

<p>Name: Geraldine Murphy Contact number: 0274 507804 Email address: innercitywellington@gmail.com Submission is on behalf of Inner City Wellington 30 September 2018</p> <p>I wish to make an oral submission.</p>	
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Alcohol Control Bylaw Review:

This submission is made on behalf of Inner City Wellington (ICW) the community group for residents, property owners, and organisations and businesses in Te Aro and Wellington Central.

- ICW supports the continuation of the current bylaw and the proposal to:
 - **maintain the existing area**
 - with **an expansion into Mount Victoria**, based on the evidence of alcohol related harm and disorder in the area

While there is still evidence of alcohol being consumed in public areas covered by the bylaw (eg, bottles, cans, etc lying around), we believe there has been a reduction in alcohol consumption in public places (and associated alcohol-related harm) and that the frequency of drinking in public and associated harm would increase if there was no ban. Our understanding is that enforcement of the alcohol ban is a lower priority for Police. Nevertheless, retaining the alcohol ban provides an essential tool for the Police to prevent escalation of alcohol-related harm. In the absence of the bylaw there would be a return to the frequent and excessive drinking in public places and limited ability for the Police to take action in circumstances of bad/extreme anti-social behaviour as it may not meet the threshold for apprehension under other legislation.

- ICW supports **the removal of the area around Centre Port which is not open to the public** from the current bylaw area.

Additional areas to include in the area of the liquor ban

- **ICW supports the call by Vic Neighbours to include Kelburn Park in the alcohol ban area from dusk to dawn.** The submission provided by the group clearly shows there is a high level of disorder caused by excessive drinking in this public place.

The data provided by Vic Neighbours show there are substantively more instances of people drinking in public over a five year period than recorded by Local Hosts for the proposed extension in Mt Victoria. There may have been a similar number of arrests if Police were resourced to respond to reported incidents.

A partial alcohol ban would help reduce the continued alcohol-fuelled disorderly behaviour in the neighbourhood, while enabling families, sports groups and others to enjoy a drink and picnic in the park during the day. A targeted area is consistent with the application of

the current control areas at the top of Mt Victoria and along Aro St to the Holloway Rd area.

ICW understands and relates to the impact of extreme and regular disorderly behaviour fuelled by excessive alcohol consumption on the wellness of non-student residents in that community.

- **ICW supports the extension into Mt Victoria, but does not accept WCC's view that Vic Neighbours does not have an equally strong case** on the evidence provided in the group's submission. The problems identified by Vic Neighbours are not associated with homelessness as WCC suggests is the issue in Kilbirnie, and the reason for not including it.

Other comments:

Selective engagement and lack of information in consultation document

ICW is concerned to read in Vic Neighbours submission that the group was not contacted during the 'engagement' period prior to WCC developing the draft bylaw, when Victoria University was contacted during that period. There is clearly evidence of sustained engagement by these residents with Victoria University and with WCC on this matter. This is selective engagement by WCC. Victoria University was able to influence the approach to the draft bylaw, but the group known to be raising concerns was not. Now the residents can only submit on a draft proposal, where it is much tougher to change the WCC position.

The consultation document should have included a summary of the rationale for excluding Kilbirnie and Kelburn from the proposed alcohol control areas as these were two options considered. Many people will be unaware that these areas were considered for inclusion.

Need for active enforcement to reinforce the message

WCC must continue to advocate to Police for active enforcement of the alcohol ban to reinforce the message that while not every incident gets responded to, the ban will be regularly and robustly enforced.

There needs to be effective responses by WCC's noise control officers (ie, turn up promptly to the right address) and local hosts to excessive alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour that is unreasonably impacting on the amenity of others in the community, calling in the Police where needed. Members of a community should not suffer depression and anxiety due to the excessive socialising actions of others in the community.

Need for increased rubbish removal to avoid empty bottles and cans being used in antisocial behaviour

WCC needs to ensure that the cleaning teams are increased or prioritised to remove the rubbish that occurs. This is particularly an issue in summer and the rubbish bins in places like the corner of Herd St (by the carpark/steps to the boardwalk around the marina) are often over-flowing as they are not big enough to cope. It's great that some people are putting their empty bottles by the bin (though better if they took them home), but it would be better if the rubbish was not left to pile up or be thrown on the ground and broken.