

Seakiwi Limited - Commercial Reserve Concession 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018

TO Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM Heather Bruce - Community Manager Mercury Bay
DATE 7 March 2017
SUBJECT **Seakiwi Limited - Commercial Reserve Concession
1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018**

1 Purpose of report

To review and recommend to Council a retrospective decision on a request for a commercial concessionaire to operate a jet ski business on or over Council reserve and beach at Buffalo Beach - Esplanade Reserve.

2 Background

Expressions of interest for a new term of three years were sought from the current concessionaires and the public by advertising in the Hauraki Herald on 10 March 2017 and 24 March 2017.

The term of three years has been amended to one year to allow for the implementation of a policy on the decision process and the fees and charges structure for commercial concession approvals.

It was noted by staff during the 2017/2018 summer period that a jet ski operation was being run from the Buffalo Beach Esplanade Reserve and beach between the two approved concessionaires currently operating from this location, The Banana Boat and Boom Sailing concessions. This jet ski business did not have a concession to operate.

The business owner and manager met with staff and subsequently applied for a commercial concession (**Attachment A**) to take them through to 30 June 2018.

The proposed activity is a gazebo and signage on the beach, with clients being walked out to jet skis moored just off shore.

The Reserve Management Plan for Buffalo Beach - Esplanade Reserve states:

- 9.7.2.3 *A maximum of three concessionaire licences will be allowed to operate from or across these reserves.*
- 9.7.2.4 *Only motorised concessionaires will be permitted to operate at the eastern (wharf) end of Buffalo Beach.*

After consideration of the application, approval was given on 4 January 2018, by the Community Board Chair and District Manager North for this concession to operate from an approved site, with the following condition (**Attachment B**):

- As approval has been given outside of the standard formal process, a report will go to Mercury Bay Community Board and Council for retrospective approval in March. If this request is declined, the business will be required to cease operations immediately.

3 Issue

The Board is required to review and recommend to Council to approve concessionaires to operate commercial activities on or over Council reserves and beaches in the Mercury Bay area for a one year term from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

4 Discussion

On being made aware of the requirements, the applicant has met with staff and cooperated fully by providing all required documentation and information, to ensure they meet the requirements of a commercial concession.

The concession as it relates to the reserve and beach is low impact, with the large portion of the business being undertaken offshore, which is covered by the Waikato Regional Council Harbourmaster and Maritime New Zealand.

Staff met with the adjoining Banana Boat concessionaire to discuss the impact, if any, of the jet ski operation. They did not consider there had been any adverse impact on their concession or on the reserve or beach.

The application was supported by the Whitianga Harbourmaster.

The additional opportunity and community benefit of this activity will enhance community vibrancy and contribute to indirect economic community benefit.

The fee has been invoiced and paid, as set in the Fees and Charges in the 2017/2018 Annual Plan.

Commercial Operator - operate all year and in one location	\$511.00pa
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Consideration to a partial refund would need to be given if retrospective approval was withheld.

5 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Receives the Seakiwi Limited - Commercial Reserve Concessions July 2017 - 30 June 2018' report, dated 7 March 2018.
2. Recommends to Council to retrospectively approve a licence for Seakiwi Limited (T/A Whitianga Jet Skis) to operate commercial activities from Buffalo Beach Esplanade Reserve for a one year term from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Expression of Interest - Commercial Concession 2017/18 - Buffalo Beach Esplanade Reserve - Seakiwi Limited T/A Whitianga Jet Skis*

Attachment B *Approval Letter - Commercial Concession 2017/2018 - Buffalo Beach Esplanade Reserve - Seakiwi Limited T/A Whitianga Jet Skis*

Attachment B

Attachment B - Approval Letter - Commercial Concession 2017/2018 - Buf...