

Review of the Sale of Liquor Act 1989

Terms of reference

- (1) To examine and evaluate the current laws and policies relating to the sale, supply and consumption of liquor in New Zealand.
- (2) To consider and formulate for the consideration of Government and Parliament a revised policy framework covering the principles that should regulate the sale, supply and consumption of liquor in New Zealand having regard to present and future social conditions and needs.
- (3) To deal explicitly with a number of issues, including:
 - the proliferation of specific outlets and the effect this has on consumption;
 - how the licensing system should be structured and who should be responsible for which aspects of licensing decisions;
 - revising the licence renewal and fee framework to consider whether risk can be more appropriately managed and to ensure that the funding of the licensing and enforcement regime is adequate;
 - to ensure that unnecessary and disproportionate compliance costs are not imposed by the licensing system;
 - the age at which liquor can be purchased;
 - the responsibility of parents for supervising young members of their family who drink;
 - the influence of excise tax on alcohol and how pricing policies can minimise harm from alcohol consumption;
 - advertising of liquor and whether there should be restrictions on discounting alcohol or advertising discounts;
 - the relationship between the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2001;
 - the relationship between the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 and the liquor-related offences in the Summary Offences Act 1981;
 - the application of competition law to the sale of liquor;
 - the need to ensure the appropriate balance between harm and consumer benefit;
 - the health effects of alcohol use and the ways to ameliorate these adverse effects;

- the effects of alcohol use on the level of offending in the community and consideration of measures to minimise such offending; and
 - enforcement issues in relation to liquor, including penalties, bans, measures to control alcohol related disorder and to deal with intoxicated people, and methods for preventing the use of fake proof-of-age identification.
- (4) To prepare an issues paper for publication and take submissions on it, and to engage in extensive public consultation
- (5) To prepare a final report, including the proposed new policy framework and draft legislation, so that people can judge accurately the precise effects of what is proposed.