



## **Hospitality New Zealand**

**TO ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SUBMISSION ON**

**USE OF FOOTPATHS FOR ALFRESCO DINING POLICY**

**OCTOBER 2022**

**CONTACT DETAILS: Hospitality New Zealand**  
Contact: Nikki Rogers

### **About Hospitality New Zealand:**

1. Hospitality New Zealand (“Hospitality NZ”) is a member-led, not-for-profit organisation representing approximately 3,000 businesses, including cafés, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, commercial accommodation, country hotels and off-licences.
2. Hospitality NZ has a 120-year history of advocating on behalf of the hospitality and tourism sector and is led by Chief Executive Julie White. We have a team of seven Regional Managers located around the country, and a National Office in Wellington to service our members.
3. Hospitality NZ has a Board of Management, made up of elected members from across the sectors of the industry, and an Accommodation Advisory Council, made up of elected members from the accommodation sector.
4. We also have 18 local Branches covering the entire country, representing at a local level all those member businesses which are located within the region. Any current financial member of Hospitality NZ is automatically a member of the local Branch.
5. This submission relates to the Use of Footpaths for Alfresco Dining Policy.
6. Enquiries relating to this submission should be referred to Nikki Rogers, Regional Manager – Central South Island

### **General Comments:**

7. Hospitality New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to comment on Ashburton’s District Council’s Use of Footpaths for Alfresco Dining Policy, and agree there needs to be clarity on the use of footpaths for Alfresco Dining.

#### *Questions*

- A. Do you agree with our proposal to introduce tiered site requirements for different areas within the district?*
8. Hospitality New Zealand has had feedback on the need to more clearly define the definition for Zone 1 and Zone 2.
9. Hospitality NZ recommends to define townships within Zone 2, such as Methven, and have provision for some exceptions, or a separate zone, due to the nature and outside area of the venues.
10. The proposal states that Alfresco dining must be 1.5 meters against the building, however, Hospitality NZ wants to highlight the current need to accommodate for those venues who have larger spaces and are able to have a 2.4 metre clearance for the footpath. Currently licensed areas clearly defined and this is normally done with barriers, such as movable bollards, rope and anchors e.g., wine barrels.

11. Hospitality NZ would like to see clear process and timeframes for the issue of the licence to occupy the footpath, and how the businesses are going to be charged. i.e., per square meter or per business?
12. Hospitality NZ would also like to see clear details of what rent reviews are based on and what type of discretions the Council has for this to understand the implications on the businesses.
13. In reference to 2.8 and 2.8.1 regarding prescription of conditions, Hospitality NZ believes this is too broad and would like to see parameters of what Ashburton District Council believes is reasonable.
14. Hospitality NZ recommends Ashburton District Council has a renewal notice system in place for fairness of the businesses.
15. In reference to 2.10 and 2.11, regarding non transferability of licence between business owners, Hospitality New feel this does not make sense. This has potential to affect the value and or the sale of the business. Hospitality NZ would recommend a simple change of name of owner of the business for the licence records.

*B. Do you agree with our proposal to introduce a section on the ownership of structures?*

16. Hospitality NZ agrees, in principle, that businesses can take ownership of their own structures. However, Hospitality NZ would recommend that businesses are supported if Council requires them to remove their structures for any ground works.

*C. Do you agree with our proposal to update the smoke free clauses?*

17. Hospitality NZ agrees with removing the “no active regulatory enforcement” clause.

### **Conclusion:**

18. Hospitality NZ firmly believes that people dining outdoors, in a well-lit Alfresco Dining setting adds ambience, enjoyment and safety to the venue and local surrounds. Staff are trained to manage the venues, that include the outdoor area, to deal with any problems and keep their patrons safe.
19. Hospitality NZ believes Alfresco dining adds to the vibrancy of the community and we would welcome the opportunity to work with Ashburton District Council on further opportunities.
20. We thank Ashburton District Council for the opportunity to provide input into the consultation.
21. We would be happy to discuss any parts of this submission in more detail, and to provide any assistance that may be required.