

STEAMPUNK THE THAMES

Attn. Brian Robson.



THAMES-COROMANDEL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

23 APR 2018

RECEIVED BY:

Brian Robson – Community Manager
Thames Community Board
c/o Thames Coromandel District Council
Private Bag
Thames 3540

14th April 2018

Re: Local Economic Development Grant

Dear Mr Robson

I write on behalf of the Steampunk the Thames Committee in relation to the funding we received last year. Firstly let me say that we are very appreciative for the \$15,000 grant we received toward the cost to “..... to set up and implement the long term plan to create a Steampunked destination i-SITE.” As you may be aware there has been a slight change in our committee members since then and we were grateful to receive the copy of the Local Economic Development Grant Funding Agreement.

We now wish to clarify how the funds can be used. The wording above implies that we intended to set up an i-SITE visitor information centre. This is not correct. Thames already has an i-SITE and under i-SITE New Zealand rules another i-SITE can not be set up within close proximity of another. Our intent, as discussed with Craig Jones of Visitor Solutions, was to set a Steampunk themed permanent visitor attraction to complement the annual festival that has proven so popular. There was talk that such an iconic visitor attraction could accommodate an i-SITE centre in the future .

As you are not doubt aware, we now have a place to call ‘home’. Mr Steve Sowerby, owner of the Boilerhouse Brewery has offered us part of his building, adjacent to the bar & eatery. We now refer to this space as Steampunk Central. We have plans to develop this space to become a visitor attraction and community hub for steampunk events.

Mr Jones has completed succession plans for other organisations in town and we believe that he had intended to spend some of this \$15,000 grant on his services to deliver a similar document for Steampunk the Thames. However his workload precluded him from completing one for us. We are currently in the process of drawing one up ourselves.

We hope that you appreciate that our goal is to build a visitor attraction in Thames to boost the local economy through visitor spend. As we started as a community initiative, we strongly believe that we have the skills and knowledge to achieve this if a staged approach is taken. We are writing to check that you are happy for us to spend the grant funding on more practical implementation steps. This would include materials and labour to create the initial phase of Steampunk Central – visitor attraction. If you agree then we request that Steampunk the Thames Inc have a small extension to the completion time for reporting in order to carry out the tasks required. We thank you for your assistance in clarifying this for us.

John McKeown
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John McKeown'.

STEAMPUNK THE THAMES P.O. Box 766, Thames 3540.

www.steampunkthethames.org