

# The Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Improving Alcohol Regulation) Amendment Bill

The Government is proposing changes to alcohol regulation in Aotearoa that would reshape how, where, and when alcohol is sold.

These changes go beyond technical updates, they shift the balance between private interests and community wellbeing.

You don't need to be an expert to make a submission – your lived experience, values, and community knowledge matter.

## What you might want to comment on:

### Who gets a say

The Bill would restrict who can object to alcohol licence applications to people living or working nearby.

Do you think only those within a set boundary should have a say?

Or should iwi, communities, and public health groups continue to have their voices heard?

### Access to alcohol

The Bill would expand where and how alcohol can be sold, including:

- Allowing some businesses (like barbers and hairdressers) to offer alcohol without a licence
- Making it easier for breweries and distilleries to sell directly to customers
- Allowing some venues to open outside normal hours for major televised events
- Allowing clubs to hold either a club licence or an on licence
- Some restaurants will be able to apply for off licences

Do these changes make sense for your community?

Or could they increase exposure and normalise alcohol in everyday spaces?

### Shifting the power in licensing decisions

This Bill would shift power away from communities by:

- Giving alcohol businesses more opportunity to push back on community objections
- Stopping local alcohol policies (LAPs) from being applied when licences are renewed

These changes make it easier for businesses to get and keep licences – and harder for communities to have their say.

Do these changes reflect what whānau want for their communities?

Whose interests are being prioritised here?

## **Impact on whānau and communities**

Alcohol is already a leading cause of preventable harm in Aotearoa, linked to violence, injury, and long-term health conditions.

When availability increases, harm tends to increase.

What impacts have you seen in your community?

How might an increase in access affect whānau wellbeing?

## **Why this matters now**

These changes are being proposed alongside a strong focus on economic growth.

But increased alcohol availability comes at a cost to public health and community wellbeing.

We advocate that any reform should prioritise health, wellbeing, and equity.

## **Where to make a submission:**

[Sale and Supply of Alcohol \(Improving Alcohol Regulation\) Amendment Bill – New Zealand Parliament](#)

## **Closing date**

11.59pm on Thursday, 14 May 2026

## **Some helpful resources:**

Hāpai te Hauora's explainer and submission building tool on [Hāpaitia](#).

The Beehive's [Press Release](#)

The detail of the legislation [Sale and Supply of Alcohol \(Improving Alcohol Regulation\) Amendment Bill | New Zealand Legislation](#)

# ALCOHOL LAW CHANGES EXPLAINED

## 1) Making it harder for communities to object to alcohol stores in their area

- Limiting objections to people living within 1km, or who live or work in the area

## 2) Making it easier for stores to sell and supply alcohol

- Letting certain restaurants sell takeaway alcohol
- Letting pubs and clubs sell alcohol later if they're screening a 'significant televised event'
- Allowing clubs to apply for on-licences
- Allowing hairdressers and barbers to supply alcohol to their clients without a licence

## 3) Strengthening the rules for online rapid delivery companies

- Preventing delivery to underage and intoxicated people, and ensuring that IDs are checked at the door
- These rules would only apply to *rapid* delivery companies, leaving other companies to continue doing so unchecked

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US



1) People with connections to an area (e.g., themselves or their whānau live or grew up there) may not be allowed to have a say over alcohol-related issues



2) Alcohol will be even more available, more normal, and cause more harm



3) Existing harms are likely to increase e.g., to children and young people, people with addictions or who struggle to cut back on their drinking, and highly deprived communities.