



Street racing in central Wellington? Have your say

Absolutely **POSITIVELY** ME HEKE KI PÖNEKE VELUNGTON CTY COUNCIL

The Proposal

Wellington City Council is considering a proposal for the return of motor racing to the streets of the central city for the first time in nearly a decade.

The proposal is for the Council to host V8 Supercar street racing every April for seven years, starting next year. Each race event would be for three consecutive days, from midday Friday to Sunday. The event would be part of Australasia's premier motorsport series, and the Council has been approached by the Australian Vee–Eight Supercar Championship Organisation (AVESCO) to submit a proposal.

The proposed event is forecast to bring around \$23 million in new spending into the Wellington economy every year, and means the Council would need to raise about an extra \$2.5 million in rates each year of the race. It would also result in some disruptions to traffic, pedestrians and businesses in the vicinity of the race circuit.

We want to hear your views on the idea before City Councillors make a final decision on 5 May 2005.

This brochure provides an outline of the proposal and explains how you can have your say.

Why are we considering the street race?

The Council has identified the proposal as its preferred option to contribute to its vision for Wellington to be the 'Events Capital of New Zealand'. The proposed event would fit with the Council's Events Strategy, which seeks an 'icon' event by June 2006 to provide continuing new income and international exposure for the city.

The proposed street race circuit

The likely race circuit is illustrated on the race map (right). The actual street circuit, should this proposed be endorsed, might vary a little from that illustrated. An engineer's report commissioned by the Council has found Wellington City is a 'natural' for a street race, and that it is technically feasible to construct the proposed race circuit. Approval for the street circuit would have to be obtained from the Motorsport Association of New Zealand on behalf of the International Automobile Federation (FIA).







What does the proposal require of the Council?

The costs to the Council of hosting the V8 street race would be the capital costs involved in constructing the race circuit; a fixed annual contribution to a race promoter to help run the event, and specific annual operating costs involved in setting up the street circuit for the event each year.

The race promoter would take all commercial risks and responsibility for running the event (tickets selling, race promotion, corporate sponsorship and so on).

The total cost to the Council is estimated to be an average of \$3.95 million each year. Of these costs, it is estimated that each year an average of \$0.65 million would be funded from external revenue (Government grants and external funding agencies) and \$0.8 million from existing related Council funds.

The balance – around 2.5 million each year – would be funded through rates. This equates to a 1.6% increase in total rates for 2005/06.

What does this mean for you?

The Council is considering a range of funding proposals that would have a varying impact on rates for different sectors of the community.

The table below outlines five options for how the Council might split the 1.6% rates rise across the city's ratepaying sectors, and how that might affect different ratepayers. The estimates are based on average property values for downtown, commercial, and everyone else (which includes residential ratepayers).

The Council has voted on option 5 as its preferred option, however this could change following consultation and would be subject to change each year of the event – when the Council votes on its Annual Plan.

	Option	Share of rates			\$ rates increase for average capital value (see notes below table)		
1		Down town	All Commercial	Everyone else – including Residential	Down town	All Commercial	Everyone else – including Residential
	1	20%	80%	-	\$478	\$217	
	2	100%		1000	\$1,084	22232	1000
	3	-	59%	41%		\$353	\$17
	4	40%	35%	25%	\$439	\$209	\$10
	5	50%	40%	10%	\$542	\$239	\$4

 Average property values: Commercial (downtown only) \$1.973m, Commercial (all properties) \$1.631m, Everyone else (including residential) \$0.380m.

- Downtown commercial properties would also be liable for the general commercial rates increase
- Indicative rates increases are shown exclusive of GST.

Economic impact

The race is expected to generate total new spending in Wellington of \$22.9 million each April. The immediate beneficiaries of this new expenditure would be restaurants, cafés and bars; commercial accommodation; retail shopping outlets; and general services purchased by teams, organisers, and ancillary services. The \$22.9 million figure relates to money coming in from visitors from outside Wellington – no spending from Wellingtonians is included.

In addition to new spending, there would also be a number of lessquantifiable benefits to be accrued from hosting the race, such tourism growth, television exposure to large international audiences, and the build-up of local services and skills that support the race event.

A sense of fun and vitality

Hosting the race would signal a return of motorsport to Wellington City for the first time in nearly a decade. For thousands of motorsport fans in Wellington, the event would provide a unique opportunity to watch highclass street racing. Events of this scale also add to a sense of excitement and vitality in the city – there would be a significant influx of visitors who come to be part of the event.

The Australian experience with V8 races points to a high proportion of families attending races, attendance from people across all ranges of income levels, and a growing proportion of female attendees and interest levels.

Environmental impacts

The City Council's District Plan provides for a street race event as a permitted activity, within certain conditions that control the hours of operation and maximum noise levels. The race cars would generate considerable noise, but noise levels would have to be within the limits prescribed by the District Plan.





Street closures

The event would require the closure of the streets used for the race, and in the surrounding area, to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Pedestrian access to the race site, which includes the track itself and the surrounding perimeter area, would be restricted during the event to those with accreditation or entry passes.

The limited general public access to businesses within the event site would be balanced to some degree by the large numbers of race-goers and other pedestrians within the site. Individual negotiations with affected retailers and businesses would take place to seek to arrange suitable access. Every effort would be made by the event promoter to ensure negative effects were minimised.

Building the track – and then dismantling it

Work on building the race circuit would begin a maximum of four weeks before the event, and dismantling would be completed up to three weeks afterward. There would be some limited disruption to traffic during the construction and dismantling phases.

What other options did the Council consider for an icon event?

The Council has considered two other options for securing an icon event with significant, recurring benefits – to find an alternative to the V8 street race, or to develop a local event.

'Icon' events are limited in availability, usually bound by several-year contracts with host cities, and often not recurring in nature. It would be difficult to secure such an alternative icon event by June 2006.

While the Council actively supports growing local events – such as the Cuba Street Carnival and the Diwali Festival of Light – these take a long time to grow to 'icon' status with the level of economic benefit that the Council's Events Strategy is seeking.

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How you can make your views known

The Council wants your views on the proposal. You can make a submission on the proposal – submissions close on Monday 18 April 2005. Should you also wish to be heard by City Councillors, a public hearing will be held on Tuesday 26 April, with reserve days available if they are required.

City Councillors will vote on 5 May on whether to support the proposal. If the Council does support hosting the event, a bid proposal would be provided to the race organisers, with a final decision expected from them around the middle of May 2005.

To find out more:

The full Statement of Proposal is available at:

- www.Wellington.govt.nz
- the City Council reception desk at 101 Wakefield Street or from any Wellington City Library
- our Call Centre on 499 4444 we'll mail you a copy
- by request from streetrace@wcc.govt.nz

The Council's Events Strategy, and the Economic Impact Report and Residents' Support Survey that we commissioned for this proposal, are also available on the Council's website.

How to have your say:

- post your submission to: Street Race Consultation, Freepost 2199, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199 Wellington
- email your submission to streetrace@wcc.govt.nz
- visit and fill in the electronic submission form online.

Submissions must be received by 4pm Monday 18 April 2005.

This is a summary of information of a statement of proposal as required by section 89 of the Local Government Act 2002. The proposal requires an amendment to the Wellington City Council's 2003/04 Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). To see the parts of Council's LTCCP to be amended, please see the full Statement of Proposal.

Racing photos courtesy of the Dominion Post



Submission Form

Proposal to host V8 Supercar Championship Series for seven years from April 2006

Please fill out this submission form and return by 4pm Monday 18 April 2005.

Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr (circle which applies)						
First Name(s)						
Last Name						
Street Address						
Phone						
Email						
Please tick which box applies in each statement.						
I want to speak to my submission on 26 April at a Yes No						
(If yes, please ensure you have provided a contact phone number. Council staff will contact you to arrange a submission time).						
I support the V8 Supercar Series Yes No						
I support the Wellington City Council financially Yes No						
My comments are (please use additional pages if required):						

Place this page in an envelope and post to the Council at "Street Race Consultation, Freepost 2199, PO Box 2199, Wellington" or fax it to 801 3231 or drop it into a Council Service Centre or the Council offices.

Privacy Statement: All written submissions (including name and details) will be made available to the Mayor, Councillors and the public.