

IN THE MATTER

of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by **GENERAL DISTRIBUTORS LIMITED** for a renewal of Off- Licence pursuant to section 127 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, in respect of the premises situated at 100 Taupo Quay, Whanganui and known as "Countdown Whanganui".

BEFORE THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

The application for renewal of Off-Licence was advertised in the Whanganui Chronicle on the 17 and 24 January 2022 with no objections received. No matters of opposition were raised under section 128 and 129 reports; therefore the matter was considered by the Whanganui District Licensing Commissioner on the papers contained in the full file provided by the secretary in accordance with the provisions of s.202 (1) and 191(2) of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Commissioner: Stuart Hylton

RESERVED DECISION OF THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

Application

(1) The premises at 100 Taupo Quay, Whanganui is currently operating as an off licence 'Supermarket Style' (036/OFF/001/2016) and this application is to renew the licence.

(2) The application to renew was made on 17th December 2021 on the prescribed form. The application seeks to renew with the same conditions apart from a decrease of one hour in the closing time to accord with the Whanganui LAP. The general nature of the business will continue to be that of a 'Supermarket' and this will be the third renewal.

(3) The applicant's store is of sufficient floor area to have status as a supermarket under s. 32 (1) (e) of the Act for which an off-licence may be issued.

- (4) The complete file that I received included –
- The application
 - Supplementary information from applicants agent
 - Site Plan
 - Certificate of Incorporation
 - List of duty managers
 - Floor plan showing revised single alcohol display area
 - Draft renewal advertisement
 - Fire evacuation scheme declaration from owner
 - Copy of existing licence
 - Reports from Police, Medical Officer of Health and Inspector

Decision Making

(5) In considering this application for renewal of Off-Licence the District licensing Committee (here in after referred to as; the Committee) had regard to the criteria specified under s. 131 of the Act.

(6) The Committee must also have regard to the stores display and promotion of alcohol and set a condition in relation to 'single alcohol area/s' in accordance with s. 112 of the Act. That section is copied for clarity:

s. 112 Compulsory conditions relating to display and promotion of alcohol in single area in supermarkets and grocery stores

(1)The purpose of this section and [sections 113](#) and [114](#) is to limit (so far as is reasonably practicable) the exposure of shoppers in supermarkets and grocery stores to displays and promotions of alcohol, and advertisements for alcohol.

(2)The licensing authority or licensing committee concerned must ensure that, when it issues or renews an off-licence for premises that are a supermarket or grocery store, it imposes on the licence a condition describing one area within the premises as a permitted area for the display and promotion of alcohol.

(3)On the renewal of an off-licence for premises that are a supermarket or grocery store, any single-area condition imposed when the licence was issued (or was last renewed) expires.

(4)Subsection (3) is subject to [section 115\(4\)](#).

(7) Sections 113 to 115 go on to further describe the requirements when determining 'single alcohol area/s'.

(8) The purpose of a single alcohol area under the Act is to limit (so far as is reasonably practicable) the exposure of shoppers in supermarkets and grocery stores to displays and promotions of alcohol.

(9) The application contained the following information to assist the Committee to make its decision on the s.112 matter:

- A copy of a premise floor plan indicating a single alcohol area.
- Inspectors report that concludes that the single area as marked on the plan, complies with the s. 112 to 114 requirements.

(10) The Committee in considering this application made a site visit to the premises in question. The premise is a large sized supermarket for Whanganui standards with the Single Alcohol Area located along the inside of the first aisle as you walk into the store, away from the direct line of the check out and main thoroughfare of the store.

(11) This Committee concludes that whilst the Single Alcohol Area is not in an area that is furthest from the check outs or main thoroughfare, it is nevertheless in a dedicated aisle that most persons would not go down unless to shop for alcohol and associated goods. The Committee therefore again concludes that the Single Alcohol Area, as submitted, is indeed compliant.

(12) This area, in the Committee's view, is outside –

- the most direct pedestrian route between the entrance to the premises and the general point of sale.
- the most direct pedestrian route between the main body of the premises and the general point of sale.

This is a requirement of s.113 (5)(b).

(13) The reporting agencies have all enquired into the application, offered no opposition to the Single Alcohol Area or the substantive licence. Therefore based on the information supplied within the

complete file and my site inspection, I am of the opinion that the proposed Single Alcohol Area as shown on the 'file' floor plan, is compliant with s. 112 – 115 requirements.

Sections 105/131 Analyses:

(14) the object of this Act:

Both the Inspector and Medical Officer of Health inquired into the application seeking evidence that the object of the Act will be complied with under this licence. The applicant's Host Responsibility Policy, if followed correctly, should ensure that the object of the act is complied with.

(15) the suitability of the applicant:

The applicant is a private company incorporated and operates the Supermarket for which the licence is sought. This is the second Countdown supermarket in Whanganui. There are no changes to the corporate structure since renewal period. The applicant supplied nine names of certified managers employed on the premises which is considered suitable for this type of licence and premise.

The inspector and reporting agencies do not challenge suitability of the applicant and neither do I.

(16) any relevant local alcohol policy:

The application accords with the LAP with the altered hours.

(17) the days on which and the hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol:

Applicant has applied for the existing hours less one hour for closing i.e.

- **Monday to Sunday 7.00am to 10.00 pm.**

These hours are within the national trading hours and same as the hours contained in the current licence. These are considered fit for purpose and have operated without incident in the past.

(18) the design and layout of any proposed premises:

The application is an existing licence with no changes to layout or issues reported. I see no issue with design and layout. Single Alcohol Area layout is discussed earlier in this report.

(19) whether (in its opinion) the amenity and good order of the locality would be likely to be reduced, to more than a minor extent, by the effects of the issue of the licence:

I accept the inspectors assessment that there have been no complaints about nuisance type offences in the area in the past and that if managed well this should continue.

(20) whether the applicant has appropriate systems, staff, and training to comply with the law:

The applicant has nominated nine managers of varied experience and skills. The inspector notes the applicant maintains excellent levels of staff training and performance and runs a mystery shopper programme.

Reporting Agencies

(21) The following reports were received under section 103/129 of the Act.

(22) **Police** – Report received on 13 January 2022, of no opposition.

(23) **Medical Officer of Health** - Report received on 16 February 2022, of no opposition.

(24) **Licensing Inspector**

Full report dated 17 February 2022. The inspector provided, amongst other things, her assessment of the application in relation to the Act. She also assessed the application against s105 criteria. This assessment has been referred to in this report.

The inspector concluded that the application is complete and will likely meet the criteria for renewal on the conditions presently attached to the licence apart from altered hours.

Committees Decision and Reason

(25) Based on the evidence provided to me within the complete file, lack of opposition from the relevant agencies, my site inspection and my assessment above, I conclude that the application generally meets the s. 105/131 criteria under the Act to be granted renewal of an off-licence for the premise situated at 100 Taupo Quay, known as 'Countdown Whanganui'.

(26) Accordingly the application is **approved** for renewal for three years subject to the conditions offered in the inspectors report and payment of any outstanding fees, if any.

Dated at Whanganui District this 1st day of March 2022.

Signed



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Stuart Hylton
Whanganui District Licensing Commissioner

