

**Application**

SP1302

**IN THE MATTER**

the Sale and Supply of Alcohol  
Act 2012

**AND**  
**IN THE MATTER**

of an application by  
New Zealand Shearing  
Championships Incorporated  
for a special licence  
pursuant to section 138 of the  
Act

**DECISION OF THE WAITOMO DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE**

1. The application for an on-site special licence is granted. The special licence may issue immediately.
2. New Zealand Shearing Championships Incorporated is authorised to sell and supply alcohol, on the premises situated at the Les Munro Centre, King Street East, Te Kuiti to any person attending the New Zealand Shearing Championships.
3. This licence is subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) A copy of this licence with all the conditions must be displayed in a prominent place so all persons can read it and all staff must be familiar with the conditions.
  - (b) Alcohol may be sold only on the following days and during the following hours:  
Friday 29 March 2019, from 5.30pm to 11.00pm  
Saturday 30 March 2019, from 6.30pm to 2.00am the following day
  - (c) Alcohol may be sold or supplied to people present participating in the event this licence is issued for.
  - (d) The entire premises is undesignated (persons under 18 are permitted at the event).
  - (e) The area where alcohol is to be sold and consumed is described in the plan date stamped as received by the Waitomo District Licensing Committee on 7 February 2019 and no alcohol is to be taken out of this area.

- (f) The licensee must comply with the **2019 New Zealand Shearing Championships – Te Kuiti Alcohol Management Plan** and must ensure all staff receive training in their responsibilities and obligations under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.
- (g) The holder of a manager’s certificate or a properly notified manager shall be on duty and on the premises at all times alcohol is sold and their name shall be on display.
- (h) A one-way door policy applies at the conclusion of the prize-giving. Patrons who leave after the prizegiving will not be readmitted unless they have a pass issued by security.
- (i) There must be no sale or supply of alcohol to minors or intoxicated persons and there must be displayed at every point of sale appropriate signs detailing these restrictions.
- (j) Drinking water must be freely available from five water coolers marked on the plan date stamped as received by the Waitomo District Licensing Committee on 7 February 2019 and this must be clear to customers while the premises is open for the sale and supply of alcohol.
- (k) Food must be available for consumption on the premises at all times the premises is open for the sale of alcohol in accordance with the menu submitted with the application for this licence, or variations of a similar range and standard. A minimum of four types of food choices must be available at all times. The choices do not include nuts, chips and the like.
- (l) A range of low-alcohol and non-alcoholic drinks must be available at all times when the premises is open for the sale of alcohol.
- (m) Two courtesy vans are to be provided to transport patrons home from the venue and the availability of the courtesy vans is to be actively promoted by public announcements throughout the evening.

## **REASONS**

1. This is an application by New Zealand Shearing Championships Incorporated for a special licence for New Zealand Shearing Championships to be held at the Les Munro Centre, King Street East, Te Kuiti on Friday 29 March and Saturday 30 March 2019. This application was received more than 20 working days prior to the event as required by section 137 of the Act.
2. The Liquor Licensing Inspector, Police and Medical Officer of Health have no objection to this application for a special licence (s 141). Accordingly, this application is decided on the papers (s 202).

3. The purpose of the Act is to put in place a new system of control over the sale and supply of alcohol (s 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 grant a special licence the District Licensing Committee must have regard to the criteria in s 142 of the Act. Therefore, this committee must consider the following questions within the framework of the purpose and object of the Act:
  - a) What is the nature of the event? 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?
  - b) Is the applicant suitable?
  - c) 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?
  - d) Are the days and hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol reasonable?
  - e) Is the design and layout of the premises suitable? Are any areas of the premises designated restricted or supervised areas?
  - f) Does the applicant have appropriate systems, staff and training to comply with the law? What steps will the applicant take to ensure that alcohol is not sold to prohibited persons?
  - g) What proposals does the applicant have in relation to the sale and supply of non-alcoholic drinks and food, low-alcohol drinks and the provision of help with or information about alternative forms of transport from the premises?
  - h) Have the Inspector, Police and Medical Officer of Health raised any relevant considerations?
5. Sections 146 – 149 of the Act outline the compulsory and discretionary conditions for a special licence.

#### **Should the special licence be granted?**

6. The New Zealand Shearing Championships have been held annually for the past 30 years. The event has a track record for being well managed and the licensing committee does not have any concerns about the suitability of New Zealand Shearing Championships Incorporated to run the event in a safe and responsible manner that minimises alcohol related harm. Given the nature of the event and the venue it is not likely that the issue of the special licence will adversely affect neighbouring properties.
7. Up to 250 people are expected to attend the Friday evening event and up to 400 people are expected to attend the Saturday evening event, therefore the event is considered to be a “large-scale event” that requires an Alcohol Management Plan. The licensing committee is satisfied that New Zealand Shearing Championships Incorporated has produced a **2019 New Zealand Shearing Championships – Te Kuiti Alcohol Management Plan** that will ensure a comprehensive approach is taken to alcohol management at this event and 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.
8. In particular the licensing committee notes that special measures will be in place on Saturday night to cope with the expected attendance of up to 400 people. Non-removable wristbands will be issued to people aged 18 years and over. Alcohol will only be supplied to wristband holders and drinks tickets will only be available in the foyer to ensure that there is

proper monitoring of ID. Patrons will be limited to two drinks per purchase and bags will be searched at the principal entrance to ensure that no BYO alcohol enters the premises. A pre-event briefing will be held with bar staff, certificated managers, Armourguard Security, Maori Wardens and committee members to ensure that all staff are aware of the Alcohol Management Plan and conditions of the licence. Two courtesy buses will be provided and will be promoted by public announcements. A one-way door policy will be in place after the conclusion of the prizegiving at approximately 9.00pm on Saturday, which means there will be no ticket sales to enter the event from this time. It is a requirement that all children are taken home after the prizegiving. Patrons dropping off children can only return to the venue if they have a special pass from security. The licensing committee is satisfied that sufficient food, low alcohol and non-alcoholic refreshments will be provided for the duration of the event. Free water will be provided at five water coolers around the venue.

9. New Zealand Shearing Championships Incorporated proposes to run the Saturday night event until 2.00am. The Waitomo District Local Alcohol Policy came into force on 1 June 2016. Clause 6(b)(i) states: *Special licences for premises that are not otherwise licensed will not be issued beyond 1.00am except in special circumstances as determined by the District Licensing Committee.*
10. A public hearing was held by the licensing committee on 10 March 2017 to determine whether there were exceptional circumstances that would justify extending the maximum trading hours beyond 1.00am for the New Zealand Shearing Championships. In a decision dated 20 March 2017 (SP1218), the licensing committee made a finding that the circumstances around the event were “exceptional” in their own right. The licensing committee said “... *the competition is of local and national significance, this is what sets it apart from other types of special licence event in the community such as a birthday celebration or a sports club prize-giving. In addition, on the Saturday the event runs for long hours and this by necessity pushes the start of the socialising time to late in the evening at around 11.00pm ... due to the importance of the event for the competitors, sponsors and the local community, the time between 11.00pm and 2.00am is valuable and should not be shortened.*”
11. It was also noted by the committee that licensing the event until 2.00am would avoid the risk of patrons migrating into town to the Muster Bar, which is the only tavern in town that is open until 2.00am.
12. The licensing committee is satisfied that the circumstances around the event remain “exceptional” and that it is appropriate that the Saturday evening event to be licensed until 2.00am this year. There have been no breaches of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 reported by the Licensing Inspector or Police. The event continues to be well run and as discussed above there is a comprehensive Alcohol Management Plan in place. New Zealand Shearing Championships Incorporated is a well-respected organisation and takes its responsibilities as a licensee under the Act seriously.

### **Conclusion**

13. The licensing committee is satisfied that the grant of the special 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.

14. Therefore, the application for a special licence is granted.

Dated this 8th day of March 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Grayson', written in a cursive style.

Sara Grayson  
Commissioner