



The Department recommends that you contact the Department of Conservation Office closest to where the activity is proposed to discuss the application prior to completing the application forms. Please provide all information requested in as much detail as possible. Applicants will be advised if further information is required before this application can be processed by the Department.

This form is to be used when the proposed activity is the building or use of any private or commercial facility or structure on public conservation land managed by the Department of Conservation. Examples may include lease of land to erect an information centre; authorisation to erect a weather station; or construct or lease a private/commercial campground or lodge. This form is to be completed in conjunction with either Applicant Information Form 1a (longer term concession) or Applicant Information Form 1b (one-off concession) as appropriate.

Please complete this application form, attach Form 1a or Form 1b, and any other applicable forms and information and send to Department of Conservation Office closest to where the activity is proposed. The Department will process the application and issue a concession if it is satisfied that the application meets all the requirements for granting a concession under the Conservation Act 1987.

If you require extra space for answering please attach and label according to the relevant section.

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## A. Description of Activity

Please describe the proposed activity in detail – where the site is located, please use NZTM GPS coordinates where possible, what you intend to use the building for, whether you intend to make any changes to the infrastructure.

Please include the name and status of the public conservation land, the size of the area for which you are applying and why this area has been chosen.

If necessary, attach further information including a map, a detailed site plan and drawings of proposal and label Attachment 3b:A.

- Rapids Jet have held a concession to locate facilities on the Aratiatia Rapids Scenic Reserve since 1993. The current 10-year concession expires on 2 April 2023.
- They have constructed and maintain a carpark, visitor centre, toilet block (fully contained), and walking track on the reserve.
- The jetty and jet boat activities are located off public conservation land on the Waikato River, managed by the Waikato Regional Council.
- Rapids Jet hold all the necessary permits from the Waikato Regional Council and Maritime New Zealand to operate a jet boat business on the Waikato River.
- Rapids Jet are applying for a new concession with a 30-year term to provide greater certainty for the business.

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## B. Alternative sites considered

If your application is to **build, extend or add** to any permanent or temporary structures or facilities on public conservation land, please provide the following details:

- Could this structure or facility be reasonably located outside public conservation land? Provide details of other sites/areas considered.
  - Could any potential adverse effects be significantly less (and/or different) in another conservation area or another part of the conservation area to which the application relates? Give details/reasons
- When the business was started in 1993, a number of sites were considered. The current site on the Aratiatia Rapids Scenic Reserve was selected because it provided safe and easy access to the River between Aratiatia and Nga Awa Purua Rapids. These two sites are the main attractions of the jet boat trips.
  - Being located next to the river provides for efficient transfer of passengers between trips.
  - Land-based staff are used to provide safety information to the boat drivers on whether the river is clear of other water users (primarily kayakers). These safety officers also take photographs. These staff need to be located on-site so they can quickly access the safety viewing locations.
  - The current facilities are located on the reserve to minimise any visual impacts.

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## C. Larger area

Is the size of the area you are applying for **larger** than the structure/facility

**YES** / NO

If **yes**, please detail the size difference in the box below, and answer the following 3 questions, if **no** please go on to the next section:

- The proposed lease area is 1 hectare (10,000 m<sup>2</sup>).
- The current visitor facilities are;
  - Visitor centre & attached deck (141 m<sup>2</sup>).
  - Gravel driveway and carpark.
  - Toilet block & attached deck (31 m<sup>2</sup>). Four pans, all fully contained. The sewerage is pumped out and taken to an approved sewerage treatment plant at a cost of \$80,000 per year.
  - Underground power cable and phone line. Professionally installed to a depth of 600 mm.
- It is proposed that the following visitor facilities be permitted;
  - Extension to visitor centre (20 m<sup>2</sup>). This will provide a working space for staff.
  - Boat storage shed (144 m<sup>2</sup>). This will allow safe and secure storage to enable more efficient management of the business.

Is this necessary for safety or security purposes?

**YES** / NO

Is this necessary as an integral part of the activity?

**YES** / NO

Is this essential to carrying on the activity?

**YES** / NO

If the answer to any of the above is yes, please provide details and attach supporting evidence if necessary and label Attachment 3b:C.

- Safety – Land-based staff are used to provide safety information to the boat drivers on whether the river is clear of other water users (primarily kayakers). These safety officers also take photographs. These staff need to be located on-site so they can quickly access the safety viewing locations.
- The visitor centre is the focal point for visitors and used to as the location to provide safety briefings and equipment.
- The visitor facilities have been located at this site since 1993. Without the location of these, it would make the business unviable.

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## D. Exclusive possession

Do you believe you need **exclusive possession** of the public conservation land on which your structure/building is located, ie no one else can use the land during your use of it?

**YES** / NO

*(Exclusive occupation requires a lease which requires public notification of the application)*

If **yes**, please answer the following 3 questions, if no please go to the next section:

Is exclusive possession necessary to protect public safety?

**YES** / **NO**

Is exclusive possession necessary to protect physical security of the activity?

**YES** / NO

Is exclusive possession necessary for the competent operation of the activity?

**YES** / NO

If the answer to any of the above is yes, please provide details and attach supporting evidence if necessary and label Attachment 3b:D.

- Public safety – Rapids Jet has a track record of taking visitor safety seriously.
- Physical security – protection of expensive equipment including boats is important to the ongoing operation of the business and is essential.
- Competent operation – to ensure the safe and smooth operation of the business, exclusive use is required.

## E. Technical Specifications (for telecommunications sites only)

Frequencies on which the equipment is to operate

Power to be used (transmitter output)

Polarisation of the signal

Type of antennae

The likely portion of a 24 hour period that transmitting will occur

Heaviest period of use

## F. Term

Please detail the length of the term sought (i.e. number of years or months) and why.

*Note: An application for a concession for a period over 10 years must be publicly notified, an application for a concession up to 10 years will not be publicly notified unless the adverse effects of the activity are such that it is required, or if an exclusive interest in the land is required.*

Rapids Jet has held a concession to locate facilities on the Aratiatia Rapids Scenic Reserve since 1993. The current 10-year concession expires on 2 April 2023.

The owners of Rapids Jet are thinking long-term and want to continue to operate and grow the business to the highest safety and environmental standards. To make the ongoing investment that is required to achieve this requires greater certainty than what a 10-year concession provides.

A 30-year lease will provide the certainty that is needed. Regular reviews will ensure that the lease is in line with market rates.

## G. Bulk fuel storage

Under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act) 'Bulk fuel storage' is considered to be any single container, stationary or mobile, used or unused, that has a capacity in excess of 250 litres of Class 3 fuel types. This includes petrol, diesel, aviation gasoline, kerosene and Jet A1. For more information on Hazardous Substances, go to:

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/legal-framework/hsno-act-1996>

Do you intend to store fuel in bulk on the land as part of the activity?

**YES / NO**

If you have answered yes, then please provide full details of how and where you intend to store the fuel, and label any attachments including plans, maps and/or photographs as Attachment 3b:G. If your concession application is approved, you will be required to provide a copy of your HSNO compliance certification to the Department before you begin the activity.

The fuel required to operate the jet boats is bought on site each day in approved 20 litre fuel containers. These containers are placed in a fuel storage shed. The necessary fuel is carried down the walking track to the jet boat as required. All containers are removed from the site at the end of the day.



**Proposed lease area - Aratiatia Rapids Recreation Reserve**



**Proposed extension to visitor centre**



Proposed location of the new boat storage shed

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## H. Environmental Impact Assessment

**Please refer to the separate Environmental Impact Assessment**

This section is one of the most important factors that will determine the Department's decision on the application. Please answer in detail.

In column 1 please list all the locations of your proposal, please use NZTM GPS coordinates where possible. In column 2 list any special features of the environment or the recreation values of that area. Then in column 3 list any effects (positive or adverse) that your activity may have on the values or features in column 2. In column 4 list the ways you intend to mitigate, remedy or avoid any adverse effects noted in column 3. Please add extra information or supporting evidence as necessary and label Attachment 3b:H.

Refer to Steps 1 and 2 in your Guide to Environmental Impact Assessment to help you fill in this section.

Location on public conservation land	Special feature or value	Potential effects of your activity on the feature or value (positive or adverse)	Methods to remedy, mitigate or avoid any adverse effects identified



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## **I. Other**

Is there any further information you wish to supply in support of your application? Please attach if necessary and label Attachment 3a:l.

N/A