

Proposal to Amend Alcohol Ban Areas

September 2025

1. Context

Council decision to amend alcohol ban areas in the Far North District

On 25 September 2025 the Far North District Council (the Council) decided to amend alcohol ban areas in the District subject to consultation with the public. This Proposal gives the context to this decision, describes the Options that the Council considered, and explains how people can have their say.

Alcohol consumption in public places in the Far North District

Drinking in public in the Far North is common and often relatively harmless, e.g. people having a quiet drink at a picnic. However, excessive drinking in public can lead to disorderly and criminal behaviour, impacting others' enjoyment of public places, making members of the public feel unsafe, and/or degrading how places look and feel, for example through alcohol litter, vandalism, and graffiti.

Alcohol ban areas

The Alcohol Control Bylaw 2018 addresses the problems of alcohol-related disorder and criminal behaviour in the Far North by prohibiting the consumption, bringing in, or possession of alcohol in 23 Alcohol Control Areas in the districts. These Areas are declared or amended under section 147 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02). Colloquially these Alcohol Control Areas are known as alcohol ban areas or alcohol free areas - wāhi waipiro kore.

Section 147(1) of LGA02 gives a broad definition of the public places where alcohol bans can apply, as places that are open to or used by the public. These places may include streets, carparks, sportsgrounds, beaches, school playgrounds, conservation land, and some private properties open to the public (e.g. supermarket carparks).

Currently, 23 areas across the Far North are designated as alcohol ban areas, mostly with 24 hour, 7 day-a-week bans all year round. These areas include:

Ahipara, Coopers Beach Reserve, Haruru Falls, Hihi, Kaeo, Kaikohe, Kaitāia, Kawakawa, Kerikeri, Kohukohu, Lily Pond, Moerewa, Okaihau, Omapere, Opononi, Paihia, Pukenui, Rawene, Russell, Taipā, Taupo Bay, Tokerau Beach, and Waipapa.



The Police enforce the alcohol bans

In the ban areas the Police have the power to:

- search vehicles, bags, and packages for alcohol
- seize and remove alcohol
- ask people to leave the area
- issue infringement notices to offenders with a \$250 fine
- arrest people who commit offences or do not comply with police instructions.

Police have discretion under the Bylaw – they are not required to act unless they observe actual or potential alcohol-related crime or disorder. Typically, they will ignore someone having a quiet drink in an alcohol ban area.

Review of the alcohol ban areas

Council staff have recently reviewed the current alcohol ban areas based on the following sources of evidence:

- NZ Police official records of incidents and offences in public places where alcohol was a contributing factor
- Investigation by National Public Health Service, Northern Region that involved observing and mapping the location of alcohol and illicit drug litter, graffiti, and vandalism in a range of localities over the past three years

- Investigation by the Alcohol Licensing Inspectorate
- A public survey of people with connections to the Far North conducted by the Council from 12 May to 6 June 2025
- Evidence presented at recent hearings into alcohol licence applications in Paihia, Kaikohe, and Waipapa
- Feedback from concerned residents, community groups, alcohol licensees, and elected members
- Media reports.

Review findings

In summary, the review found that:

- Public drinking is widespread across the Far North. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of public survey respondents had seen people drinking in public over the past two to three years, across 43 towns and townships in the district.
- The Police recorded 483 alcohol-related incidents (excluding traffic offences) in public places across the district in 2024, a slightly higher rate per head of population than the national average.
- While 65% of survey respondents observed positive aspects of public drinking, 60% also saw disorderly or criminal behaviour, particularly littering (51%), disorderly conduct (38%), excessive noise (34%), violence or aggression (16%), or people vomiting or urinating in public (15%).
- Alcohol-related litter, including cans and bottles as well as packaging material, indicates where problem drinking in public occurs. This litter is widespread and is often found near alcohol outlets (including supermarkets and bottle stores). It is often associated with illicit drug paraphernalia and signs of property damage and graffiti.



Graffiti and vandalism at the skatepark, Kaitiāia



Broken glass collected at Lake Ngātu

- Problem drinking in public often occurs in concealed or less visible locations such as parks and reserves sheltered by trees, service lanes and alleyways, and places without CCTV coverage.
- From 2024 Police data, alcohol-related incidents in public occur year-round, peaking slightly from January to March. Saturdays account for the highest number of incidents (25%), but Thursdays and Fridays also show significant activity (both 18%). Most incidents occur between 4pm and midnight (61%), though some happen during quieter periods. These patterns support the need for consistent, 24x7 year-round alcohol bans in trouble spots to ensure police can respond whenever required.

Review recommendations

The review used a decision-making framework to identify where high levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder occur in public places in the district outside the current alcohol ban areas. To address these problem areas, the review recommended declaring three new alcohol ban areas (at Waitangi, Ōpua, and Lake Ngātu) and amending five current ban areas (Kaitiāia, Kerikeri, Waipapa, Paihia, and Kaikohe).

Specific locations (e.g. streets and carparks) recommended to be included in new and amended ban areas are listed in the following tables:

New ban area in Waitangi to include:	
Waitangi one way bridge	Waitangi Treaty Grounds carparks
Waitangi boat ramp area	Tau Henare Drive to the junction with Bayly Road, including the Lookout area and all carparks and laybys including the Golf Club carpark
Carparks associated with the Copthorne Hotel complex, Yacht Club and Waitangi Wharf	Bayly Road including the Waitangi Mountain Park carpark
Land and beach area between Yacht Club and the sea	Bayly Road reserve, Wairoa Bay
Hobson Beach	

New ban area in Ōpua to include:
Ōpua waterfront
Ōpua wharf
Beechey Street
Richardson Street facing the beach
Ōpua marina area including Baffin Street
Ōpua car ferry area

New ban area at Lake Ngātu to include:
Lake Ngātu Road
Sweetwater Road around the Lake
Entire Lake Ngātu Track around the Lake
Waka storage area and access to this area from Lake Ngātu Road
Reserve area around the public toilets on West Coast Road/Sweetwater Road

Locations to add to the current ban area in Kaitiāia:	
Lane on the north side of Far North Pharmacy (connects Commerce Street and East Lane)	Lane between Arcline Architecture and Repco buildings, 49 Matthews Avenue
Playground, skatepark & squash court carparks and public spaces in the Centennial Park /Jaycee Park area	Walkway between Commerce St and West Lane (by Kiwibank Building)
Te Ahu Centre carpark	East Lane
Cycle lane behind Te Ahu Centre	Market Lane
Dalmatian Lane (connects Commerce Street and East Lane)	Water Lane
Bottle-O service lane – 15 Commerce Street	Todd Lane
Old Warehouse carpark, 11 Matthews Ave	River Reserve and Korimako Lane north of the Croquet Club
Pak 'n Save carpark and North Way	Roadside area on Okahu Rd, near intersection with Norman Senn Avenue
Old Pak 'n Save carpark/Town Square	McDonald's carpark
Super Liquor and laundromat carpark - corner Empire Street and Commerce Street	North Park Drive carparks (the Warehouse, Mitre 10, Noel Leeming)
Rugby fields at Arnold Ray Park	Bonnetts Road heading away from Kaitiāia - 1.1km west from Tangonge Domain
Collards Sports Bar, Tavern and Restaurant carpark	

Locations to add to the current ban area in Waipapa:
Mitre 10/Noel Leeming carpark area
The Warehouse carpark area
Parking area at end of Kerikeri River track opposite 1895 SH10 Waipapa
Harmony Lane and associated playing fields and carparks (parts of this area are not included in the current alcohol ban area)
Walkway running from the soccer fields to Mawson Avenue
Walkway running from Mawson Avenue to Waipapa shops
Walkway from Klinac Lane to Skippers Lane
Te Puāwaitanga - Bay of Islands Sports Hub
Pioneer Tavern carpark

Locations to add to the current ban area in Paihia:
Lucy Elizabeth Williams Scenic Reserve – corner Davis Crescent and Marsden Road
Woolworths carpark, Puketona Road
Walkway to reserve – next to 11 Kings Road
Joyces Road and old RSA Building carpark
Paihia Cemetery
All beaches down to the water line - some beach areas are not included in the alcohol ban area i.e. Te Ti Bay Beach, Marsden Road Beach, northern part of Te Haumi Road Beach (other end from the Boat ramp), and the main Paihia Beach including the Stockyard Point area (playground and Lookout)

Locations to add to the current ban area in Kerikeri:	
Rainbow Falls carpark and reserve	Masonic Lane
Fairy Pools Lane and Fairy Pools area	Interconnecting service lanes and carparks between Hobson Avenue and Cobham Road
Skudders Beach Road parking bay	Carparks along Hobson Avenue e.g. Baptist Church, Ministry of Education carparks etc,
Stone Store basin carpark and wharf area	Woolworths carpark and service lanes
South end of Landing Road including the carpark for the Kerikeri Basin, the reserve, and picnic area	Shrubbery on north side of Woolworths Building, on Butler Road
Council carparks between Homestead Road and Butler Road	McDonald's carpark
Carparks between Homestead Road and Fairway Drive (e.g. old Bunnings carpark area) and connecting lanes to Kerikeri Road	Kerikeri Rugby Club, squash and netball clubs, carparks and associated playing fields – corner of the Heritage Bypass and Waipapa Road
Briscoes, Rebel Sport and Work & Income carparks	Roundabout area at the intersection of Kerikeri Road and SH10
The Man Cave carpark and surrounding area, 19 Homestead Road	Liquorland service lane and carpark, 52 Kerikeri Road
The Homestead Sports Bar and Bistro carpark, 15 Homestead Road	

Locations to add to the current ban area in Kaikohe:	
Library Square – including area around The Shed Liquor Centre and playground	
The Warehouse/Woolworths/McDonalds carpark and service lanes	
Hone Heke Memorial Reserve	
Liquorland carpark, 40 Broadway	

2. Reason for the Proposal

The Proposal aims to make public places in the district safer for the public by declaring three new alcohol ban areas (at Waitangi, Ōpua, and Lake Ngātu) and amending five current ban areas (Kaitiā, Kerikeri, Waipapa, Paihia, and Kaikohe)

The Alcohol Control Bylaw 2018 states that amending and declaring these areas can only occur after consultation with the public. Section 4 below outlines how you can have your say about the Proposal through the consultation process.

3. Analysis of reasonably practicable options

In the Council meeting on 25 September 2025, the Council considered two Options, with main advantages and disadvantages of these Options listed below:

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option One - Council declares three new alcohol ban areas (at Waitangi, Ōpua, and Lake Ngātu) and amends five current ban areas (Kaitiā, Kerikeri, Waipapa, Paihia, and Kaikohe). All new ban areas will apply 24x7 all year round. <i>This is the recommended Option</i>	Reducing alcohol-related disorder and crime to make public places in the district safer for the public Evidence-based targeting of problem areas New and amended ban areas will include locations where high levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder is occurring that are not included in current Control Areas. Enabling the Police to enforce the Bylaw in these areas under the Alcohol Control Bylaw. This is a more flexible and less time-consuming approach than charging offenders under the Summary Offences Act. Applying the bans 24X7 will enable the Police to act whenever they encounter problem drinking in public in the ban areas.	None identified

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
Option Two – Council maintains the status quo/ does nothing	None identified	Alcohol ban areas will not fully reflect where high levels of alcohol-related crime and disorder are occurring. The Police will not be able to act flexibly and proactively to address alcohol-related problems in the recommended new ban areas.

On 25 September 2025 Council determined that Option 1 (Council declares three new alcohol ban areas and amends five current ban areas) is the most appropriate option.

4. How to give your views on the Proposal

The Council encourages any person or organisation affected by, or having an interest in, amending the alcohol ban areas to present their views on the Proposal by making a submission.

The period for making submissions is from 3 to 30 November 2025.

Submissions can be made using any of the following methods:

- online at the Council's website [Have-your-say on safer, healthier public-spaces](#)
- emailing your submission to submissions@fndc.govt.nz
- dropping off your submission at any Council service centre or library. Details of their locations and opening times are listed at www.fndc.govt.nz/contact or by phoning the Council on 0800 920 029
- posting your submission to: Policy and Bylaws Team, Far North District Council, Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440
- making an oral presentation of your submission at a meeting of the Council's governing body. Please email your request to make an oral submission to submissions@fndc.govt.nz.

Please include your full name and email or postal address in your submission if you want the Council to acknowledge receipt of your submission or you want to make an oral presentation – you will be contacted later about when and where this will take place.

Privacy statement

Any submissions that are made on this proposal become part of the public consultation process. As such, all submissions, any summaries of submissions, and any documents provided with your submission, are copied and made available to the Council's governing body as well as the public. Any personal information included with a submission, such as your name, is treated as part of the submission and may also be released publicly. Your submission and any personal information that you supply, such as your name, will not be treated as confidential unless you specifically request this in your submission.

5. Viewing the amended alcohol ban areas

Proposed amended ban areas are listed above in section one of this Proposal.