

## Attachment D: Information and evidence to support proposed alcohol bans

### 1 8PM – 8AM QUEENSTOWN, YEAR ROUND

#### Police submission to 2018 bylaw review

- “When patrolling, Police receive frequent complaints about groups of people upsetting others as a result of those groups consuming alcohol to excess at the beach, particularly in the summertime and during both the day and the evening. There are also similar complaints about the mess that is left behind and the complainant's often express disgust.”

#### Photos from Police 2018 submission relating to 8pm – 8am alcohol ban:



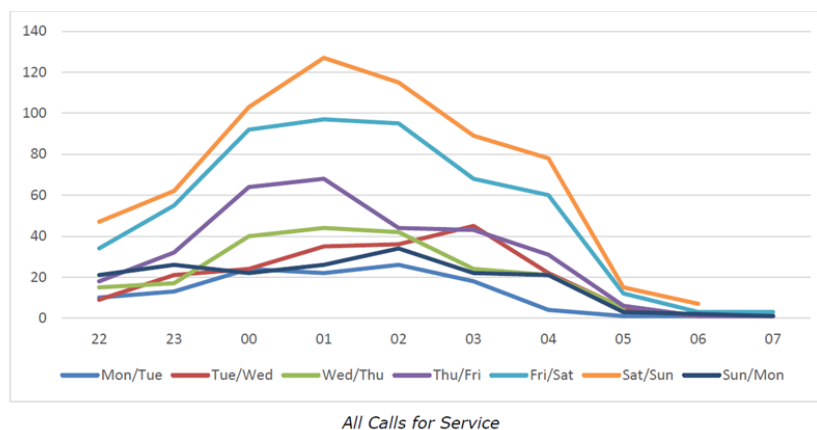




### Calls for Police service

- Data from November 2019 (most recent) shows that Police calls for service in the district are highest at night<sup>1</sup>, tapering to low demand during the day. Categories that have been filtered include: assault, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence of alcohol or other substance, drunk home, drunk custody/detox centre, exceeding the prescribed content of alcohol or other substance limit, and liquor and tobacco offences.

Chart 4 - Queenstown 2012-2016 - 2200-0700 hours

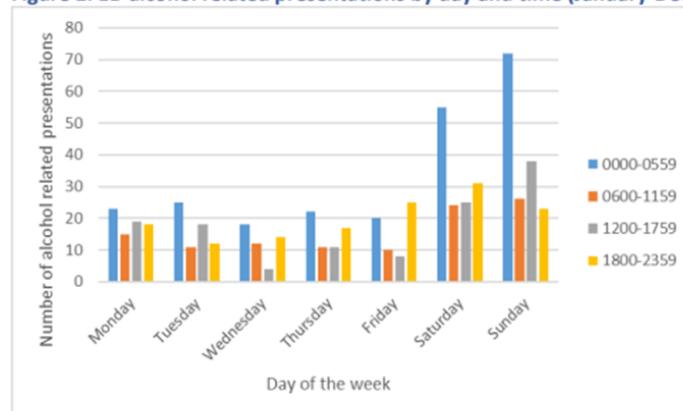


<sup>1</sup> [www.policedata.nz](http://www.policedata.nz) (date accessed: 10 February 2023) and 2017 report from Police: Queenstown Lakes Alcohol Related Offending.

## Southern District Health Board submission to 2018 bylaw review<sup>2</sup>

- In the period covering July 2017 to June 2018 there were 503 alcohol related presentations at Lakes District Hospital, representing five percent of all Emergency Department (ED) presentations.
- Every week, an average of four people presented to Lakes District Hospital with potentially life-threatening alcohol related conditions (triage levels 2 or 3).
- In general alcohol related presentations were typically 2-3 times higher on weekends and public holidays than weekday rates.
- 55% of cases lived within the Queenstown Lakes District Council boundary; 20% were overseas residents; 15% were from other parts of NZ and 10% were from other parts of Otago and Southland.
- 38% of cases were aged between 18-24 years while 36% were aged between 25-34 years.
- Males presented twice as frequently as females.

Figure 1: ED alcohol related presentations by day and time (January-December 2019)



Note: Not appropriate to plot averages as numbers are too small

### Analysis

- Alcohol related Police calls for service are not all directly due to crime and disorder from public alcohol consumption, but a portion of these are. The higher level of calls at night supports the hours of the alcohol ban in Queenstown. In the absence of an alcohol ban in public places, it is reasonable to assume that Police calls would increase.
- Timeseries data from Police show that the current bylaw is having an effect. The total Police demand for the district relating to categories linked to alcohol have steadily reduced since 2015.
- The vast majority of alcohol related admissions (2019) for Lakes District Hospital are between midnight and 6am. During the alcohol ban time of 8pm and 8am, Lakes District Hospital is the only provider of medical services in Queenstown. Although not all alcohol related admissions are related to alcohol consumption in public places, this data shows that alcohol related harm is

<sup>2</sup> Alcohol Related Presentations to Lakes District Hospital's Emergency Department: January to December 2019. [LDH Alcohol related ED presentations 2019 report.pdf \(southernhealth.nz\)](#).

a problem that is more prevalent at night. As with the level of Police calls, in the absence of an alcohol ban in public places, it is reasonable to assume that the harm occurring would increase.

## 2 25 AND 26 DECEMBER QUEENSTOWN (NEW ALCOHOL BAN)

### Police submission to 2018 bylaw review

- “On Christmas day (2017) a large crowd formed on the beach front having a ‘party’ with loud music, large amounts of alcohol and celebration. Police patrolled the area throughout the day and witnessed high levels of intoxication, rubbish everywhere and families walking along the waterfront path past the group.”
- “... on Christmas Day, when huge crowds gather on reserves and significant resources are engaged trying to ensure people remove alcohol before the start of the alcohol ban. Some of these people, who have been drinking in town all day, then initiate disorder and sometimes violence while trying to get into bars or when loitering around the CBD. Others end up curling up in a corner and going to sleep in a pool of vomit, vulnerable to anybody walking by.”

### Photos submitted by Police from Christmas Day 2017:







### Council waste services qualitative information

- Even with a temporary alcohol ban, there was a significant amount alcohol related rubbish (bottles, cans, boxes) after Christmas Day 2022.

#### **Analysis**

- Qualitative reports and photos of crime and disorder due to alcohol consumption along the Queenstown lakefront form the key indicators of the need for this ban.
- Due to the isolated period of this proposed ban, quantitative data is not available.

## 3 27 DECEMBER – 6 JANUARY QUEENSTOWN

### Police submission to 2018 bylaw review

- “When patrolling Police receive frequent complaints about groups of people upsetting others as a result of those groups consuming alcohol to excess at the beach, particularly in the summertime, during both the day and the evening. There are also similar complaints about the mess that is left behind and the complainant's often express disgust.”
- “During the summer holiday period, when resources permit, most evenings Police spend considerable time reminding people of the alcohol ban and asking them to comply.”

### Red Frogs<sup>3</sup> safety response report for 29 December 2022 - 1 January 2023

QUEENSTOWN	29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	TOTAL
Interactions (water, care & comfort)	1780	2312	3475	<b>7567+</b>
Water	90L (450 cups)	146L (730 cups)	375L (1875 cups)	<b>611L (3055 cups)</b>
Incident response (referred onto other services)	3	4	19	<b>26</b>
Directly cared for (by Red Frogs, security, and medics)	22	10	74	<b>106</b>

These are conservative numbers. Teams were not able to collect comprehensive numbers due to the volume of demand for assistance.

### Qualitative information from Red Frogs (Raymond Thomson) provided January 2023

- Consumption of alcohol in ban-zones is a common observation.
- Also common to observe physical fighting and intoxication. The fact that there is a need for safe zones, means that some people do feel unsafe due to negative actions by intoxicated people.

<sup>3</sup> Red Frogs is a support program that exists to serve and safeguard young people. They are contracted to provide services at Queenstown and Wānaka around the new year's period to provide crowd care. This includes free water, food, a chill out 'safe area' and first response services. <https://redfrogs.co.nz/> (date accessed: 7 February 2023).

- Red Frogs view that pre-loading (drinking before going to an event/bar) is going to occur regardless of where the boundary of an alcohol ban zone is located.

#### **Council waste services qualitative information provided January 2023**

- Alcohol related rubbish continues to increase from Christmas Day, tapering off approximately 6 January.
- Council put one of the largest size rubbish skip available near the lakefront in both Queenstown and Wānaka, and these were filled with predominantly alcohol related rubbish during the four-day period between 30 December and 2 January.

#### **Analysis**

- Qualitative reports and photos of crime and disorder due to alcohol consumption along the Queenstown lakefront form the key indicators of the need for this ban.
- Timeseries data from Police show that the current bylaw is having an effect. The total Police demand for the district for December and January relating to categories linked to alcohol have steadily reduced since 2015.

## **4 CRATE DAY QUEENSTOWN**

### **Information from the report to Council for the temporary ban for Crate Day 2017<sup>4</sup>:**

- The 2016 Crate Day resulted in a high level of disorder shown to be made worse by alcohol consumption... The 'National Crate Day' event has been going for a number of years, but since 2015 the Police have noticed a significant uplift in the numbers of people congregating in public places in the district to consume large amounts of alcohol.
- The disorder included the congregation of large crowd of intoxicated young people during the day in the Village Green. This group engaged in foul language, littering, and caused members of the public to complain about feeling unsafe.
- The increasing popularity of the Crate Day event has resulted in the Police having to arrange for extra staff and resources to be relocated to Queenstown from throughout the Otago region to maintain order during this weekend.
- During the 2016 Crate Day, a group of young people began drinking alcohol in the Queenstown Village Green from mid-morning. By early afternoon, the entire reserve was occupied with a large crowd drinking large quantities of alcohol, with crates of beer kept chilled in Horne Creek. Police describe the crowd as initially good natured, but during the afternoon Police became concerned with escalating disorder in the area, for example:
  - Participants engaging in foul language and deteriorating behaviour to the point where Police had serious concerns that violence would occur.
  - Police responded to a number of disorderly incidents with interventions such as issuing warnings and using de-escalation techniques. The Police say that they exercised

<sup>4</sup> Report to Council 28 September 2017, 'Temporary Alcohol Ban on 2-3 December 2017' [Full Council \(gldc.govt.nz\)](https://www.gldc.govt.nz) (date accessed: 7 February 2023).



restraint on this occasion and decided not to make arrests because of concerns that a strict application of the law to disorderly incidents might inflame the intoxicated crowd and lead to a wider disturbance.

- Several members of the public approached the Police during the day and expressed concerns that they felt unsafe due to the behaviour and language of the Crate Day participants.

**Photos from Crate Day 2016** (page 139 onwards of the Council agenda):







#### ***Analysis***

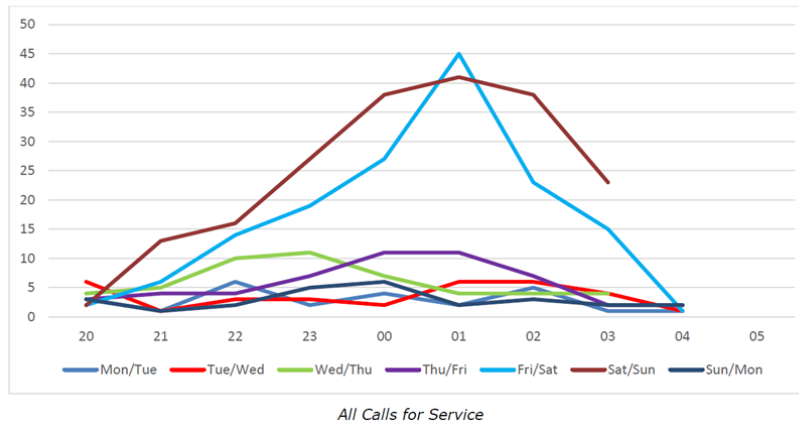
- Qualitative reports and photos of crime and disorder due to alcohol consumption in public areas in Queenstown form the key indicators of the need for this ban.
- It is reasonable to conclude that crime and disorder due to the consumption of alcohol in public places would increase in the absence of the ban for Crate Day in Queenstown.

## **5 8PM - 8AM - WĀNAKA, YEAR ROUND**

- Data from November 2019 (most recent) shows that Police calls for service are highest at night<sup>5</sup>, tapering to low demand during the day. Categories included in these figures are: assault, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence of alcohol or other substance, drunk home, drunk custody/detox centre, exceeding the prescribed content of alcohol or other substance limit, and liquor and tobacco offences. Although these calls for service are not all related to crime and disorder due to public alcohol consumption, given that the global demand for Police services is low during daylight hours, this correspondingly applies to the crime and disorder contemplated by the bylaw.

<sup>5</sup> [www.policedata.nz](http://www.policedata.nz) (date accessed: 10 February 2023) and 2017 report from Police: Queenstown Lakes Alcohol Related Offending.

Chart 10 – Wanaka 2012-2016 - 2000-0500 hours



**Police submission to 2018 bylaw review**

Fiscal Year Comparison 2009 / 2010 to 2012 / 2013 for the Wanaka area<sup>6</sup>

Offence	2009 / 2010	2012 / 2013	Change in offending
Total crime	793 offences	510 offences	-283
Public Place Violence	33 offences	24 offences	-9
Disorder	8 offences	49 offences	+40
Willful Damage	177 offences	100 offences	-77
Alcohol ban breach	14 offences	19 offences	+5

- Although from the fiscal year 2009 / 2010 to 2012 / 2013 there was a small increase in numbers prosecuted for breach of the alcohol ban, Wānaka Police submit that these numbers are only a small percentage of the total number of alcohol ban interventions Police made.
- If the ban were to be reduced in terms of locations, days, and hours, Police submit that the carriage and consumption of alcohol in the banned areas would increase and along with that there would be an increase in victimisation and offending.
- Over busy weekends and in particularly over New Year, Police note groups of people walking on Lakeside Road with liquor heading into the CBD. These people generally seem to be aware of the alcohol ban and tend to dispose of bottles and cans in public before heading into the ban area.

**Analysis**

- Alcohol related Police calls for service are not all directly due to crime and disorder from public alcohol consumption, but a portion of these are. The higher level of calls at night supports the hours of the alcohol ban in Wānaka. In the absence of an alcohol ban in public places, it is reasonable to assume that calls would increase.
- Timeseries data from Police show that the current bylaw is having an effect. The total Police demand for the district relating to categories linked to alcohol have steadily reduced since 2015.

<sup>6</sup> Wanaka Police submission on the draft Alcohol Ban Bylaw 2018 (Senior Sergeant A. Grindell), May 2017.



- Qualitative reports from stakeholders and photos of crime and disorder due to alcohol consumption in central Wānaka public places are also key indicators of the need for this ban.

## 6 27 DECEMBER – 6 JANUARY WĀNAKA

### Red Frogs<sup>7</sup> safety response report for 29 December 2021 - 1 January 2022<sup>8</sup>

WĀNAKA	29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	TOTAL
Interactions (water, care & comfort)	1650	1860	2474	5974+
Water	124L (620 cups)	165L (825 cups)	413L (2065 cups)	664L (3320 cups)
Incident response (referred onto other services)	4	3	14	21
Directly cared for (by Red Frogs, security, and medics)	15	12	44	71

These are conservative numbers. Teams were not able to collect comprehensive numbers due to the volume of demand for assistance.

### Qualitative information from Red Frogs (Raymond Thomson) provided January 2023

- As many people used Red Frogs services or required assistance in Wānaka as Queenstown over the New Years period, despite Wānaka's lower resident population. Red Frogs' view is that Wānaka is the more popular destination for younger people to congregate, and therefore there are proportionately more incidences of underage drinking occurring in this location, when compared to Queenstown.
- Consumption of alcohol in ban zones are a common observation.
- Red Frogs received reports of alcohol consumption occurring at Eely Point Reserve (outside of the alcohol ban zone), and people tipping out drinks when arriving at the edge of the alcohol ban zone.
- It is common to observe physical fighting and intoxication. The fact that there is a need for safe zones means that some people do feel unsafe due to the negative actions of intoxicated people.
- Red Frogs' view is that pre-loading (drinking before going to an event/bar) is going to occur regardless of where the boundary of an alcohol ban zone is located.

### Qualitative information from Summit Events (Craig Gallagher)<sup>9</sup> regarding New Years event period, provided January 2023

<sup>7</sup> Red Frogs is a support program that have been contracted to provide services at Queenstown and Wānaka around the new year's period to provide crowd care for several years. This includes free water, food, a chill out 'safe area' and first response services. <https://redfrogs.co.nz/> (date accessed: 7 February 2023).

<sup>8</sup> 2022/23 report pending.

<sup>9</sup> Summit Events has been contracted by QLDC manage the New Year's events in Queenstown and Wānaka the last several years. <https://www.summitevents.co.nz/> (date accessed: 21 February 2023).



- Considers Wānaka a higher risk area for young people consuming alcohol in public places due to the attraction of the area to families for New Years. This is possibly due to more short-term visitor accommodation, that caters to families, being available.
- The New Years event requires two medics (from not requiring any previously) due to alcohol related harm and disorder occurring during this period.

**Qualitative information from Council (parks services) re: waste clean-up required for public places provided January 2023**

- Council put one of the largest sizes of rubbish skips available near the lakefront in both Queenstown and Wānaka, and these were filled predominantly with alcohol related rubbish during the four-day period between 30 December and 2 January.
- Observed an increase in disorder related to alcohol consumption in public places in Wānaka post-COVID-19 (i.e., broken alcohol bottles, vomit).

***Analysis***

- Qualitative reports from stakeholders of crime and disorder due to alcohol consumption in central Wānaka public places are key indicators of the need for this ban.
- Timeseries data from Police show that the current bylaw is having an effect. The total Police demand for the district for December and January relating to categories linked to alcohol have steadily reduced since 2015. It is reasonable to conclude that alcohol related offending would increase in the absence of the ban for Wānaka.