



Submission from Tūwharetoa Iwi Māori Partnership Board

To: Secretary of the District Licensing Committee

Taupō District Council

businesssupport@taupo.govt.nz

Re: Objection to the Renewal and Variation of an Off Licence for Liquorland Kokomea (Liquid Assets (2004) Limited)

Date: 8 November, 2024

Introduction:

The Tūwharetoa Iwi Māori Partnership Board (IMPB) is mandated under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 to represent Māori interests and ensure that health services, policies, and decisions reflect the needs and wellbeing of Māori communities. As part of this legislative role, the IMPB is responsible for advocating for measures that reduce health inequities and enhance whānau ora (family wellbeing) in our rohe. By opposing the removal of these licensing restrictions, the IMPB fulfils its legislated duty to protect community safety and mitigate alcohol-related harm, fostering an environment where whānau can thrive in safe, resilient communities.

The Tūwharetoa Iwi Māori Partnership Board (IMPB) submits this objection to the renewal and proposed variation of Liquorland Kokomea's off-licence at 470 Lake Terrace, Taupō. Our opposition focuses on the applicant's request to remove key restrictions, particularly on single sales and certain high-risk alcohol products, which we believe poses significant risks to whānau and community wellbeing.

Our objection is supported by insights from our 2024 Whānau Voice Report, which underscores the widespread impact of alcohol-related harm in our community. This submission outlines our concerns about community health and safety, youth protection, alignment with local licensing standards, and the importance of responsible retailing practices.

Key Concerns

1. Community Health and Safety:

The sale of high-risk alcohol products, such as large swappa crates and nitro-infused beverages, poses an increased risk of excessive alcohol consumption, which can contribute to adverse outcomes such as domestic violence, trauma, and community instability. Restricting the sale of these products is essential to maintain community safety and reduce the harmful social impacts associated with alcohol abuse.

2. Youth and Vulnerable Population Protection:

The existing restrictions on single sales of inexpensive Ready-to-Drink (RTD) beverages and ciders play a critical role in limiting easy access to alcohol, especially for young people and vulnerable populations. Removing the minimum pricing and volume limits could make it easier for youth to purchase these products, increasing their exposure to and misuse of alcohol. Preserving these restrictions aligns with a harm-minimisation approach and strengthens community resilience.

3. Consistency with Local Licensing Standards:

Applying these conditions consistently across liquor outlets supports responsible retail practices that reflect Taupō's commitment to community wellbeing. Allowing Liquorland Kokomea to operate without these restrictions would deviate from best practices observed in similar areas, undermining efforts to standardise responsible alcohol retail standards.

4. Support for Responsible Retailing:

The current conditions foster responsible consumption by discouraging the sale of products that are typically associated with excessive drinking and harm. By retaining these restrictions, Liquorland Kokomea would support the IMPB's broader health objectives and contribute to creating a community-wide expectation for responsible retailing.

Rationale

The IMPB's position is informed by ongoing consultation and feedback from our whānau. Alcohol and drug misuse in Taupō has far-reaching effects, intersecting with issues such as gang involvement, violence, and unstable housing, all of which erode whānau wellbeing. Substance abuse also creates barriers to healthcare access for affected whānau, exacerbating their challenges and leading to further deterioration in health and social outcomes. For these reasons, we urge the District Licensing Committee to prioritise community safety by maintaining the existing conditions on Liquorland Kokomea's licence. Upholding these measures is a tangible way to support whānau, reduce harm, and strengthen our community's resilience against the social challenges associated with alcohol misuse.

Conclusion:

The Tūwharetoa IMPB respectfully requests that the Taupō District Licensing Committee deny the application for variation. Retaining the current restrictions is necessary to protect community health, particularly for our youth and vulnerable whānau, and aligns with the IMPB's commitment to fostering a safe and resilient community environment.

Ngā mihi,
Tūwharetoa Iwi Māori Partnership Board

For further information, please contact:

Louisa Wall
Chair, Tūwharetoa IMPB
louisawall72@gmail.com

and

Mia Williams
Kaiwhakahaere / Administrator
mia@tuwharetoaimpb.nz

Louisa Wall

0212275043