

Rates on-charging for community groups leasing Council land

TO	Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM	Heather Bruce - Community Manager
DATE	18 October 2018
SUBJECT	Rates on-charging for community groups leasing Council land

1 Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is for the Mercury Bay Community Board to re-consider the decision to on-charge rates to the Whitianga Gun Club Incorporated, Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated and the Mercury Bay Boating Club Incorporated.

2 Background

A report went to the Mercury Bay Community Board 16 August 2017 and advised that Council's Leasing Policy was being reviewed and as a result of the review the Community Board was asked to determine between three options:

- Continue paying rates associated with properties currently leased by community organisations.
- Provide an opportunity for the organisations to apply to the Board to pay rates for the relevant properties from 1 July 2018.
- Not to pay rates associated with the properties lease by the organisations from 1 July 2018.

The Board resolved at this meeting that the report "be left on the table".

As the resolution of that meeting was "left to lie on the table", a report went to the 7 March 2018 Board meeting which put forward the options for determination as:

- On-charge rates to the emergency services and community organisations set out in the report.
- Not on-charge rates to the emergency services and community organisations set out in the report.
- Not on-charge the rates to the emergency services and community organisations except on-charge those with the legal ability to operate a bar for the sale of alcohol.
- Not on-charge the rates to the emergency services and on-charge rates to the community organisations.

The full agenda reports from 16 August 2017 and 7 March 2018 can be read on the Extranet by searching "16 August 2017" and "7 March 2018" in the Extranet library.

At the 7 March 2018 meeting the Board resolved as follows:

- 05/18**
MBCB **Resolved**
That the Mercury Bay Community Board:
1. *Receives the 'Leasing Policy for Community Organisations' report dated 16 February 2018.*
 2. *On-charges rates to emergency services and community organisations as listed below from 1 July 2019:*

Street/ Road	Location Address	Total Rates	Lessee/s
384	Tangiara Ave	\$137.63	Whangapoua Volunteer Fire Force
86	Albert	\$3,150.41	Mercury Bay Rugby Football Club
201	Matarangi	\$3,371.61	Matarangi Volunteer Fire Force
10	Black Jack	\$-	Kuaotunu Kindergarten Charitable
5	Kenneth	\$-	Mercury Bay Community Fund
6	Kenneth	\$-	Mercury Bay Community Fund
66	Albert	\$1,060.91	Destination Coromandel Trust
257	South Highway	\$1,478.81	Whitianga Gun Club
93	Buffalo Beach Road	\$2,287.86	Mercury Bay Boating Club

3. *Continues to pay the rates for emergency services and community organisations as listed below:*

Street/ Road	Location Address	Total Rates	Lessee/s
65	Moewai	\$2,862.31	Whitianga Bike Park
86	Albert	\$643.01	Whitianga Volunteer Coastguard
90	Moewai	\$3,425.28	The Coromandel Rescue Helicopter
2	Cook	\$3,026.82	St Johns Alkd Regional Trust Board
2	Cook	\$6,370.02	Whitianga Community Services Trust
1	White	\$1,478.81	Thames Valley Coromandel
92	Cook	\$2,500.17	Mercury Bay Bowling Club
23A	School	\$1,478.81	Whitianga Art Group Incorporated

Moved/seconded by: MMcLean/Giri-Percival

Letters have been sent to all affected community organisations, advising them of the resolution and in the case of six groups, the requirement to pay the rates from 1 July 2019.

3 Issue

In response to the letters and tabled submissions received from the Whitianga Gun Club Incorporated, Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated and Mercury Bay Boating Club Incorporated (**Attachment A**), the Mercury Bay Community Board is asked to re-consider the decision to on-charge the rates to these three community groups from 2019/2020.

4 Discussion

Whitianga Gun Club Incorporated, Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated and Mercury Bay Boating Club Incorporated have written and tabled requests to the Mercury Bay Community Board outlining their disappointment at the Board decision to on-charge the rates from 2019/2020.

All three groups note that they are run by small committees made up of volunteers, who actively maintain the properties and improve the facilities to provide sporting amenities for the benefit of the wider community.

The Whitianga Gun Club and Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports Club both have bar licences. The Whitianga Gun Club note that their licence is "strictly for the controlled use of members on monthly shoot days and in no shape or form is a public bar", whilst the Mercury Bay Rugby Club advise that their bar facility is used approximately 24 times per annum and is

an essential tool to fund operational costs.

Mercury Bay Boating Club state that the clubhouse is not operated as a bar or café open to the public.

All three groups reiterate the financial burden placed on the clubs if required to find additional funding to pay rates in future.

The on-charging of rates would include Thames-Coromandel District Council rates and Waikato Regional Council rates where applicable.

Based on the 2018/2019 rates the cost to Council of continuing to pay the rates for the three community groups is outlined below:

Address	TCDC Rates	WRC Rates	Lessee/s
93 Buffalo Beach Road	\$2,758.49	\$923.79	Mercury Bay Boating Club Incorporated
86D Albert Street	\$3,738.64	N/A	Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated
257 South Highway	\$1,453.06	N/A	Whitianga Gun Club Incorporated
Totals	\$7,950.19	\$923.79	

This amount would need to be budgeted for in the 2019/20 Annual Plan and subsequent plans going forward.

5 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Rates on-charging for community groups leasing Council land' report dated 18 October 2018.
2. Decline the requests from the Whitianga Gun Club Incorporated, Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated and Mercury Bay Boating Club Incorporated to continue to pay the Thames-Coromandel District Council and Waikato Regional Council rates; Or
3. Continues to pay Thames-Coromandel District Council and Waikato Regional Council rates for the Whitianga Gun Club Incorporated, Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated and Mercury Bay Boating Club Incorporated for the years 2019/20 to 2020/21 and then re-evaluate.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Correspondence and Tabled Items – Rates on-charging – Whitianga Gun Club Incorporated, Mercury Bay Rugby & Sports Club Incorporated and Mercury Bay Boating Club Incorporated*

3.2 - Attachment A - Correspondence and Tabled Items - Rates on-chargi...