

Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan 2020-30 (Toitū Te Whenua) – Restricted Activity process

This page helps explain the processes we use for assessing and making decisions about Restricted Activities in the park. Toitū Te Whenua provides a hierarchy of permissions for activities.

It's important that our management complies with governing legislation and policies to ensure that important values are protected in parks and supports work to implement our management plan vision of *'Restoring healthy ecosystems for the benefit of people and nature'*.

Section 8 'Rules for use and development' in Toitū Te Whenua has details. **Allowed** and **Managed** activities go ahead with some conditions such as permits for hunting or camping where it's permitted or dog section. **Restricted** activities are identified. They include activities that are considered to have higher risks and impacts on core park values or are identified in the Reserves, Local Government, Conservation or other relevant Acts as requiring authorisation via concession, licence, lease or other contractual agreement.

Applications are not accepted for activities that are identified in Toitū Te Whenua as **'Prohibited'** or cannot legally be authorized by the governing legislation of a reserve or area, for example, mining or quarrying activities in most parks.

Restricted Activity assessment process

Toitū Te Whenua is a statutory management plan made under the Reserves Act. Activities taking place in parks need to align with Toitū Te Whenua Policies, Rules and Actions to help protect and enhance park values. This helps to achieve the plan vision.

There are many existing activities in parks operating under leases, licences or other agreements for different lengths of time. There are long-term leases for buildings such as the Wellington Tramway Museum at QEP and shorter-term licences for activities such as the recreation clubs.

Preference is given to licenses over lease agreements to prioritise and maintain full public access within parks, and to facilities which support multiple use and offer broader community wellbeing benefits.

As existing agreements come to an end they are reviewed and assessed to align with Toitū Te Whenua Goal directions such as such as Goal 6:

GOAL 6:

Parks are managed in highly sustainable ways, building environmental resilience as part of the natural solution to climate change

High impact activities require detailed assessment as per Toitū Te Whenua, Appendix 2 and 3. High impact activities include all grazing, off-road motorised recreation activities, large scale commercial activities such as filming.

Table 1: Activity permission approach in parks. Refer section 8. ‘Rules for use and development’



Each Restricted Activity is considered on its individual merits, compatibility and appropriateness to the location and park conditions. Site selection or review processes apply for existing activities to ensure that they are sustainable. For all new activities and licence/ lease renewals consideration of possible effects and benefits is required.

Some applications may need to be publicly notified, and can be either approved, subject to conditions, or declined. Toitū Te Whenua identifies that high impact activities such as commercial grazing are progressively phasing out in parks. Compliance with Greater Wellingtons Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change Policies and the rules of all other statutory plans and strategies and National Policy Statements (NPS) is required. Toitū Te Whenua sets a deliberately high standard of environmental care through its policy directions and requires that minimum standards are not just met but exceeded wherever possible, for example, protection of sensitive sites such as wetlands, riparian areas of waterways or culturally important sites. Assessments consider:

- Core Park values and park/ site characteristics
- Natural values
- Cultural heritage and landscape values
- Public access and recreation experience and enjoyment
- Park management
- Resilience and climate change

[Toitū Te Whenua Parks Network Plan](#) (Toitū Te Whenua) Appendix 2 provides an AEE guide. Appendix 3 outlines the Restricted Activity application requirements.

Further information?

Contact: parksplanning@gw.govt.nz or parks@gw.govt.nz or a Principal Ranger