promotion. They aim to create or advocate for healthy social, physical and cultural environments. This submission is intended to provide general commentary relating to the document, Queenstown Lakes District Council’s Alcohol Ban Bylaw 2014.

General Comments

The effect of alcohol on health is widely reported. The World Health Organisation describes alcohol as a psychoactive substance with dependence-producing properties. They state that:

The harmful use of alcohol is a serious health burden, and it affects virtually all individuals on an international scale. Health problems from dangerous alcohol use arise in the form of acute and chronic conditions, and adverse social consequences are common when they are associated with alcohol consumption. Worldwide, 3.3 million

people die every year due to harmful use of alcohol, this represents 5.9 % of all deaths. Alcohol consumption causes death and disability relatively early in life. In the age group 20 – 39 years approximately 25 % of the total deaths are alcohol-attributable. It is the third leading risk factor for poor health globally. The harmful use of alcohol causes a large disease, social and economic burden in societies.¹

In 2010, the World Health Assembly approved a resolution to endorse a global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. The resolution urged countries to strengthen national responses to public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol. At a local level, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) takes steps to reduce the harmful use of alcohol through the Alcohol Ban Bylaw which is currently being amended to reflect new terminology used in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

The police have recommended that the liquor ban hours should be extended to between 8pm to 8am the following day; the status quo proposed by QLDC is 10pm to 8am the following day. This approach proposed by police is already used by some tourist areas² and would be a proactive step to curbing disruptive behaviour which is being reported to Police regarding behaviour in the areas of Marine Parade and Lake Esplanade. Southern DHB is supportive of the Police recommendation as bylaws are generally based on a precautionary principle and on this occasion, a harm-minimisation approach around alcohol consumption. It is important to highlight that the recommendation does not ban the drinking of alcohol during the day and early evening and therefore would not be a major inconvenience to the general public. Consideration to other people, including families present in these particularly popular areas, should be prioritised in accordance with a social justice and population health approach i.e. to accommodate the needs of the majority.

We believe that QLDC has a responsibility under the 2012 Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act to provide a safe environment for all people to work and socialise. These responsibilities align very closely with the philosophy described in QLDC's draft Economic Development Strategy. In this strategy, maintaining a high quality natural environment is deemed to be important, as is the growth of business and industry. We suggest that the direction of the Economic Development Strategy could be reflected in the council's approach to the liquor ban bylaw. We also suggest that containing the consumption of alcohol within licensed premises as far as is reasonably practicable, is both good for local businesses and good for the public (because of the controls on consumption that occur within such environments).

The review process currently being undertaken does not include an opportunity for the collection of suitable evidence at a level clearly described by council. Section 147A (1) of the Local Government (Alcohol Reform) Amendment Act 2012 states that "there must be evidence that the area to which the bylaw is intended to apply has experienced a high level of crime or disorder that can be shown to have been caused or made worse by alcohol consumption in the area". To date QLDC have deemed that the Police have been unable to provide robust evidence to support their recommendation have the ban hours start at 8pm rather than 10pm.

Southern DHB recommends that the council considers first what evidence is required from agencies such as the police and from other concerned organisations and then gives them an opportunity to collect that evidence before making a decision on the bylaw. Council might also like to assist in the

¹ World Health Organization (2014). Global status report on alcohol and health 2014. Accessed 30/9/14
http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/global_alcohol_report/en/

² item 5 accessed from
<http://resources.ccc.govt.nz/files/TheCouncil/meetingsminutes/agendas/2014/March/RegulationandConsentsCommitteeFullAgenda.pdf> on 20 October 2014; <http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/CnlSer/li/pihaliqrban.asp> accessed on 21 October 2014; <http://www.tasman.govt.nz/policy/public-consultation/completed-consultations/2012-consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-control-of-liquor-in-public-places-bylaw-2012/> accessed 21 October 2014.

collection of such evidence. As a key stakeholder in the area of alcohol harm minimisation, we would welcome the opportunity to support the design and evaluation of any partnership project aimed at securing evidence on alcohol-related harm or disorder. Suggested steps contained within this additional phase are as follows:

1. Determine what evidence is currently collected and by whom.
2. Define what would be deemed “appropriate evidence” to fulfil requirements under the Local Government Act (2002).
3. Collect data.
4. Review and collate findings.
5. Present to council for consideration
6. Amend 2014 Alcohol Ban Bylaw (if evidence compelling).

Alcohol bans are most successful when communities work in partnership to understand and solve problems that may lead to public drinking.³ Research suggests that alcohol bans be used in conjunction with other community responses and complementary strategies and this recommended activity will ensure that council are fully aware of these existing activities.⁴

Local authorities may choose to develop a series of plans, policies and bylaws to reduce alcohol related harm but it is important that these are coordinated to enable the best outcomes for the region. Consideration should therefore be given by QLDC to develop an evidenced based Local Alcohol Policy as a complementary strategy to support existing and any future Bylaws as this policy will assist with providing council with guidance around sensitive site issues.

Conclusion

The Southern District Health Board:

- Commends the QLDC for amending the current 2009 Alcohol Ban Bylaw and is in general, supportive of the content.
- Endorses the police recommendation of the liquor ban commencing at an earlier time of 8pm rather than 10pm as this change will assist with reducing the significant alcohol-related harm that currently characterises our society.
- Recommends that council allow an additional evidence collection phase to occur which includes the preparation of a coordinated project between council and the Police and allows input from the wider community

We will wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Leanne Liggett
Public Health Analyst



Dr Derek Bell
Medical Officer of Health

³ Webb, M., Marriott-Lloyd, P., & Grenell, M. (2004). Banning the bottle: Liquor bans in New Zealand. Accessed from <http://www.alac.org.nz/legislation-policy/alcohol-bans/alacs-view-liquor-ban-bylaws> on 20 October 2014

⁴ Pennay, A., Manton, E., Savic, M., Livingston, M., Matthews, S. & Lloyd, B. (2013) Prohibiting Public Drinking in an Urban Area: Determining the Impacts on Police, the Community and Marginalised Groups. Paper presented at the 6th Australasian Drug and Alcohol Strategy Conference, Sydney Australia, March 2013.