**Submission to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee on**

**The Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Extended licensing hours during Rugby World Cup) Bill**

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| To Date: Secretariat of Justice and Electoral CommitteeParliament BuildingsWellingtonEmail: select.committees@parliament.govt.nz Fax: 04 499 0486.**This submission is from:**Name/s:Address:Ph:Email: |

**Submission:**

**I/We** **DO NOT** support the proposed Bill which will allow extended licensing hours, beyond those already permitted, during the period of the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

**I/We believe** the proposed Bill **undermines the Object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012**.

The object of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 requires alcohol-related harm to be minimised. Late night/early morning consumption of alcohol is linked with increased levels of intoxication and alcohol-related harm.[[1]](#footnote-1)

It is an established fact that increasing licensing hours increases alcohol-related harm.[[2]](#footnote-2) Based on such evidence and extensive consultation with New Zealanders, the Law Commission recommended reducing trading hours of licensed premises in their final report.[[3]](#footnote-3)

In the ten weeks following the introduction of default national maximum trading hours the New Zealand Police reported a positive effect. They reported a 22 per cent decrease in serious assault and disorder offences between 8pm and 8am, compared to the same period the previous year, and a 24 per cent decrease in alcohol-related offences between 4am and 6am.[[4]](#footnote-4)

**I/We believe** the proposed Bill is **unnecessary.**

There are adequate provisions already included in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 to obtain special licences for special events, such as the Rugby World Cup. Special events are associated with increased risk of alcohol-related harm, and as such require additional oversight and management. The current provisions ensure that these risks are mitigated, and that appropriate management conditions are applied.

**I/We believe** the process used to progress the proposed Bill **denies natural justice**.

The Government stated that the intent of The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 was to improve community input into licensing matters.

The Act was a result of over 5 years rigorous review and consultation. Throughout this process, the public expressed strong support for greater restrictions on the accessibility and availability of alcohol.

New Zealanders demanded a change in their drinking culture. Fifty-two (52) per cent of submissions made to the Law Commission supported restricting trading hours of on-licence premises. Based on findings from the *New Zealand Health and Lifestyles Survey*, 62 per cent of New Zealand adults supported reducing the hours when alcohol can be sold (average across 2010, 2012 and 2014). [[5]](#footnote-5)

Changing the trading hours of licensed premises through a rushed process, denies civil society to fully exercise their right to have their say, and falls short of our expectations of democracy. Extending trading hours of licensed premises goes against the view of the majority of those who have already engaged in more thorough consultation on this matter.

In addition, we note that the Rugby World Cup will expose viewers to extensive alcohol advertising and sponsorship. Evidence suggests that such exposure, particularly to young people leads to early initiation of alcohol use, increases alcohol consumption among those who already drink, and predisposes them to heavy drinking in the long term.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Evidence shows that 80 per cent of New Zealanders supported more restrictions on alcohol advertising or promotion that is seen or heard by young people.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Following its recent review, the Ministerial Forum on Alcohol Advertising and Sponsorship recommended a ban of alcohol sponsorship of sports as one of its fourteen recommendations.[[8]](#footnote-8)

**I/We conclude** that making the proposed changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 undermines the consultation processes and decisions already made on our alcohol laws, and the process through which it is being considered represents poor democracy and law making.

There are a multitude of options for New Zealanders to enjoy viewing the 2015 Rugby World Cup with or without alcohol. The proposed changes to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 are unnecessary, undermines the object of the Act and the consultation process denies natural justice.

**I/We strongly** recommend that the Committee reject the Bill.

Should the Committee wish to proceed with the Bill, **I/We** suggest imposing a risk-based fee on the licensees who notify their extended licensing hours during the 2015 Rugby World Cup. This would help to cover the increased costs of monitoring and enforcement and increased levels of alcohol-related harms.

1. Kypri K. (2015). Commentary on de Goeij et al. (2015): Evidence of harm from late night alcohol sales continues to strengthen. Addiction 110, 965–966. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Babor T. et al (2010). Alcohol No Ordinary Commodity: Research and Public Policy. 2nd ed. Oxford University. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. New Zealand Law Commission. (2010). Alcohol in Our Lives: Curbing the harm. A report on the review of the regulatory framework for the sale and supply of liquor. Wellington: New Zealand. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Tolley A. (2014). Changes to alcohol laws have immediate effect. Media release. <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/changes-alcohol-laws-have-immediate-effect> Accessed 17.08.2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Guiney H. et al. (2014). Alcohol-related attitudes in 2010, 2012, and 2014: Findings from the New Zealand Health Survey. Wellington: Health Promotion Agency Research and Evaluation Unit. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Babor T. et al. (2010). Alcohol No Ordinary Commodity: Research and Public Policy. 2nd ed. Oxford University. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Guiney H. et al. (2014). Alcohol-related attitudes in 2010, 2012, and 2014: Findings from the New Zealand Health Survey. Wellington: Health Promotion Agency Research and Evaluation Unit. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ministerial Forum on Alcohol Advertising and Sponsorship. 2014. Recommendations on alcohol advertising and sponsorship. <http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/ministerial-forum-alcohol-advertising> Accessed 17.08.2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)