

Filming Guidelines

The Blue Mountains prime attraction is the unique and grandeur of the natural landscape. The Greater Blue Mountains Area is listed as a World Heritage area because of its globally outstanding biodiversity and vegetation, dominated by Australia's unique eucalypts.

Filming in the Blue Mountains is a recognised and valued activity in the area. As the authority to determine filming applications, Blue Mountains City Council must ensure parking, traffic regulation and the use of council-managed land have been adequately addressed, whilst maintaining a balance between community interests, environmental, cultural and heritage protection and economic development.

Under the legislation, Councils are expected to grant approvals and, where appropriate, any necessary lease or licence over council owned or council controlled land for filming, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Some particularly sensitive community land may be exempt from filming, for example because of the presence of an item of Aboriginal significance, or because it is a critical habitat for a threatened species. Filming activities are allowed on community land even without express approval in the applicable plan of management.

This presumption also imposes obligations on filmmakers, who will be required to ensure that in location filming activities appropriate standards of behaviour are observed, and that requests by council are responded to in a timely manner and that information is provided accurately and honestly.

Council will grant approval for the application requirements that are under Council's authority to approve, subject to the applicant separately obtaining all the necessary approvals and permissions from any relevant parties, other authorities and government instrumentalities.

The use of planes or helicopters shall follow all necessary safety procedures required. Planes or helicopters can only be landed in locations specifically approved for such use under Council's zoning conditions.

Film Contact Officer: Council's Film Contact Officer will liaise with filmmakers to arrange application approval, provide support and access to council services. For enquiries, call (02) 4780 5000.

Following the issue of an approval from Council, the following conditions must be adhered to.

Public liability insurance: In the event of any person being injured as a result of your activities, Council will in no way be held responsible. When you return the application form, please provide a copy of your Public Liability cover Certificate of Currency (to the minimum value of \$10 million) and completed Hold Harmless agreement (on the application form).

Site damage: The organization will be held responsible for any damage to the site as a result of the activity in reference and will pay compensation for any damage or cleaning resulting from the proposed activity.

Physical changes to the site: Approval will only be considered if Council is assured that the following criteria will be met:

- a) The use will cease within a specified time, and
- b) Suitable arrangements have been made for the removal of any waste, or any temporary structures erected or works carried out in connection with the temporary use, and for the restoration of the land after the cessation of the temporary use, and
- c) The temporary use is reasonable having regard to the nature of the temporary use and the economic use of the land pending its development otherwise in accordance with this plan, and
- d) The temporary use will not unreasonably effect residential amenity, and
- e) The temporary use would not likely to unreasonably affect the economic viability of any village centre in the locality, and
- f) The objectives of the zone in which the land is located will not be compromised over the long term by the temporary use.

Site care: The site is to be left in a clean and tidy condition following the use of the site.

Authorisation: Permission extends to land under the care and control of Blue Mountains City Council. Activities in the National Park require authorization from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Access: That access is not restricted for visitors or emergency vehicles as a result of the activity, however it is acknowledged that the public will be restricted from accessing your "work site area" and that all necessary crowd control measures are in place.

Road Reserves: If filming will be conducted on Council road reserves, then the applicant must ensure that:

- a) Adequate traffic control mechanisms are enforced, including trained traffic controllers;
- b) The local Police are to be notified of the activities.

