

# FAR NORTH ALCOHOL CONTROL AREAS

SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW

Kohitātea January 2024

## Alcohol control in public places.

Just as there are restrictions on where and when you can buy alcohol, there are also some restrictions on where you can drink. The Far North has 23 public places where possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited. These areas are where alcohol-related crime and disorder

have been a problem in the past and are listed in the Alcohol Control Bylaw. The goal is to reduce incidences of violence and injury often caused by alcohol consumption. Alcohol control areas allow police to act early and prevent alcohol-related problems from escalating.

This map shows where we currently have alcohol control areas in the Far North. For more detailed information, go to [fndc.govt.nz/alcohol](http://fndc.govt.nz/alcohol) for the map showing the exact boundaries of alcohol control areas at each location.

### ALCOHOL CONTROL AREAS

#### Alcohol Control Bylaw

The council decides which areas are part of the Alcohol Control Bylaw following consultation with the community. You can find more information on the bylaw and view maps of current alcohol control areas on our website here: [fndc.govt.nz/alcohol](http://fndc.govt.nz/alcohol)

#### Alcohol bans are enforced by the police

Within the alcohol control areas, the police have the power to:

- search people's vehicles, bags and packages for alcohol
- seize and remove any alcohol
- ask offenders to leave the area
- issue infringement notices to offenders with a fine of \$250
- arrest those who commit offences or refuse to comply with police requests.

#### Police enforcement is discretionary

The police decide on a case-by-case basis whether to enforce the bylaw. A key factor will be whether alcohol consumption will likely lead to alcohol-related crime or disorder. Bans don't apply:

- on licenced premises within ban areas (restaurants and bars)
- when transporting unopened alcohol (e.g. from car to home).



Signs like this identify alcohol-free areas.



There are 23 public places where alcohol is prohibited in the Far North.

### Reviewing the alcohol control areas

The council will be reviewing alcohol control areas in the Far North later in 2024. The review will look at areas where high levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder have occurred in public. The review will consider:

- public disorder such as fighting
- aggressive, intimidating or offensive behaviour
- damage to private or public property
- intoxicated people vomiting or urinating in public
- noisy and disruptive behaviour.

#### Have you witnessed alcohol-related crime and disorder?

You can help us identify areas that may need alcohol controls. If you have observed the behaviours listed above in public, please email [askus@fndc.govt.nz](mailto:askus@fndc.govt.nz) with details of where and when this occurred. These details are important. If possible, please describe what you saw, give the street name and the location type (e.g. playground).

Help us identify areas with high levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder.



Scan to see Alcohol Control Bylaw and map.



### THE ALCOHOL DRUG HELPLINE

In 2021, Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) reported that 83% of Northlanders had consumed alcohol in the past year. The majority of drinkers consume alcohol responsibly. However, in 2021, 22% of

Northlanders were classified as hazardous drinkers who had a high risk of causing alcohol related harm to themselves or others. If you are concerned about your own or someone else's alcohol use

and want to do something about it, visit the website [www.alcoholdrughelp.org.nz](http://www.alcoholdrughelp.org.nz) or call the alcohol drug helpline on 0800 787 797.