

Mercury Bay - Parks and Reserves

31. Hot Water Beach Parking Management

The draft 2013/2014 Annual Plan signalled that Council was considering a new project to install parking meters at Hot Water Beach, at a cost of \$25,000.

A set question of the submission form asked for feedback whether people agreed, disagreed, or had no preference regarding the inclusion of this project.

Of the 988 submissions received **74 completed this set question. Of these submitters 22 (30%) agreed, 11 (15%) disagreed, 41 (55%) indicated no preference.**

Of the 22 that agreed, 4 are from the Mercury Bay Area, 10 are noted as absentee ratepayers, and 8 are from other areas in the Peninsula (spread reasonably evenly).

Of the 11 that disagreed, 4 are from the Mercury Bay Area, 4 are noted as absentee ratepayers, and 3 are from other areas in the Peninsula.

Of those that **agreed**, reasons for their support included:

- There is an opportunity to get some funds to help with budgets
- An opportunity to recoup some funds from tourists
- The Hot Water Beach areas is an attraction for the Coromandel, so recouping some funding is a good idea.
- Improvements are necessary

Several submitters noted their support with conditions, as follows:

- Submitter #281, subject to regular enforcement taking place.
- Submitter #497 agrees on the basis that this is just for the new hot water beach car park and not the start of charging for all popular areas.

Of those that **disagreed**, reasons for their disagreement included:

- Won't solve the problem, but increase it, with tourists finding free parking places on the side of roads.
- Roadside parking during the summer is already extremely full and encouraging more roadside parking is madness.
- Cars parking on both sides of roads causes danger to pedestrians and coaches have difficulty.
- Meters would be exposed to vandalism.
- Extra expense for parking enforcement of expired meters.
- It is not possible for fifty parking sites to earn council \$10,000 as quoted.
- Revenue gathering will not help the parking
- The perception this this is the start of introducing parking charges throughout the District
- There are no sufficient numbers in off peak periods to cover the requirements to pay.

Finally, submitter #108 considers that payment for beach parking is not wanted by most New Zealanders, and strongly opposes this proposal. The submitter acknowledges that the area does get busy and that space was limited when the carpark was developed on the beachfront, but considers that to add parking meters will further urbanise the area which is undesirable for tourists who come to the Coromandel for the natural landscape. The submitter questions whether this proposal is intended to limit available carparking or to gather revenue. The submitter recalls a similar situation