



Auckland Council has refused to grant consent for The Verandah at Cable Bay Vineyards.

ROSE DAVIS/STUFF

Island vineyard 'too noisy'

ROSE DAVIS

For years, The Verandah restaurant at Cable Bay Vineyards has flouted restrictions and annoyed neighbours with noise, according to Auckland Council commissioners.

Part of The Verandah opened in 2012 before a formal launch in 2014, said neighbour Lindsay Niemann. The venue has been run ever since, despite complaints from neighbours and without council consent.

Director Loukas Petrou finally applied for retrospective consent for the restaurant and function facility in 2017.

But in a decision released on January 30, Auckland Council hearing commissioners refused to grant it. The council is considering how to enforce that decision, while Petrou may appeal.

Commissioner Les Simmons said the vineyard's history of breaking the rules could not be ignored when considering whether to legalise The Verandah

- a steel framed dining room with plastic wall covers that occupies about 245 square metres of the property.

"We were informed that there have been six convictions, two abatement notices, an infringement notice, ten 'excessive noise directions', and many noise complaints lodged with council in relation to activities on the site since 2012," Simmons said.

The vineyard also applied for unrestricted numbers of guests, consent for outdoor seating and

use of 7000 square metres of the lawn for dining. An acoustic barrier wall was planned.

Residents from four nearby properties objected to the application, saying the vineyard was destroying the peace of their rural homes.

Neighbours Lindsay Niemann and Julie Loranger said the noise from more than 300 people inside and outside the venue was "undeniable" at times. "Patrons can peer into our home from the boundary, some walk down the drive-

way, or are seen urinating into the flax bushes," Niemann and Loranger stated.

Neighbours Stephen and Suzanne Edwards said their home "feels like a battleground where 365 days of the year, we are at the mercy of Cable Bay and Mudbrick, as function centres instead of wineries".

The commissioners found that a restaurant and function centre with unlimited guests was not suitable for the rural-residential area of the island.

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