

18. MTB NITE RIDEZ COMMERCIAL MOUNTAIN BIKING - BOTTLE LAKE FOREST PARK

<b>Officer responsible</b> Parks Manager	<b>Author</b> John Allen - Team Leader Consents (Parks), DDI 371-1699
Corporate Plan Output: Consents (9.4.8)	

The purpose of this report is to enable the Board to make recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Committee regarding the issuing of a licence to operate a guided mountain bike tour through Bottle Lake Forest Park in the evenings. An application has been received from Mr Carl Craw, trading as MTB Nite Ridez Ltd. Mr Craw is attending the Board meeting and is willing to answer any questions or elaborate on any matter Board Members may have about the proposed business.

**BUSINESS CONCEPT AND PROPOSED OPERATION**

MTB Nite Ridez Ltd proposes to provide its customers with a guided mountain bike tour through a designated area of Bottle Lake Forest Park (refer to the attached site plan). The equipment provided includes a mountain bike, a certified helmet which must be worn at all times when riding the cycles and high powered 12-volt front and rear bike lights to clearly illuminate the track. Mr Craw has given his assurances that the cycles will be maintained to the highest standards. MTB Nite Ridez Ltd proposes to utilise the purpose built mountain bike tracks. At present the use of the forest for mountain biking is high during the day and relatively under-utilised during evenings. The operation will have minimal effect upon the integrity of the track, being compatible with other users of the park because of the low usage levels during the evening period.

The proposed hours of operation will be for a three hour period between 6pm to 9pm during the winter months and 8pm to 11pm over the summer months. The operation of the concession will be customer driven, with the sessions not being run when demand is limited. The tour parties will generally be limited to six people at any one time, however larger groups with their own bikes will also be accommodated. Mr Craw will be the guide to provide direction and leadership. Mr Craw has been participating in night-time mountain biking for over two years and has taken various groups through the proposed circular route. He holds a current First Aid Certificate and will carry a first aid kit throughout the journey.

The administrative matters and storage of the equipment involved in the operation of the business will be based at the owner’s Seafield Place property, where customers will make telephone bookings for sessions. Mr Craw proposes to collect his clients taking part in the excursions and to drop them back to their respective collection points.

The proposal is expected to cater for the residents of Christchurch, with further target markets being backpackers staying at Youth Hostels, and national and international tourists visiting the City. It is envisaged that the rate for partaking in the guided mountain bike tour will be approximately \$45 per person (\$10 where people provide their own bikes and helmets and both front and rear lights will be provided). This is a preliminary estimate being dependent upon the licence details. Mountain biking is an outdoor pursuit that allows all age groups to participate, with the proposed recreational enterprise focusing upon a niche within the popular market of adventure tourism.

The proposed commercial business does not require any infrastructure to be built, with the majority of equipment required for the operation being in the possession of the applicant and stored off-site. The capital costs to run the business have been projected to be between \$1000 to \$2000, to be financed by the applicant’s own capital. No additional staff will be required to operate the proposed activity, with the applicant being the sole owner and operator. Mr Craw is not proposing to erect any signage or advertising upon the park.

## SUMMARY

Mr Craw's application for a licence to operate a guided mountain bike ride through Bottle Lake Forest Park will provide a unique recreational experience within close proximity to the City. The low impact of the proposed activity upon the plantation and the utilisation of the existing mountain bike tracks during times of little use makes this proposal an exciting alternative recreational pursuit available in Bottle Lake Forest Park. The Chief Executive of the Selwyn Plantation Board is comfortable with the proposal provided that the following conditions are provided for.

**Recommendation:** That the Board recommend to the Parks and Recreation Committee that Mr Carl Crow, who owns MTB Nite Ridez Ltd, be granted a non-exclusive licence pursuant to section 601 of the Local Government Act 1974 and section 61(2) of the Reserves Act 1977 in accordance with the provisions of section 7(c) of the Local Body Leases Act 1969, to operate a guided mountain bike tour through the designated mountain bike tracks in Bottle Lake Forest Park for a term of two years, with no right of renewal, subject to the following conditions:

1. The area covered by the licence agreement is to be available for public use at all times.
2. MTB Nite Ridez Ltd is to show proof of having obtained \$1,000,000 public liability to the Area Parks Officer (Consents) before commencing guided mountain bike tour operations upon the park.
3. The concession is to operate only during the early evening hours of 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm during the winter months and 8.00 pm to 11.00 pm during the summer months.
4. The route through the forest plantation used by the applicant is to be approved by the Bottle Lake Forest Parks Ranger, under designated authority from the Parks Manager, and is to take into account forestry operations occurring at the time and is not to cross or traverse along the road into the landfill site.
5. Smoking or cooking appliances are to be prohibited at all times the concession is operating.
6. The concession is to cease operation through the park should a fire outbreak occur or the forest is closed because of extreme fire or wind conditions.
7. An approved health and safety plan is to be lodged with the Council.
8. No advertising is to be placed within the Forest Park.
9. Any other tour guide, other than the owner, is to be approved by the Parks Manager, before being allowed to operate the tour in the Forest Park.
10. The rent for the commercial licence is to be negotiated with the Property Manager, in consultation with the Parks Manager.
11. The Parks Manager is to be the duly authorised officer of the Council to liaise with the licensee on any points requiring attention during operation of the licence.
12. Either party is to be able to terminate the licence on the giving of three months' notice.

**Chairperson's Recommendation:** For discussion.