

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Manager
REFERENCE: C752
DATE: 11 June 2008
SUBJECT: Nelson Motorcycle Club Beach Race Meeting

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

The above Club celebrated its centennial in 2008 and was the first motorcycle club in New Zealand to reach this milestone. As part of their celebrations they ran a beach race meeting on the main beach at Rabbit Island, one of their venues of the past. They are now applying to run a similar event in 2009.

BACKGROUND

The Club plans to run a meeting on Saturday 7 March 2009 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 again be responsible for vehicle and people control, which would include appropriate signage and warning tape. The area would be required from daylight on 7 March 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.
- All machines will be noise tested to meet the national rules of Motorcycling New Zealand.

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.

Last year Council considered this as a one-off event specifically celebrating 100 years of the Motorcycle Club.

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.

The Centenary event was highly successful and widely acclaimed by both competitors and the general public, with over 4000 spectators of all ages and backgrounds visiting during the day. The Club also advised that the event attracted competitors from all over the country and most stayed for at least three days. The Appleby Rural Fire Party benefited from the event and they are looking at including more local organisations as beneficiaries for next year's event.

It would have been helpful if Council were further down the track with future planning for Rabbit Island, however the fact that the last event was so successful and did not result in any negative publicity it is considered that the event in 2009 could be approved.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the request from the Nelson Motorcycle Club to run a beach race meeting on the main beach at Rabbit Island on 7 March 2009, be approved subject to terms and conditions covering public safety, fire danger and protection of the foreshore being agreed to between the Community Services Manager and the Club.

L L Kennedy
Community Services Manager

<http://tdctoday:82/shared documents/meetings/council/committees and subcommittees/community services committee/reports/2008/rcs080619 report nelson motorcycle club beach meeting.doc>