

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Manager
REFERENCE: C752
DATE: 21 June 2007
SUBJECT: Nelson Motorcycle Club Centenary 2008

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

The above Club will be celebrating its centennial in 2008 and will be the first motorcycle club in New Zealand to reach this milestone. As part of their celebrations they seek permission to run a beach race meeting on the main beach at Rabbit Island, one of their venues of the past.

BACKGROUND

The Club plans to run a meeting on Saturday 2 February 2008 with the event requiring the closing of the western end of the beach to the general public and enabling a portion of the recreation area to be used as vehicle parking for entrants and spectators.

The Club would be responsible for vehicle and people control, which would include appropriate signage and warning tape. The area would be required from daylight on 2 February through to normal island closure time.

Other Points:

- To protect against fire they will approach the local fire brigade for advice.
- They envisage asking for a donation from people to enter the event controlled area and any surplus would be distributed to local community organisations.
- Racing is expected to be for approximately 2 hours each side of low tide (low tide is 1pm).
- All machines will be noise tested to meet the national rules of Motorcycling New Zealand.
- Some of their main Centenary events are set for Nelson Anniversary weekend, including events at the Richmond Racecourse and at Pohara.
- They are planning a national advertising campaign for their centenary events.

DISCUSSION

The Rabbit Island Management Plan states that:

- 8.2.1 Emphasis shall be placed on provision for peaceful, informal seaside recreation. Noise-creating activities shall be discouraged.
- 8.2.2 Organised gatherings such as group picnics and low impact sporting events shall be allowed subject to prior permission being obtained.
- 8.4.1 Motor vehicles shall be excluded from the shoreline dunes, beach etc.

Therefore Council will need to consider this as a one-off event specifically celebrating 100 years of the Motorcycle Club and therefore agree to accept that such an event does not meet the above sections of the Management Plan.

The only real concern with this event could be other motorcyclists thinking that they can do the same after the event.

With regard to the Tasman Resource Management Plan, motorcycles may use the foreshore provided there is no damage to the foreshore or seabed or to animal or plant habitats. Because the area to be used is between high and low tides, staff consider that the event would not cause any damage that the next tidal movement would not fix.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the request from the Nelson Motorcycle Club to run a beach race meeting on the main beach at Rabbit Island on 2 February 2008, to celebrate their centennial, be approved subject to terms and conditions covering public safety and fire danger being agreed to between the Community Services Manager and the Club.

L L Kennedy
Community Services Manager