

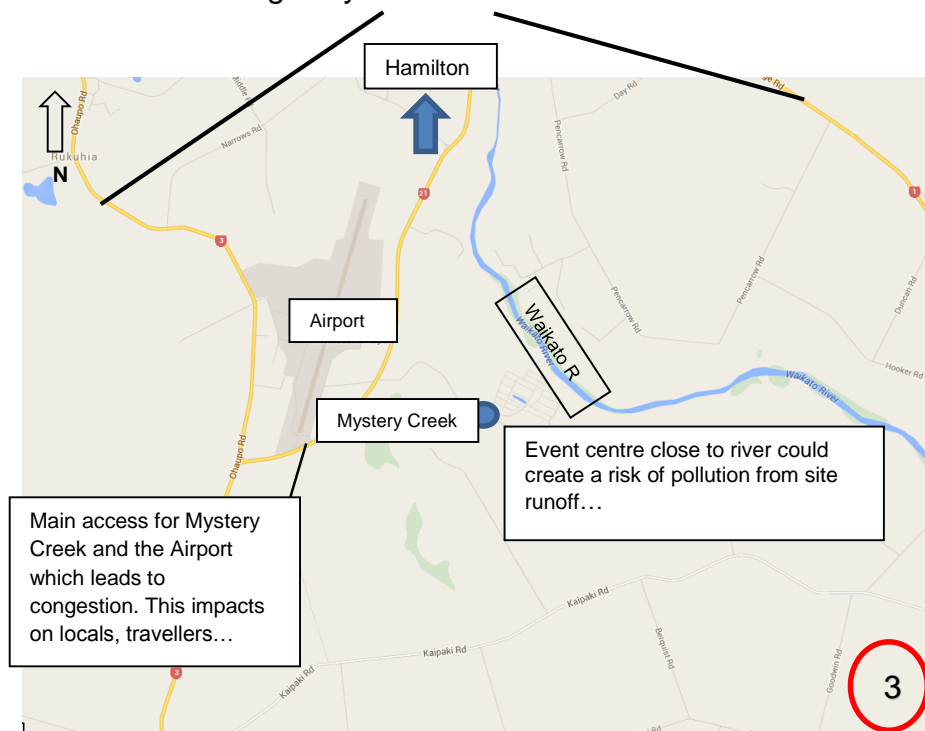
The nature of the event

The Mystery Creek Field Days are run by a non-profit making society... The event raises money for various charities including the Westpac helicopter...

It is basically a agricultural and farming trade show... The purpose is to display the innovations in agriculture including machinery, technology, strategies etc. It provides an opportunity for agricultural suppliers to meet with the farmers in an annual event or for farmers "a farming expo" (1). It includes demonstrations for all types of farming from dog trials, to ploughing and fencing...

Since it is an agricultural field day there is a direct focus showing a people-environment interaction which is crucial to successful and sustainable farming...(2)

This event was originally set up in 1969 to provide a link between rural and urban businesses. Prior to 1971 they were held at the Te Rapa racecourse but since then they have been at Mystery Creek. This is a larger site 94 ha aimed to reduce traffic congestion within the city. It has relatively easy access as it is close to Hamilton airport and close to State Highways 3 and 1



It is the largest rural event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere... attracting over 120,000 visitors a year (4)... it is held annually usually in June...

The planning and decision making involved in the Field Days:

The planning committee is made up of several groups who are responsible for different tasks. These groups report regularly to ensure that the process is on track and issues can be resolved.

Resource consent is one of the major parts of planning large events. This firstly requires compliance with the RMA...However, unlike many other events, the resource consent/site application process, follows on from previous Field day events and the site 'Mystery Creek' is already registered as an official event centre. This makes this aspect of the planning relatively quick because the environmental impact reports which cover... are completed by people familiar with both the process and the event (5).

Designing the prospectus and communicating with exhibitors occurs early in the planning process as this step provides information needed for more detailed planning. Who the exhibitors are and their needs such as access and space, are needed before a layout of the actual event can be designed (6).

This is followed by the allocation of sites and overall layout which includes parking, access...

Impacts of the event:

The Field days are held south of Hamilton and attract thousands of people, this leads to heavy congestion on the highways. The Mystery Creek Event site is between two state highways and the main linking road also provides access to the airport (7). Most of the length of this linking road is relatively narrow which means airport traffic cannot avoid the Field Day visitors and delays can result in missed flights... Another problem with this narrow road is access for emergency vehicles...

The event site is very close to the Waikato River which means that any waste can result in river pollution. This is a problem mostly with liquid wastes which can enter the river with the normal runoff or through infiltration (8). This is a problem because it can be difficult to detect and remedy...Another pollution problem can result from the soil erosion and as the event is in winter this can lead to increased runoff in to streams and finally into the river...