

FILM WHANGANUI

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI, WELCOME

Thank you for choosing Whanganui as your film destination. We want your experience to be as easy and productive as possible, as well as ensuring your shoot doesn't impact negatively on our community and environment.

OBJECTIVES

This document is for film makers and production companies considering filming in Whanganui. It may also be useful for local businesses.

It aims to:

- Promote Whanganui region as a film-friendly and attractive filming location
- Outline procedures and set out what is required of production companies

WHANGANUI OFFERS

- A regional city of just under 50,000 people
- Two-and-a-half-hour drive from Wellington
- Easy one-hour flight from Auckland
- Experienced below-the-line labour force
- Easy access to spectacular landscape and heritage architecture
- Preserved historic Victorian streetscapes

PERMITS FOR FILMING

Filming in public Whanganui locations (including roads, footpaths, Whanganui District Council property and recreational space) requires a Film Whanganui Permit. Applying for a Permit is currently free for productions, although particular locations or additional services may incur charges.

In addition, other permits are required as indicated below.

PERMISSION TO FILM WHANGANUI RIVER

Whanganui is special and one of the most beautiful and treasured features of the region is our river. The story of our river, its unique history, its importance in the lives of our people, and its protection for the future are of the utmost importance to us all. Our river is so distinctly special that its rights have been recognised in legislation. In 2017, Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act was passed in Parliament. This historic bill recognises the special relationship between the Whanganui River and Whanganui iwi. The bill recognises Whanganui River as deserving of the rights, protections and respect afforded a living being. The bill also provides for the river's long-term protection and restoration. Te Awa Tupua legislation reflects the unique ancestral relationship of Whanganui iwi and the river. Iwi who live – and who have lived for generations – along the river, hold with it a deep spiritual connection. To Whanganui iwi, the river is seen as a living being inseparable from the people who live alongside it.

If you want to film on or around the Whanganui River, it is important you take into consideration the overarching importance of Te Awa Tupua. Start by speaking with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Group (tangata: people, tiaki: to protect or care for). It is important that you include discussion with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki in plans you have to film or produce media on or around the river in Whanganui. Communication with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki will help you carry out your project with the wealth of knowledge and understanding our special river and region deserve.

General information on the Whanganui River, including its cultural significance to Whanganui iwi and the status of legal personhood can be found here:

<https://www.ngatangatatiaki.co.nz/for-your-information/faqs/>

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Filming on private land requires you to secure permission from landowners. Where possible, we are happy to assist with helping you access their contact details.

PERMISSION TO FILM ON DOC LAND

Filming on any Department of Conservation parks and reserves will require a permit.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/business-or-activity/filming/>

ROAD CLOSURES

We can facilitate road closures with the Whanganui District Council, please apply for a Film Whanganui Permit. Please allow for a minimum of 50 days for road closure applications. Applications for closure of under 12 hours are approved by Whanganui District Council Chief Executive, applications for over 12 hours must be approved by Council Committee. Note: closure of a State Highway requires permission from NZTA and must be applied for separately. <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/state-highway-control-manual/docs/sm012-consolidated-part-07-emergencies-events-closures-sections-201711.pdf>

FILMING WITH A DRONE

Commercial and recreational users of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAs) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Drones may operate on council-owned or operated land with the appropriate written consent. Permits for filming are free. If you wish to fly a drone over private land you must obtain the owner's permission.

If you wish to fly a drone above a council park or reserve you must apply for a Film Whanganui Permit.

Operating a RPAS/drone within 4 km of either Whanganui Airport or the Whanganui Base Hospital helipad is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** unless you have first obtained the prior consent of both Council and the Whanganui Airport Authority. You must obtain the prior permission from the Whanganui Airport Authority each time you wish to fly your drone within the 4km zones of Whanganui Airport or Whanganui Base Hospital helipad.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

As well as submitting the appropriate permits for filming, you'll need to provide:

- Confirmation of Public Liability Insurance
- Health & Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment Register for each location

Any damage caused by the production company shall be repaired to the original condition in which the property stood at the time of damage. This shall be at the expense of the production company. All costs associated with clearing litter and other waste generated by filming activities, and for any damage to parks, irrigation, roads and other council property will be borne by the production company.

Film credits should acknowledge the assistance of Film Whanganui in addition to giving credit to any area featured in the Whanganui District.

WHANGANUI REGIONAL FILM OFFICE

Whanganui's Regional Film Office is based at Whanganui & Partners, the economic development agency for Whanganui. We work closely with the New Zealand Film Commission and the Regional Film Office NZ network.

We can help with:

- Detailed information on sourcing and accessing Whanganui locations
- Assistance securing local crew and logistics including accommodation and catering
- Facilitation of permits

Contact: Emma Bugden, manager Film Whanganui
+27 212 8279 | emma.bugden@whanganuiandpartners.nz | 179 St Hill Street, Whanganui