

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Ashburton Licensing Trust and group's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Ashburton Licensing Trust (the Trust) and group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, John Mackey, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Trust and group, on her behalf.

We have audited the financial statements of the Trust and group on pages 2 to 29, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2014, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of the Trust and group on pages 2 to 29:

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- fairly reflect the Trust's and group's:
 - financial position as at 31 March 2014; and
 - financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Our audit was completed on 19 June 2014. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Trustees and our responsibilities, and we explain our independence.

Basis of opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and carry out our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that, in our judgement, are likely to influence readers' overall understanding of the financial statements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

An audit involves carrying out procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgement,

including our assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the preparation of the Trust and group's financial statements that fairly reflect the matters to which they relate. We consider internal control in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust and group's internal control.

An audit also involves evaluating:

- the appropriateness of accounting policies used and whether they have been consistently applied;
- the reasonableness of the significant accounting estimates and judgements made by the Trustees;
- the adequacy of all disclosures in the financial statements; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements. Also we did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required and we believe we have obtained sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for preparing financial statements that:

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- fairly reflect the Trust's and group's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

The Trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Trustees are also responsible for the publication of the financial statements, whether in printed or electronic form.

The Trustees' responsibilities arise from the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Responsibilities of the Auditor

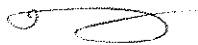
We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and reporting that opinion to you based on our audit.

Our responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

Independence

When carrying out the audit, we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the External Reporting Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with or interests in the Trust or any of its subsidiaries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Mackey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Mackey
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Christchurch, New Zealand