

DECISION OF THE HAURAKI DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

IN THE MATTER of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by **David Patrick Campbell** pursuant to s.219 of the Act for a Manager's Certificate.

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing Date and Time: 14 September 2026 at 10:00am (Opened at 10:05am)

Venue: Hauraki District Council, 1 William Street, Paeroa

District Licensing Committee Panel: Cr P A Milner (Chairperson), A Sciascia (Member), J Goodman (Member)

In Attendance: M Matich (Community Protection Manager, Alcohol Licensing Inspector) C Black (Hauraki District Council Administrator)

David Patrick Campbell (Applicant)

Apologies: There were no apologies.

INTRODUCTION

The Chairperson opened the hearing at 10:05am. Introductions were made, and all parties were advised that the proceedings would be recorded for the accuracy of minute-taking.

THE APPLICATION

On **11 June 2026**, David Patrick Campbell applied to the Hauraki District Licensing Committee for a Manager's Certificate to manage the licensed premises known as the **Waihi Golf Club Inc.**

The New Zealand Police and the Licensing Inspector opposed the application on suitability grounds. The opposition arose from a recent conviction against the applicant for driving under the influence of alcohol.

EVIDENCE AND SUBMISSIONS

1. Applicant's Statement of Evidence

Mr Campbell provided a written statement in support of his application, which was circulated with the hearing agenda.

Mr Campbell gave evidence that he has been with the Waihi Golf Club for approximately 8 years and holds responsibility for the overall running of the bar. He specifically addressed

the events of 29 October 2025 that led to his conviction, detailing the context of the offence and the subsequent lessons he has learned.

2. Committee Questions to the Applicant

The panel questioned Mr Campbell regarding his training regime, operational processes, and the specifics of the drink-driving incident:

Regarding the delay in completing the Serve WISE training course: Mr Campbell explained he had been constrained by time but has since successfully completed the course.

Regarding staff training at the golf club: He stated that training is a joint effort between himself and the Club Manager.

Regarding reactive vs. proactive training: When asked if staff training appeared reactive rather than proactive, Mr Campbell noted that monthly operational meetings are held to cover incidents.

Regarding professional qualifications: Both he and the operations manager obtained their License Controller Qualification (LCQ) approximately 10 years ago.

Regarding the night of the offence: Mr Campbell confirmed his alcohol level was **700 mcg/l**. The drinks were consumed at the golf club over a 90-minute period between roughly 5:00pm and 6:30pm. He was served by bar staff while the operations manager was downstairs tending to other golfers. The bar staff member was locking up at the time, and no attempts were made by staff or management to prevent Mr Campbell from driving home.

3. Objectors' Evidence

New Zealand Police: Not present at the hearing.

Licensing Inspector: Ms Michelle Matich summarised her report. She confirmed that Mr Campbell's Serve WISE certificate had been received. Ms Matich noted that during an in-person interview, the applicant demonstrated a good understanding of host responsibility and the statutory requirements for managing a licensed premises. She stated that the objection was strictly based on the recent conviction, which needed to be weighed against Mr Campbell's positive attributes and extensive industry experience.

4. Applicant's Right of Reply

Mr Campbell used his right of reply to reiterate his deep regret. He acknowledged that the drink-driving incident was a serious mistake and admitted he had failed to set a good example for the staff he supervises.

The Chairperson closed the hearing at 10:40am, reserving the Committee's decision.

DECISION AND REASONS

In considering this application, the Committee has had regard to the criteria outlined in **s.222 of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012**, specifically focusing on the suitability of the applicant.

Mr Campbell was fully upfront about his recent conviction. The Committee found him to be genuinely remorseful for his actions. However, a breath alcohol reading of 700 mcg/l is a significant over-limit, and the circumstances under which the alcohol was consumed at his own place of employment raise concerns.

The evidence suggests that systemic gaps may exist at the Waihi Golf Club Inc. regarding host responsibility enforcement among staff. The fact that fellow staff members served the applicant and permitted him to drive home without intervention raises separate operational questions. While the Committee notes those issues are better addressed directly with the licensee outside of this specific application, they do impact our assessment of the applicant's current management environment.

The Committee determined that further structured training is essential. This will ensure Mr Campbell fully understands the statutory responsibilities of a certificated manager and can back that understanding up with verified, recorded professional development.

To balance the applicant's long-standing experience and genuine remorse against the seriousness of a recent drink-driving conviction, the Committee has decided to grant the certificate for a **truncated period of 12 months**. This limited duration acts as a probationary period to ensure compliance and ongoing suitability.

CONCLUSION AND CONDITIONS

The Hauraki District Licensing Committee is satisfied that the application for a Manager's Certificate can be approved subject to a time-limited training requirement.

1. Grant of Certificate:

The application is granted for a truncated period of **12 months** pursuant to s.222 of the Act.

2. Special Condition:

Mr Campbell must undertake and successfully complete **further professional training within 6 months** of the issuance of this certificate. This training must be formally recorded and submitted to the Inspectorate.

3. Commencement:

The certificate may issue **immediately**.

Dated at Paeroa this 25th day of September 2026.

CONFIRMED

Cr P A Milner

Chairperson

Hauraki District Licensing Committee