

**1. CHRISTCHURCH PIER –
PROPOSED HELICOPTER OPERATION**

RR 8331

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Walter Friedel
Corporate Plan Output: Policy and Advice	

The purpose of this report is to forward a request from Aviation Activities Ltd to operate a helicopter from the end of the Christchurch Pier. The proposal has been reviewed by both the Pier Liaison Team and the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board, and is forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Committee for its consideration.

The following letter was received from Robin McCarthy, Aviation Activities Ltd regarding the proposed helicopter operation:

“The structure on which the helicopter would sit is designed to break up into four equal removable pieces thus allowing their daily assembly and removal. The surrounding cover net (designed to prevent people from falling onto a hard surface) will be attachable with rubber bungies. Assembling and dismantling will take about five minutes. It is also proposed that the existing lighting towers be articulated to lie level with the Pier’s rail top.

The operation will primarily target the domestic market as well as the visitor market offering a relatively low cost helicopter sightseeing flight over the city during the summer months. It is proposed that the service will operate seven days per week dependent upon demand.

It is anticipated that operations would commence at around midday and continue on until late afternoon but unlikely to extend into the evening.

A CAA Civil Aviation Rule, Part 157 Safety Determination would be required. We are very familiar with the application process as we hold a number elsewhere in New Zealand. The proposed site complies with all other CAA requirements.

We presume that the proposal would require a Resource Consent although it would be a somewhat unusual “land use” application. Again we are very familiar with the process.

Before proceeding further we would wish to secure a permission or approval of sorts to use the Pier for the operation such as is proposed. We first investigated an operation of this type long before construction of the Pier commenced. We would ask that our proposal is treated confidentially until an approval is forthcoming. However I realise that this could be difficult if a decision would need to be secured from the Pier Trust itself.

We believe this proposal to be unique to New Zealand and exciting for New Brighton as an added visitor attraction.

We shall look forward to receiving your response.”

Drawings and plans of the proposal are tabled.

CONSIDERATION BY THE CHRISTCHURCH PIER LIAISON TEAM

This matter was considered by the Christchurch Pier Liaison Team, which makes the following comments:

“The team feels that this proposal would intrude on passive recreation activities currently available on the Pier, such as fishing and sightseeing, as it would exclude people from these activities for the majority of the day. The team felt that this would not be acceptable to the majority of the local users and to the general public of Christchurch. The addition of noise factors could also be perceived as a further annoyance to the residents in the area, and to future users of the library.

In saying that the helicopter proposal is not suitable for the Pier end, the team did feel that it might be able to be accommodated at Bottle Lake Reserve. Park Rangers advise that the area attracts a large number of visitors at present and could sustain such an operation. In addition, the helicopter could also be used in the dry season for fighting fires should the need arise, therefore fulfilling a dual role and being away from major residential areas.”

CONSIDERATION BY THE BURWOOD/PEGASUS COMMUNITY BOARD

At its 3 August 1998 meeting the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board referred the application to this Committee with the following recommendations:

1. That the Pier Liaison Team’s views be taken into account and that the helicopter operator be advised that this activity does not fit in with current Pier and residential activities.
2. That the Board does not support the helicopter operation proposal in the Bottle Lake Forest Park Reserve.

The majority of the Committee concurred with the views of the Pier Liaison Team and the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board.

Recommendation: That the application to operate a helicopter from the end of the Christchurch Pier be declined.