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Proposed Changes to Existing Fees and Charges in Wellington Regional Council Parks and Forests

Attachment to Report 00.499

PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXISTING FEES AND CHARGES IN WRC PARKS AND FORESTS

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
GENERAL COMMENTS RELATED TO ALL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES			
Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$50 Application Fee (non-refundable). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$175 (GST inclusive) non-refundable application fee for new applications and renewals. ▪ Ranger time (if associated with assessing application) is included in application fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on an average \$50/hour + GST for between 3-4 hours for WRC staff to assess application and provide estimate of further costs and process to applicant. ▪ Compares favourably to DOC at \$225 (incl. GST) and ARC at \$250.
Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partial cost recovery. ▪ \$50 Administration Fee (refunded if application refused). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full cost recovery. ▪ Based on estimate of staff, costs, public notification, consultation or any other processing costs required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial rates and approach to match a commercial activity. ▪ Still possible to waive or discount if activity meets discount/waiver criteria. ▪ On par with DOC.

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
GENERAL COMMENTS RELATED TO ALL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES			
Bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$1/head or \$100 Bond (whichever is greater). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bonds may be required depending on activity and effects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessed on basis of potential effects and costs of reinstating potential damage.
Site occupation, e.g. mini golf, eco-tourism operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Various ▪ Market rental for space or 10% of gross receipts or negotiated flat fee where activity not open to the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Market rental for space occupied, and/or ▪ 10% of gross receipts or negotiated flat fee where activity not open to the public or a per person/vehicle charge, as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflects market rates.
Ranger assistance (above normal duties) once commercial operation commences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$50/hr for ranger time. ▪ \$80/hr ranger & vehicle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$50/hr for ranger time. ▪ \$80/hr ranger & vehicle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change.

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY – NON-MECHANISED			
All activities which are non-mechanised and do not fit in other categories, e.g. guided walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2 per participant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$6 per person full day. ▪ \$3 per person half day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparable to charges levied for similar commercial operations elsewhere (e.g. DOC). ▪ Based partly on the historic 7.5-10% of Gross Receipts formula.
Horse trekking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2 per participant. ▪ \$3 per horse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5 per participant per day or half day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflects market and size of this activity (small).

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES – MECHANISED (INVOLVING VEHICLES / BIKES)			
4WD Bikes or trail bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$10/bike half day. ▪ \$15/bike full day. 	Keep activity fees as they are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Precedent set already. No change.
4WDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$20 per vehicle/half day. ▪ \$30 per vehicle/full day. 	Keep activity fees as they are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Precedent set already. No change.
MTBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2 per bike & rider. 	Fees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5 per bike & rider/full day. ▪ \$3 per bike & rider/half day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflects nature of effects. ▪ In line with other 'vehicle' based activities (non-commercial & commercial).

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY			
Filming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$500/day. ▪ \$250 surcharge for urgent applications. ▪ Bond equivalent to one day charge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$175 non-refundable application fee for new applications and renewals. (Renewals may be at a reduced rate at the discretion of the manager, Parks and Forests (Strategy & Marketing)). ▪ Processing charges based on estimate of staff costs, public notification, consultation or any other processing costs required. ▪ A bond may be required depending on potential effects. This is dependent on type of filming but set at a minimum of one-day charge and at the discretion of the Manager, Parks and Forests (Strategy and Marketing). ▪ The following rates apply during filming and where the film company has exclusive possession of the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$500/day Commercials. ➤ \$500/day Feature Film. ➤ \$500/day Television Drama. ➤ \$300/day Sports Events (commercial). ➤ \$100/day Film schools/students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Similar to market rates elsewhere, e.g. ARC, DOC. ▪ Film industry already paying this. ▪ Costs vary depending on nature of filming. ▪ Costs for sporting events reflect aim of fostering recreation and sport.

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY cont.			
Filming		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nil – Conservation/recreation promotion (unless commercial in nature). ➤ NIL – News/current affairs. ➤ \$300/day – Commercial still photography. ➤ \$250 surcharge for urgent applications. ▪ Preparation and clean-up costs – negotiated on size and nature of filming. 	

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
GENERAL COMMENTS RELATED TO ALL NON-COMMERCIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES			
Booking fees for all non-commercial events/activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change.
All non-commercial events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$100 bond for first time users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$100 bond minimum charge or higher negotiated bond, depending on effects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current system works well. ▪ Effects based. ▪ Encourage that effects be minimised.
Ranger assistance with non-commercial events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$50/hr ranger time. ▪ \$80/hr ranger with vehicle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$50/hr ranger time. ▪ \$80/hr ranger with vehicle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reflects current levels of cost recovery. ▪ Current system works well and open to rangers discretion.

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
NON-COMMERCIALEVENTS / ACTIVITIES			
School visits and school events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$15 per visit up to 1 hr for ranger time (interpretation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School groups free with ranger time free up to first 2 hours. Ranger time at \$30/hour after that. ▪ Vehicle costs (if needed) to apply after first 2 hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To encourage interpretation and environmental education. ▪ For consistency with other council charges.
Special interest groups (e.g. Forest and Bird, historic societies, nature clubs & universities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$30 per visit up to 1 hour of ranger time (interpretation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Free access. ▪ First 2 hours free with ranger. ▪ \$50/hr ranger time after first 2 hours. ▪ Vehicle costs may apply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To encourage natural and cultural interpretation. ▪ To recognise input that special interest groups make to WRC parks and forests.
Ken Gray, Education Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools: \$2/head \$15/hour ranger time ▪ \$5/hour volunteer interpretation ▪ Independent groups: \$4/adult \$2/child (under 16 years of age) or community card holder. ▪ \$50/hour ranger interpretation. ▪ Private Functions: \$10 Booking Fee ▪ \$2/head or \$100 per group, whichever is greater. ▪ \$100 Bond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bond may be required. ▪ Schools free. Ranger free for first 2 hours. ▪ \$30/hour ranger time after first 2 hours ▪ Independent Groups: Free, \$50/hour ranger Interpretation (if requested) ▪ Private Functions: keep as is. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For schools – encourages local history and environmental education. ▪ Encourage use of this facility.

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
NON-COMMERCIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES			
4WDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2/head. ▪ \$3/vehicle. ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$15/vehicle. ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ARAC have indicated willingness to pay \$10. ▪ \$15 is a better reflection of effects, considering number of people (probably 2-3) in vehicles and that fee for trail bikes is \$10/bike. ▪ Comparable to charges on non-WRC land.
Trail Bikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2/head. ▪ \$3/vehicle. ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$10 booking fee. ▪ \$10/bike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better reflection of effects. ▪ Comparable to charges on non-WRC land.

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
NON-COMMERCIAL EVENTS / ACTIVITIES			
MTBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2/head. ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5 per bike. ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Based on possible effects. ▪ Related to other vehicles and horses.
Horses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2/rider. ▪ \$3/horse (events). ▪ \$3/rider and horse (practice). ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Events: \$5 per competitor. ▪ Rally/Practice: \$3 per participant. ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WRC rates are higher than any others. ▪ 5 Events per year at Battle Hill. ▪ Reflects effects and comparison with MTBs and trail bikes. ▪ Reflects willingness to pay.
Orienteering / Running	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2/participant. ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$3 per participant. ▪ \$10 booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Effects based and costs of supervision. ▪ Willingness to pay and ability to pay.
Picnic Area or Space reservations for groups (e.g. Weddings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$10 per group minimum. ▪ \$1 per person for groups >10. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$20 per group minimum. ▪ \$1 per person for groups >20. ▪ No booking fee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group sizes typically over 20. ▪ Reflects a small level of cost recovery for ranger time and exclusive use of site.

Activity	Fees & Charges Now	Proposed Fees & Charges (all GST inclusive)	Explanation
NON-COMMERCIAL EVENTS			
Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$4/adult/night. ▪ \$2/children under 16 years of age or community card holders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5/adult/night. ▪ \$2/child/night under 16 years of age. <p>For flat site, tapped/potable water & toilets and/or picnic tables, coin operated BBQs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DOC currently at \$4/adult/night, but increase likely in next 2 years in Wellington Conservancy to \$5/adult/night. ▪ All adults (including community card holders) same rate to address difficulties with compliance and to ensure consistency. ▪ Some regional park facilities may need upgrading to provide appropriate facilities for charge. Otherwise keep at \$4/adult/night. ▪ Based on market rates and willingness to pay.