
MINUTES
of the
SUBMISSIONS HEARING MEETING on
Psychoactive Substances Local Approved Products Policy
held
11.30 am, Friday, 15 November 2013
at
Ernest Loney Memorial Hall, Wensley Road, Richmond

Present: S G Bryant (Chair), Mayor R G Kempthorne, Councillors M L Bouillir, P L Canton, B W Ensor, M J Greening, Z S Mirfin, T E Norriss and P F Sangster.

In Attendance: Co-ordinator Environmental Health (G Caradus)
Environmental Health Officer (Z Moulam)
Administration Officer (G Woodgate)

1 OPENING, WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES

Moved Mayor Kempthorne/Cr Norriss
SH13-11-1

That apologies from Cr B F Dowler, J L Edgar, M J Higgins, J L Inglis and T B King for absence be accepted.

CARRIED

3 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

3.1 Rosey Duncan, Health Action Trust

Ms Duncan advised that she supported the restrictive outlet density proposed in the draft Psychoactive Substances Approved Products Policy. Ms Duncan then tabled a handout that contained information regarding:-

- Small printed resources
- Legal psychoactives (ie. party pills and synthetic cannabis)
- P
- Ecstasy
- Continuum of Drug Use and
- A cannabis use continuum from NMDHB and Service.

11.35 am: Mayor Kempthorne departed.

Ms Duncan stated that psychoactive substances places risks on peoples mental and physical health and that they effect people differently.

A series of small printed resources were then tabled.

Questions/Answers

Cr Norriss

Question: There are currently two known shops in the Tasman District selling psychoactive products – would you like to lead a march against them to tell everyone of the harm they are doing to the community?

Reply: The community might support the idea but this is not a role I can lead.

11.42 am: Cr Bouillir arrived.

Cr Ensor

Question: A lot of 13 and 14 year olds are hooked on alcohol, do you think this will happen if this stuff is available?

Reply: Yes and it is already beginning to happen.

11.44 am: Mayor Kempthorne returned.

3.2 Cheryl Carnahan

Ms Carnahan said that she is a retired nurse and initially wanted a total ban on the sale of all psychoactive products. She advised that she had gathered the signatures of a number of members of the community who also wanted a total ban on the sale of such products in the Tasman District.

Ms Carnahan stated that an article in a local newspaper in October 2013 reported on a young person who had snatched a woman's purse to obtain money to purchase a legal high.

Having given due consideration to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013, Ms Carnahan told Councillors that she wanted TDC to severely restrict the locations where people could obtain these products.

4 REPORTS

4.1 Psychoactive Substances Act, Report REP13-11-04

The Environmental Health Officer, Zoe Moulam was in attendance to speak to her report.

The purpose of the report was to inform of the submissions received on the draft under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013. The report aimed to assist in the deliberations of the Hearing Committee, with the ultimate aim of staff receiving instruction for a recommendation to the Environment and Planning Committee to allow a Local Approved Products Policy to be adopted.

Mayor Kempthorne advised that he had been approached by several other Mayors who wanted to request the Government to totally ban these products.

5 DELIBERATION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF: PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES LOCAL APPROVED PRODUCTS POLICY

Moved Cr Norriss/Cr Sangster

SH13-11-2

That the Submissions Hearing Committee:

- 1. receives the report 'Psychoactive Substances Act', REP13-11-04 and**
- 2. receives both written and verbal submissions to the draft Psychoactive Substances Approved Products Policy, and**
- 3. confirms the draft Psychoactive Substances Approved Products Policy, and**
- 4. instructs staff to prepare a report to the Environment and Planning Committee meeting of 28 November 2013 containing the proposed Psychoactive Substances Local Approved Products Policy with a recommendation for its adoption.**

CARRIED

Cr Greening asked the Co-ordinator Environmental Health if Tasman District Council staff could monitor what goes on and report this back to the central agency but was advised Council has limited ability to do this under the Act.

Cr Canton noted that this whole issue is really a Central Government issue. He added that psychoactive substances are legal products that can be sold and that this policy was really a moral judgement call. Cr Canton agreed that restricting the locations where legal highs could be sold was in the best interests of the community.

Cr Norriss, in his right of reply, agreed that psychoactive substances are legal products available to the public. He added that all we can do is restrict where they can be sold.

The Hearing adjourned at 11.58 am.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: