

Sub. 2
Tabled Info.
208/13P(G).

Good morning My Name is Bob Tait President of the,

Johnsonville Club Norman Lane Johnsonville.

I am here to talk about what is practical for the rate payers of the Northern Suburbs and the City of Wellington

I represent some 1000 Community Members over the age of 25 years from a catchment area in the Northern Suburbs which include Ngaio, Khandallah, Johnsonville, Newlands, Churton Park and Tawa.

Currently Zoned as Suburban!!!

The Club was established some years ago and today has assets in excess of \$4 million dollars, and employs some people from within the community. We are located in the CBD of Johnsonville with minimal residential housing in the close vicinity. We have an unblemished record with the local Police Department. But for some reason unknown to us we have been placed in the **Suburban Zone** which appears to be **No Mans land** in the overall plan of things.

Do we have an alcohol problem in the Suburban Zone No! How many licenced premises are in the Zone ?? Maybe a Dozen!!!! So why then are the people of the Northern Suburbs penalised because the City has perceived problems in the Entertainment Precinct and the Southern Zone.

As a rate payer of Wellington all areas and age groups must be considered on the basis what is best for the residents of the City and its suburbs not by Zoning. You also need to consider seriously the investment that all owners have in their businesses that contribute to , employment, tax contribution and ancillary business (Suppliers) along with Events within the City boundaries.

The National 7.s Rugby will become a thing of the past with the recommended changes that are being considered,

Every Rate Payer and Operator of Licence Premises has a responsibility to the Community no matter where they live or entertain themselves to ensure that they are orderly and responsible when partaking in events where alcohol is involved. If they are not withdraw their liquor licences. **The City's revenues are a result of successful and responsible businesses continuing to be successful. Let common sense prevail.**

With your permission I would now ask Barry Green our in house advisor to comment further on our submission relative to the LAP proposals.

Current License: S-T - 9 - 1.00 AM
FS - 9 - 2.00 AM

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our submissions to the LAP and to further comment on it.

Being located within the Johnsonville CBD and with no residential neighbours, we are a destination venue, not a drop by venue. There are no other Licenced venues of a similar type within Wellington City. We are comparable to Working Men's or Cosmopolitan Clubs which may be more familiar to you, offering similar amenities and services for members.

We would at this point respectfully challenge research provided to you that for every additional licence granted to a sports or Cosmopolitan Club there are 4 additional violent offences.

We do not know when this research was carried out, but we do know that in the last 25 years not one Cosmopolitan or Workingmen's Club type Club has opened in Wellington while in the same period, at least 5 have ceased to trade.

Although our membership covers a wide demographic, most of our membership is in the 25 plus age group.

On occasions, older people like to party until late as well as the young.

We have a strong and extensive community involvement in our activities.

The stated objective of the LAP in relation to Suburban Zone 4 is-

To ensure that the locality is a pleasant and agreeable place to live alongside vibrant suburban centres.

Our club contributes considerably to this objective.

ZONES.

Our principal concern is with the creation of Zones where proposed licence conditions are determined by street address rather than by performance or suitability.

We are concerned that the creation of the Entertainment Zone could be a considerable incentive for a larger number of similar venues to establish there, while killing off very good venues that fall outside of the Zone. It is very likely to have further unintended consequences.

While having all late night activity confined to a restricted area may well allow Police to concentrate resources into one area, keeping all of the perceived problems confined will very likely lead to more problems and need more resource.

The defined areas of Zones 3 and 4 where all venues within these zones would have the same closing time of 12.00 am. does not seem to be logical.

While the "Southern Zone" is defined with maps and has specific reference to the problems caused by excess, the creation of the "Suburban Zone 4" is undefined and covers all other areas not covered by Zones 1, 2 & 3.

The City does live and play outside of the CBD.

We are not aware of any liquor related problems, as defined in the LAP occurring in Johnsonville that can in any way be attributed to on premise excess consumption of alcohol.

Closing down the suburban areas at midnight may well lead to large parties arranged on the Social media similar to those recently occurring elsewhere, which we have not had much experience of.

We are unable to find any justification for imposing such restrictive conditions on our Club and are opposed to the limits defined.

These restrictions will have a considerable impact on our activities, inhibiting our ability to provide city type entertainment in a suburban location. Our entertainment activity also keeps liquor consumption

on premise and under control of, and supervised by, experienced and trained managers.

Retaining the status quo for existing well managed licences where no problem has been identified, would make a more realistic contribution to the object of the LAP. Proposed restrictions may well encourage more people to consume pre-purchased alcohol without control, in the streets or in cars, creating problems where none exist at present.

The restricted hours will impact considerably on our ability to meet the objective of the LAP of *“supporting vibrant town centres and suburban hubs”* and seems totally at odds with this objective.

RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK.

We are supportive of the proposed Risk Management Framework to manage licences.

The proposal is briefly traversed in the LAP where it appears to be more directed at the Cost of Licence administration. There is more detail in Appendix 1A as Host Responsibility.

A well-structured Risk Management tool incorporating both Host Responsibility and Licence cost, would enable the control of trading hours by measuring the performance and behaviour of licensees based on set and established criteria.

It could be used as a carrot and stick tool by rewarding good performance with more relaxed hours and punishing poor outcomes by restricting hours.

We see controlling hours by performance as a more effective way of achieving the LAP objectives.

A well designed Framework could allow for the existing licence hours to be rolled over and on renewal, hours could be assessed against performance measured by the Framework.

SPECIAL LICENCES

Our Club has a small function room (capacity approximately 120) which enables members to host private social functions (weddings, birthdays, re-unions etc.).

We cover these as required by Special Licences which allow members to invite more guests to the Club than their membership privilege can generally entitle them to.

These functions are all managed and controlled by our own staff.

Security staff are employed to ensure only bona fide guests are allowed to enter the venue.

They are fully catered by our own on site caterer.

Entertainment provided, controls alcohol consumption. Most people do not drink on the dance floor.

The conditions imposed by the LAP draft conditions are quite unreasonable and extremely restrictive.

The limit on the number of licences that can be issued in a year does not appear to have any basis in any discussion within the draft LAP.

The requirement for CCTV coverage within the premises is intended to *“identify problems which occur through excess consumption”*. This just does not occur in our Club where the function is well managed and excess is not allowed.

The principal and major objection we have is the curtailment of our activities by the introduction of Zones and subsequent imposition of the restricted hours.

We do not accept that control of licences should be within fixed zones when the new DLC will be able to control hours and density throughout the City in an ordered logical manner.