

## **STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** Councillors  
**FROM:** Mayor R Kempthorne  
**SUBJECT:** **RCN10-04-06 – Response to Correspondence**

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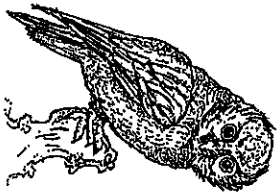
I have received two letters of correspondence from Nelson Grey Power Association Inc (as attached) regarding issues with youth and alcohol related problems in Nelson and Tasman.

My likely response to these letters will involve the following points:

- The Tasman District Council's current Alcohol Policy is 13 years old but still relevant, however staff acknowledge that it is due for review.
- Tasman District Council staff have deferred this review as the Minister of Justice, Simon Power, had indicated that there would be a new law relating to liquor sale this year.
- Law Commission review of the Sale of Liquor Act was tabled on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at Parliament. Council staff have taken an active part in participating in this review.
- Council has worked closely with the Police in the review of the Tasman District Council Control of Liquor Bylaw and staff have a formal relationship with the Police in the issue of liquor licenses. Council also participates in joint exercises in monitoring compliance.

I have attached a media release on this subject which will be distributed to media today.

Richard Kempthorne



**NELSON GREY POWER ASSOCIATION INC**

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21 April 2010

Mayor Kerry Marshall  
Nelson City Council

And

Mayor Richardson Kempthorne  
Tasman District Council

Dear Sirs

We at Nelson Grey Power are extremely concerned as the escalating problem with the late night antics of our youth and their alcohol intake.

Three years ago, at the hearing for changing the licensing hours from midnight to 3am, Mr Paul Max and others passionately lobbied for the later closing hour stating that the problems being expressed at the time would disappear. The drinking would be civilized and the world would regard Nelson and Tasman as the enlightened, forward thinking area of New Zealand. They have been proven terribly wrong, and yet no blame has been laid at their doorstep for demanding we change the hours from midnight to 3am.

Our concern is primarily in two areas, one is the safety of our senior citizens, and two the cost to the ratepayers for all the associated hassles with this out of control drinking. It is only a matter of time before we will be seeing physical violence occurring to people outside of their own ilk, with more property damaged, at a cost to the ratepayers.

The Tasman Council had an alcohol strategy policy, but this lapsed and there would appear that there is no formal acknowledgement by either Council of this problem.

We would appreciate a move by the two Council's, as the controllers of the licenses to dispense alcohol in our region, to approach the matter at Council level with the view to see what measures can be taken to help control the late night havoc being caused by the out of control drunken youth.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Currie  
President



#546



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21 April 2010

Their Worships Kerry Marshall and Richard Kemphorne

Dear Sirs,

After reading the article in the Nelson Evening Mail last week we at Greypower Nelson are extremely concerned and support you in your endeavors to find a solution to the late night violence occurring in both Nelson City and Tasman District Council areas.

We believe that both Councils must show some leadership and courage and confront this problem head on. You have been influenced by the profit motives and self interests in the licensed liquor industry and have ignored the requests of the Police when they have provided guidance in this matter.

It is incumbent upon the Territorial Local Authorities to listen to those with possible solutions and support them in their efforts to control unruly alcohol besotted idiots who cause mayhem and destruction. We also believe that using alcohol, as an excuse in the courts to justify their behavior must also cease.

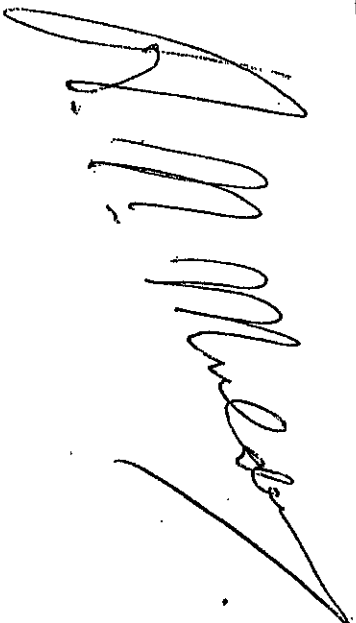
As a consequence we ask that the following be considered for adoption by the Nelson and Tasman Local Authorities.

1. The immediate one-way door policy as is working in Christchurch to prohibit any person wanting to enter any licensed premises or wanting to reenter any licensed premises from 12 o'clock midnight.
2. All licensed premises must cease serving alcohol from 230am onwards. (This then allowing until 3am to have the premises vacated.)
3. That the licenses issued to premises for off licence sales be restricted to a closing time for sales of 6pm. (This to attempt to stop pre loading)
4. That the Police are requested to enforce all the current liquor licensing laws and in particular in relation to the serving off customers who have already arrived in their premises pre loaded.
5. That the 2 TLA's write to the District Court Judges requesting that the consideration of accepting alcohol as an excuse for behavior be ignored.
6. That the Government be supported in and complimented on their intending legislation returning the Alcohol purchasing laws to 20 years of age and the reduction to zero Blood Alcohol for persons under 20 years of age.

Once again we repeat our belief that both Councils must show some leadership and courage and confront this problem head on. To accept this type of behaviour is unacceptable to all citizens. We also believe that tourists will not find the current situation a pleasant experience and will cause a negative experience and opinion of our region.

Thank you for your consideration

Addo Mulders Snr.  
Transport Spokesperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Addo Mulders Snr.', written in a cursive style.



29 April 2010

## **Media Release – for immediate release**

### **Liquor reforms to be driven from national guidelines**

The Tasman District Council is adopting a 'wait and see' approach in the current discussion around possible reforms to the country's management of alcohol within our communities.

"The Law Commission's report has been the catalyst for a number of comments and demands being made on local authorities to do something about any number of issues related to alcohol", said Tasman Mayor Richard Kempthorne.

In tabling two letters from Grey Power at today's Council meeting Mayor Kempthorne said the Council will not be ignoring the issue, but any action should be taken after central government proposals have been identified and initiated.

"Our current alcohol policy is 13 years old and is due for review, however, that does not mean it is irrelevant in dealing with today's issues. When it was reviewed in 1997, the result was seen as quite far reaching as means of dealing with the sale of liquor in our District.

"The Council has always taken the issue seriously and have played an active role in the Law Commission's review as a regional partner. We have a good working relationship with our Police, looking to them for advice and assisting in compliance activities. I am assured that the situation in Tasman is not out of control as it is portrayed in other towns.

"I, in turn, can assure the members of Grey Power in Tasman the Councillors and I will be doing everything we can to meet the needs of all concerned in the review of our Liquor Bylaws and it will involve all those who wish to be involved," concluded Mayor Kempthorne.

**ENDS**