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# Protecting Our Crowded Places from Attack: Self-Assessment Tool

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## Te Whakamaru i Ō Tātau Wāhi Kōpiripiri mai i te Whakaekenga: Utauta Aromatawai Whaiaro

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# Introduction

All New Zealanders have a role to play in keeping crowded places safe.

Protecting Our Crowded Places from Attack: New Zealand's Strategy<sup>1</sup> / Te Whakamaru i Ō Tātau Wāhi Kōpiripiri mai i te Whakaekenga: Te Rautaki a Aotearoa has been developed to protect people working in, using, and visiting crowded places. The strategy's intent is, to every extent possible, preserve the public's use and enjoyment of these places while making them more resilient.

This document is part of a series of resources published by the New Zealand Police to help you understand the risks around crowded places, and to provide advice on how to prevent and manage those risks. This document should be read in conjunction with the Protecting Our Crowded Places from Attack: New Zealand's Strategy<sup>2</sup> / Te Whakamaru i Ō Tātau Wāhi Kōpiripiri mai i te Whakaekenga: Te Rautaki a Aotearoa.

It is recommended you complete this self-assessment as a minimum for your crowded place.

It will provide you with information to consider if there are other resources that you may need due to the nature, scale or location of your crowded place or if you need to continue with the Crowded Places Assessing Your Protective Security and/or Security Audit documents.

**These documents are regularly reviewed and updated. New information is also published from time to time.**

**Please check the New Zealand Police Crowded Places website<sup>3</sup> on a regular basis to ensure you have the latest and most comprehensive information.**

# About this self-assessment tool

**This self-assessment tool is designed to be used by owners and operators of crowded places.**

Use the tool to assess how attractive your location could be to an attacker.

The eight questions in this tool focus on factors that attackers consider when they're looking for a possible target.

## **Filling in the form**

To complete the self-assessment, read the explanatory notes before answering the question that follows them.

The notes will help you understand the terms and concepts used in the tool.

Try to answer the questions from the perspective of a would-be attacker; not from your perspective.

For each question mark the circle under each number in the scale that best describes your crowded place. Once you've answered all the questions, refer to [Next Steps](#)<sup>4</sup> at the end of this document.

## **Keeping informed**

It is recommended that you revisit the [New Zealand Police Crowded Places website](#)<sup>5</sup> for updated information, and to ensure that you have the latest version of this document.

It is also important to ensure assessments and plans remain appropriate for different events, or if the national terrorism-threat level changes.

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<sup>4</sup> Next steps see page 8

<sup>5</sup> [www.police.govt.nz/crowdedplaces/prepare-your-crowded-place](http://www.police.govt.nz/crowdedplaces/prepare-your-crowded-place)

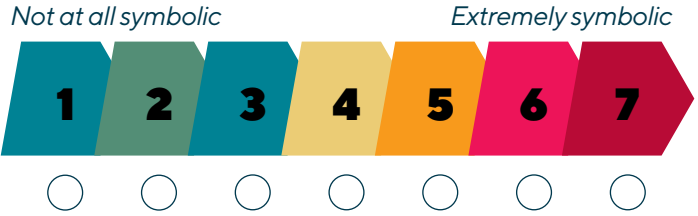
# Symbolic locations

Some crowded places have historic, iconic, religious, cultural or political symbolism. They have greater meaning than their functional purpose because of what they represent.

Symbolism can relate to physical structures like significant national buildings that attract lots of tourists, or buildings that have high profile organisations based there, or places of worship that attract large numbers of worshippers.

Symbolism can also relate to events like Anzac Day parades, where the physical location can be less important than the attendees or the events themselves.

## Question 1: How symbolic is your crowded place?



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# Crowded locations

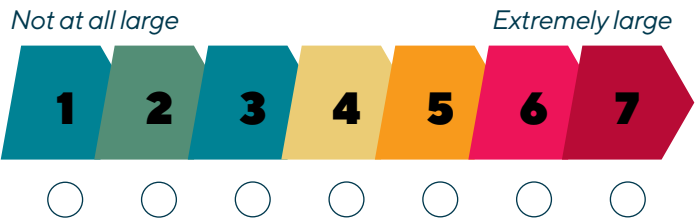
It can be difficult to compare locations in terms of how crowded they are: 1,000 people could be a crowd in one city, but only a small gathering in another.

One way to answer this question is by thinking about the largest gathering of people in your region in an area that is similar to your crowded place (in terms of number of people and ease of access).

Think of that location as '7' on the scale, and use that to compare your crowded place against.

This approach ensures that regionally or locally, the councils, police and others will likely view the size of your crowded place in the same way that you do.

## Question 2: How large is the crowd that gathers at your location?

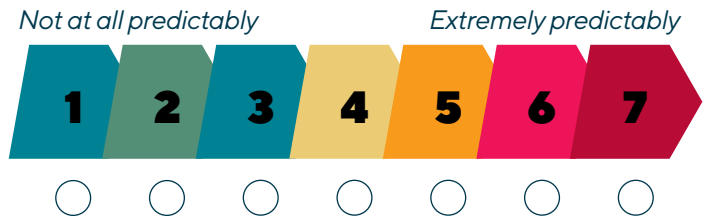


# Predictable crowds

When large numbers of people predictably gather at a place, an attacker can be reasonably certain that there will be people available to harm at a particular time. An attacker can assess the likelihood of there being large numbers of people available by:

- knowing or learning about the place's history and traditions
- checking advertising by the place's owners and operators
- following the place's online presence and social media
- checking the media's interest in the place
- looking at publicly available programmes and schedules for the place.

## Question 3: How predictably do people gather at your location?



# Dense crowds

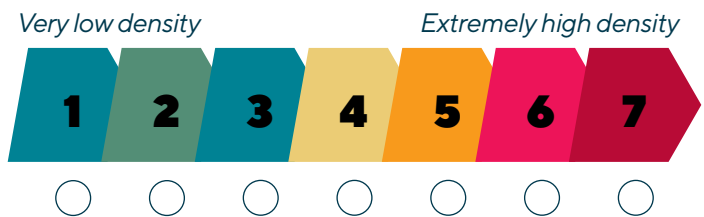
The density of crowds can vary between crowded places.

Consider the following scenarios to help you assess the crowd density at your location. The density of the crowd in scenario one is very low, whereas the density of the crowd in scenario two is extremely high.

**Scenario one:** This is a large open area where people can move freely. Only a small number of people attend this location; they are evenly distributed throughout the area at multiple attractions. The location has several entries and exits.

**Scenario two:** This is a small enclosed area where people's movements are constrained. There are many people attending this location and they are heavily concentrated at the location's one attraction. The location has few entries and exits.

## Question 4: What is the density of the crowd at your location?




# Socially significant locations or events

A location can be socially important if people and communities value being there. For example, a location can be significant because it's a central gathering point; an event can be significant because it's a celebration (such as a parade) or a commemoration (such as a memorial service for people who died in a natural disaster).

Locations and events can be significant because of the people or groups who attend them.

## Question 5: What is the social significance of your location to New Zealand?

Very low social significance Extremely high social significance



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

# Economically important locations

Some locations have functions that, if they were interrupted, could significantly affect New Zealand's economy. A terrorist attack or similar incident on these types of locations can affect the economy in three main ways:

- it affects consumer confidence and the number of visitors goes down.
- it disrupts business activity and people spend and invest less.
- it affects business, so fewer full-time employees are needed.

Consider these effects when you answer this question. Take into account the on-site and off-site impact; the direct and indirect impact; and the duration of the impact.

## Question 6: What would the economic impact on New Zealand be if your location's function was interrupted?

Very low economic impact Extremely high economic impact



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

# High profile attendees and visitors

Think further about the profile of the attendees and visitors at your crowded place.

Are there any individuals or groups who could attract the attention of someone wishing to disrupt your event or crowded place?

For example:

- are any regular users, attendees or visitors likely to be celebrities, dignitaries or controversial people?
- do you need additional security for these people?

## Question 7:

**What level of confidence do you have that you have planned effectively for the expected number of high profile people and/or the people attending or visiting your crowded place?**

Confident Not confident

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

# Planning and support

Consider the worst case scenario, where your crowded place has to rapidly be emptied. Think about any additional planning or support systems you need to have put in place:

- do you regularly practice evacuation drills?
- do you consider lessons learned and apply them for future drills or actual evacuations?
- are new staff inducted on evacuation processes?
- do people at your crowded place need special assistance to support them (age, mobility, etc) to exit safely?
- if hosting an event, what additional planning might you require to ensure a quick evacuation from the crowded place?

## Question 8:

**What level of confidence do you have that you have planned effectively to ensure your crowded place has systems in place to react to an attack or similar incident?**

Confident Not confident

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

## Next steps

Calculate your total score by adding up the answers to questions one to eight.

### A score of 30 or more

If you've scored 30 or more, your crowded place is likely to be attractive to would-be attackers and you may wish to review your security measures. We suggest you carry out these actions:

1. Complete the Protecting Our Crowded Places from Attack: Assessing Your Protective Security<sup>6</sup> / Te Whakamaru i Ō Tātau Wāhi Kōpiripiri mai i te Whakaekenga: Te Aromatawai i Tō Whakamarutanga document. It will assist you to identify possible vulnerabilities at your crowded place and prompt action to address those gaps.
2. Complete the Protecting Our Crowded Places from Attack: Security Audit<sup>7</sup> / Te Whakamaru i Ō Tātau Wāhi Kōpiripiri mai i te Whakaekenga: Ōtita Whakamarutanga for a thorough review of your vulnerabilities.
3. When seeking additional support about protective security you should, in the first instance contact specialist security advisors. Where the crowded place is of significant scale and or deemed to be high risk then local police<sup>8</sup> should be advised and may be able to offer further guidance.

### A score of 29 or less

If you've scored 29 or less, it seems likely that your location and attendees may not be highly attractive to would-be attackers.

If you have concerns that this does score not reflect your own assessment of your vulnerability, you should follow the steps outlined above for score of 30 or above.

	Title	Score
1	<i>Symbolic locations</i>	
2	<i>Crowded locations</i>	
3	<i>Predictable crowds</i>	
4	<i>Dense crowds</i>	
5	<i>Socially significant locations or events</i>	
6	<i>Economically important locations</i>	
7	<i>High profile attendees or visitors</i>	
8	<i>Planning and support</i>	
<b>Total</b>		

However, if you are comfortable that this is an accurate assessment of your level of vulnerability, it is recommended that you also review the information on the Police website regarding personal and community safety<sup>9</sup> to provide guidance on additional actions you can take.

<sup>6&7</sup> [www.police.govt.nz/crowdedplaces](http://www.police.govt.nz/crowdedplaces)

<sup>8</sup> [www.police.govt.nz/contact-us/stations](http://www.police.govt.nz/contact-us/stations)

<sup>9</sup> [www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/personal-and-community-safety](http://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/personal-and-community-safety)



**All New Zealanders  
are responsible for  
helping to detect  
and prevent attacks  
in crowded places.**

## In the event of an attack

<b>ESCAPE</b>		Move quickly and quietly away from danger, but only if it is safe to do so.
<b>HIDE</b>		Stay out of sight and silence your mobile phone.
<b>TELL</b>		Call the Police by dialling 111 when it is safe.

[www.police.govt.nz/crowdedplaces](http://www.police.govt.nz/crowdedplaces)