

IN THE MATTER of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act).

AND

IN THE MATTER of an application by **NICHOLAS GRAY WILSON** of **QUEENSTOWN** pursuant to s.219 of the Act for a Manager's Certificate.

BEFORE THE DISTRICT LICENCING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr LA Cocks
Members: Mr C Cooney
Mr G Pay

HEARING at Queenstown on 4th December 2025

APPEARANCES

Mr NG Wilson – the Applicant
Ms S Swinney – QLDC Licensing Inspector – to assist
Sergeant S Matheson – Police – in opposition

APPLICATION

1. An application was filed by Nicholas Gray Wilson on the 30th August 2025 for a Manager's Certificate. It was considered in accordance with s.191(1) and s.222 of the Act.
2. The application was not supported by the Inspector and was opposed by the Police. A public hearing was held.

APPLICANT

3. The applicant has the relevant qualifications ie. LCQ issued on 19th June 2025, and he has passed the QLDC knowledge test. Other than that, he has not undertaken any additional training related to alcohol licensing. He does not have experience working in a licensed premises as a bar person or Temporary Manager. In the application he stated: '*I have over 10 years experience in the cycle pub crawl industry. On Beercycle tours I monitor participants intoxication levels to ensure their safety and over the years I've gained extensive knowledge and expertise in the responsible sale and supply of alcohol.*' And '*While I have not previously managed a licensed premises, I have over 10 years experience operating Beercycle tours which involve regular visits to licensed venues. This has given me a strong understanding of how licensed premises operate, how to interact with duty managers and staff and how to recognise and respond to intoxication or disorderly behaviour. I'm very familiar with host responsibility requirements and the practical application of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act from a customer-facing perspective.*'

These comments were supported in a reference from the General Manager of the Good George North Wharf in Auckland and reiterated by the applicant at the hearing.

THE POLICE

4. The Police acknowledge the applicant has operated Beercycle for 10 years and experience in dealing with people but oppose the application under s.222(c) of the Act as the applicant has no experience in managing or controlling a licensed premises and as such does not possess the specific knowledge, skills and experience gained from working in licensed premises to manage risk and comply with the intent of the Act. The Police consider the Beercycle to be high risk activity.

THE INSPECTOR

5. The Inspector reported that it appears Mr Wilson fails to meet the criteria on several fronts as follows:
 - a. S.222(a) of the Act – Mr Wilsons suitability in that he is not residing in or employed at any licensed premises in the Queenstown Lakes District;
 - b. S.222(c) – Mr Wilson has no experience controlling a licensed premises, or managing the sale and supply of alcohol to customers; and
 - c. S.222(e) – Police have opposed the application for the managers certificate as well as the premises licence Mr Wilson has also applied for.
6. At the hearing the Inspector questioned the applicant's knowledge of the Queenstown CBD over the busy periods and his reliance on others to train him. She highlighted other more appropriate training avenues such as 'Servewise' and 'Tipsy Training' that the applicant could have completed.

DECISION

7. We acknowledge the applicant is now residing in Queenstown but in view of:
 - a. his failure to meet other criteria under s.222 of the Act;
 - b. the basis of the Police opposition; and
 - c. not having worked in a licensed premises for at least six months;

the applicant is not considered to be a suitable person to hold a Manager's Certificate.
8. Accordingly, the Committee rules pursuant to s.221(1) of the Act, that the above application for a new Managers Certificate is declined.

DATED at Queenstown this 9th day of December 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LA Cocks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "LA" on the first line and "Cocks" on the second line.

LA Cocks
Commissioner
Queenstown Lakes District Licensing Committee