

Abel Tasman and Kaiteriteri concession allocation Q+A responses

Additional information for applicants – 28 November 2025

This document sets out Q&As received from parties that have expressed an interest in the Abel Tasman and Kaiteriteri concession allocation process.

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	Can you clarify on behalf of the existing operators – is DOC still expecting applications forms from the existing operators in addition to the feedback / forward indications that they have provided earlier in the process?	Any operators, existing or potential new operators, must submit both an allocations application and a concession application if they wish to be considered to Operate a business within the Abel Tasman National Park and foreshore, as well as Kaiteriteri foreshore from 2027 onwards.
2	<p>Under the section on Impacts and Benefits to Conservation the description states: “Demonstrate the operator’s contribution to achieving conservation outcomes including processes in place to mitigate visitor impacts and preserve the historic and natural values of the area.” An example given is “In-kind returns to conservation.”</p> <p>However current operators contribute both in-kind and financially to the ecological restoration and preservation of the Abel Tasman National Park. Particularly along the coastal track. There would be no ecological restoration and preservation in this part of the Abel Tasman National Park if it was not for the in-kind and financial contribution by commercial operators.</p> <p>How will the financial contribution be recognised in the application process?</p>	<p>Both financial and in-kind contributions will be considered under the criteria ‘impacts on and benefits to conservation.’</p> <p>We recommend applicants focus on providing specific examples of these contributions where possible. Current examples of contributions include operators providing free access for conservation volunteers in kind, or financial donations to the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and the Marahau Pledge. Column 3 of the selection criteria provides more examples of information that operators could provide. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and it is up to the operator to determine how they best meet the criteria.</p> <p>For the purposes of this criterion, ‘financial contributions’ do not however include concession activity fees, which operators are legally obliged to pay for use of Crown land (even if the revenue from such fees is ultimately used to support management of the national park).</p>
3	<p>Our current concession for charter boat activity allows 4 trips per day, 40 per month and 240 in total over the six month summer season. Is this "number of trips" allocation the way the new concessions for Charter boats will be issued?</p> <p>The maximum number of charter boat trips during the six month season was not to</p>	Concession allocation for charter boat activity will be based on number of trips as per existing arrangements. The daily limit for charter boat trips remains unchanged and is based on limits set within the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan . This is 50 trips per day (for all concessionaires combined) during the peak season.



	<p>exceed 50 per day (clause 20 of the concession). Will this number carry over to the new concessions and what was the maximum daily number of charter boat trips recorded during the existing concessions?</p>	<p>Under the existing concessions, 41 of the 50 trips per day in the peak period are currently allocated. Charter boat activity is currently not fully allocated due to the surrender of some concessions.</p>
4	<p>Looking at Activity Fees, and the table you provide for pricing framework. This is an outdated version.</p> <p>The last few years Charter Boat activity has a single crossing option/payment.</p> <p>Also, Kaiteriteri activity fee is not "per person" - it has child rates, school rates etc.</p> <p>The actual rate I believe is linked back to water taxi one-way fares which we are not part of in anyway, so I cannot offer any light on those actual costs.</p>	<p>We note your comment, and to clarify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The default for Charter Boat trips is a double foreshore crossing. A single crossing option will continue to be available. • At Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve, the activity fee for use of the beach access point will continue to include child pricing. Specifically, for children aged 5-17 years the per person rate is half the stated adult rates and for children aged under 5 years there is no charge. Exemptions for some specific user types are continuing as per current arrangements (e.g. NZ school trip participants and guides). • The ATFSR crossing fee is based on one-way water taxi fares as noted at the top of the table. <p><i>Please note: due to ongoing considerations, fees for use of the beach access point at Kaiteriteri Beach may be subject to change. We intend to update interested parties with further information in the coming days.</i></p>
5	<p>We have concerns that weighting or consideration is given to the size of the applying business. Will this be done?</p> <p>A smaller family business may be limited in its people resources and skills to process and put together applications. Smaller businesses do not have the resources to finance or employ an external professional company to put together the applications, or members within their team who can dedicate time solely to this process.</p> <p>Your consideration and some weighting to this would be appreciated.</p>	<p>We recognise that there will be a variety of different businesses applying for concessions under this process and that larger businesses may have more resources to support them in the application process. The Department's objective is to run a fair and transparent allocation process. Weighting will not be given to specific business models. Instead, the Department will focus on which businesses best meet the criteria. We recommend focusing on clearly demonstrating how your business meets the criteria, using specific and tangible examples where possible.</p>
6	<p>Our question is: Is the fee structure changing for the Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve person movement to the below statement? or is a typo?</p> <p>If it isn't, what is the reason for changing the pricing structure and making it different from the In the Abel Tasman Foreshore Activity Fee structure.</p>	<p>At Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve, the fee structure for use of the beach access point is not changing and it will continue to include child pricing. Specifically, for children aged 5-17 years the per person rate is half the stated adult rates and for children aged under 5 years there is no charge. Exemptions for some specific user types are also continuing as per current arrangements (e.g. NZ school trip participants and guides).</p>



	<p><u>Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve – use of beach access point activity fee</u> <i>\$1.25 plus GST per person movement per day up to a maximum of \$2.50 plus GST per client per day.</i></p>	<p><i>Please note: due to ongoing considerations, fees for use of the beach access point at Kaiteriteri Beach may be subject to change. We intend to update interested parties with further information in the coming days.</i></p>
7	<p>Can you outline if there have been any changes to the provisions of the Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan 2008, the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan 2015 and the Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve Management Plan 2015 since they were approved. They are now quite old and having clarity on whether there have been any informal management decisions impacting the interpretation of the plan provisions over the last 20 years would be useful. Are there any informal guidance documents that may be relevant?</p>	<p>The management planning documents as published on our website are current and have not been amended since their last review date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan 2012 (partially reviewed 2015) • Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan 2008 • Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve and Kaka Point Historic Reserve Management Plan 2015 <p>The webpage for the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan includes links to concessionaire activity factsheets, which summarise the provisions of the management plan for different concession activities. There may have been informal advice provided on an ad-hoc basis, but this will not inform plan interpretation for the purpose of this process.</p>
8	<p>It would be useful to explain the relationship between the Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan ATFSRMP). Can you indicate what provisions of the NPMP are relevant for Charter Boat and Cruise Ship activity – it is unclear how the allocations in the NPMP may apply to clients of these water-based activities are considered. If guides are used while clients are on-shore what provisions of the NPMP are applicable. This question applies to both the allocation and concession processes and only relates to the interpretation of section 5.3 Concessions (not the wider plan).</p>	<p>The NPMP manages concession activities on the land above the mean high water mark (MHW) e.g. guided walking, whereas the ATFSRMP manages concession activities on the foreshore between MHW and mean low water springs, such as landing of various watercraft.</p> <p>Section 12 of the ATFSRMP specifically addresses the Foreshore Adjacent to National Park, and the integrated management of ATNPMP and the ATFSRMP. In the ATNPMP Section 5.3.2.1.11 contains the majority of the relevant implementations.</p> <p>Typically, Charter Boats and Cruise Ship tenders that are doing drop offs/pick ups from the beach will only require a concession for use of the ATFSR. However, if staff accompany clients into the national park, then provisions of the NPMP may apply as well. There are limits to commercially guided walking trips, including maximum number of trips a day and group sizes.</p>
9	<p>Given allocation decisions are made before concession decisions, how complete are the concession applications required to be? For some of the activities it may be necessary to undertake iwi engagement and more detailed assessment of effects. Can elements of this be completed once it is known if allocations have been granted.</p>	<p>We ask for concession applications to be as complete as possible at the time of submission. We will advise you if further information is needed to process your concession application after the allocation process is complete.</p>
10	<p>Can you provide a bit more context on how</p>	<p>Tenders that drop passengers at coastal access</p>



	tenders off cruise ships are considered in the ATFSRMP. If the staff of the cruise ship of the tender assists people onshore to get sorted, is this considered guiding or just part of the normal operation of dropping clients off?	points would require a concession for use of the foreshore, managed under the ATFSRMP. Staff assisting passengers would be considered within the normal operation of the concession for crossing the foreshore. Any further land-based activities, e.g. where staff accompany clients walking on the Coast Track, will require a guiding concession.
11	<p>The background to the Fair Allocation process for commercial activities in the Abel Tasman and Kaiteriteri states:</p> <p>"All land and water-based commercial activity on public conservation land requires a concession issued by DOC. The management plans for the Abel Tasman National Park, Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve (gazetted as Abel Tasman Scenic Reserve) and Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve specify limits on the amount of commercial activity at each of these locations. Limiting concession activity aims to protect conservation values and recreation experiences."</p> <p>Given that commercial activity in the Abel Tasman National Park benefits conservation values and recreation experiences via the Birdsong Levy to the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust.</p> <p>Are these documents still relevant given the most recent Management Plan for the Abel Tasman National Park is 2008 to 2018 and the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve was last reviewed in 2015?</p>	All management plan documents remain operative unless replaced through a formal review or amendment process. The activity limits set within those documents remain in place.
12	<p>It is great that in column 2 on the form you wish to know any effects (positive or adverse) that the activity may have on the values. However, column 3 "Methods to remedy, mitigate or avoid any adverse effects identified" only is interested in remedying adverse effects and does not include methods to enhance the positive effects. E.g. ensuring clients understand that part of their fare includes the Birdsong Levy that aims to restore and protect conservation values.</p> <p>Where do methods for enhancing positive effects get recorded?</p>	Positive effects may be considered under the allocation process criteria ' <i>impacts and benefits to conservation</i> ', ' <i>offerings to visitors</i> ' and ' <i>benefits to the local area</i> '. Column 3 of the selection criteria provides examples of information that operators could provide. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and it is up to the operator to determine how they best meet the criteria.