



ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

Decision

018-0620

IN THE MATTER

of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by

ASR Hospitality Limited

for renewal of an on-licence pursuant to section 127 of the Act in respect of the premises at 57 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga known as Thirsty Weta Bar and Eatery

DECISION OF THE DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

1. The on-licence 018/ON/002/25 in respect of the premises situated at 57 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga known as Thirsty Weta Bar and Eatery is renewed for a further period of 3 years. The licence may issue upon payment of the annual fee.
2. The present conditions of the licence are replaced as follows:
 - (a) Alcohol may be sold only on the following days and during the following hours:

For the interior of the premises:
9.00am to 2.00am the following day, Monday to Sunday

For the exterior of the premises:
9.00am to 11.00pm, Monday to Sunday
 - (b) The area where alcohol is to be sold and consumed is described in the plan date stamped as received by the Ōtorohanga District Licensing Committee on **2 March 2026** and no alcohol is to be taken out of this area. The licensee must maintain a valid tables and chairs licence to occupy.
 - (c) The bar area is designated as supervised at all times. The remainder of the interior is undesignated until 9.00pm when it then becomes a supervised area. The outdoor dining area is undesignated.
 - (d) A properly appointed certificated, acting or temporary manager must be on duty and on the premises at all times when the premises is open for the sale and supply of alcohol.
 - (e) A Manager's Register (as required by s.232 of the Act) is to be maintained and available on site.
 - (f) A Host Responsibility Policy must be maintained and displayed, and the licensee must ensure all staff receive training in their responsibilities and obligations under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

- (g) 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.
- (h) Drinking water must be freely available and this must be clear to customers, while the premises is open for the sale and supply of alcohol.
- (i) Food must be available for consumption on the premises at all times when open for the sale of alcohol. A minimum of four types of light meals must be available (excluding nuts, chips and the like). Menus and the availability should be clear to customers and food should be actively promoted.
- (j) A range of low-alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks must be available at all times when the premises are open for the sale of alcohol.
- (k) A telephone must be freely available for patrons to call for transport assistance and if requested staff must help to make these arrangements. Telephone numbers for alternative forms of transport from the premises are to be displayed.
- (l) The Licensee must ensure the following are displayed;
 - i) A sign to be seen from outside the principal entrance stating the ordinary hours of business during which the premises will be open for the sale of alcohol.
 - ii) A copy of the original licence with all the conditions, just inside the principal entrance so persons entering can read it.
 - iii) A sign in a prominent place identifying the duty manager.

REASONS

1. This is an application by ASR Hospitality Limited for renewal of an on-licence in respect of the premises situated at 57 Maniapoto Street, Ōtorohanga known as the Thirsty Weta Bar and Eatery. ASR Hospitality Limited has been operating this business from its present site for 12 months.
2. The application was advertised and no objection or notice of desire to be heard has been received. 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 (section 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).
4. In deciding whether to renew the on- licence, the licensing committee must have regard to sections 105 and 131 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) Have the police, inspector and medical officer of health raised any relevant considerations?

- g) 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?
 - h) Has the applicant sold, displayed, advertised, or promoted alcohol in a responsible manner?
 - i) Does the application comply with the Ōtorohanga District Local Alcohol Policy?
5. Section 132 provides that the licensing committee may vary or cancel any conditions applying to the licence before its renewal.

Should the licence be renewed?

6. The licensing committee is satisfied that ASR Hospitality Limited is a suitable applicant to hold an on-licence. Both directors own the BullRing Hotel and Cafe in the South Waikato District through SRN Group Limited, which holds both an on-licence and an off-licence. The BullRing off-licence failed a Controlled Purchase Operation (CPO) on 2 August 2025 which resulted in the suspension of the off-licence and the relevant manager's certificate. While this reflects on the suitability of ASR Hospitality Limited, the South Waikato District Licensing Inspector has advised that improvements to staffing, systems, and operations were implemented following the failed CPO, and that the licensee has maintained open communication with the agencies and demonstrated a willingness to comply.
7. The company has an appropriate Host Responsibility Policy and staff training programme. There are 2 Duty Managers employed to ensure that the sale of alcohol complies with the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. Co-director Satpal Singh holds a current manager certificate and is able to be on hand as acting manager when required. Additional duty managers are to be employed on a causal basis. ASR Hospitality Limited are reminded any new duty managers must be appropriately added to the Manager's Register.
8. ASR Hospitality Limited proposes to operate as a tavern styled restaurant from 9.00am to 2.00am the following day, Monday to Sunday. The hours of the outdoor dining area are 9.00am to 11.00pm in accordance with the Local Alcohol Policy. The licensing committee is satisfied that these are appropriate hours of operation.
9. An amendment to the Act, which came into force 3 April 2026, now allows on-licence premises to sell alcohol for on-site consumption on any day of the year, and customers no longer need to be dining or staying to be served. This means ASR Hospitality Limited can now choose to open and operate as normal on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Anzac Day, and Christmas
10. The application complies with the Ōtorohanga District Local Alcohol Policy.
11. The licensing committee is satisfied that suitable measures will be taken to ensure that alcohol is sold and supplied responsibly, and that harm caused by inappropriate or excessive consumption of alcohol is minimised.
12. The licensing committee is satisfied that ASR Hospitality Limited has a suitable design and layout to meet the requirements of the Act. The premises consists of an open plan dining room area with a bar and a substantial outdoor dining area on the footpath on the left side of the premises. There are no bar leaners at the bar. The bar provides clear views of the entrance and indoor dining area. There are some obstructions for viewing the outdoor dining area, but the duty manager can view this area through CCTV monitor and with the assistance of front of house staff who frequently check customers. The bar area is a supervised area and the remainder of the tavern is undesignated until 9.00pm when it changes to supervised.

13. The licensing committee is satisfied that the renewal of the on-licence will not reduce the amenity and good order of the locality by more than a minor extent. There have been no reports of any nuisance or vandalism or noise problems associated with this premises in the past three years.
14. The licensing committee is satisfied that alcohol is sold, displayed and promoted in a responsible manner and in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Conclusion

15. Therefore, the application for the renewal of the on-licence is granted.

Dated at this 5th day of June 2026

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Tegan McIntyre', written in a cursive style.

Tegan McIntyre
Commissioner
Ōtorohanga District Licensing Committee