

ITEM 13.4	PUBLIC EXHIBITION FOR THE USE OF MCCARRS CREEK RESERVE BY CASTLE TRIBE INC
REPORTING MANAGER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER PARKS AND RECREATION
TRIM FILE REF	2019/431246
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To consider Castle Tribe Inc.'s request to use the western area of McCarrs Creek Reserve at Church Point to hold monthly community drumming events.

SUMMARY

Castle Tribe has made a submission to Council seeking permission to use the western area of McCarrs Creek Reserve at Church Point for a community drumming event on the first Saturday of every month from 12 noon to midnight (including bump in and bump out). Proposed activities include; children's activities (such as painting and craft), sharing and support circles, food and drinks made available (alcohol prohibited) and drumming, playing music and dancing near a fire.

The Rural Fire Service (RFS) has no objection to Castle Tribe lighting fires provided appropriate fire safety is in place. A permit would not be required outside the Bush Fire Danger Period 1 October to 31 March.

The Northern Beaches Local Area Command (Police) has no objection to their events conditional on noise ceasing at 10pm and that they abide by Council's regulations.

Following consideration of the advice from the RFS and Police and an assessment by the Parks and Recreation team, it is recommended that Council place the use of McCarrs Creek Reserve by Castle Tribe Inc. for a 12 month trial (as outlined in this report) on public exhibition for at least 28 days.

RECOMMENDATION OF DIRECTOR TRANSPORT AND ASSETS

That:

- A. Council place the proposed use of McCarrs Creek Reserve by Castle Tribe Inc. for a 12 month trial on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
 - B. The outcomes of the public exhibition be reported to Council.
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REPORT

BACKGROUND

Castle Drumming began in 2013 with a group of friends who met to *share fellowship through music* and drumming. In 2017 they relocated to McCarrs Creek Reserve at Church Point. By 2018 up to 200 people were attending their monthly events to drum and play music and dance near a fire.

Council staff met with Castle Drumming in November 2018 following receipt of community complaints about their events particularly the noise from drumming and the fire risks. At this meeting these complaints were discussed and they were told that a formal Council approval was required to use McCarrs Creek Reserve or other Council land. Following consideration of Council's advice the group ceased use of this reserve and sought assistance to identify an alternate location.

In January 2019 staff met with Castle Drumming at JJ Melbourne Hills Reserve. However, this reserve did not meet their needs and they indicated a desire to return to McCarrs Creek Reserve.

Castle Drumming has now formed Castle Tribe Inc., an incorporated not for profit organisation. Castle Tribe has made a submission to Council seeking permission to use the western area of McCarrs Creek Reserve to hold a community drumming event on the first Saturday of every month as follows:

- To provide individuals and families a drug and alcohol free environment where they can be in nature, connect with friends, share in a picnic, pick up an instrument and dance.
- 12 noon to 1pm set-up tables, chairs, bins, a small fire to cook food and a larger fire in a purpose built fire dish.
- 1pm to 10pm
 - Children's activities (such as painting and craft). The children's' space host will have a working with children check.
 - Sharing and support circles.
 - From sunset, the main fire will be lit and drumming and dancing begins.
 - Designated fire keepers will monitor the fires and trained first aid officers will be on-site.
 - Food and drinks available. No alcohol permitted.
- 10pm to 11pm spoken word activities (such as stories and poetry).
- 11pm to 12 midnight pack up (an inspection would be held the following Sunday to ensure the reserve is clean and tidy).
- Their submission includes a completed Council booking application form, safety plan, risk assessment, code of conduct for attendees, certificate of insurance and written feedback from the RFS.

Council staff have consulted the RFS and Northern Beaches Local Area Command (Police) about Castle Tribe's submission.

The RFS has no objection to Castle Tribe lighting fires provided appropriate fire safety is in place. A permit would not be required outside the Bush Fire Danger Period, 1 October to 31 March. The RFS also recommended they notify adjoining properties of their intent to have fires at their events.

The Police have no objection to the proposed events conditional on noise ceasing at 10pm and they abide by Council's regulations.

Following consideration of the advice from the RFS and Police and an assessment by the Parks and Recreation team, it is proposed that Council consider a 12 month trial for Castle Tribe to hold monthly community drumming events at McCarrs Creek Reserve as outlined below:

- Days and times permitted - first Saturday of the month 12noon to 10pm (includes bump in and bump out).
- RFS conditions are to be met regarding fires including that nearby residents are notified prior to each event and a permit obtained for the Bush Fire Danger Period, 1 October to 31 March.
- No open fires for cooking and alcohol prohibited.
- Organisers to minimise impacts on nearby residents and other users of the reserve.
- Council's usual conditions of use apply.

It is recommended that the submission from Castle Tribe and a 12 month trial be placed on public exhibition for at least 28 days.

CONSULTATION

Council staff have consulted the RFS and Northern Beaches Local Area Command about Castle Tribe's submission.

TIMING

At the conclusion of the public exhibition period the submissions received will be analysed and a report with recommendations presented to the Council for approval.

It is anticipated a decision on the Castle Tribe submission will be made by November 2019.

LINK TO COUNCIL STRATEGY

This report relates to the Northern Beaches Community Strategic Plan Community Outcome - Places for People and this goal:

- Goal 9: Our community is healthy, active and enjoys a broad range of creative, sporting and recreational opportunities.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Should Council approve Castle Tribe's submission, fees and a bond will be applied as per Council's adopted fees and charges 2019/20 and or 2020/21.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Castle Tribe's events would provide opportunities for this group and their supporters to come together.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Should Council approve Castle Tribe's submission they would be required to minimise impacts on the reserve and to ensure the reserve is clean and tidy after each event. Relevant environmental conditions would apply.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Should Council approve Castle Tribe's submission they would be required to implement their safety and risk management plans. Council would undertake random inspections to ensure conditions of use are being met.