

Abel Tasman and Kaiteriteri concession allocation

Additional information for applicants – 9 December 2025

This document updates parties that have expressed an interest in the Abel Tasman and Kaiteriteri concession allocation process about a change to one of the relevant concession activity fees.

Please note: the *Stafford v Attorney-General* is a live litigation matter. Any decision made in relation to this allocation process may be subject to change as a result of negotiations. The Department will communicate any changes as soon as possible should the need arise.

Applications must be received by any operators, current or potential new operators, who wish to operate 2027 onwards. Applications are open until **5pm on Friday 19 December 2025**.

#	Question	Answer
1	I need support interpreting the provisions in the Abel Tasman management plans, specifically around whether certain vessels should be considered 'charter vessels' or 'cruising vessels'. Who can I speak with about this, and how are these vessel types defined in the plans?	<p>The Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan and the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserves Management Plan both define a commercial vessel as any vessel offered for hire or reward that is accompanied by a guide and/or skipper.</p> <p>Neither plan provides a definition for a cruise vessel, although the Foreshore Scenic Reserves Management Plan does refer to cruise ship considerations in several sections (see sections 8.2.9 'Cruise ships,' 11.7.1 'Recreation concessions,' 12.7.1 'Recreation concessions').</p> <p>The Foreshore Scenic Reserves Management Plan provides a detailed definition of a charter boat. A charter boat is a commercial vessel (excluding hovercraft, amphibious vessels and similar vessels) with an engine as the primary or secondary means of propulsion, that conveys one or more charter clients and meets all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The vessel is controlled by a skipper (a guide may also accompany the clients).



		<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The charter is at least three hours in duration and occurs on waters adjacent to, and within 1 nautical mile of, the reserve.3. No new clients are picked up during the charter.4. The vessel stays with the same client group throughout the activity (this may include dropping clients at one point and later collecting the same group from another point).5. The vessel displays the required concession identification tag.6. The vessel has a fully operational tracking device, if required. <p>Additional notes clarify that clients may go ashore by their own means if the vessel does not enter the reserve, and that further conditions of operation appear elsewhere in the plan.</p> <p>Because the plans define commercial vessels and charter boats but do not define cruising vessels, determining whether a specific vessel operation fits within “charter” or “cruising” requires applying the above criteria to the actual activity.</p>
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