



**SCREEN
AUCKLAND**

**NGĀ TIKANGA HOPU WHAKAAHUA
I TE ROHE O TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU**

SCREEN AUCKLAND PROTOCOL 2026

Filming in Auckland's Public Places

screenauckland.com

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MAYORAL FOREWORD

Auckland Council is proud to support Auckland's screen industry, which generates jobs, attracts investment and helps put our city on the map.

It supports around 7,000 jobs, involves 2,385 businesses across the region, while in 2024 the sector generated nearly \$1.5 billion in production revenue. It helps showcase the city on the world stage and makes Aucklanders feel proud about who we are.

The updated Screen Auckland Protocol ensures we keep pace with changes in technology, regulation and industry practice. It provides clear expectations for productions while making sure filming is managed responsibly and with respect for our communities, environment and public spaces.

We want Auckland to remain one of the best places in the world to make films, television programmes and digital content. That means having practical rules, efficient processes and a council that understands the value the industry brings.

When international and domestic productions choose to film here, it helps promote Auckland's reputation as a city that welcomes investment and gets things done.

Wayne Brown
Mayor of Auckland



TĀTAKI AUCKLAND UNLIMITED

Aucklanders deserve to be proud of our region's screen sector, for telling our stories on screens big and small – and those of an impressive line-up of international clients. The sector delivers quality jobs and income for local businesses, landowners and ratepayers.

Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (TAU), the region's cultural, events and destination agency, places value on this sector through Screen Auckland, our team dedicated to supporting screen activity. We work closely with all parties involved in or affected by filming, supporting the kaupapa of this revised film protocol.

If it takes a team to make a film, it takes a community to support their efforts. We look forward to working together.

Nick Hill

CE, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited



1. INTRODUCTION

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland is recognised globally as a dynamic and film-friendly screen production destination. With its stunning natural landscapes, skilled workforce, and world-class facilities, the region supports a wide range of screen activities, from feature films and television series to commercials, documentaries, still photography, animation, and post-production.

The screen sector plays a vital role in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland’s economy, creating jobs, driving innovation, and contributing to a vibrant creative sector. Its growth supports the aspirations of the Auckland Plan 2050, which envisions a prosperous city with opportunities for all, underpinned by international connectivity and an agile, future-focused economy.

Productions made in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland reach audiences around the world, showcasing our region’s unique character and building pride in who we are. This global visibility helps attract talent, investment, and visitors, while strengthening Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland’s reputation as a place where creativity thrives.

At the same time, filming in public spaces requires thoughtful coordination. Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland’s approach balances the need for fast, responsive permitting with care for local communities, mana whenua, businesses, and the environment. By working together, we can ensure the screen sector continues to grow in a way that is respectful, sustainable, and widely supported.

\$1.46B

Screen GDP for
Tāmaki Makaurau
Auckland

2,385

Screen industry
businesses based in
Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

6,944

Screen employment
in Tāmaki Makaurau
Auckland

Figure 1: Screen sector stats in 2025





Cowboy Bebop Cr. Kristy Griffin/ Netflix© 2021.

1.1 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Screen Auckland Protocol 2026 supports a thriving screen industry in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland by promoting it as a desirable filming destination while ensuring filming activity is carried out respectfully, with consideration for the public, mana whenua, local businesses, and the environment.

To achieve this, the objectives of the document aim to:

- foster a film-friendly culture across Auckland Council, its council-controlled organisations (CCOs) and the wider region to attract and retain screen production
- provide a streamlined, customer-focused service that gives the screen sector clarity and confidence in a competitive global market
- encourage public goodwill by outlining respectful filming practices in shared spaces and sensitive locations.

Realising these objectives relies on a shared commitment between the Auckland Council Group¹ and the screen sector to communicate openly, collaborate thoughtfully, and remain mindful of local needs.

The Screen Auckland Protocol 2026 replaces the Auckland Film Protocol 2019. Auckland Council continues its long-standing support for the screen sector, first formalised in 2013 with the adoption of the original Auckland Film Protocol. This document outlines the processes, thresholds, and conditions under the council's delegation to Screen Auckland, ensuring filming activity aligns with legislation, policy, and the practical needs of the industry.

1. The term “Auckland Council Group” refers to Auckland Council and all Council Controlled Organisations and subsidiary companies. In this case, it excludes Watercare and Ports of Auckland.

1.2 WHO IS THIS DOCUMENT FOR?

This document is for filmmakers considering filming in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and photographers taking stills. It signifies the council's commitment to the screen production sector and outlines what filmmakers can expect and what is expected of them when filming in, on or around council-controlled public places in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

It is also relevant to students, drone operators, property developers, and content creators who film or photograph stills in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's public places.

Others with an interest may include the public, mana whenua, businesses and council staff seeking to understand Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's processes, thresholds and conditions when filming in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

1.3 CORE COMMITMENTS

1.3.1 Commitment to the screen sector

SUPPORT

The Auckland Council Group will support and approve filming wherever practicable, unless there is a compelling reason not to².

PROBLEM SOLVING

Screen Auckland will work collaboratively with the screen sector to address any challenges arising from proposed filming activities.

TIMELY DECISIONS

Where a film permit application cannot be approved, Screen Auckland will make best endeavours to progress decisions quickly and transparently and will work with applicants to identify alternative options where possible.

FACILITATION

Screen Auckland will facilitate and streamline the application process to minimise delays and provide clarity for applicants.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Screen Auckland will continually seek to improve its customer-focused service to the screen industry.

INCLUSIVITY

Screen Auckland is committed to providing a consistent quality of service across all scales and types of filming and photography.

2. Compelling reasons include risks to public safety, significant environmental or cultural impacts, critical infrastructure constraints, or access restrictions arising from emergencies or recovery works.



1.3.2 Commitment to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Screen Auckland will consider the benefits of filming alongside the potential impacts on Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's communities and environment, and will help guide productions on appropriate engagement where needed.

CULTURAL VALUES

Screen Auckland will work with the screen sector to ensure mana whenua tikanga and kawa (cultural practices) are respected, and that sensitive information is appropriately protected in culturally significant areas.

IMPACT MANAGEMENT

Screen Auckland will work with the screen sector to mitigate negative effects and enhance positive outcomes for Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

1.3.3 Commitment to fostering collaborative working relationships

COLLABORATION

Screen Auckland will foster effective partnerships between the screen sector, mana whenua, Auckland Council, local communities, businesses and stakeholders.



1.4 WHAT DOES FILM-FRIENDLY MEAN?

Being film-friendly means creating an environment where screen productions are supported through clear, timely, and practical processes, while also respecting mana whenua, local communities, businesses, and the environment affected by filming.

It reflects the council's commitment to enabling access where appropriate, minimising unnecessary barriers, and maintaining public trust by ensuring filming is well-managed, culturally responsive, and aligned with our vision of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland as a world-class screen destination.



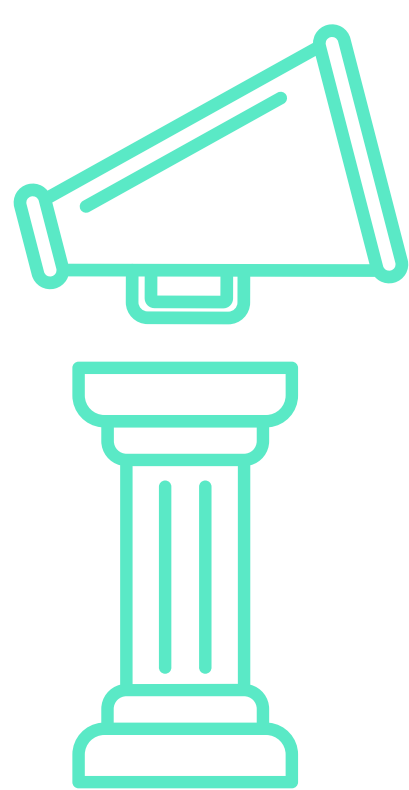
1.5 ABOUT SCREEN AUCKLAND

Screen Auckland is the regional film office for Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and is part of Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, a Council-Controlled Organisation.

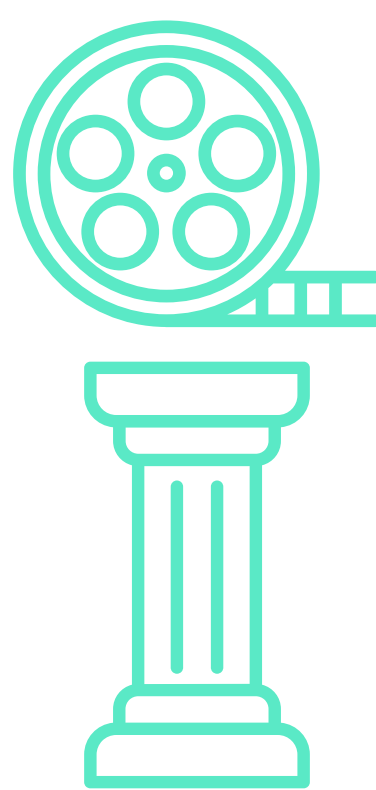
Under the **Public Trading, Events and Filming Bylaw 2022**, the council regulates filming activity in public places across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Authority to assess and issue film permits is delegated to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, with Screen Auckland acting as the lead agency.

Screen Auckland’s role is to support filming that is respectful, well-coordinated, and beneficial to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, while helping productions navigate requirements efficiently and clearly.

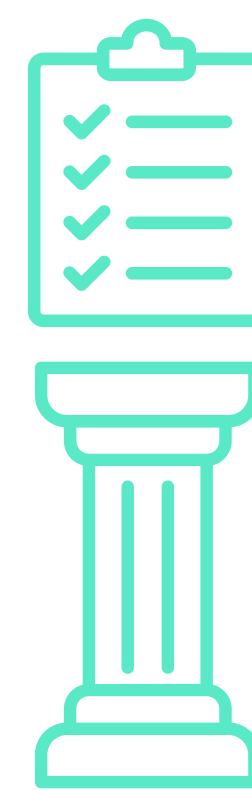
The team supports and promotes the screen industry by helping attract productions to the region and by ensuring filmmakers’ practical needs are understood and addressed. This work is guided by a commitment to maintaining Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland as a film-friendly city with a world-class production environment.



ADVOCACY



ATTRACTION



FACILITATION

Figure 2: 3 Pillars of Screen Auckland – Advocacy, Attraction and Facilitation.

1.6 ABOUT MANA WHENUA

Māori are the indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand, with enduring ancestral and cultural connections to the land, waters, and skies of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. These relationships are upheld through iwi (tribes), hapū (sub-tribes), and whānau (families), who act as kaitiaki – guardians of their whenua (land) and taonga (treasures).

Mana whenua refers specifically to the iwi and hapū who hold customary authority in particular areas of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. As guardians of place, they have responsibilities for protecting cultural heritage, natural resources, and wāhi tapu (sacred sites).

Filming activities can intersect with these cultural values and associations. Understanding and respecting the role of mana whenua is therefore an important part of filming responsibility in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.



1.7 HOW TO READ THIS DOCUMENT

This document is a practical reference guide. It is not intended to be read cover to cover.

Appendix A sets out the conditions that apply when filming in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and should be read alongside the main document.

Appendix B provides practical guidance for obtaining a film permit, including location-specific advice and how to manage impacts in public places.

Use the table of contents and section headings to navigate directly to the information relevant to your activity.

START HERE:

New to filming in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland?

Begin reading the overviews of the sections to understand how our film permit system operates and what types of activity require approval.

Need to know if approval is required?

Refer to [➤ Approval to film](#) and [➤ Production size and impact table](#)

Filming in public places?

[➤ Appendix A](#) outlines the baseline conditions that apply and are particularly relevant to those who can film without a film permit.

Applying for a film permit?

See the [➤ Application guidance](#) and [➤ Appendix B](#) for how the film permit process works, location-specific considerations and supporting activities.

Planning a complex or higher impact shoot?

Review [➤ Consultation](#), [➤ Specialist activities](#), and [➤ Common pitfalls and avoiding delays](#) before submitting your application.

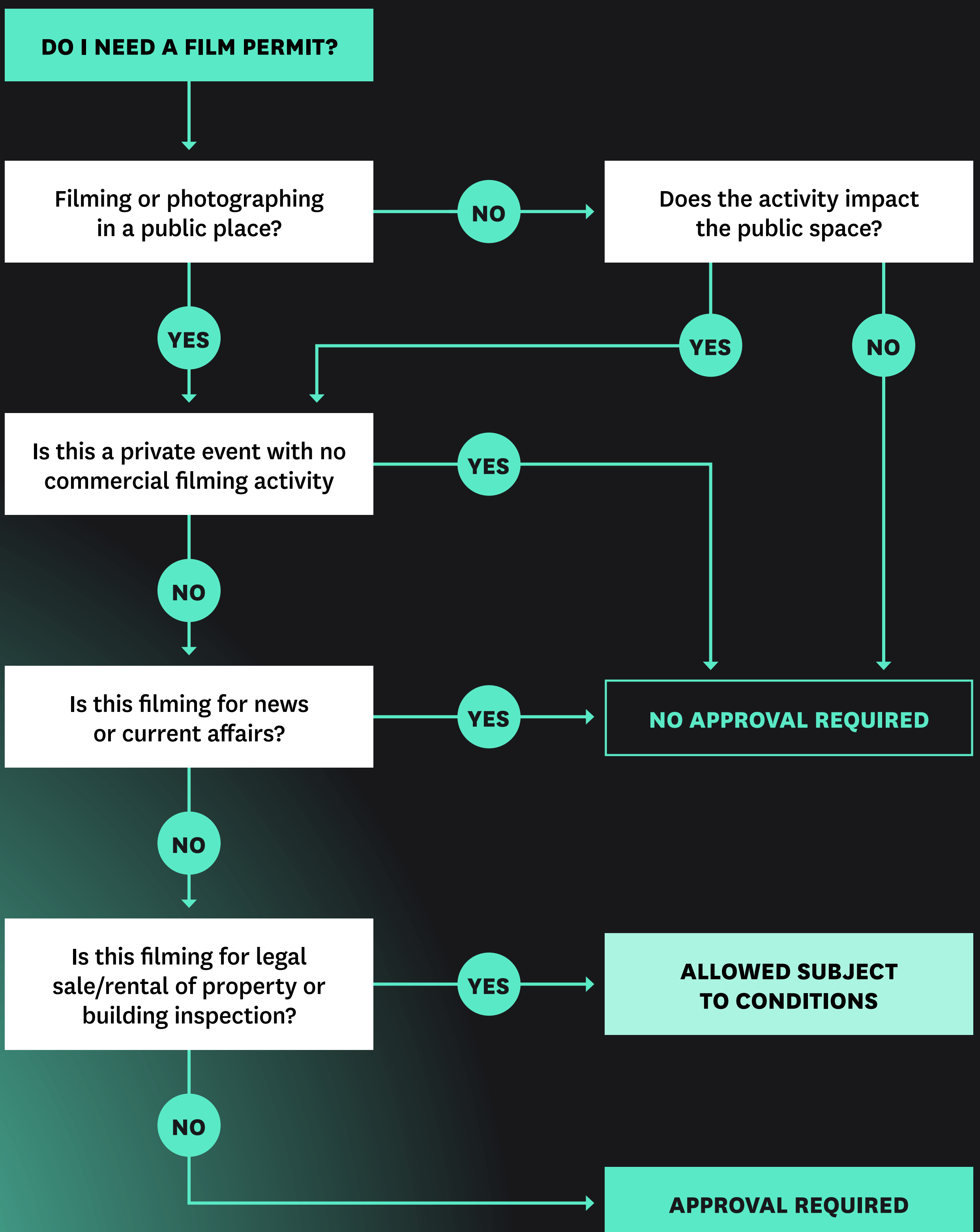


2. APPROVAL TO FILM

Filming activity is defined in the **Public Trading, Events and Filming Bylaw 2022** as the recording of moving or still images as part of an organised activity, whether or not for monetary gain.

Most filming activity in Auckland's public places requires approval.

Important Note: Screen Auckland's remit covers activities within Auckland Council Group. Any approvals required from external entities, such as private landowners or other organisations, must be obtained by the applicant independently.




2.1 EXEMPT FILMING ACTIVITIES

The following filming activities are exempt from requiring approval:

- news and current affairs
- filming of a private celebration or private event

All other filming activities require approval.

2.2 ACTIVITIES THAT DON'T NEED A FILM PERMIT OR LICENCE


The following activities may proceed without a film permit or licence, provided all the conditions in  *Appendix A* are met:

- filming of premises for lawful property sale or rental purposes
- filming of premises for lawful building inspection purposes

If the conditions cannot be met, the activity requires approval via a film licence or film permit.

2.3 FILM LICENCES

Film Licences support flexible, low-impact filming in public places and are intended for individual operators, such as photographers, drone operators, or social media content creators. Licences can be issued for six or 12 months.

A licence allows individuals to film as needed during the licence period, without applying for a separate film permit for each activity, provided the filming remains within the conditions set out in  *Appendix A*, including any location exclusions.

Who may prefer a film licence to a film permit:

- drone operators capturing footage for professional portfolios or where timing is weather-dependent
- photographers capturing family portraits or events not covered under an event permit or trading licence
- verified content creators producing social media or online content
- real estate agents filming local areas outside of the premises for property sales or rentals

Film licences do not grant exclusive use of public places and do not override the requirement to obtain a film permit where filming involves specific locations, activities, or circumstances that fall outside the general conditions.

A minimum of \$2 million Public Liability Insurance is required and must be valid for the duration of the licence.

Payment is required upon licence issuance. Film licences do not automatically renew.



2.3.1 Applying for a film licence

To obtain a licence, applicants should contact Screen Auckland with details of their proposed activity, including:


- the general purpose of filming or still photography
- equipment and content type
- a Certificate of Currency for Public Liability Insurance of at least \$2 million, valid for the duration of the licence.

2.3.2 Fees for a film licence

Licences will be piloted before confirming the actual cost and timeframes. They will begin at \$75 for three months and will not automatically recur.

2.4 FILM PERMITS

A film permit is required for most organised filming in council-controlled public places, including activities that may affect mana whenua, communities, businesses, or the environment. This applies whether or not the activity is commercial.

Film permits are assessed and priced using a multi-tier impact framework, outlined in the  *Production size and impact table*.

Permit processing timeframes are provided in  *Processing timeframes*.

A film permit authorises filming activity within agreed conditions. It does not create a property right or permanent occupation of a space. Public access must be maintained unless specific conditions allow temporary restrictions for safety or operational reasons. The conditions in the permit apply in addition to, and where relevant override, the general guidance in this document.

Film permit holders are responsible for understanding and complying with all permit conditions and any applicable requirements set out in this document.

Conditions and feedback may differ from previous filming at the same location, even if the proposal is exactly the same. All applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account current circumstances.

For specific guidance on applying for a film permit and fees, see  *Appendix B*.





Cowboy Bebop Cr. Kristy Griffin/ Netflix© 2021.

2.5 WHEN OTHER APPROVALS MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED

Some filming activities may also include elements regulated under other sections of the ***Public Trading, Events and Filming Bylaw 2022***. A film permit or licence authorises only the filming component of an activity and does not replace any other approvals required under the bylaw.

For example, brand activations may involve filming alongside the distribution of goods or public engagement activities. Where items such as flyers, samples, or vouchers are distributed in a public place, a trading approval under the bylaw may be required. In these cases, a film permit or licence may be issued for the filming component only.

Similarly, where filming takes place within the footprint of a larger event, such as a market, festival, or public performance, an event permit may be required. If filming is not covered by the event approval or occurs outside the approved event footprint, a separate film permit or licence is required.

2.6 FILMING WITHOUT APPROVAL

Filming without the required film permit or licence, or breaching the conditions of an issued approval, is considered unauthorised filming. This includes activities that do not require a permit or licence but fail to comply with applicable conditions in this document.

Filming in public places carries responsibilities. Unauthorised activity can create safety risks, undermine community trust, and affect the reputation of both the production and the wider screen sector in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. It may also limit access to certain locations for future productions or location managers.

Auckland Council may monitor filming activity at its discretion, particularly in sensitive locations or where filming is assessed as high or major impact. Production companies must comply with any lawful directions issued by staff of the Auckland Council Group.



Where unauthorised filming occurs, consequences may include:

- suspension or shutdown of the activity
- impacts on a production company's ability to obtain future approvals
- retrospective location or permit fees
- insurance implications
- enforcement action under relevant legislation or bylaws³
- prohibition on the use of footage captured during the unauthorised activity
- enforcement action under the **Resource Management Act 1991** where resource consent is required

Screen Auckland's approach is facilitative and solution-focused. When issues arise, it will generally engage the location manager or production representative to understand what occurred and agree on practical steps to prevent recurrence.

The objective is to maintain safe, well-managed filming in public places and protect the long-term ability of the screen sector to operate successfully in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

2.7 HOW YOUR INFORMATION IS BEING USED

When you apply for a film permit or licence, the information you provide is used solely to assess the application and obtain internal approvals to film in public places.

The information is treated as confidential and is not shared outside the Auckland Council Group. Screen Auckland applies a need-to-know approach to the use of production information and includes a disclaimer stating that it is not to be further distributed.

Where information relating to filming is requested under the **Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987** (LGOIMA), any release is assessed in accordance with that Act. Information will be withheld or redacted where required to protect personal privacy, commercially sensitive information, or other protected interests.

3. Council may seize or impound equipment under section 164 of the Local Government Act 2002, or prosecute breaches of a film permit under section 242 of the Local Government Act 2002. Fines of up to \$20,000 can be issued under the Public Trading, Events and Filming Bylaw 2022.



3. SUPPORTING AND ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Screen productions play an important role in the communities in which they film. Contributing positively to local business, mana whenua, and community groups helps ensure that filming remains a welcome and valued activity across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

3.1 USING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Where practicable, productions should source catering, supplies, and services from local providers. This supports the local economy and strengthens relationships with communities affected by filming.

3.2 GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Positive on-the-ground experiences directly influence whether filming is welcomed in the future. Productions are encouraged to consider how their activity can leave a lasting, positive impression.

Examples may include:

- promoting or acknowledging local businesses in the production or credits
- advising residents or businesses if the project will screen in Aotearoa New Zealand and sharing viewing details where appropriate
- acknowledging mana whenua, local boards, and community organisations in the credits
- providing koha or support to local schools, community groups, or heritage sites
- offering work experience, employment, or extras opportunities to local people
- creating promotional content that supports conservation or heritage locations
- engaging with mana whenua to support accurate use of Māori place names, local history, and cultural narratives

Early engagement with mana whenua, local boards, and community representatives supports respectful filming and helps identify opportunities for positive collaboration.



3.3 MINIMISING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Film productions share an interest in protecting the locations that make filming possible. Productions are expected to minimise their environmental footprint wherever practicable and to reinstate locations to their original condition following filming.

Productions are encouraged to:

- use public transport, shuttles, or ridesharing where feasible to reduce vehicle emissions
- choose energy-efficient equipment and manage fuel use carefully
- minimise water use and avoid unnecessary noise or air pollution
- reduce waste through reuse, recycling, and composting
- avoid single-use plastics and provide clear waste separation systems on set.



Sweet Tooth, ©NETFLIX. All Rights Reserved.





The Wrecking Crew Amazon MGM Studios.

4. APPENDIX A: FILMING IN TĀMAKI MAKAURAU AUCKLAND

To maintain Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland’s vibrant, film-friendly reputation and ensure productions remain welcome, it is essential that anyone filming or taking stills in public places accommodates the needs of mana whenua, local communities, and businesses. Filming creates positive experiences where locals are informed, engaged, and sometimes involved. Conversely, negative experiences can make it difficult for productions to gain cooperation from locals in the future.

Appendix A sets out the general conditions that apply to all filming in public places, whether undertaken under a film licence or film permit, unless specifically varied in writing. These conditions are designed to protect the environment and public places, while creating positive experiences for everyone involved.

The conditions below apply to all filming activity in public places, including recces and shoots, and form part of a collective effort to ensure filming continues to enrich Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland’s communities, landscapes, and creative identity.

Where a film permit has been issued, the conditions in that permit take precedence over the general conditions in this appendix.


For specific guidance on film permits, see [▶ Appendix B.](#)



4.1 OTHER RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Filming in public places must comply with relevant Auckland Council plans, bylaws, and council policies. A film permit does not override other regulatory requirements.

4.1.1 Additional approvals: resource and building consents

Some filming activities may require additional statutory approvals, such as resource consent or building consent. Where required, these approvals must be obtained in addition to a film permit. Specific guidance on resource and building consents can be found under  *Specialist activities*.

4.1.2 Waste and litter

Anyone filming in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland’s public places is expected to take reasonable steps to minimise waste and manage it responsibly. This includes using low-waste or zero-waste practices where practicable, such as avoiding single-use catering items (e.g., disposable plates and cutlery).

4.1.3 Harm reduction

Auckland Council promotes harm reduction to support healthy, safe, and inclusive public places. This includes managing the impacts of alcohol, smoking, gambling, and other activities that may contribute to harm.

Productions should consider how filming activity may appear to the public and take reasonable steps to avoid promoting or normalising harmful behaviour, particularly in public places.



4.1.4 Advertising and content standards

Filming content for television commercials or other promotional material is expected to comply with the  *Advertising Standards Authority’s codes*.

4.1.5 Health and safety

All filming activity must be carried out safely and in a way that protects the crew, the public, and anyone affected by the activity. Risks should be appropriately identified and managed, and public safety should not be compromised.

Anyone undertaking filming activity in public places is expected to comply with applicable health and safety requirements and follow recognised industry best practice, where relevant to the scale and nature of the activity. This includes:

- following  *ScreenSafe Health and Safety Guidelines*
- following best-practice processes for the engaging crew in the New Zealand screen sector as outlined in the  *Blue Book*.



4.1.6 Hours and days of filming

Filming activity must comply with applicable limits on duration, timing, noise, and lighting set out in relevant plans and bylaws. Some filming activity may require additional approvals where permitted thresholds are exceeded.

Productions are encouraged to plan filming at times that minimise disruption to communities, businesses, and regular users of public places. Certain locations experience higher use at specific times of day or year, including during summer, public holidays, major retail periods, and school holidays.

4.1.6.1 INDICATIVE TIMING CONSIDERATIONS FOR PUBLIC PLACES

These are guidelines only and do not replace permit conditions or regulatory requirements.

| Area | Days | Hours | Notes |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| City centre retail areas | Weekdays | Avoid | Avoid peak commute times on weekdays, and shopping hours on weekends. Filming activity must coordinate with contracted works and events in the area. |
| | Saturday | Before 10am or after 5pm | |
| | Sunday | Before 11am or after 4pm | |
| Retail areas outside of the CBD | Where possible, filming to occur outside of business hours or at traditionally quiet times. | | |
| All retail areas | Avoid key retail areas the week before Christmas and avoid Mother's Day and Father's Day. | | |
| All business areas | Avoid times of high pedestrian and commuter traffic, and the times can vary based on the businesses. | | |
| High-use parks and reserves | Weekdays | Generally avoid | Avoid the use of these spaces during public and school holidays |
| | Weekends | | |
| Residential areas | Monday – Saturday | Set up from 6am Filming 7am - 10pm | Includes places of accommodation businesses e.g. hotels, apartments, lodges, etc. These times are in line with noise restrictions under the Auckland Unitary Plan. |
| | Sunday | Set up from 8am Filming 9am - 8pm | |
| | Night shoots | Screen Auckland can advise the lux and decibel thresholds in the proposed filming location's zone based on the Auckland Unitary Plan. | |



4.1.7 Noise and lighting

Filming is expected to be planned and carried out in a way that manages noise and lighting effects on surrounding areas, particularly during early mornings, evenings, and at night.

Filming must comply with applicable noise and lighting standards under the Auckland Unitary Plan and relevant district plans. Productions are expected to plan activities to minimise unreasonable effects on surrounding communities, wildlife, and public spaces.

4.2 PUBLIC PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Pedestrian access, including wheelchair access and access to building entrances, must be maintained at all times.

Equipment must be stored safely and neatly, and cable ramps must be used where cables cross pedestrian areas.

Any temporary disruption to pedestrian movement must be minimal, safe, and managed respectfully.

4.3 ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT AREAS

The road corridor includes live lanes, footpaths, berms, and cycleways. Filming must not compromise or alter the safe operation of the road corridor or public transport network.

Access to residences, businesses, recreational areas, and public transport must be maintained.

Motorways and state highways are managed by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and require separate approval.

4.3.1 Public transport

Filming at public transport facilities or on public transport infrastructure, including trains, buses, ferries, rail stations, bus terminals, bus stops, and wharves, requires approval from Auckland Transport, organised via a film permit.

4.3.2 Parking

All vehicles associated with filming must be parked legally, including complying with signage, parking restrictions, and access requirements. Vehicles must not block driveways, footpaths, berms, or accessways.

Vehicles must not be driven or parked on grassed areas or pedestrian spaces without prior written approval from the council.



4.4 MANA WHENUA

Filming in public places should recognise and respect the cultural values, histories, and associations of mana whenua. Meaningful engagement with iwi and hapū is particularly important where filming occurs on or near sites of cultural significance, or where content intersects with Māori culture.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Film productions have a strong interest in protecting the environments they film in. As a visual industry, the quality, integrity, and long-term health of natural and cultural landscapes are central to storytelling and creative practice.

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's natural and cultural landscapes are significant taonga. Filming must be planned and carried out in a way that avoids environmental harm and respects cultural values.

Nothing may be fixed to, attached to, or driven into trees, vegetation, heritage items, or natural features without prior written approval from the council.

4.5.1 Site reinstatement

Any area associated with a filming activity must be returned to its original condition at the end of filming. This includes the removal of all signage, equipment, and waste generated by the activity.

4.5.2 Protecting sensitive environments and species

Some locations in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland are ecologically sensitive or support native or endangered species. Filming in these areas must be planned and undertaken to avoid environmental harm.

When filming in natural or sensitive environments:

- do not modify, trim, damage, or remove vegetation
- do not disturb wildlife, particularly during breeding or nesting seasons
- do not construct temporary works or structures in or near waterbodies, wetlands, or protected areas without approval
- follow all biosecurity requirements to prevent the spread of pests and diseases, including kauri dieback and myrtle rust
- remain on formed tracks and accessways

Filming in dune systems, wetlands, or Significant Ecological Areas requires particular care. Activities that alter land, vegetation, or habitats may require additional approvals.





4.5.3 Preventing the spread of pests and diseases

Introduced pests and plant diseases, such as kauri dieback and myrtle rust, pose serious risks to native ecosystems.

Anyone filming in natural areas must follow any biosecurity controls in place at the location. As a general principle, footwear, equipment, and vehicles should be clean and free of soil, seeds, or plant material before entering and leaving natural environments.

4.5.4 Filming on beaches

Many of Auckland's beaches contain sensitive ecosystems, including dunes, wetlands, shellbanks, and habitats for native wildlife. Some beach environments are identified as Significant Ecological Areas under the Auckland Unitary Plan.

When filming on beaches:

- do not drive vehicles on beaches, dunes, or soft sand unless on formed tracks or approved hard surfaces
- do not disturb shellfish, vegetation, or wildlife
- avoid filming in areas known to support threatened species
- avoid busy periods such as public holidays and peak summer times
- do not install temporary structures in sensitive beach environments

Additional approvals may be required for filming in ecologically sensitive beach areas.

4.5.5 Fire

Filming involving fire, flames, smoke, or pyrotechnic effects requires approval through a film permit and may require additional approvals from Fire and Emergency New Zealand. During restricted or prohibited fire seasons, such activity may not be permitted.



4.6 HISTORIC HERITAGE AND SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland is rich in historic heritage and culturally significant places. These include archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, heritage cemeteries, notable trees, and wāhi tūpuna (ancestral places).

Heritage and cultural significance can apply independently. Anyone filming in public places should plan and carry out their activity in a way that recognises and protects both.

When filming near heritage or culturally significant locations, care must be taken to avoid damage or disturbance. In particular:

- do not modify, damage, or remove heritage features, including structures, vegetation, or landforms
- follow all site signage and any tikanga or cultural protocols in place
- do not interfere with memorials, markers, or culturally sensitive features
- if you are unsure about the sensitivity of a location, seek advice before filming

Additional approvals or engagement may be required where filming occurs within or near heritage or sites of significance to mana whenua listed in the Auckland Unitary Plan.

4.7 TŪPUNA MAUNGA

In 2014, legislation was passed to provide Treaty of Waitangi redress for the shared interests of 13 Auckland iwi and hapū in relation to 14 tūpuna maunga (ancestral mountains), motu (islands), and associated land in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Under the settlement, the tūpuna maunga are vested in mana whenua and administered by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA), a statutory co-governance entity. Public access is maintained, each maunga remains a reserve, and Auckland Council continues to undertake routine management under the direction of the TMA.

All drone use and commercial filming on tūpuna maunga requires approval from the Tūpuna Maunga Authority. Screen Auckland administers the filming approval process on behalf of the TMA. Additional conditions, fees, and timeframes apply.

A list of tūpuna maunga administered by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority is available on the TMA website.



4.7.1 Prohibited activities on tūpuna maunga

The following activities are not permitted on tūpuna maunga:

- smoking or drinking alcohol
- promoting smoking or alcohol
- ash scattering
- open fires
- off-road biking (including on walking tracks)
- driving off-road
- off-road running events or races
- any activity that degrades the physical, cultural, spiritual, historic, or geological values of the maunga

4.8 PRIVATE PROPERTY

Filming on private property does not require approval from Auckland Council. However, anyone filming on private property should be mindful of impacts on adjacent public places, businesses, and residents, particularly in relation to parking, lighting, noise, and use of public space.

It is the responsibility of the person or production filming to obtain all necessary permissions from private property owners.

4.9 OTHER LOCATIONS

Some locations in Auckland are managed by other authorities or subject to separate governance arrangements. Filming in these areas requires approval from the relevant landowner or authority and may also require a film permit.





Geoffrey. H. Short. Copyright – The Convert NZ Limited.

5. APPENDIX B: OBTAINING A FILM PERMIT

Screen Auckland facilitates film permits to enable filming in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland while managing impacts on public places, communities and infrastructure. The aim is to support a thriving screen sector and maintain public trust.

Appendix B provides practical guidance for applicants seeking a film permit through Screen Auckland. All applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the unique nature of each filming activity and location.

5.1 APPLYING FOR A FILM PERMIT

Apply for your film permit using  *Apply4 FilmApp*, Screen Auckland's online application portal.

If you are new, register to create an account. Otherwise, log in and begin your application.

Before submitting, ensure your application:

- clearly describes the activity, location, and timing
- includes all supporting activities
- attach relevant plans, maps and supporting documentation

Once submitted, the application will be reviewed based on its scale and impact.


Before applying, a location recce (site visit) is recommended. Discussing feasibility and any site-specific considerations early can help avoid delays.

Include contingency planning where possible to account for Auckland's unpredictable weather patterns.



5.1.1 Filling out the application

When applying for a film permit, please provide details about the shoot and how the location will be used so Screen Auckland film facilitators can provide accurate advice and coordinate with other teams.

Larger productions need to provide more details than smaller shoots or photography. Use the  *Production size and impact table* to guide your form selection. If you're not sure, select Standard Filming on Location. Applications submitted using this form can still be considered lower impact levels.

The sections below follow the structure of the FilmApp application form and are intended to help you complete your application accurately and efficiently. On the form, questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required and must be completed before you can submit.

5.1.1.1 PRODUCTION DETAILS


A short synopsis provides context that helps council teams understand what the production is about when reviewing your application. There is also a section asking if the project includes any sensitive content (for example, scenes depicting alcohol or drug use).

This section also includes questions that form a waste management plan, so it doesn't need to be provided separately. It asks how waste and recycling will be managed and what steps will be taken to reduce on-site waste.

5.1.1.2 PRODUCTION COMPANY INFORMATION

Let Screen Auckland know who's behind the production. Include key production contacts, such as the producer or location manager. Include the company's address and accounts contact (separate from the location manager) so Screen Auckland can send invoices smoothly, even if the crew changes. If you have a purchase order or job number, enter it as well. This helps streamline communication and invoicing.

5.1.1.3 INSURANCE

Low to major impact activity requires public liability insurance to cover any damages done to council property, private property, or serious accidents caused by the filming activity. Provide the  *public liability insurance* details in this section and ensure the cover is valid for the filming date. The application can still be submitted without it, and the certificate of currency can be provided later in the permitting process if needed.



5.1.1.4 SHOOTS

Add a new shoot entry for each location where the production plans to film. This helps Screen Auckland understand the production scope and review each site individually.

For each location, Screen Auckland needs:

- the location name or address
- a description of how the location will be used
- a site map showing layout and access requirements
- a site-specific health and safety assessment (Job-Safety Analysis or JSA).

5.1.1.5 SCHEDULE AND CONTINGENCY

Enter the proposed filming dates, including any contingency days. Auckland weather can be unpredictable! This helps us coordinate with other activities in the area and reduces the need for further consultation with council teams if a contingency is required.

Note: contingency dates do not apply to pickups if the shoot cannot be completed within the permitted timeframe. Pickups will incur additional costs and potentially require another film permit.

5.1.1.6 LOCATION INFORMATION

Tell Screen Auckland about your crew and what's happening on set:

- total number of crew and talent (including agency or client reps)
- a description of the action being filmed
- any activities or access required
- what vehicles will be used – trucks, vans, utes, etc., and where applicable, include a brief parking plan and details on how any vehicles on-site are being used
- a list of equipment, including generators or other power sources.

5.1.1.7 CONSULTATION

Let Screen Auckland know what the consultation plan is for the shoot. Include:

- how you will manage public access
- how businesses and residents nearby will be consulted or notified of the activity
- whether you've engaged in mana whenua consultation (Screen Auckland film facilitators can provide guidance if “no” is selected).



5.1.2 Documentation

Here is a quick list of documents commonly required to support a film permit application. Keep the documents under 5 MB.

Depending on the location, scale, or nature of the shoot, additional documents may be required. Not all documents need to be submitted immediately with the application. A Screen Auckland film facilitator will work with you on any specific requirements during the review.

5.1.2.1 PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Public Liability Insurance (PLI) covers claims for personal injury or property damage arising from filming activity in public places. Ensure the insured name and address match the application.

Public Liability Insurance requirements depend on the impact level of the filming activity:

| Impact level | PLI minimum requirement |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ultra Low | None* |
| Low | \$2M |
| Medium, high and major | \$5M |

*Ultra-low impact filming does not usually require Public Liability Insurance. In some situations, insurance may still be required where risk warrants it based on the location or nature of the activity.

5.1.2.2 SITE MAPS

Upload a detailed site map for each location. Site maps help Screen Auckland and council teams understand how the space will be used and where key elements will be placed.

Your site map should:

- be a satellite view (north at the top preferred)
- include the location name and street address
- include the production company name and shoot/job name
- avoid broad pin drops, zooming in enough to show useful detail
- be named using the format: SiteMap_LocationName
- where applicable, clearly label:
 - set area
 - unit/tech base
 - parking area
 - any special requests (e.g. gate access)



5.1.2.3 JOB SAFETY ANALYSIS

The job safety analysis (JSA) helps Auckland Council, as a landowner, to fulfil its responsibility to ensure that public places are used safely. The JSA is reviewed, and recommendations may be provided to include any additional site-specific hazards that may need to be considered. The JSA can be uploaded after the application is submitted if needed.

5.2 PROCESSING THE FILM PERMIT

This section provides insight into how film permit applications are processed and approved.

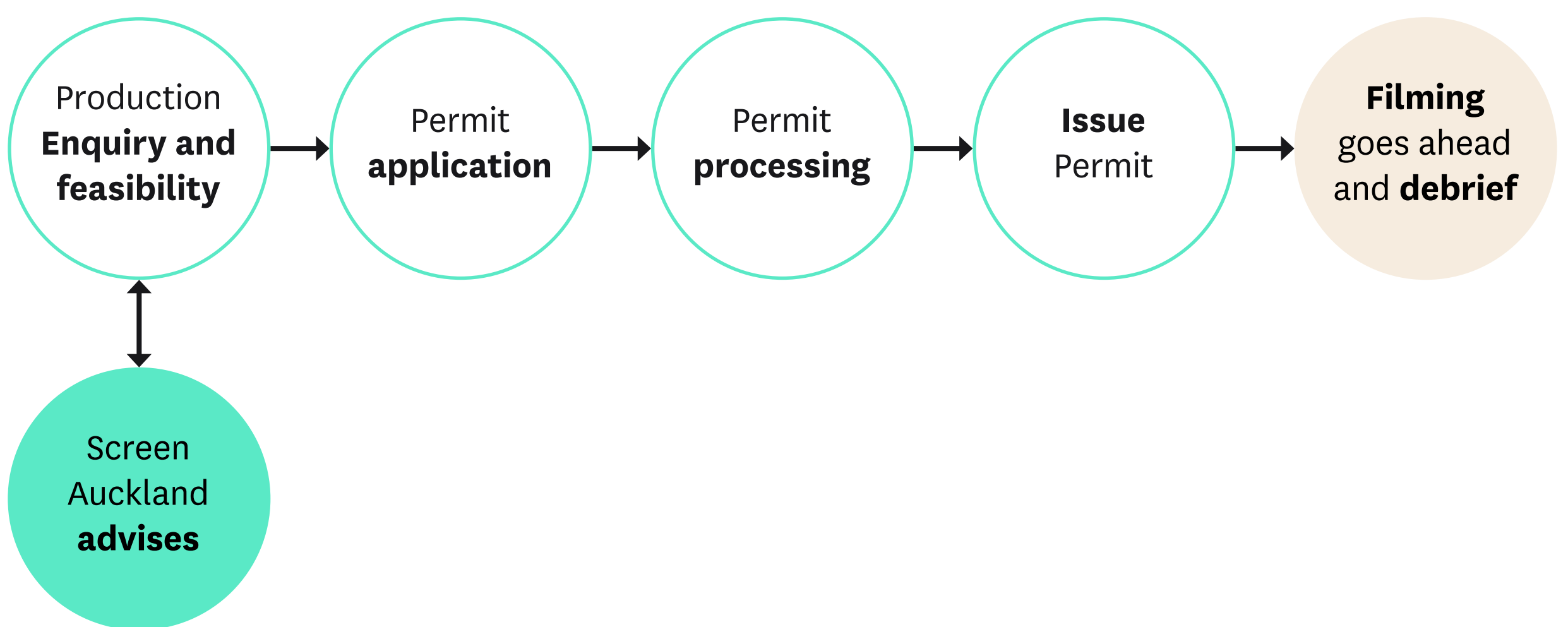


Figure 3: A quick overview of the film permit process

5.2.1 Enquiries and planning

The application process for filming approvals often begins well before all details are finalised. Reach out to Screen Auckland early, ideally during pre-production planning, to assist with initial queries, identify potential challenges, and support early mitigations. Screen Auckland can assist before productions are green-lit to ensure a successful outcome should it go ahead.

Advice is based on the information provided at the time. If any details change, the advice may need to be updated accordingly. It is therefore important to share any updates on the activity with your Screen Auckland film facilitator so they can confirm that the proposal remains within the scope of the advice provided. This phase may also help prepare the film permit application for submission.



5.2.2 Reviewing the application

Once the film permit application is submitted, a Screen Auckland film facilitator reviews it and responds with advice or to clarify any missing or incomplete details. The level of review is proportionate to the scale and impact of the proposed activity.

Once the application details are confirmed, your Screen Auckland film facilitator sends the application to the relevant Auckland Council Group subject matter experts for review.

Subject-matter experts help Screen Auckland understand how your activity might affect the space, people, and environment. Their feedback can include:

- site-specific considerations (e.g. recent weather impacts, scheduled maintenance)
- health and safety notes
- cultural, environmental, heritage or wildlife considerations
- community sensitivities

As part of the review, the subject-matter experts may ask questions and offer suggestions to help manage potential impacts on the public place.

Your Screen Auckland film facilitator acts as a bridge between you and the subject-matter experts, working to refine your proposal to meet all requirements while supporting your creative goals. This process can take time, especially for major impact shoots, but it is designed to be collaborative and solution-focused.

5.2.2.1 BYLAW EXEMPTIONS

In some cases, filming activities may require exemptions from specific bylaws, such as vehicle use, trading restrictions, or park usage rules. These exemptions can be requested as part of the film permit application process, provided the relevant bylaw allows them. Where approved, the exemption will be included in the final film permit conditions.

Exemptions are not guaranteed and may require additional justification or mitigation measures.



5.2.3 Issuing the film permit

Once the review process is complete and all documentation is received, the Screen Auckland film facilitator drafts site-specific conditions, and the application is signed off by the facilitation manager. The Screen Auckland film facilitator will issue the film permit with conditions, which is emailed to you from FilmApp.

5.2.3.1 CONDITIONS

Each permit includes general conditions applicable to all filming activities, along with site-specific conditions based on the location, activity type, and feedback from subject matter experts.

Film permit holders must read and adhere to both general and site-specific conditions, as they form the legal basis of the council's approval to film. In some cases, site-specific conditions may differ from the general guidance in this document to manage location- or activity-specific impacts.

5.2.4 Debrief

After filming concludes, your Screen Auckland film facilitator will follow up to confirm how the activity went and prepare the invoice. The invoice is reviewed by the facilitation manager and sent to both the contact for the listed accounts and the applicant. When the invoices are issued, they are automatically sent to the applicant and the nominated accounts contact.

5.2.5 Urgency and escalations

If a production has tight timelines, needs to use contingency dates, or has location-specific constraints such as access issues, flag these immediately to your Screen Auckland film facilitator.

If issues arise during the application process, the facilitation manager is the escalation point. They can assist with resolving any concerns, clarifying conditions, or addressing delays.

5.2.6 Cancellation

Cancelling a film permit may incur charges depending on the timing and nature of the cancellation. An administrative fee is generally applied if a film permit application is cancelled after engaging with council teams or after site-specific planning.

Notify your Screen Auckland film facilitator when plans change to avoid unnecessary costs.



5.3 PROCESSING TIMEFRAMES

Due to the unique nature of each filming activity and location, timeframes vary depending on the scale and whether additional approvals or consultations are required. Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, meaning a similar request may have a different outcome.

The application is considered completed when all requested information has been provided. Where further clarification or changes are required, the timeframe is paused until the updated information is received. We aim to process a completed application within 5 working days.

More complex or higher-impact shoots may require additional consideration, particularly where input is needed from external stakeholders. These processes operate under their own decision-making requirements.

Indicative guidance on processing timeframes is provided below.

FILMING IN THE ROAD CORRIDOR (WORKING DAYS)

| | No TTM | Stop/Go only or footpath closure | Road Closure | Parking Resolution |
|---------|--------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| CBD | 5 | 12 | 20 | 30 |
| Non-CBD | 5 | 5 | 20 | 30 |

FILMING IN NON-STANDARD LOCATIONS (WORKING DAYS)

| Location | Working days |
|---|--------------|
| Regional Parks | 6 |
| Tūpuna Maunga | 15 |
| Site and Place of Significance (SPSMW) | 25 |
| AT Facilities | 10 |
| Closed Landfills Asset Owner Approval (AOA) | 10 |

5.4 PRODUCTION SIZE AND IMPACT TABLE

Filming and photography are categorised by scale and potential impact on public places, taking into account factors such as public safety and access, culture and environment, and critical infrastructure.

Each application is reviewed individually, and the impact category will be confirmed by a Screen Auckland film facilitator. The production size and impact table below provides an indicative guide.



PRODUCTION SIZE AND IMPACT

| | Ultra Low | Low | Medium | High | Major |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Max. pax ⁴ on site | 7 people | 15 people | Up to 50 total: Crew ≤ 30 Talent ≤ 20 | Up to 150 total: Crew ≤ 50 Talent ≤ 100 | No upper limit |
| Equipment vehicles | None | Cars, vans and utes only | Up to 4 trucks ⁵ including generator vehicles | Up to 12 trucks including generator vehicles | More than 12 trucks |
| Unit base/ catering | None | Small gear stash only | Small unit base with catering | Dedicated unit base with catering | Large-scale unit base and catering operations |
| Structures | None | None | Up to 2 small temporary structures (e.g. pop-up marquees) | Multiple temporary structures and minor set construction | Significant temporary structures and substantial set construction |
| Equipment | Handheld only, lightweight tripod | Tripods and battery-operated lighting, no generators | Small tracks, slider, light stands, portable dolly, generators | Camera tracks, standard dollies, camera cranes, heavy equipment | Extensive technical infrastructure and heavy machinery |
| Props | Handheld props only | Portable props | Stationary props and minor set dressing | Structured set dressing | Significant set dressing and constructed environments |
| Aerial | Drone ≤ 1.5 kg | Drone ≤ 5 kg (carried by ≤ 2 people) | Drone ≤ 25 kg | Drones > 25 kg | Helicopter operations |
| Traffic control | Footpaths only, no obstruction | Footpaths with maintained pedestrian flow | Moderate effect on traffic, temporary traffic management in place | High effect on traffic, temporary traffic management in place, including road closures | Significant effect on traffic, traffic management in place, including parking resolutions |
| Public impact | Negligible | Negligible | Localised disruption | Significant local disruption | Major disruption |
| Public liability insurance requirement | None ⁶ | \$2m+ | \$5m+ | \$5m+ | \$5m+ |
| Fees – Half Day / Full Day ⁷ | \$75 | \$150 | \$265 / \$525 | \$525 / \$1055 | \$1055 / \$2110 |

4. Pax = total number of people on site at any one time (crew, cast, and talent).

5. Trucks are defined as vehicles over three tonnes.

6. Public Liability Insurance may be required by TAU (at its sole discretion) for certain Ultra Low Impact filming activities

7. A half day is considered 6 hours or less, including set up and pack down. A full day is considered more than 6 hours in a single calendar day.



Notes:

- These guidelines do not apply to filming on tūpuna maunga (ancestral mountains)
- Consultation requirements vary by impact level and may include residents, businesses, mana whenua, regular users of the space, or community organisations.
- A unit base refers to the area required to support filming, including technical vehicle parking, equipment or gear stashes, catering, and fixed equipment positions.
- Environmental sensitivity is location-specific. Factors such as season, duration, vehicle use, and proximity to native flora or fauna may influence assessment and required mitigation measures.

5.5 FEES

Fees for filming in public places are assessed in accordance with the production size and impact table and charged on either a half-day or full-day basis.

- A half day is up to six hours of filming, including setup and pack downs
- A full day applies where filming exceeds six hours within the same calendar day

Invoices are issued once the filming is completed.

Fees and council charges are reviewed periodically and may be adjusted annually. Therefore, fees are provided separately from this document.

| Fee type | Half day | Full day |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Ultra-Low impact | \$75 | \$75 |
| Low impact | \$150 | \$150 |
| Medium impact | \$265 | \$525 |
| High impact | \$525 | \$1055 |
| Major impact | \$1055 | \$2110 |
| Cancellation | \$75 | \$75 |





The Rings of Power Season 1, Ben Rothstein, Prime Video

5.5.1 Other related fees

Filming in public places may involve additional costs depending on the activity and location. These can include:

- parking permits
- temporary traffic management
- Regional Parks ranger monitoring
- hire of council-managed facilities
- specialist site supervision
- extended facilitation for large or complex productions

Where an application is withdrawn after engaging with council teams or after site-specific planning, a cancellation fee may apply.

Production companies are responsible for all additional costs associated with their activity, including public notifications (where required), traffic management services, and any resource or building consent processes.

Extended facilitation fees may apply where coordination across multiple stakeholders, locations, or agencies is required over an extended period.

5.5.2 Fee reductions

If the project is not-for-profit, charity or community-based, or undertaken for tourism purposes in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, discuss potential fee reductions with your Screen Auckland film facilitator.

Requests for fee reductions are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and applicants will be asked to complete a fee reduction request to support the assessment.

Students filming as part of a recognised tertiary curriculum are eligible for a full waiver of film permit fees. There is no need for students to fill out a fee reduction request.



5.6 LOCATION-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

5.6.1 Parks and reserves

Providing clear, detailed information in your application helps landowners and council teams understand the proposed activity and enables them to provide feedback more efficiently.

Many parks and reserves are heavily used by the public, particularly during weekends, public holidays, and peak summer periods. Schedule filming on weekdays during busy periods, where possible.

Mana whenua have a special cultural and spiritual relationship with parks and reserves in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Filming proposals may need to take this relationship into account, particularly where activities occur in culturally significant areas.

5.6.1.1 SPORTS PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

Sports parks and playing fields are often subject to regular bookings, seasonal use, and ongoing turf and facility management. Even where a site appears unused, fields and facilities may be reserved for upcoming games, training, or maintenance.

When applying to film in sports parks, applicants should be aware that:

- bookings are managed through council systems and may not be visible on site
- use of clubrooms or other buildings typically requires agreement from the relevant club or managing group
- volunteer-run clubs (such as club presidents or committees) may need to be consulted where their facilities are affected
- grounds are maintained to specific standards and may be unavailable following rain or ahead of scheduled sporting events

Screen Auckland will check proposed filming against existing bookings as part of the assessment process.

Some sports parks have permanent lighting that may be available for filming. Use of sports field lighting is subject to the Auckland Unitary Plan requirements, including restrictions on hours of operation (commonly around 10 pm). Include any lighting use in the application.

5.6.1.2 CO-GOVERNED PARKS AND RESERVES

Some parks and reserves in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland are subject to co-governance arrangements involving iwi or iwi-appointed boards. Filming proposals in these locations may require additional engagement or approvals and may take longer to process.



5.6.1.3 WAITĀKERE RANGES HERITAGE AREA

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA) is a legally protected landscape covering both public and private land between urban Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and the west coast. Filming within the heritage area is assessed against the purpose and objectives of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act, alongside the Auckland Unitary Plan.

The Act recognises the area’s national significance and emphasises the protection of natural quiet, dark skies, native ecosystems, water catchments, and the small-scale character of local settlements.

When filming in the WRHA, conditions may address lighting, noise, vegetation and waterway protection, and traffic impacts in small communities.

These considerations apply whether filming occurs on regional park land, local roads, or private property within the heritage area. Where additional approvals are required, decision-makers must have particular regard to the Act’s objectives.

5.6.1.4 REGIONALLY MANAGED AND DESTINATION PARKS

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland has an extensive network of regional parks that are managed to protect significant natural, cultural, and recreational values while remaining accessible to the public.

Applications should allow for Regional Parks review and may require a site visit or on-site ranger monitoring (fees may apply).

Filming must not unreasonably disrupt public use and enjoyment of the park. Applicants are expected to familiarise themselves with, and comply with, any conditions issued for the site.

5.6.1.4.1 BOOKABLE SITES

Some regional parks offer bookable facilities, such as cabins or designated areas. Use of these sites for filming is treated as a commercial booking and may incur fees.

Availability and suitability should be checked first, then discussed with Screen Auckland. A film permit may still be required, depending on the activity and any use of the surrounding public space.

5.6.1.4.2 SITE ACCESS

Access arrangements within regional parks may require coordination with park staff. This can include opening or closing gates or restricted-access areas.

Any access requirements must be clearly identified in the film permit application. In some cases, a ranger may need to be present, or a key may be issued, subject to conditions.



5.6.1.4.3 PARKING AND VEHICLES

Public access is prioritised in regional parks. Limited areas may be suitable for production parking, subject to assessment.

All parking and vehicle access requests must be shown on the site map and included in the application. Conditions may apply, including biosecurity measures such as tyre cleaning or using protective mats.

5.6.1.5 BUSH, WALKING TRACKS AND FORESTED AREAS

Filming on bush tracks, walking tracks, and forested areas requires careful consideration due to biosecurity risks and sensitive environments.

Kauri dieback, myrtle rust, and other pathogens pose serious threats to native ecosystems. Productions filming in affected areas must follow all applicable hygiene and access requirements.

This typically includes:

- staying on formed tracks
- avoiding kauri roots
- ensuring footwear, equipment, and vehicles are free of soil before and after filming

Some areas, including parts of the Waitākere Ranges and Hunua Ranges Regional Park, may be closed to protect kauri and other native species.

If filming requires going off formed tracks (even briefly), this must be clearly described and shown on the site map.

5.6.1.6 FARMLAND

Some parks and reserves in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland include working farmland or rural areas managed for agricultural purposes. Filming in these locations requires careful planning to avoid impacts on land operations, stock, and ground conditions.

Applicants should consider ground conditions, stock movements and animal welfare, seasonal farming activities, and access for farm operations.

Filming may be restricted during sensitive periods, and conditions may apply to manage vehicle access and reinstatement.



5.6.1.7 CAMPGROUNDS

Some rural parks and farmland areas include public campgrounds. These sites are often booked in advance and experience high seasonal use. Some campgrounds are independently managed and are not part of Auckland Council's regional park network.

Applicants should be aware that:

- campground availability varies by season
- use of facilities is unlikely during peak periods
- additional consultation or conditions may be required to manage impacts on campers
- drones may be restricted, particularly during peak periods

Any filming proposed within or adjacent to campgrounds must be clearly identified in the application and shown on the site map.

Where a campground is privately managed, productions may liaise directly with the campground manager regarding access to campground facilities, provided filming is confined entirely to the managed campground and does not affect any surrounding public land or facilities.

5.6.1.8 GARDENS

Gardens are managed environments with sensitive plant collections and high public use. Filming in gardens is carefully assessed to protect vegetation, structures, and the visitor experience. Additional conditions may apply depending on the location and activity, for example, hiring security or avoiding filming during visiting hours.

5.6.1.9 WATERFALLS AND CAVES

Waterfalls and caves are highly sensitive environments and often present additional safety, environmental, and cultural considerations. Many waterfalls and caves hold cultural significance for mana whenua and are valued natural taonga. Filming activity must not damage, disturb, or alter these environments.

Many waterfalls and caves are subject to changing access conditions due to weather events, erosion, track damage, or remediation works. A location that appears accessible may be temporarily or permanently closed.



When proposing filming at waterfalls or caves, applicants should be aware that:

- access and safety risks, including flash flooding, unstable terrain, and confined spaces, must be carefully managed
- some sites may be culturally significant, including wāhi tapu, and may require additional engagement or approvals
- ownership and management varies and may include mana whenua, Auckland Council, private landowners, or the Department of Conservation
- some activities may require additional approvals, including resource consent, even where no physical modification is proposed
- use of artificial lighting, water interaction, set dressing, or modification of surrounding areas may be restricted.

Filming proposals must clearly describe how cast and crew will access the site, how equipment will be transported, and the measures taken to manage safety and environmental risks.

5.6.2 Filming in car parks

Car parks are high-use public spaces that support access to parks, reserves, town centres, facilities, and transport hubs. Filming activity within a car park can affect public access, circulation, safety, and parking availability, and requires specific assessment.

Where filming is proposed to take place in a car park, this must be clearly identified in the film permit application and shown on the site map.

Information should include:

- the area of the car park to be used
- any temporary restrictions on vehicle or pedestrian movement

Filming that requires equipment set-up or managed vehicle or pedestrian movements may be subject to site-specific conditions, and filming during peak periods may need to be adapted to ensure public access is reasonably maintained.

When approved, filming is generally expected to occur with a portion of parking spaces retained for public use wherever practicable. A film permit does not remove standard parking charges or time restrictions, and productions are responsible for any parking fees or charges associated with their use of the space.



5.6.3 Roads, footpaths and public transport network

The road corridor includes motorways, state highways roads, footpaths, berms, and cycleways. Public transport network includes buses, trains, ferries and their facilities. Requirements differ depending on who controls the asset, for example, Auckland Transport or Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

Filming activity must not compromise the safe operation of the road corridor and public transport network. Access to residences, businesses, emergency services, and public transport must be maintained at all times, unless an approved alternative arrangement is in place.

5.6.3.1 FILMING WITHIN THE ROAD CORRIDOR

Filming that alters the normal use of a road, footpath, berm or cycleway may require temporary traffic management with approval from the relevant road controlling authority. This includes filming that:

- restricts or redirects vehicle, pedestrian, or cycle movements
- occupies live traffic lanes or footpaths
- involves working in close proximity to moving traffic
- introduces equipment, structures, or activities that may create safety risks

Where traffic management is required, productions should expect to engage a certified traffic management provider to prepare and implement an approved Traffic Management Plan (TMP).

Auckland Transport assesses the need for temporary traffic management and, where applicable, approves Traffic Management Plans.

Traffic management requirements are assessed in accordance with the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (NZGTTM). This is the national risk-based framework for managing road work sites, events, and other temporary traffic disruptions in New Zealand.

5.6.3.2 MOTORWAYS AND STATE HIGHWAYS

Motorways, state highways, ramps, overbridges, tunnels, and associated corridors are managed by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.

Filming within, under, or over Waka Kotahi assets requires a Licence to Occupy, in addition to any film permit. Filming must not occur in these locations without the appropriate approvals in place.

Because these assets operate at a higher-risk scale, filming proposals are typically subject to more stringent safety and access requirements and longer lead-in planning.

Traffic management requirements are also assessed in accordance with the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (NZGTTM).



5.6.3.3 PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Filming on or near public transport services or facilities includes buses, trains, ferries, stations, stops, terminals, and interchanges, and the rail corridor.

Public transport is critical to daily movement across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Filming proposals must be planned to ensure normal services and passenger movements are maintained, unless a specific disruption has been assessed and approved.

For larger, higher-impact, or more complex productions, an initial site visit with relevant stakeholders may be required to assess feasibility and risks. In some cases, a second site visit may be necessary before a film permit can be issued.

Filming in public transport environments requires heightened health and safety considerations, and productions should expect site-specific conditions that reflect the operational nature of these locations.

Where filming includes advertising or branded content within public transport facilities or assets, material must comply with the ASA Advertising Standards Code and Auckland Transport’s Advertising Policy.

When filling out your film permit application:

- use the standard filming on location form for AT Facilities
- include a more detailed site map, if possible, using an image of the space for clarity
- you may be asked to fill out an Authorisation to Work or Access form based on the activity

5.6.3.3.1 RAIL CORRIDOR AND TRAINS

For filming within the rail corridor and on trains, Screen Auckland will submit an Auckland One Rail Access Authority Request on behalf of the production. To support this request, productions may be required to provide additional material, such as:

- a script or storyboard
- details of proposed activity within or near the rail corridor
- access requirements

Filming across live rail lines or within rail airspace is not permitted.



5.6.3.3.2 FERRY TERMINALS, FERRIES AND NAVIGABLE WATERS

Filming on ferries, within ferry terminals or on navigable waters may require maritime approvals in addition to any film permit for adjacent public places.

Auckland's navigable waters are regulated under Maritime Rules and the Auckland Council Navigation Bylaw. The Auckland Harbourmaster (Auckland Transport) oversees maritime safety. Where filming may affect vessel movements, ferry operations, or other water users, productions must notify the Harbourmaster and may need formal approval.

Screen Auckland does not issue film permits for activities on the water. A film permit may still be required for associated activities in adjacent public places (e.g., beaches, foreshore access, terminals, wharves, jetties, marinas).

5.6.4 Beaches and coastal areas

Beaches and coastal areas are popular filming locations but are environmentally sensitive, highly dynamic, and heavily used by the public. Filming in these environments requires careful planning.

Many coastal locations are subject to environmental and heritage protections, safety requirements, and additional approvals, depending on the nature and scale of the activity.


Productions should avoid busy holiday periods or peak use times, where public access, safety, or environmental impacts cannot be reasonably managed.

5.6.4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE PROTECTIONS

Many beaches and coastal areas are protected under legislation and local plans to conserve wildlife and natural habitats. Filming must avoid significant adverse environmental impacts.

Key considerations include:

- avoiding disturbance to dunes, vegetation, shellfish beds, middens or nesting areas
- using ground protection mats under equipment and temporary structures
- avoiding activities that could cause lasting damage to the coastal environment

Fires are not permitted on beaches. Where fire effects are required, alternatives such as gas rigs (with appropriate safety measures) or post-production effects should be considered. See  *Pyrotechnics and fires* for further guidance.





The Wilds Season 1 © WTTV Ltd 2019

5.6.4.2 VEHICLE AND ACCESS ON BEACHES

Public vehicle access is permitted only on Muriwai and Karioitahi beaches. Separate beach driving permits for these locations are issued by Auckland Council and must be obtained independently of the film permit.

Vehicle access on beaches requires careful management due to environmental sensitivities, public safety considerations, and potential impacts on other beach users. Proposals involving vehicles on beaches will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Vehicle access on beaches is more likely to be supported where:

- vehicle access is essential to the filming activity
- practical alternatives have been considered
- adverse ecological effects can be appropriately avoided, minimised or managed

Depending on the proposal, additional approvals may be required, including compliance with the Auckland Unitary Plan or resource consent. Engagement from iwi and hapū may also form part of the application review.

Where vehicle access is approved, conditions may include:

- use of existing accessways only
- no driving over dunes
- no recreational driving or looping
- minimising impacts on public access and safety
- checking stationary vehicles (30+ minutes) for wildlife before moving

See also  *Vehicles in reserves and off-road areas.*



5.6.4.3 FILMING IN OR NEAR THE WATER

When filming involves cast or crew in the water, productions must:

- engage a qualified lifeguard
- comply with ScreenSafe Water Safety Guidelines
- ensure all personnel are briefed on site-specific water hazards

West coast beaches (such as Piha, Te Henga, Muriwai, and Karekare) are known for strong currents and unpredictable surf conditions, which can pose serious risks even in shallow water.

Hazards may include:

- strong winds, large waves, and tidal surges
- powerful surf, rocky outcrops, and headlands
- unseen rips, holes, and shifting sandbars

Productions should notify local lifeguards of filming activity and seek advice from water safety professionals where appropriate.

If filming activity involves vessels, placing equipment/props in the water, reserving water space, or affecting other water users (including ferry operations), separate notification to the Auckland Harbourmaster and/or additional maritime approvals may be required.

5.6.4.4 DOTTEREL PROTECTION

New Zealand dotterels (tūturiwhatu) are an endangered species that nest in dunes and feed near the water.

Where filming is proposed in or near known dotterel habitat:

- a dotterel spotter may be required on site
- crew must maintain appropriate distances from birds
- no interference with bird movement is permitted
- strong artificial lighting after sunset may be restricted
- stationary vehicles must be checked underneath before moving

If dotterel protections apply to the proposed filming location, Screen Auckland will attach a copy of the Dotterel Protection Framework to the film permit.



5.6.5 City centre and retail areas

City centre and retail areas operates within a highly constrained and dynamic environment. These locations typically have higher pedestrian volumes, narrower streets and footpaths, dense stakeholder presence, and frequent competing activities, including events, construction works, and servicing requirements.

Key considerations may include:

- higher consultation expectations, particularly with adjacent businesses, building managers, and residents
- increased stakeholder density, requiring coordination across multiple parties
- limited space for equipment, vehicles, and crew, especially during peak trading hours
- frequent clashes with events, road works, utilities works, and deliveries
- heightened public safety and accessibility requirements, including maintaining pedestrian flow

Retail precincts and business improvement districts (such as the city centre, waterfront areas, and mixed-use precincts) may also have place-specific operational requirements or expectations, which Screen Auckland can help identify.

Successful approvals in these areas typically depend on flexible timing, tight footprints, strong site management, and early coordination with affected stakeholders.



Guns Akimbo, 4Knights Film.



5.6.6 Closed landfills and contaminated land

Some locations in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland are situated on closed landfill or contaminated land sites. These sites may appear suitable for filming but are subject to specific ground-disturbance and safety constraints.

Where filming is proposed on a closed landfill site, site-specific conditions may apply depending on the level of contamination and site sensitivity. These conditions will be included in the film permit.

Typical considerations may include:

- ground contact restrictions, such as:
 - generators and electrical equipment being elevated off the ground
 - no pegs, stakes, or ground penetration
 - requirements for ventilation where enclosed structures are placed on the ground
- surface protection, including the use of ground protection mats where heavy foot traffic or vehicle movement is expected
- post-filming requirements to address any surface damage

In some higher-risk locations, additional asset owner input may be required. A Screen Auckland film facilitator will advise if this applies to your proposal and support coordination as needed.

5.6.7 Watercare assets

Watercare, a council-controlled organisation, manages Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's water and wastewater infrastructure, including dams, treatment plants, pump stations, reservoirs, and associated waterways. Some Watercare sites are publicly accessible, while others are operational or high-security environments.

Filming on Watercare-managed property is not authorised through a Screen Auckland film permit and must be approved directly by Watercare under its own assessment process.

5.6.8 Ports of Auckland

Ports of Auckland, a council-controlled organisation, owns and operates a number of active port and wharf facilities along Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's waterfront.

Screen Auckland does not issue film permits on behalf of Ports of Auckland. Permission to film within port-operated areas must be obtained directly from Ports of Auckland and is subject to their operational, safety, and security requirements.



5.6.9 Tūpuna maunga

All commercial filming on tūpuna maunga requires approval from the Tūpuna Maunga Authority (TMA). Screen Auckland administers the film permit process on behalf of the TMA.

The tūpuna maunga, and particularly the tihi (summit), are considered tapu (sacred). Filming activity must respect their cultural, spiritual, historic, and geological significance. Proposals that clearly demonstrate alignment with these values are more likely to progress efficiently through assessment.

Where supported, filming approvals will include site-specific conditions set by the TMA to protect the values of the maunga.

Applications to film on tūpuna maunga require additional information to support assessment. This typically includes:

- sufficient detail about the proposed activity and how it will be carried out
- script or storyboard
- information about the content being filmed, where relevant
- an explanation of how the activity respects the mana and significance of the maunga

Applications for tūpuna maunga require additional review and engagement and should be factored into production planning accordingly.

5.6.9.1 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

The following activities are not permitted on tūpuna maunga:

- drone use without prior TMA approval
- smoking or drinking alcohol
- promoting smoking or alcohol
- ash scattering
- open fires
- off-road biking, including on walking tracks
- driving off-road
- off-road running events or races
- any activity that degrades the physical, cultural, spiritual, historic, or geological values of the maunga





5.6.10 Historic heritage and culturally significant sites

Many locations are subject to historic, archaeological, or cultural heritage protections that can affect whether and how filming may occur. These protections are location-specific and may apply regardless of whether a site is publicly accessible or appears suitable for filming.

Filming in heritage locations may require statutory approvals, such as resource consent from Auckland Council or an archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, particularly where activities involve ground disturbance, attachment to structures, or changes to the site.

5.6.10.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND BUILT HERITAGE SITES

Filming at archaeological sites, historic buildings, cemeteries, notable trees, or other protected heritage places may require additional conditions to protect the site's integrity.

In some cases, archaeological monitoring may be required during filming. Productions are expected to comply with monitoring requirements and respond to any concerns raised to prevent damage and support the long-term availability of heritage locations for filming. Archaeological monitoring fees may apply.

5.6.10.2 SITES AND PLACES OF SIGNIFICANCE TO MANA WHENUA

Some locations are identified as sites and places of significance to mana whenua (SPSMW) under planning documents such as the Auckland Unitary Plan or the Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan.

Filming at these sites requires greater consultation with mana whenua to understand potential impacts on cultural values and to determine whether filming can be supported. Depending on the location, scale, and nature of the proposal, engagement may include a site visit with iwi representatives, visits to the marae to discuss the proposal, and a cultural values assessment prepared by mana whenua. Costs of engagement are the production's responsibility.



Proposals must demonstrate how potential impacts on cultural values will be understood and appropriately managed.

When filming is proposed at an SPSMW location, productions should be prepared to demonstrate that they can:

- avoid land disturbance, including no digging, pegging, trenching, earthworks, vegetation removal, or similar activity
- provide a clear site plan showing the filming footprint, equipment placement, and access arrangements
- comply with any site-specific conditions applied to the permit
- engage meaningfully with mana whenua, including:
 - consultation on any Treaty of Waitangi settlement matters relevant to the site
 - alignment with relevant iwi film protocols, iwi planning documents, or cultural values assessments where applicable
 - maintaining access for customary activities throughout filming
- applying tikanga and kawa as advised by mana whenua

When developing proposals for sites of significance to Māori, productions should consider matters including (but not limited to):

- the use of indigenous knowledge and references to iwi
- the portrayal of iwi history, stories, or legends
- the representation or digital alteration of culturally significant sites or images
- the appropriateness of filming activities at maunga, marae, or other significant places
- the placement of support equipment, vehicles, toilets, and other infrastructure to avoid offence or unacceptable risk to Māori cultural or environmental values

Where a proposed location is listed in the Auckland Unitary Plan heritage schedule, Screen Auckland will guide productions on the appropriate engagement pathway. Responsibility for meaningful engagement and cultural alignment rests with the production.

Successful filming at these sites depends on early, meaningful engagement and cultural alignment. Where mana whenua opposition remains unresolved, a film permit cannot be issued for that location. Additional planning time and relationship-building are therefore critical to understanding whether a proposal can be supported.



5.6.11 Indoor and operational council facilities

Auckland Council and its council-controlled organisations (CCOs) own and manage a range of properties and facilities that are not routinely used for filming, but may be suitable in specific circumstances.

Filming on these properties is assessed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the operational use of the site, public access requirements, safety considerations, and who manages the asset.

Screen Auckland can help to:

- confirm whether a proposed location is council-owned or council-managed
- advise whether a film permit applies to exterior areas
- facilitate contact with the relevant facility manager, leaseholder, or asset owner

In some cases, temporarily vacant or storm-damaged properties may be considered for filming where it is safe and operationally appropriate. These locations often involve additional constraints and require early assessment.

Applications should clearly identify whether filming is interior, exterior, or both.

5.6.11.1 LEASED AREAS

Some council-owned land and facilities are leased to third parties, such as sports clubs or community organisations. Filming in leased areas does not usually require a film permit, but permission must be obtained directly from the leaseholder.

In some cases, associated areas such as car parks or accessways may not be included in the lease, and a film permit will be required.

5.6.12 Site logistics and managing impacts

This section outlines considerations for managing site logistics and minimising the impacts of filming activity in public places. It focuses on how filming is carried out on site, including effects on public access, safety, neighbouring activities, infrastructure, and the environment.



5.6.12.1 TE AO MĀORI CONSIDERATIONS

As part of the film permit application process, applicants are asked to consider and respond to questions relating to tikanga Māori and cultural sensitivity. These questions help determine whether a proposed activity may impact sites, values, or practices of significance to mana whenua.

Applicants should consider both the content of the filming and the way filming activity is carried out on site. This includes how locations are used, how equipment and vehicles are positioned, and how people move through and occupy space.

Matters that may require consideration or further discussion include, but are not limited to:

- the use of indigenous knowledge, language, or references to iwi, hapū, or whakapapa
- the portrayal or reinterpretation of Māori history, stories, or legends
- filming at, or depicting, culturally significant places such as maunga, marae, wāhi tapu, or sites identified in the Sites and Places of Significance to Mana Whenua schedule
- the digital alteration or representation of culturally significant locations
- the placement of support activities (such as vehicles, equipment, toilets, or catering) in ways that may cause offence or create risk to cultural or environmental values

Not all culturally significant places are formally listed in the Auckland Unitary plan heritage schedules or protected in planning documents. Early consideration of these matters and clear information in the application helps Screen Auckland assess whether engagement with mana whenua or additional approvals may be required.

5.6.12.2 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Consultation helps manage the impacts of filming on communities, businesses, public access, and culturally significant areas. The level and type of consultation required will depend on the scale, location, and impact of the proposed activity.

Consultation expectations are confirmed through the film permit process, based on the details provided in the application.



5.6.12.2.1 WHEN CONSULTATION IS TYPICALLY REQUIRED

Consultation is more likely to be required where filming:

- affects access to homes, businesses, or public facilities
- involves traffic management, parking restrictions, or noise
- takes place in busy commercial areas or city centre retail areas
- occurs in or near culturally significant sites
- involves higher-impact or longer-duration activity

This table indicates the level of consultation expected for each impact tier:

| Public impact | Ultra-low | Low | Medium | High | Major |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Consultation requirements | Negligible | Localised and face-to-face | Immediate neighbours notified | Structured consultation required | Formal consultation plan required |

5.6.12.2.2 CONSULTATION APPROACHES

Consultation may be undertaken in a range of ways, depending on impact, including:

- face-to-face engagement with nearby residents or businesses
- letter drops to surrounding properties
- direct engagement with affected organisations or groups

For larger or more complex productions, a consultation plan may be required to demonstrate how affected parties will be informed and engaged.

All film permit applications must include information on:

- who was consulted
- how and when the consultation occurred
- any feedback received and how it was considered

5.6.12.2.3 MANA WHENUA ENGAGEMENT

All filming activities must consider whether mana whenua engagement is required. Screen Auckland film facilitators can guide the process, but meaningful engagement is the production's responsibility.

Some culturally significant sites are scheduled in planning documents, but many are not. This means it may not always be clear whether a location holds cultural significance, and early, respectful engagement is essential.

Mana whenua seek to be informed of all filming activity within their rohe. For low-impact filming, this can be achieved through notification; for higher-impact or sensitive proposals, direct engagement is required to determine whether any potential impacts require management.

In some cases, productions may choose to partner with iwi or hapū. These arrangements are made directly between the parties involved.



5.6.12.2.4 BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

When filming in business areas, productions should consider engaging with the relevant business association, particularly where filming may coincide with busy trading periods or events.

5.6.12.2.5 EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY NOTIFICATIONS

Productions must notify relevant emergency services where filming involves:

- simulated violence or crime
- firearms or weapons (real or replica)
- smoke, pyrotechnics, or special effects
- road closures or significant traffic disruption

Use of uniforms or vehicles resembling emergency services also requires notification to avoid public concern.

5.6.12.3 PARKING AND VEHICLE ACCESS

Parking to support filming must be planned to minimise disruption to public access, neighbouring activities, and transport operations, and is assessed separately from the use of a location for filming.

5.6.12.3.1 PUBLIC PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Filming in public spaces must be planned so that safe pedestrian access is maintained at all times, including wheelchair access and access to building entrances.

Where appropriate, productions should use location assistants to keep members of the public informed about filming activity and to help guide them safely through affected areas.

In limited circumstances, when safe alternative routes are available, productions may request that pedestrians briefly pause or divert around a shot. Any disruption must be kept to a minimum and managed respectfully.

Changes in pedestrian movement may require temporary traffic management, depending on the level of risk and impact.

All equipment must be stored neatly. Cable ramps must be used where cables cross footpaths or pedestrian access areas to ensure public safety.



5.6.12.3.2 VEHICLES IN RESERVES AND OFF-ROAD AREAS

Vehicle use in parks and off-road areas is restricted and requires specific approval. Where vehicle access is approved:

- vehicles must be suitable for the terrain and operated by appropriately licensed drivers
- only four-wheel-drive vehicles may be used off-road
- quad-style all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are not permitted in Auckland Council-managed parks
- light utility vehicles with occupant restraints and rollover protection may be approved where appropriate

All occupants must use required safety restraints, and any additional conditions relating to vehicle movements will be specified in the film permit.

5.6.12.3.3 PARKING AND LOADING

All vehicles associated with filming must be parked legally, including compliance with signage, parking restrictions, and access requirements. Vehicles must not block driveways, footpaths, berms, or accessways.

Productions should minimise on-street parking wherever practicable to maintain access for residents, businesses, deliveries, and services.

Loading zones can be utilised for their intended purpose, delivering or collecting goods for the duration specified on the signage (generally up to five minutes). Access to loading zones for local businesses must be maintained.

5.6.12.3.4 ESSENTIAL TECHNICAL VEHICLES

Essential technical vehicles are those used directly for filming, such as lighting, camera, generators, department trucks, vans, and utility vehicles.

Parking and access for essential technical vehicles are managed separately by Auckland Transport and are not authorised through a film permit. A film permit is required based on the filming activity and location, not simply because essential technical vehicles are present (for example, where filming occurs entirely on private property).

However, when a film permit is required, productions must identify the location and number of essential technical vehicles in the application. This information is used to understand the activity's overall scale and footprint and to support coordination with relevant stakeholders as required.

When reviewing applications, consideration may include:

- pressure on local parking supply
- proximity to affected residences or businesses
- whether alternative locations with lower impact are available

Where practicable, productions should position essential vehicles to minimise disruption, including parking adjacent to vacant or closed buildings during filming hours.



5.6.12.3.5 FILM PARKING PERMITS (NON-ENFORCEABLE)

Production companies may apply to Auckland Transport for film parking permits to reserve specific parking areas for essential technical vehicles where required.

Film parking permits:

- apply only to defined sections of road
- are used to support essential filming activity
- are independent of film permits

5.6.12.3.6 TEMPORARY PARKING RESOLUTIONS (ENFORCEABLE)

Temporary parking resolutions are a short-term legal mechanism to change existing parking restrictions in a specified area.

These should be considered only where:

- public access needs to be restricted for safety reasons
- an area must be cleared to safely undertake filming
- there is no reasonable alternative location for essential vehicles

Temporary parking resolutions must be supported by an approved film permit and are subject to Auckland Transport's assessment.

5.6.12.3.7 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS

Where filming activity affects the normal movement of pedestrians, cyclists, or vehicles, temporary traffic management may be required. Traffic management is assessed by Auckland Transport on a risk-based basis, in accordance with the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (NZGTTM).

Traffic Management Plans must be prepared and implemented by a certified traffic management provider and approved by the relevant road controlling authority.

Filming proposals that require traffic management may involve additional coordination and lead-in time, and productions should factor this into location selection and scheduling.



5.6.12.4 SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Supporting activities are those that occur as a result of filming but are not the filming itself. When these activities take place in public places, they may require approval, even when filming occurs on private property. They must be included in the film permit application.

Supporting activities may include, but are not limited to:

- unit or technical bases
- crew and production vehicle parking
- equipment or gear stashes
- set-up and pack-down activities
- catering and break areas
- vehicle movements associated with the shoot

All supporting activities must be clearly described in the film permit application so they can be assessed alongside the filming activity.


5.6.12.4.1 LOCATION SCOUTING, RECCES, AND SITE VISITS

Location scouting, site recces, and technical recces do not usually require a film permit, provided they are low-impact and do not involve managed public access or equipment set-up.

Get in contact early to confirm whether a location is suitable for filming, or to discuss any required repeat visits, specialist access, or coordination with council teams.

For larger or more complex productions, Screen Auckland may recommend a site visit involving relevant council stakeholders, such as Auckland Transport staff or Regional Parks rangers, to support efficient planning.

5.6.12.4.2 CREW AND CAST PARKING

Crew parking can be supported through a film permit where required. Proposed parking locations must be shown on the site map and assessed in accordance with the access, parking, and traffic management requirements set out in section  *Parking and vehicle access*.

Car park spaces required for retail customers or users of other neighbouring facilities (e.g., community centres, libraries, sports facilities, schools) should be kept free for public use.



5.6.12.4.3 UNIT BASES AND TECHNICAL BASES

For film permitting purposes, the term unit base includes:

- technical parking
- equipment or gear stashes
- lunch or break areas
- equipment positions

Unit bases must be identified in the application and clearly marked on the site map, with details of how the space will be used and managed.

5.6.12.5 SENSITIVE CONTENT (ALCOHOL, SMOKING, GAMBLING, DRUGS)

Public places in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland are managed under harm minimisation policies. Where filming involves alcohol, smoking, gambling, or illicit drug use, particularly in promotional contexts, productions should consider whether a private location or a modified approach would better align with these policies.

Film permits for advertising alcohol, smoking, gambling, or illicit drug use in public places may include conditions such as using non-branded props, ensuring locations are not recognisable, or other measures to reduce public impact. Greater flexibility may apply for clearly fictional, international or narrative content.

Many areas in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland are subject to alcohol bans. Filming involving alcohol must comply with these restrictions. Film permits cannot be issued for alcohol advertising during banned hours or in prohibited locations.

Where filming briefs involve beaches or other high-use public spaces, applicants should be aware that alcohol bans and fire restrictions commonly apply. In these cases, private locations may be more suitable.

5.6.12.6 FILMING AROUND MAJOR EVENTS

Some events in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland are declared major events under the ***Major Events Management Act 2007*** (MEMA).

Where a venue or area is subject to a MEMA clean zone or clean period, film permits cannot be issued for the affected area during that time, even if the filming activity is unrelated to the event. These restrictions are legislative.

Productions must plan around these dates and locations and are strongly encouraged to engage with Screen Auckland early to avoid scheduling conflicts.



5.6.13 Specialist activities

Specialist activities are filming activities that involve higher risk, specialist equipment, additional public safety considerations, or third-party approvals. These activities must be clearly identified in the film permit application.

Specialist activities may require additional documentation and conditions, approvals, or consultations, depending on the nature of the activity and the sensitivity of the location.

5.6.13.1 AERIAL FILMING (HELICOPTERS AND DRONES)

5.6.13.1.1 HELICOPTERS

Using a helicopter for filming requires approval to land, take off, hover or load/unload people or equipment in public places, including parks and beaches, except in emergencies.

Helicopter use may require additional approvals, including noise or resource consents, particularly in sensitive locations or where repeated movements are proposed.

When applying for a film permit, productions should:

- Include proposed dates and times of helicopter activity
- Identify take-off and landing areas on the site map

5.6.13.1.2 DRONES (UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES)

A film permit or licence may be required where a drone is launched or landed in a public place, or flown over a road, depending on the location and activity. Where a drone is launched and landed entirely from private property, a film permit is generally not required. This does not remove the need to comply with aviation rules.

A film permit does not replace Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requirements. All drone operations must comply with applicable CAA rules, including Part 101 (standard operations) or Part 102 (certified operators), as well as any council requirements and site-specific conditions.

Some filming activities may require a Part 102-certified operator when the proposed operation cannot comply with standard CAA Part 101 rules, such as flights over people, beyond visual line of sight, or other higher-risk operations. Additional restrictions may also apply in sensitive locations such as regional parks, tūpuna maunga, transport corridors, or environmentally sensitive areas.

Drone use may also be restricted where there is risk to:

- wildlife, particularly during breeding seasons
- historic heritage or culturally significant places.



When applying for a film permit involving drone use, productions must include:

- the drone make and model
- total operating weight (including attachments)
- the proposed take-off and landing areas (shown on the sitemap)
- where required, an Unmanned Aircraft Operator Certificate (UAOC) and Operational Competency Assessment (OCA)
- aviation insurance for a minimum of \$2 million liability.

5.6.13.2 SPECIAL EFFECTS AND STUNTS

Special effects and stunts introduce additional risk and must be included in the film permit application.

Special effects and stunts include (but are not limited to):

- pyrotechnics, fire, smoke, or atmospheric effects
- wet-downs, rain or snow effects
- vehicle stunts or crashes
- low loaders or filming on moving vehicles
- firearms, weapons, or simulated violence.

5.6.13.2.1 PYROTECHNICS AND FIRES

The use of pyrotechnics, fire, flares, fireworks, or explosive materials in public places must be included in the film permit application

Due to safety, environmental, and seasonal considerations, the use of fire effects may be restricted or not supported in some locations. Where fire effects are required, gas-rigged fire or post-production effects are generally preferred alternatives.

Smoke machines should also be listed, as they may trigger public concern or fire alarms and require coordination.

Include in your application:

- the type of effect proposed
- duration and frequency of use
- proximity to the public, buildings, or sensitive environments
- special effects methodology, where required.

5.6.13.2.2 WEATHER EFFECTS

Wet-downs, rain, and snow special effects must be performed safely and in an environmentally friendly manner to protect the environment and wildlife from harmful effects.

When using these special effects, production companies must ensure the containment, cleanup, and removal of all products used for this purpose.



5.6.13.2.3 WATER SUPPLY

Access to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland’s water network via standpipes or hydrants is not available for filming purposes.

Productions must plan alternative water-supply methods, such as water tankers or rainmakers, and consider the environmental impacts of water use and runoff where water effects are required.

5.6.13.2.4 WATER TANKERS

If the production must use water trucks or rainmakers for the shoot, a plan to protect the local waterways may be required. Consider the volume of water you plan to bring into the area, and how sediment, catchments and the regular flow of water may be affected by this increase. You may need to provide a peak flow rate for the film permit application.

5.6.13.2.5 FIREARMS, WEAPONS AND SIMULATED VIOLENCE

The use of firearms (real or replica), weapons, or scenes depicting violence must be included in the film permit application.

These activities may require notification or approval from emergency services, including the police, to manage public perception and safety.

Productions must ensure that, during filming, it is clear that firearms, weapons, or emergency service uniforms or vehicles are props.

What to include in your application:

- the nature of the scene
- whether weapons or replica firearms are used
- any visual or audible elements that may cause public concern.

5.6.13.3 ANIMALS

Any animals proposed for filming must be included in the film permit application so they can be considered part of the overall activity.

Where dogs are involved, they must be leashed at all times, unless filming occurs in a designated off-leash area during off-leash hours.

5.6.13.4 VEHICLE STUNTS AND FILMING ON MOVING VEHICLES

Filming involving moving vehicles, including the use of low loaders or camera vehicles, introduces additional safety considerations and must be declared in the film permit application.

The need for traffic management is assessed on a risk-based basis and depends on how the filming activity is undertaken, rather than the presence of a low loader alone.



In particular, filming is more likely to require additional controls where:

- crew are working outside a vehicle while it is in motion
- filming activity alters normal traffic flow or driver behaviour
- equipment extends beyond standard vehicle dimensions
- there is an increased risk to other road users or pedestrians.

Filming that involves actors driving or being towed within a vehicle, with cameras mounted internally or externally, may not require traffic management if it can be undertaken safely and without impacting other road users. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

What to include in your application:

- a clear description of the filming activity involving vehicles
- whether any crew will be working externally on moving vehicles
- how cameras and equipment will be mounted
- any anticipated impact on traffic flow or public access.

Screen Auckland will coordinate assessment with the relevant road controlling authority and advise whether traffic management or additional approvals are required.

5.6.13.5 TEMPORARY FILM SETS

Set construction involves building temporary structures or elements to facilitate filming, such as facades, decks, platforms, fences, and similar works.

The scale, height, duration, and location of set construction can significantly affect how an activity is assessed and may move a proposal into a higher impact category, with corresponding consultation and approval requirements.

All set construction must comply with applicable legislation, including the ***Building Act 2004*** and the Building Code. Depending on the risk and scale of the works, set construction, under the ***Building Act 2004***, may:

- be eligible for a discretionary exemption from building consent, or
- require a building consent before works commence.

Eligibility for an exemption is not automatic and considers factors such as public safety, complexity, and permanence. Building consents or exemptions are not facilitated by Screen Auckland.



5.6.13.6 RESOURCE CONSENT CONSIDERATIONS

A film permit authorises filming activity in public places but does not override planning controls.

Some filming activities may require a resource consent under the Auckland Unitary Plan or the Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan, depending on the nature, scale, duration, and location of the activity. This is typically where filming exceeds the scope of what is anticipated for a temporary activity or where effects cannot be appropriately managed through a film permit alone.

Where a resource consent is required, a film permit must still be obtained to authorise the filming component of the activity in public places.

Resource consent requirements are assessed by Auckland Council's planning team under the relevant district or unitary plan provisions. Screen Auckland can assist in determining whether a resource consent is likely required and recommends working with a planner experienced in the screen sector. All technical advice, processing timeframes, and costs are determined through the planning process.

Resource consent considerations are embedded throughout this appendix and may be triggered by matters such as:

- duration of filming
- noise, lighting, or traffic effects
- set construction or earthworks
- heritage or environmental sensitivity
- location-specific planning controls.

Where a proposal is likely to require a resource consent, early identification is important, as planning processes operate independently of the film permit process.



5.7 COMMON PITFALLS AND AVOIDING DELAYS

Most delays in film permitting are avoidable with how the application is prepared and communicated. The following are common pitfalls and practical ways to avoid them.

5.7.1 Seeking advice too late

One of the most common causes of delay in obtaining a film permit is late engagement with Screen Auckland, particularly for activities involving:

- specialist activities or requests (e.g. street light adjustments)
- specific access requests (e.g. site access)
- last-minute location confirmation.

While Screen Auckland understands the need for flexibility in production schedules, early engagement helps identify and resolve potential issues before they affect timing or approvals.

What helps:

- make contact as soon as locations or activities are known
- we encourage those on projects early to get in touch, before details are finalised (e.g. creatives, writers, producers).

5.7.2 Incomplete or unclear applications

Applications that lack detail or contain vague descriptions often require follow-up questions from multiple stakeholders, slowing the film permit process. Assessment timeframes start once a complete application has been provided and any requested changes have been addressed. Missing or unclear information will delay review.

What helps:

- clearly describe what is happening, where, when, and how
- include all supporting activities, even if they seem minor
- use plain language rather than shorthand or internal production terms.

5.7.3 Poor site maps

Unclear or inaccurate site maps are a frequent source of confusion and delay. Council teams rely on site maps to understand impacts without needing further clarification.

What helps:

- ensure maps are legible, to scale, and clearly labelled
- use aerial view with North to the top
- show all activity areas, access routes, parking, and equipment locations
- keep maps consistent with what is described in the application.



5.7.4 Omitting information to “keep things simple”

Withholding information in the hope of speeding up approval often has the opposite effect. If information is missing, Screen Auckland cannot accurately understand the activity.

This may result in:

- additional questions
- delayed approvals
- locations being suddenly unusable
- conditions being breached unintentionally on the day.

What helps:

- be transparent about all aspects of the activity
- trust that the facilitation process is designed to help identify workable solutions, not to block filming.

5.7.5 Underestimating consultation and coordination

Activities that affect residents, businesses, public access, or culturally significant places often require consultation. Underestimating this can lead to delays or opposition later in the process.

What helps:

- identify who may be affected early
- allow time for meaningful engagement
- share feedback openly so it can be considered.

5.7.6 Relationships and professional conduct

Filming in public places relies heavily on relationships and trust. Respectful engagement with council staff, stakeholders, and the public contributes directly to smoother approvals and better on-the-day experiences.

Conversely, poor behaviour or non-compliance can affect:

- the current shoot
- future applications
- the wider industry’s reputation.

What helps:

- treat facilitators, council staff, and stakeholders as partners
- raise issues early rather than on the day
- follow agreed conditions and communicate if circumstances change.



5.7.7 Final note

Screen Auckland's approach is facilitative, not punitive. The aim of the film permit process is to help productions film successfully while managing impacts and maintaining public trust.

Good applications move fastest. Clear information, early engagement, and respectful site management are the simplest ways to avoid delays.



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