

Decision

19/042/2025

IN THE MATTER

of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act
2012

AND
IN THE MATTER

of an application by
Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc
for a club licence in respect of the premises
at 68 Golf Road, Ōtorohanga 3977 and
known as Waitomo Golf Club

DECISION OF THE WAITOMO DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

1. The application for a club on-licence authorising the sale and supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises, to any person to any authorised customer or visitor as described in the licence conditions is granted. The licence may issue upon payment of the annual fee.
2. This licence continues in force until the close of the period of 12 months after the day it is issued.
3. The present conditions of the licence are replaced as follows:
 - (a) Alcohol may only be sold and supplied to:
 - (i) a member of the club,
 - (ii) any member of any other club where this club has an arrangement for reciprocal visiting rights,
 - (iii) a person who is invited and accompanied by the members listed in (i) or (ii) above.
 - (b) Alcohol may be sold only on the following days and during the following hours:
Monday to Sunday, from 11.00am to 1.00am the following day
 - (c) The club must always have a secretary.
 - (d) The club must inform the District Licensing Committee of the name of a new secretary within 10 working days of their appointment.
 - (e) All proceeds from the sale of alcohol belong to the club.
 - (f) The area where alcohol is to be sold and consumed is described in the plan date stamped as received by the District Licensing Committee on 25 July 2025 and no alcohol is to be taken out of this area.

- (g) The entire premises is undesignated (persons under 18 can be in the area).
- (h) A properly appointed certificated, acting or temporary manager must be on duty and on the premises for functions only. At all other times there should be a suitable club member responsible for compliance.
- (i) A manager's register (as required by s.232 of the Act) is to be maintained and available on site.
- (j) The licensee must maintain and display a Host Responsibility Policy and ensure all staff and committee members receive training in their responsibilities and obligations under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
- (k) There must be no sale or supply of alcohol to minors or intoxicated persons. Appropriate signage outlining these restrictions must be clearly displayed at every point of sale.
- (l) Drinking water must be freely available and this must be clear to customers while the premises are open for the sale and supply of alcohol.
- (m) A range of non-alcoholic and low-alcohol drinks must be available at all times when the premises is open for the sale of alcohol.
- (n) Food must be available for consumption on the premises at all times the premises is open for the sale and supply of alcohol in accordance with the menu submitted with the application for this licence, or variations of a similar range and standard. Menus and the availability of food should be clear to customers and food should be actively promoted.
- (o) A telephone must be readily available for customers to arrange transport, and staff must assist if required. Contact details for alternative transport options from the premises and the availability of a courtesy vehicle or sober driver services must be clearly displayed for customers.
- (p) No BYO alcohol is permitted on the premises while alcohol is available for sale.
- (q) The Licensee must ensure the following are displayed;
 - i) A copy of the original licence with all the conditions, displayed prominently in the premises.
 - ii) A sign in a prominent place identifying the duty manager(s).

REASONS

1. This is an application by Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc for a club licence in respect of the premises situated at 68 Golf Road, Ōtorohanga 3977 and known as Waitomo Golf Club. Application for a Club licence was received by the Waitomo District Licensing Committee on 25 July 2025. The proposed premises has been operated as a Club for several years and is currently operating under Ōtorohanga Club Incorporated. The applicant will be taking over the licensed premises operations once this application is granted. A certificate of building and planning compliance has been supplied pursuant to section 100(f) of the Act.

2. The application was advertised, and no objections have been received from members of the public. The Liquor Licensing Inspector, Police and the Medical Officer of Health have provided reports and do not oppose the application. Accordingly, the matter is decided on the papers (s 134).
3. The object of the Act is to ensure that the sale and supply of alcohol is undertaken safely and responsibly, and the harm caused by excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol is minimised (s 4). In deciding whether to issue a club licence the licensing committee must have regard to sections 105 of the Act. Therefore, this committee must consider the following questions within the framework of the purpose and object of the Act:
 - a) Is the applicant suitable?
 - b) Are the days and hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol reasonable?
 - c) Is the design and layout of the premises suitable?
 - d) Does the applicant propose to engage in the sale of goods or provision of services other than those directly relating to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments, and food?
 - e) Does the applicant have appropriate systems, staff and training to comply with the law?
 - f) Will the amenity and good order of the locality be increased by more than a minor extent by the effects of a refusal to renew the licence?
 - g) Have the police, inspector and medical officer of health raised any relevant considerations?
 - h) Does the application comply with the Waitomo District Local Alcohol Policy?

Is the applicant suitable? Does the applicant have appropriate systems, staff and training to comply with the law?

4. The licensing committee is satisfied that Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc is a suitable entity to hold a club-licence. The Club was first incorporated on 12 March 2025 under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. The club secretary is Margaret Hinerangi Wereta. Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc advises there are 258 members with 11 of those being minors. The primary purpose of the club is playing golf.
5. The licensing committee is satisfied that Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc has an appropriate Host Responsibility Policy and staff training programme. The training plan indicates that regular training will be conducted for all staff and committee members. There is a Duty Manager employed to ensure compliance with the Act.

Are the days and hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol reasonable?

6. The Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc proposes to operate as a club from Monday to Sunday between 11.00am and 1.00am the following day. While the Committee initially raised concerns about the duration of the proposed hours and the limited staffing, the club president, Mr Wilshier, advised that the requested licensed hours do not reflect the club's immediate trading intentions. Rather, the wider hours are sought to provide flexibility for seasonal changes and the future development of club activities. The club's current operating hours are Tuesdays from 1.00pm to 3.00pm, Thursdays from 1.00pm to 5.00pm, and Saturdays from 1.00pm to 6.00pm, with monthly tournaments, typically held on Saturdays, operating approximately 12.00pm to 8.30pm. During the summer season, the club also runs Friday twilight golf, with the bar open from around 4.00pm to 9.00pm. In addition to this, Mr Wilshier confirms that there are two additional certified duty managers to provide cover for any periods when the duty manager, Ms Nikora is unavailable, ensuring they meet the Committee's expectation for adequate duty-manager capacity. There is also a current staff member with the LCQ qualification that will be applying for a

manager's certificate in the immediate future. On these grounds, the licensing committee is satisfied that these are appropriate hours of operation.

7. The Licensing Inspector reports that the application does comply with the Waitomo District Local Alcohol Policy.

Is the design and layout of the premises suitable?

8. The licensing committee is satisfied Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc has a suitable design and layout to meet the requirements of the Act. The area to be licensed is formed. The premises is formed from a kitchen area, dining/restaurant area, toilets, storage, bar area and balcony. It is the view of the licensing inspector that the bar is centrally located for easy monitoring and areas not visible can be easily monitored. The balcony area is well defined. The entire premises is undesignated. This means that people under the age of 18 years may eat at the restaurant without a parent or guardian.

Does the applicant propose to engage in the sale of goods or provision of services other than those directly relating to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments and food?

9. Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc does not engage in the sale of goods or service other than those directly relating to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments and food.

Will the amenity and good order of the locality be reduced to more than a minor extent by the effects of the issue of the licence?

10. The licensing committee is satisfied that the grant of a club licence to Waitomo Golf and Country Club (2025) Inc will not have a negative effect on the good order of the locality. The Club is situated on a rural zone owned by the society itself with the nearest dwelling house located approximately 60 metres from the licensed premises. The proposed activity is permitted under the District Plan rules and has been undertaken for a number of years under Otorohanga Club Incorporated. The premises is well maintained, and there have been no reports of any nuisance, vandalism or noise problems associated with this premises.

Conclusion

11. The licensing committee is satisfied that the grant of the club licence with the appropriate conditions will ensure the safe and responsible supply of alcohol and the minimisation of harm caused by excessive or inappropriate use of alcohol.

Conclusion

12. Therefore, the application for a club licence is granted.

Dated at this 3rd day of December 2025



Tegan McIntyre
Commissioner
Waitomo District Licensing Committee