



The Grocery Retailers Association

SUBMISSION

Prepared by the

National Association of Retail Grocers of New Zealand

For the

Justice and Electoral Select Committee

In respect of

The Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill

April 2009-04-23

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Introduction

This submission is presented by the National Association of Retail Grocers and Supermarkets of New Zealand Incorporated (NARGON).

NARGON represents the interests of approximately 40% of the food retailing industry in New Zealand.

The approximately 500 retail members of NARGON are owner-operators of retail food warehouses, supermarkets and grocery/convenience stores. In the main, retail members of NARGON are aligned to a banner/advertising group of stores such as New World, Pak'N Save, Four Square, Supervalu, or Fresh Choice. NARGON's members range from the owners of the largest supermarkets through to the owners of the smallest convenience stores and are located in cities, towns and small rural communities throughout New Zealand.

The majority of NARGON's retail members currently sell wine and beer. NARGON also has a number of associate members that are major suppliers of products and services to the retail members of NARGON.

1) Submission Overview.

NARGON supports the purpose of the Sale and Supply of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill (the Bill) and its attempts to minimise harm arising from the misuse and excessive consumption of alcohol in New Zealand but do not believe that the bill as written will achieve the desired outcome.

2) Support

NARGON supports the views and information outlined in the Retailers Association submission in particular:-

- a) The recommendation that the Select Committee not proceed with the Sale of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill until considered in light of the current Law Commission review.
- b) If the committee should decide to proceed with the current Bill then NARGON agrees with the Retailers Association submission that:
 - The Provision and recognition of Local Alcohol plans should not proceed
 - Size restrictions on grocery stores permitted to obtain/renew liquor licences is not the best way to determine suitability for a licence and the

consideration of the person applying for the licence would be more appropriate.

- Restrictions on adjacent liquor store ownership may have unintended consequences and should not proceed.

3) Additional Comments

NARGON believes that the current condition of determining what is a grocery store being that the majority of a store's sales need to be in Grocery Foodstuffs could be open to individual interpretation and clarification of what is a Grocery Foodstuff is required.

E.g. A pack of four muffins is classed as grocery foodstuffs by some LLA's but one muffin is not.

4) Conclusion

NARGON supports the entire submission by the Retailers Association and also recommend that the Select Committee not proceed with the Sale of Liquor and Liquor Enforcement Bill until considered in light of the current Law Commission review, and that if the committee decide to proceed with the Bill prior to that, that the Retailers Association's recommendations are adopted.

We wish to appear as support for the Retailers Association submission.

NARGON
April 2009