

Alcohol licence applications and outcomes in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

July 2020 – June 2023

Background

To sell alcohol in Aotearoa New Zealand you are required to apply for an alcohol licence with your local District Licencing Committee (DLC).

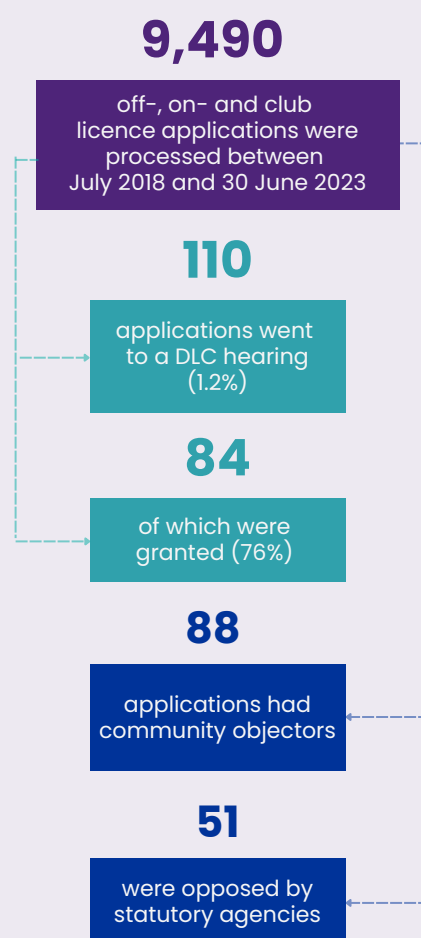
Members of the public can object to this being approved or renewed if they have concerns about the impact it may have on them or their community. The council's licensing inspectors, the police and public health (known together as the statutory agencies) can also oppose a licence application. If there are any objections, the DLC holds a public hearing to consider whether the application should be granted according to the criteria in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act.

This report looked at the number of alcohol licence applications between July 2018 and June 2023, and what proportion were opposed and went to a DLC hearing. It also looked at the number of objections to alcohol licences by both the community and statutory agencies, and what impact these had on application outcomes.

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Key findings

- 1 9,490 on, off and club licence applications were processed between July 2018 and June 2023.
- 2 Around 1% (110) of applications went to a DLC hearing. Of these, around 3 in 4 (84) were then approved. This means that overall, less than 1% of licence applications were declined.
- 3 Communities objected to more alcohol licence applications (88 objections) than statutory agencies (51 objections).
- 4 Licence applications were more likely to be declined by the DLCs when both communities and the statutory agencies were opposed.
- 5 When more agencies objected to a licence application, it was also more likely to be declined.



Implications

- ▶ The licensing process is an important lever for communities to express their views on alcohol licences, given a single objection can trigger a DLC hearing.
- ▶ This process is now more accessible to communities, because of recent changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act. This increases the opportunities for communities to have their voices heard.
- ▶ This change also increases opportunities for organisations, such as local boards, to amplify community voices. This could be achieved through informing the community of licence applications, attending DLC hearings in support of communities, objecting to licence applications on behalf of communities, and assisting community members with their objections.
- ▶ Statutory agency opposition appeared to have a larger impact on whether a licence application was granted by a DLC, particularly when all three agencies were opposed. This points to the importance of enhancing collaboration between the three statutory agencies.
- ▶ Licence applications were also less likely to be granted when both agencies and communities were opposed. Through engaging with and understanding local communities, statutory agencies can better reflect community concerns in their oppositions.

Download the full report at:
www.arphs.nz/alcohol