

Petition: Officers' Response

Title: Retain free parking for motorcycles in Wellington Central City

Primary Petitioner: Simon Gotlieb of BRONZ Wellington

Total Signatures: 4265(via ePetition)

Presented by: Simon Gotlieb

Contact officer: Stephen Carruthers

Director responsible: Stavros Michael

Officers' recommendation:

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the petition.*
2. *Agree that no further action will be taken and that officers thank the petitioner for his petition and advise the petitioner that no action is appropriate at this time.*

Background:

The ePetition 'Retain free parking for motorcycles in Wellington Central City' was initiated by Simon Gotlieb on 11 January 2011 and closed on 11 April 2011.

The purpose of the petition is to request, when considering options around how parking is managed in the future, that the possibility of charging for on-road motorcycle parking is excluded from the various options being considered.

The petition was open to all members of the public with internet access to the Council's website. It received 4265 signatures, however, only 33% of these signatures were from Wellington City and 19% from the Wellington Region. The remaining 48% of the signatures were from people all around New Zealand and a surprisingly large amount from outside of New Zealand. Signatures were recruited from around the country and the world through internet websites from people who have no stake in how Wellington City manages its parking stock.

Officers' response:

Council agreed as part of its Parking Policy to review the provision for motorcycle parking, including investigating issues such as quantity of spaces, location, parking price and motorcycle parking provision in town and suburban centres.

We understand that motorcyclists would not want to pay for parking when they have previously been able to park for free. However, this is not a good enough reason for it not to be included in any review, especially given that Council has already agreed that it would be considered in a formal Council document.

Council officers have written a draft policy review document on motorcycle parking. As part of informing this document we invited representatives of different motorcycle groups to come in to discuss the issues facing motorcyclists and the Council. Once the invitation was received this e-petition was formed before even meeting with officers to discuss the issues.

The policy review is looking at a range of issues concerning motorcycling and motorcycle parking including: motorcycle use trends, crash rates, environmental issues, mode choice, on-street parking surveys, rider questionnaires, policy implications, parking fees, times restrictions, financial considerations and on-street vs. off-street parking. It would make no sense to pull out part of the review because a certain group does not like the idea. The fact that parking fees are included in the review does not mean that parking fees will necessarily be either recommended

or agreed. Any changes would have to be consulted on and approved by SPC. It would be incomplete to leave this out of the review, leaving no guidance for future decisions.

Currently motorcyclists can park for free all day at kerbside spaces in the CBD, which is inconsistent with the Parking Policy and Transport Strategy. There is a significant inequality existing between motorcyclists and motorists who may be subject to a further parking fee increase later in the year.

Given the fact that; the majority of submitters for the e-petition are not residents of Wellington city, Council has already agreed to review motorcycle parking, and any review doesn't guarantee any change to parking fees it is recommended that no further action is taken in response to the e-petition.