

18 February 2011

File No: 3-PY-1

Committee Secretariat
Justice and Electoral Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6011

Tena koe

Rangitikei District Council Submission to the Draft Alcohol Reform Bill

In order to make this submission, the Rangitikei District Council used information gathered from a focus group discussion held in 2009 for 'Alcohol in our lives.' Information from existing Council policy such as the Liquor Control Bylaw 2010 was also used.

Generally, Rangitikei District Council is in support of the Alcohol Reform Bill. However, while Rangitikei District Council can understand and appreciate the need to address issues around liquor supply, particularly in urban areas, the Bill as it currently stands unfairly disadvantages rural communities. Rangitikei District Council feels that legislation needs to be flexible enough to allow for 'localisation' of alcohol policies, particularly in rural areas.

No off-licences for petrol stations, dairies, conveyances, or certain shops within shops

Rangitikei District Council does not support the inclusion of Clause 38 in the Alcohol Reform Bill as it currently stands because it severely disadvantages rural communities.

An example within the Rangitikei District is a small business in Hunterville which would be severely impacted by this legislation. 'Elders Taylors' is a general store in Hunterville which fulfils a number of essential functions. This store is Council's local service centre, a petrol station, place at which to purchase goods including agricultural products and it also holds an off licence for the sale of beer, wine and spirits. For the local community, Elders Taylors is a service hub. There is no other store within a 25 km radius. For a rural shop such as Elders Taylors to lose one aspect of its service such as the ability to supply alcohol, could force closure. It is uneconomic and impractical for a separate premises to be established solely for the sale of liquor. This would mean an isolated community could potentially lose a critical lifeline and be forced to endure further hardship.

Hunterville is a service centre for the outlying agricultural communities who travel considerable distance to get to Elders Taylors as it is. Isolated rural communities within the Rangitikei rely on Elders Taylors as a key service centre to meet their needs.

Rangitikei District Council recommends either:

- Removing the reference to 'petrol stations' in Clause 38

Or

- Rural stores be exempted from Clause 38. A rural store can be defined as being the only service centre within a 20km radius for a community.

I would like to reserve the option to speak to this submission.

Naku noa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chalky Leary', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Chalky Leary
Mayor
Rangitikei District