

Report 08.724
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Committee Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee
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Final adoption of Parks and Forests Concessions Policy 2008

1. Purpose

To consider endorsing the *Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests Concessions Guidelines 2008*.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2002*.

3. Background

The **current** concessions policy branded *Policy for Recreation and Tourism* for Greater Wellington Regional Council's (GWRC) parks and forest areas was adopted in July 2001.

The draft Parks and Forests Concessions Guidelines 2008 document was approved for public consultation on 30 June 2008 (refer to Report Nos 08.245 and 08.290 respectively), then released for public consultation over a six week period from 2 July to 11 August 2008.

A total of 16 submissions were received.

- Two submissions supported the draft Concessions Guidelines in its entirety.
- Eight submissions supported the draft Concessions Guidelines in part.
- Six submissions opposed the draft Concessions Guidelines.

A summary of the key issues raised by written submitters was considered by the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee on the 11 September 2008 (refer to Report No 08.615).

Mr Ian Priest was the only oral submitter that was heard at the Committee meeting.

4. Outstanding Submission Issues

4.1 General

In general, Councillors considered the submissions and agreed with the officers' comments in relation to the submissions. However, two issues were not ratified during the Committee deliberations. These submissions were from Film Wellington and Mr Priest's submission relating to events/activities over public land owned or managed by different authorities.

Councillors recommended that the film activities, together with the submission from Mr Priest on the fee structure in relation to multiple public lands for events, be investigated and reported back for the next Committee meeting.

4.2 Filming issues

The remaining issues that were raised by Film Wellington are as follows:

Opposes the fee increase for filming for reasons that the increase in feature film and TV filming fees to \$500 a day is not consistent with the film friendly protocol agreed to By Councils within the Greater Wellington region. Local/New Zealand production companies should not be charged at the same commercial rate as big budget internationals.

The local film and TV production industry should be supported by the GWRC and the charges need to be consistent across the Wellington region. The standard fee of \$250/half day and \$400/full day for filming in the region should remain consistent as per the Wellington City Council fees. The Council should also reduce or waive fees for low budget productions, as Wellington City Council does.

The officers' recommendation is that GWRC change the fee structure to a flat fee structure, as per Film Wellington's submission. By doing this GWRC will be aligning itself with the other territorial authorities to provide a consistent approach to the promotion and support of filming in the Region. The submission also recommends waiving fees for low budget productions. Officers recommend that the application fees for low budget films be waived and that fees be negotiated on a case by case basis.

Therefore, the recommendation is for the following in relation to the Concessions Guidelines:

Type of Film Activity	Change for Fee Structure for Concessions Policy
Low budget film activities	Application fee (Nil). Activity fees to be waived at the discretion of the Manager, Parks on a case by case basis. The applicant must supply written evidence (to include a budget plan) demonstrating that the film has a low budget status.
Feature filming/news and current affairs/advertising commercials – Full Day	\$400 per day
Feature filming – Half Day	\$250 half day
Feature filming – 2 hours	\$200 for 2 hours

4.3 Oral Submission from Mr Ian Priest

Mr Priest raised concerns that the proposed policy does not make any distinction between a commercial and a non-profit (charity or volunteer) operator running an event. In addition, these voluntarily based organisations often find that a bond paid before an event is difficult to meet because their financial resources are limited. Mr Priest also raised the issue of an event, e.g., running, which affects multiple blocks of publicly owned land (e.g., GWRC, Hutt City Council and Department of Conservation (DoC land)).

With regard to Mr Priest's concerns, the Concessions Policy does differentiate between that of a non-commercial versus commercial activities within the definitions section. For the majority of events of a non-commercial nature with less than 150 participants, the organiser of the activity is not charged. If there are more than 150 participants, the activity would result in considerably more impacts on GWRC's parks/forests, so there is a small charge per participant. In the case of the bond, this is to cover any anticipated impacts from the event, from which is duly refunded after the event.

It is recommended that activities or events that occur within multiple public lands (i.e., DOC land) are charged pro rata, at the discretion of the Manager, Parks. This would be assessed relative to GWRC's parks and forests usage and other public land use for any event or activity.

Officers have incorporated these changes in the final Concessions Guidelines.

5. Adopting the *Parks and Forests Concessions Guidelines 2008*

Attachment 1 is the final version of the *Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests Concessions Guidelines*.

The changes for filming activities and the fee structure for multiple public lands, e.g., GWRC parks and forests, and DoC land have been reflected in the Concessions Guidelines.

6. Next steps

Once the Parks, Forests and Utilities Committee has endorsed the Concessions Guidelines with any recommended changes, the Concessions Guidelines will be put forward for adoption by Council on 3 November 2008.

7. Communication

Following approval of the Concessions Guidelines by Council, letters will be sent to submitters advising them of the outcome of Council deliberations.

The Concessions Guidelines' adoption will be announced by media release and will be included in the next *Green Shoots* community newsletter in December.

Copies of the Concessions Guidelines will be made available from The Regional Council Centre and the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and Upper Hutt

Depots. Copies will also be sent to territorial authorities in the Wellington Region. It will also be available on GWRC web site.

A concessions brochure is to be released to the public by the end of 2008.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. **Receives and notes** the contents of the report.*
- 2. **Endorses** the Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests Concessions Guidelines 2008, subject to any minor changes that the Committee recommends.*

That the Committee recommends to Council that it:

- 1. **Revokes** the Policy for Recreation and Tourism adopted in July 2001.*
- 2. **Adopts** the Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests Concessions Guidelines 2008, subject to any minor technical or editorial amendments.*

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

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Attachment:

- 1 *Greater Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests Concessions Guidelines*