

12. EVENTS VENUE HUB TO TEMPORARILY PROVIDE SPACE FOR EVENTS AND PERFORMING ARTS



General Manager responsible:	General Manager Public Affairs
Officer responsible:	Marketing Unit Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a warrant to be made up and signed by the Chief Executive Officer under the "Canterbury Earthquake (Reserves Legislation) Order 2011" for the following:

Temporary 'events space' in North Hagley Park from 1 July 2011 to 30 January 2012 to be used for the Dome and other temporary event structures (tents and geo-domes) to be erected for events and as performing arts venues (see **Attached** map).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Following the 22 February earthquake many events in Christchurch were cancelled or postponed. In addition an audit of small to medium event and performance venues in Christchurch following the 22 February earthquake shows that at least 35 per cent of bars, theatres, community halls, parks and auditoriums are not open to host live music, theatre or host meetings and or forums.
3. Cathedral Square and Victoria Square, as events spaces, are not likely to be available for event activity for a considerable time. This affects many of Christchurch's major festivals including KidsFest, Christchurch Arts Festival, SCAPE, Body Festival, Summertimes and the World Buskers Festival.
4. A temporary Events Venue Hub in North Hagley Park would provide a central location for Christchurch to get back into its annual programme of events and festivals and to provide venues for other displaced performance activity. There is strong demand from within the events industry to keep things happening to ensure event contractors and artists have enough work to stay in Christchurch. Council's Events Development team has been working to find a solution to the venue shortage and support the Christchurch events industry to get back in operation, so that we do not lose the capacity to deliver our major and icon events.
5. The proposed Events Venue Hub would provide a venue that is central, safe and accessible. It has the advantage of linking to event activity planned for Hagley Park including Christchurch Arts Festival, Rugby World Cup 2011 Fan Zone, REAL NZ Festival, NZ Cup and Show Week and the World Buskers Festival. It will link to the Cultural Precinct as facilities and attractions re-open in Christchurch.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. A separate report on Financial Implications is submitted within Public Excluded reports. There is no cost to Council.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTP budgets?

7. Funding for Council's Festivals and Events activity that will be a major user of the venue is within LTP budgets.
8. Additional revenue for operating costs of the venue will be obtained through funding and sponsorship.

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LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. John Allen, Policy and Leasing Administrator, Network Planning Team Greenspace has provided advice on attaining consent from a Reserves Act and Hagley Park Management Plan perspective.

Under section 7: ***Rights and obligations of third parties subject to council powers***

*(1) In this clause, **rights and obligations** means rights and obligations under or in relation to an easement, a lease, a licence, a covenant, or other legal permission.*

You will note under 7(3) of the Order that:

"However, before exercising a power under this order, a council must make reasonable endeavours to give notice to a person or body whose rights and obligations in respect of a reserve will be affected or overridden by the Council's exercise of that power."

In this case of utilising events space for temporary events venues, if it is going to displace a booking already made, it goes without saying that the displaced group would need to be notified and every effort made to find an alternative space for their activity. The Events Development Team are the contact point in Council for all prior bookings. To date, there are no issues.

10. Marcus Blayney, Planner, Environmental Policy and Approvals Unit, has provided advice on the Resource management Act. - under the Order in Council (OIC) (Canterbury Earthquake (Resource Management Act Permitted Activities) Order 2011, there is a new streamlined process for temporary "accommodation" as a result of earthquake displacement. The events hub is to provide space for event activity that would have used central city locations if they were available.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

11. Aligns with page 52, 53 of the LTP, Events and Festivals levels of service to provide a year round programme of events and to support festivals run by other organisations.

Alignment with Strategies

12. Events Strategy 2007-17

Goal 1 – A vibrant calendar of events that enhance Christchurch as a place to live and visit.

Goal 5 – Strong partnerships drive increasing investment in Christchurch events. Within Christchurch there is opportunity for a more coordinated events response to event opportunities. Council is in a position to provide leadership across venues, support services, marketing and funding agencies so that we have a collective city response to event opportunities.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

13. Key stakeholders within the events and performing arts industries have been consulted in planning this proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

14. It is recommended that:

The Council agree to approve a warrant to be made up and signed by the Chief Executive Officer under the "Canterbury Earthquake (Reserves Legislation) Order 2011" to approve the 'events space' in North Hagley Park, including the 'events triangle', to be used for temporary event structures (tents and geo-domes) to be erected for events and performing arts from 1 July 2011 to 30 March 2012.

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BACKGROUND (THE ISSUES)

15. A temporary events and performing arts space with marquee structures is proposed to be installed on the events space of North Hagley Park. This will include one private operator's Canterbury Celebration Theatre, Council's Dome for KidsFest 2011, other individual event bookings, and to be used as a theatre in weekends for the Christchurch Arts Festival in August. In September as the Dome becomes the 'Ruck' for the Rugby World Cup 2011 Fan Zone other festival activity will increase as part of the REAL NZ Festival, including the Christchurch Arts Festival and the Body Festival. This activity will require up to three geo-domes installed for theatre, music and other performing arts activity.
16. It is proposed that the Dome will operate when there are event bookings – we are aiming for at least three nights per week. A box office will be set up at the Dome for information and bookings, and will be open from 11am – 6pm. Door sales will then take over, managed by the event provider on the night. Day and night uses of the domes can take place. Proposed dates of activity are:

1 July – 10 August 2011

CCC Dome installed as the 'events hub'. It will be promoted as a community hall for use by all 'displaced' community groups, artists and recreational uses for a \$100 koha. Events will be free and ticketed, and will vary in size, scope and number. There will be no set pattern to when events take place, as bookings will dictate this. Indications are that many events would like to use it. Commercial users can hire the venue at a higher cost. A request for service for a hospitality partner will be advertised so there is some hospitality provided when events are in the Dome. Council's KidsFest festival will stage events during this period

1 – 30 July 2011

Celebration Canterbury Theatre goes up in the same area. CCC and a private promoter of the theatre will share security costs. Celebration Canterbury Theatre packs out at the end of January.

12 – 30 August 2011

The CCC Dome will be used by the Christchurch Arts Festival (CAF) as a theatre.

1 September – 28 October 2011

CCC Dome becomes the "Ruck" and the focus of the RWC 2011 Fan Zone. The Fan Zone will be positioned in the space where the Classical Sparks stage normally is. REAL New Zealand Festival activity will operate in the events triangle space alongside the Fan Zone. This festival activity will utilise the Geo Domes.

Up to three Geo Domes will be installed on Hagley Park area as additional venues (pending funding). The smallest dome (13 m diameter) can be used as a bar/café space.

The Pacific Crystal Palace structure comes into Hagley Park for the CAF.

1 September – 7 October 2011

Geo Domes are used by CAF and the Body Festival activity.

28 October – January 2011

The Dome will resume being a temporary venue and events such as NZ Cup and Show Week, possible hospitality options for BMW NZ Golf Open, Festival of Cycling, NZ International Jazz and Blues Festival will all use it.

If demand for booking the venues continues, all domes will stay. One possibility is to relocate one dome to CPIT for their performances.

17. Jeremy Hawker, Botanical Services Operations Team Manager is very supportive of the Dome installation, and has offered support in keeping the Botanic Gardens car park open at night; laying gravel paths to keep people off the grass; and assisting with site planning to ensure safety and security at the site.

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18. Specific traffic management options will be implemented for larger crowd days. This is anticipated to be during the period of RWC 2011. This will include management of cycle ways that may be affected by high numbers of pedestrians.
19. Key Event Stakeholders such as the Christchurch Arts Festival, KidsFest, Body Festival are relying on these structures to ensure the festivals take place. Whilst the Dome will create a place to go to, the individual events will promote the location and their programmes.
20. Council staff are to meet with Christchurch Police to ensure effective management of the area for safety and alcohol management.

Venue Management

21. The Budget includes costs for contracting a site manager and venue manager.

Timing

22. Aim to open in time for KidsFest in July.