

Waiheke Local Board feedback on the proposed changes to the Auckland Film Protocol

Feedback

Waiheke Local Board generally supports the proposed changes to the Auckland Film Protocol and provides the following feedback.

- The protocol should clearly outline how use of public beaches is managed. There were complaints following recent filming at a local beach, that the filming and crew took most of the shade and public parking from the beach area. Beaches should be prioritised for public use and not closed in their entirety during filming.
- Suggest the addition of:
 - fee waivers for community groups (under clause 2.5 of the protocol).
 - strengthened obligations regarding zero waste and that the permitting team be mandated to provide a list of all zero waste trust providers in the region.
 - a mandatory Kauri Dieback Disease (KDD) management plan requirement when filming in areas containing Kauri.
 - guidelines for local procurement within the area where filming is planned.
- Supports:
 - strengthened provision for wildlife protection with the inclusion of night lighting constraints for wildlife, and due to Dark Skies protections in some areas.
 - conditions relating to the use of drones during filming. Drone use can be extensive on the islands and they are a public nuisance.
 - longer film permit timelines, particularly for commercial companies with large productions.
- Note concern:
 - around identification of locations during filming. Waiheke and the Gulf Islands could be seen as a brand, and it is important to ensure it is portrayed positively.
 - with filming on Waiheke and the Gulf islands which endorses a particular product. There needs to be measures in place to avoid identification of location in these instances.
 - over the absence of reference to local boards within the protocol. The local board's role in landowner approval for parks and open space and for Auckland Transport land needs to be added.
 - additionally, early and direct engagement with the local board should be encouraged to provide local knowledge and help mitigate any issues with proposed locations.

In relation to Auckland Council support provided to filming companies, the board:

- supports the introduction of standardised 'conditions' that can be developed with the local board which provides guidelines around filming in the local area.
- supports workshops with the film industry involving local boards, landowners and waste management team to develop these conditions and help facilitate issues.
- supports providing local supplier information to the filming industry within regular newsletters and encouraging local procurement.
- supports workshops with the local board for any large budget productions.

Waiheke Local Board

30 August 2019