

Sophie Rapson

From: Geraldine Murphy [geraldine.murphy@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 7 November 2012 10:12 p.m.
To: Sophie Rapson
Cc: Iona Pannett; Stephanie Cook; Ian McKinnon
Subject: ICA submission in support of the WCC Alcohol Management Strategy development proposal
Importance: High

Hi Sophie

Unfortunately I am not able to make 10.55am tomorrow morning to speak to the Strategy and Policy Committee on ICA's submission due to work commitments that have arisen this afternoon. I was not able to advise you earlier as I did not see your email until this evening.

I hope you are able to provide copies of this brief submission to councillors for their consideration.

Inner City Association (ICA) submission

1. ICA supports the proposal to develop an Alcohol Management Strategy (Strategy) and use this to inform the development of the Local Alcohol Policy in due course.
2. ICA wishes to be involved in the public consultation process.
3. ICA wishes to participate in the Reference Group.
4. ICA recommends that any decision on the proposal to trial a closure of Blair St is made once the Strategy has been approved.

Many of our members participate in and enjoy the night-time economy. Other members benefit economically from the night-time economy. However, some members are adversely and regularly affected by the anti-social behaviours that result from excessive alcohol consumption. We need to get a balance of the interests in the inner-city to achieve the 'People-centred City' and 'Dynamic Central City' goals of the Towards 2040: Smart Capital Strategy.

Developing Wellington as an entertainment destination should not be synonymous with excessive alcohol consumption and the resulting alcohol-related harms. Some residents from the inner city (and probably suburbs) may actively avoid the inner city's night-time economy because of the alcohol-related issues. There is a potential consumer base of people with disposal incomes that is untapped from an entertainment destination perspective.

Proceeding with the Blair St proposal for a trial closure in advance of the Strategy risks creating a precedent that will either direct the Strategy or be an anomaly to the final Strategy. The Strategy should establish the principles against which proposals such as this are assessed against.

The timeframe to complete a residents' survey by the end of November is ambitious. It risks the process being seen as a compliance exercise if there is not sufficient time.

Geraldine Murphy
Inner City Association Chair
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