

**TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES
SUBCOMMITTEE**

File Ref 8/73-200808

**PROPOSED TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
IMPACT REPORT:****INTERNATIONAL RUGBY SEVENS STREET
CLOSURE- COURTENAY PLACE**

1. Wellington City Council City Events working with the Courtenay Place Accord wish to close a section of Courtenay Place between Cambridge Terrace and Tory Street, Blair Street and Allen Street will also be closed to through traffic towards the Courtenay Place ends.

The closure will be applied on Saturday 2 February in the evening between 6.00pm at night and 5.00am the following morning.

The closure will enable the positioning of a mobile stage for the use of bands and performers and to enable safe pedestrian flows on the Saturday evening of the Sevens Tournament. Courtenay Place in the closed area will be available for foot traffic only. In addition to the entertainment in place for the event, additional toilet trailers, lighting and rubbish units will be provided. Bars will be able to apply for special licences to extend their licensed areas subject to meeting the licence application requirements as indicated in the Police and DLA Newsletter 20 December 2007. This will provide a similar environment as applied to the Lions Tour closure, however with a more limited area and timeframe.

In the closed space outside the special license areas granted to individual bar applicants the liquor ban will remain in place.

It should be noted that the original request as advertised proposed to close Courtenay Place on both Friday 1 February and Saturday 2 February. Discussions with Stagecoach Limited, concerning the effects on buses during the Friday evening peak, have been taken into account and the closure request has now been changed as indicated above to Saturday evening only.

2. City Events Support

The International Rugby Sevens has become a significant fixture in the city's Events Calendar.

Closing Courtenay Place on the Saturday night will ease pedestrian traffic congestion and provide a safer environment in the area. The inclusion of entertainment and a big screen will add additional value to the 7's and provide a value added dimension for visitors and locals.

The proposed closure is supported by the recently formed Courtenay Accord – an alliance of bars and businesses in the area.

The event is supported by the City Events Team.

3. Proposal Notice

The public notice that the Council was proposing to consider this closure was published in the Dominion Post on Saturday 5 and Wednesday 9 January 2008.

4. Objections

- It should be noted that discussions with Stagecoach Limited indicated that they would not support the Friday night closure as initially requested but would support and could arrange alternative routes for the Saturday night closure.

5. Traffic Impact Assessment

Duration of Closure 11 Hours

Traffic Impact

In the opinion of Steve Spence acting as the Council's Traffic Engineer, the proposed closure if implemented according to the plans provided can be expected to have an effect on local traffic circulation by removing a section of Courtenay Place, a busy inner city street, from the traffic network, together with Blair and Allen Streets. The closures can be expected to result in some localised congestion at the ends of the closures on Cambridge Terrace, Tory Street and Wakefield Street, together with a loss of heavily used on-street car parks along the closed off lengths of street.

Taxis and bus services will be displaced along with general traffic.

However, such events involving weekend street closures have become quite common in the city and appear to be generally well accepted by the public who accept the traffic effects as a reasonable trade-off for the benefits provided by the events.

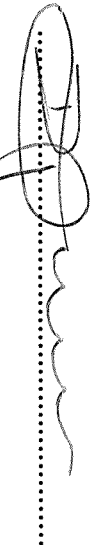
In this particular instance there should be little in the way of wider network effects because of the day of the week and the limited closure period proposed. It is understood that the bus operators have agreed to re-route their services and the Police believe the closure will enhance pedestrian safety.

I am of the view therefore that the proposed closure will be acceptable in terms of its traffic related effects subject to a high level of awareness being achieved

through advertising and a high standard of on street signage and traffic control at the closure points.

Note: The Council reserves the right to modify this opinion at any time. If, in the opinion of the Council, the closure may or does impede traffic unreasonably, any approval granted by the Temporary Road Closures Subcommittee may be revoked and the event organiser may be required to open the road at the direction of a suitably qualified Council officer in charge of traffic.


Signed:

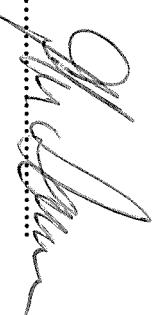


Title: Chief Transportation Engineer.....

ATTACHMENTS

- Copy of proposal notice from newspaper

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