

Tasman District Council Consolidated Bylaw: Control of Alcohol in Public Places 2018

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For more information please contact:

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Submitter details

1. Nelson Marlborough Health (Nelson Marlborough District Health Board) (NMH) is a key organisation involved in the health and wellbeing of the people within Te Tau Ihu. NMH appreciates the opportunity to comment from a public health perspective on the Control of Alcohol in Public Places 2018 Bylaw.
2. NMH makes this submission in recognition of its responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Health Act 1956.
3. This submission sets out particular matters of interest and concern to NMH.

Specific Comments

4. NMH cares about the achievement of equitable health and wellbeing for the population we serve. Alcohol-related harms are major contributors to inequities in health and wellbeing outcomes. Alcohol is not an ordinary commodity. It is an intoxicant, toxin, and addictive psychotropic drug. Alcohol has been normalised and largely accepted by society, and causes more harm than any other drug in society. Alcohol is linked to anti-social behaviour. Direct impacts of antisocial behaviour on people's quality of life include fear, alarm and distress to victims and witnesses. Indirect impacts include disruption to local businesses and public transport services.¹ In severe cases people may feel too scared to leave their homes, or walk through some public spaces, leading to isolation.
5. Bylaws are an avenue for addressing some antisocial behaviour. The Council's Control of Alcohol in Public Places 2018 Bylaw aims to reduce alcohol-related harm, damage, disorder and crime to improve community safety. NMH supports the proposed changes and the continuation of the bylaw to prohibit the consumption of alcohol and restricts the possession of alcohol in some public places in the district.

¹ House of Commons committee of public accounts. (2007). Tackling anti-social behaviour, 2006-7
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmpubacc/246/246.pdf>. Accessed 11.08.2016

Conclusion

6. NMH thanks the Tasman District Council for the opportunity to comment on the Control of Alcohol in Public Places 2018 Bylaw.
7. NMH does wish to be heard on its submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

Peter Bramley
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