

Rārangi Take Kaunihera
Whanokē

Extraordinary Council Agenda

To hear submissions on the Freedom Camping Bylaw
Monday 2 September 2024 at 11 am

Council Chamber Albion Street, Hāwera



Ngā Mema o te Komiti / Committee Members



Phil Nixon
Mayor



Andy Beccard
Councillor



Mark Bellringer
Councillor



Celine Filbee
Councillor



Te Aroha Hohaia
Councillor



Robert Northcott
Deputy Mayor



Leanne Horo
Councillor



Aaron Langton
Councillor



Steffy Mackay
Councillor



Tuteri Rangihaeata
Councillor



Bryan Roach
Councillor



Brian Rook
Councillor



Diana Reid
Councillor



Racquel Cleaver-Pittams
Councillor

Apatono / Delegations

The Full Council's role is to carry out responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2002. It is the final decision-making authority within the Council and generally ratifies recommendations made by other committees.

It is made up of all Councillors and the Mayor.

Powers that cannot be delegated

The powers that cannot be delegated by the Council are:

- (a) the power to make a rate
- (b) the power to make a bylaw
- (c) the power to borrow money, or purchase or

dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term plan

(d) the power to adopt a long-term plan, annual plan or annual report

(e) the power to appoint a chief executive

(f) the power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under the Local Government Act 2002 in association with the long-term plan or developed for the purpose of the Local Governance Statement.

(g) the power to adopt a remuneration and employment policy

Huinga Tāngata / Attendance Register

Date	27/11/23	11/12/23	19/02/24	13/03/24	18/03/24	03/04/24	13/05/24	20/05/24	22/05/24	04/06/24	12/06/24	24/06/24	08/07/24	05/08/24
Meeting	E	O	O	E	E	O	O	E	E	E	E	O	E	O
Andy Beccard	√	√	A	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	√
Mark Bellringer	√	√	√	A	A	A	√	√	√	√	A	A	√	√
Celine Filbee	A	A	√	√	√	√	√	A	A	√	√	√	A	√
Te Aroha Hohaia	√	√	√	A	√	A	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Leanne Horo	√	√	√	A	√	A	√	√	AO	√	A	√	√	√
Aarun Langton	A	X	X	√	√	√	√	A	A	A	√	√	A	√
Steffy Mackay	A	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Phil Nixon	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Robert Northcott	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√
Tuteri Rangihaeata	√	√	X	X	√	X	X	√	X	X	√	A	√	√
Diana Reid	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√	√	√
Bryan Roach	√	√	√	A	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Brian Rook	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	A	√	√
Racquel Cleaver-Pittams	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	A	√	AO	√

Key

√	Attended
AO	Attended Online
-	Was not required to attend
A	Apology
Y	Attended but didn't have to attend
X	Did not attend - no apology

Types of Meetings

I	Inaugural
O	Ordinary Council Meeting
E	Extraordinary Council Meeting

He Karere Haumarū / Health and Safety Message

In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of Council staff.
If there is an earthquake – drop, cover and hold where possible. Please remain where you are until further instruction is given.

He Pānga Whakararu / Conflicts of Interest

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected member and any private or other external interest they might have.



Rārangi Agenda

Extraordinary Council

To hear submissions on the Freedom Camping Bylaw

Monday 2 September 2024 at 11 am

1. **Karakia**
2. **Matakore / Apologies**
3. **Tauākī Whakarika / Declarations of Interest**
4. **Kaitāpae-Kōrero / Submitter – Speakers**
5. **Tāpaetanga / Submissions**
6. **Karakia**



Karakia

1. Karakia

Ruruku Timata – Opening Prayer

(Kia ururu mai ā-hauora,
ā-haukaha, ā-hau māia)

Ki runga

Ki raro

Ki roto

Ki waho

Rire rire hau

Paimārire

*(Fill me with vitality)
strength and bravery)*

Above

Below

Inwards

Outwards

The winds blow & bind us

Peace be with us.



Matakore Apologies

2. Matakore / Apologies

Leave of Absence: *The Board may grant a member leave of absence following an application from that member. Leave of absences will be held in the Public Excluded section of the meeting.*



Ngā Whakaputanga Declarations of Interest

3

3. Tauākī Whakarika / Declarations of Interest

Notification from elected members of:

- a) Any interests that may create a conflict with their role as an elected member relating to the items of business for this meeting; and
- b) Any interests in items in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as provided for in the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968.

Declarations of Interest: Notification from elected members of: Any interests that may create a conflict with their role as an elected member relating to the items of business for this meeting; and Any interests in items in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as provided for in the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968



Kaitāpae - Kōrero

Submitters - Speaking

4

4. Kaitāpae – Kōrero / Submitters – Speaking

No.	Name	Organisation	Time	Page
19	James Imlack	New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.	11.05 am	50
17	Stephen Kay		11.20 am	43
10	Shelley Harkness		11.35 am	29
9 & 11	Julian Harkness		11.50 am	25 & 31



Tāpaetanga Submissions

5. Tāpaetanga / Submissions

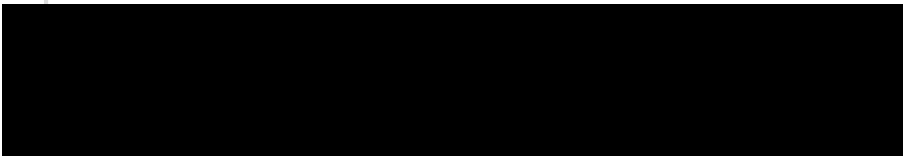
No.	Submitter	Organisation	Page No.
1	Nikki Watson	Te Hāwera Community Board	10
2	A Local		12
3	Trish Adams		13
4	Emmanuelle Charmant		15
5	Jacqui Sharpe		17
6	Gordon Blewett		19
7	Karen Cave	Eltham-Kaponga Community Board	21
8	Trish Adams		23
9	Julian Harkness		25
10	Shelly Harkness		29
11	Julian Harkness		31
12	Anton Strydom		35
13	Lynette Hendrikse		37
14	NJ Bishop		39
15	Heather Brokenshire		40
16	Liz Sinclair	Taranaki Coastal Community Board	41
17	Stephen Kay		43
18	Sarah Butler	Te Whatu Ora	45
19	James Imlach	New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.	50



Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 09/07/2024
First name: Nikki **Last name:** Watson
Organisation: Te Hāwera Community Board
Preferred method of contact Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

I only wish to comment on Te Hāwera areas.

It is so important to designate areas because we would dislike to see freedom camping take place anywhere without monitoring.

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Regarding vehicle parking in that grassy area, I wonder if there has been some consideration as to what could happen if it is wet and muddy in winter?

There are mesh solutions that may need to be considered during winter.

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

I am unsure of the reasons for taking this one out (simplifying the number of spots for monitoring perhaps) It would be great to know why. I put no but I swing to a yes when i understand the reasoning behind decisions.

I don't think it is utilised often enough to matter too much but if the vehicles are self-contained does it matter and is it better to offer more options? I can see a positive to them being near the Normanby Dairy and Fish and Chip shop therefore supporting those businesses.

Normanby Domain is a far better place to show off to our visitors wouldn't it be amazing if there were more parking available in the grotty old sectioned-off courtyard area?

Why is there no mention of the most beautiful

reserve Te Ngutu o te Manu or is this not a campground anymore?

Any other comments

Pukekino Landng: It seems odd that you would place (A) Self-contained vehicles at the end closest to the facilities and tents and non-self-contained vehicles farther away but I may be reading the map wrong.

TSB Hub Carpark: This is an extremely busy area and is often very difficult to get a park when an event is on. Particulary on the Camberwell Road side. It is going to be a crazy thing to monitor these amidst all the vehicles parking there. With the campground so close I wonder if it is necessary at all. But if it is then i would suggest Waihi area only.

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 15/07/2024
First name: A **Last name:** Local
Preferred method of contact: Email
Postal address: , NZ
Email: sample@sample.com
Daytime Phone:
Mobile:
Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?
 I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?
 Yes
 Do you have any further comments?
 I hope this will give the council a leg to stand on with removing those who have made themselves at home in the town square, around the community centre and the like.

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?
 Yes
 Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?
 Yes
 Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?
 Yes
 Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

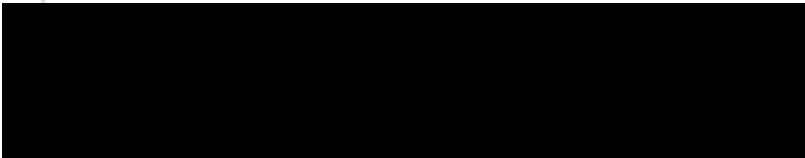
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 16/07/2024

First name: Trish

Last name: Adams

Preferred method of contact Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Any other comments

Freedom Camping at Mana Bay. Designated Area A

I do not agree with freedom camping at the above site as this is a general walkway from the boat ramp to Mana Bay.

People who are tenting generally have a vehicle so where are they going to park them? If agreed they can park on site there is huge potential for vegetation to be damaged.

The area is quite a distance from the shower and toilet facilities and it is unlikely tenters would always use the facilities when required.

There is no lighting in the area which is a safety issue

Area A backs on to private property and there is potential for tenters to impact on these areas. There has already been a number of homes broken in to and possessions stolen and never replaced.

I think bollards should be placed at either end of Area A to limit vehicular into the area and maintain vegetation growth

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

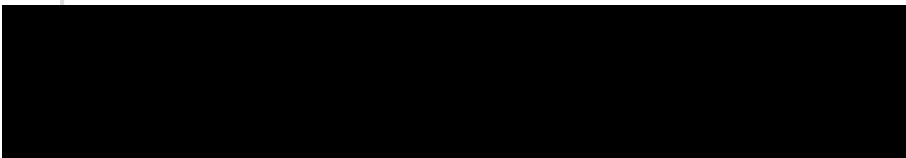
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 18/07/2024

First name: Emmanuelle

Last name: Charmant

Preferred method of contact: Email



Mobile:

Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark

of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

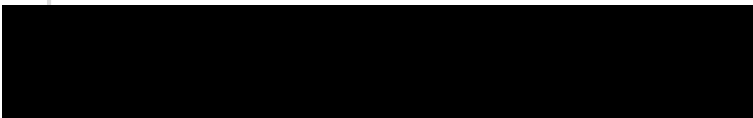
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Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 18/07/2024
 First name: Jacqui Last name: Sharpe
 Preferred method of contact: Email
 Postal address: 4391, NZ



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?
Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?
Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?
No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?
No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?
No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?
Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?
Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

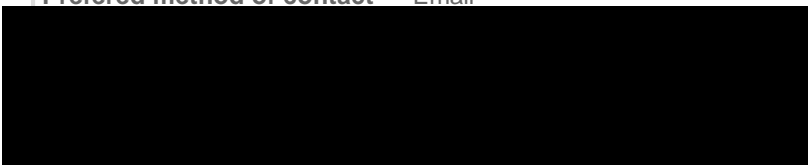
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 20/07/2024

First name: Gordon

Last name: Blewett

Preferred method of contact: Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

No I don't agree because Tayler st park Eltham will be over run with freedom campers which had no toilets or bins and people will be urinating on the trees. Also it's a playground and should not be a freedom camping site.

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

It is a safety issue down there as toilets struggle to keep up with demand and a lot of yahoos down there and no cell coverage for emergency

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

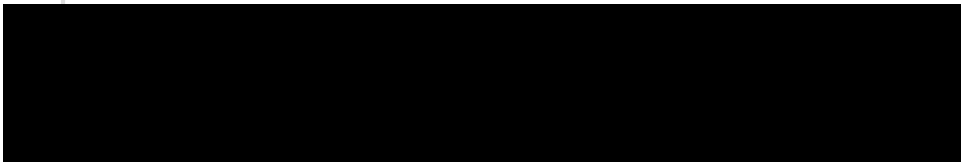
Link	File
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Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 31/07/2024
 First name: KAREN Last name: CAVE
 Organisation:
 Eltham Kaponga Community Board
 Preferred method of contact Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

This is a great way to show exactly where you can and cannot freedom camp within our towns

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

It was always weird and off putting pulling up to this well used car park and seeing people camping out. People I've spoken to within the community also feel this way.

It's horrible that its abused and the space around the back of the library has been used as an outdoor toilet

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Locals I've spoken to that live in this area are very happy that this will no longer be a freedom camping area

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

As there are toilet facilities available, we agree with this being useable for freedom camping

Any other comments

I've only commented on the spaces that are in the EKC Boards area. And in the case of Waihi Beach, we are familiar with the area

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

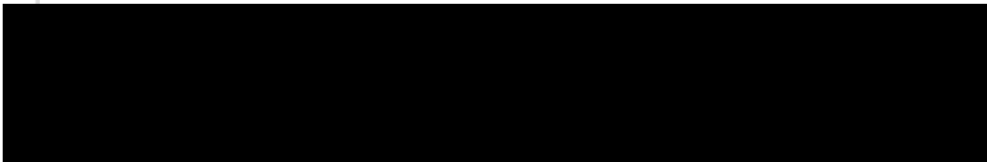
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 02/08/2024

First name: Trish

Last name: Adams

Preferred method of contact Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments? An unsafe area as too close to state highway traffic

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments? This area should be improved to enable private housing to be developed

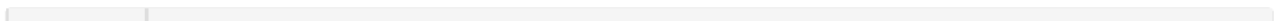
Any other comments

In Patea we have a large number of motor homes and caravans visit - even through the winter months.

Can consideration be given to extending Seaview Lookout (or #1 as locals call it) to accommodate these visitors. I appreciate there is room for 3 motor homes at the moment but extending the lookout to the north (towards the grove of trees) would open the area up for more visitors to stay overnight. It's a prime area with a prime view and as the beach area is one of our greatest assets we need to foster ideas which encourage people to stay (and spend money in the grocer shop, buy petrol and eat at the cafe, buy from the hangi shop). There would be room to have an entry and exit for vehicles which keeps everyone safe

This area should be classed for self contained vehicles only

Attached Documents



Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 08/08/2024

First name: Julian

Last name: Harkness

Preferred method of contact: Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

Yes

In Person

Additional requirements for hearing:

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Halse Place needs to have marked freedom camping parking spots to ensure residents also have access to the area, including the steps to Middleton's Bay, and to stop over-crowding. There were circumstances last

year where marked commercial vehicles were parked at Halse Place week after week.

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?
Yes

Do you have any further comments? Yes, it's certainly not safe there.

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?
Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?
Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?
Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?
No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?
No

Do you have any further comments?

Thank you for the opportunity to hear my submission on the "Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016" (PFCB) and I congratulate the Council on the initiative to review this Bylaw.

Title of Review

As the Council already has a Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016, I believe the review should be called the "Proposed 2024 Amendment to the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016."

Numbering of Clauses

The numbering of the Clauses in the Statement of Proposal (SoP) on page 3, is not consistent with the "Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw". For example, Clause 13 in the SOP is actually Clause 11 in the PFCB. This has caused some confusion with people I have spoken to.

Definitions Section 5 Interpretation

I believe it would be clearer if the definition of freedom camping includes the wording from the Freedom Camping Act rather than just a reference to it. A reader of the Bylaw is not necessarily going to have detailed knowledge of the Freedom Camping Act and what freedom camping is, is fundamental to understanding the Bylaw.

General Conditions

Section 7.12 the maximum number of vehicles per site should be included in the Bylaw and there should not be an option to circumvent the Bylaw through erecting a sign. There is no process in the Bylaw as to who has authority to set the maximum vehicle per site. The number of freedom camping vehicles does affect rate paying residents' ability to join the same area especially as they stay many days on end.

Marked Freedom Camping Site

I believe all freedom camping sites should be marked out in parking spots so that freedom campers park just in those spots. This would allow rate paying residents freedom to access the surrounding area which includes access to toilets and steps. Currently freedom campers can park where they like, often in large groups huddled around toilets and steps. It is disconcerting for residents to walk through these groups when accessing public amenities. Many just don't do it. I stopped taking my dog to Middleton's Bay over the summer months for this reason.

Additionally, this would prevent overcrowding of freedom campers above the number of the allocation in each area. It would then be clear that whoever is not parked in the allocated parking spots need to depart. It's the same principle as car parking.

Opunake

Opunake has 6 freedom camping sites in the town of 1500 people, where Hawera has 3 for a much larger population.

There is an imbalance of providing facilities to rate paying residents and the freedom campers. For example, the initial Officer's assessment was that the Opunake Lake area, which includes a public toilet, was unsafe for elderly and children and yet is a freedom camping site.

6. Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Place (Opunake)?

A. Additionally, Halse Place needs to have marked freedom camping parking spots to ensure residents also have access to the area, including the steps to Middleton's Bay, and to stop over-crowding. There were circumstances last year where marked commercial vehicles were parked at Halse Place week after week.

7. Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Opunake)?

Yes, it's certainly not safe there.

8. Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Opunake Recreation Grounds?

Yes

I would like the opportunity to speak to my submission.

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 08/08/2024

First name: Shelly

Last name: Harkness

Preferred method of contact: Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

Yes

In Person

Additional requirements for hearing:

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Freedom camping areas should have designated parking spots for the allowable number of freedom campers. This avoids freedom campers illegally exceeding the allowable number and potential controversy with freedom

campers, Council ambassadors and/or residents. It would also allow for residents to safely access public toilets, and in the case of Halse Place, safe access to the steps down to Middleton's Bay.

At the moment, 12 freedom campers are permitted at Halse Place, but given it's size this number is usually exceeded in the busy period. Then becomes the problem of working out who had arrived first, and thus can stay. Designated parks eliminates this issue and is fair for all.

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Any other comments

I'm interested to hear why Opunake has 6 freedom camping spots, compared to say Hawera which has only 3. When the 2016 Bylaw was created, was there public consultation on this?

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

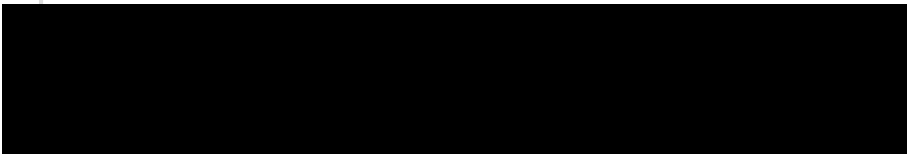
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 09/08/2024

First name: Julian

Last name: Harkness

Preferred method of contact: Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

Yes

In Person

Additional requirements for hearing:

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Halse Place needs to have marked freedom camping parking spots to ensure residents also have access to the area, including the steps to Middleton's Bay, and to stop over-crowding. There were circumstances last

year where marked commercial vehicles were parked at Halse Place week after week.

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments? It's certainly not safe there.

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?

Yes


Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

Link	File
	Freedom Camping Bylaw submission

Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016 Submission

Julian Harkness

Thank you for the opportunity to hear my submission on the “Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016” (PFCB) and I congratulate the Council on the initiative to review this Bylaw.

Title of Review

As the Council already has a Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016, I believe the review should be called the “Proposed 2024 Amendment to the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016.”

Numbering of Clauses

The numbering of the Clauses in the Statement of Proposal (SoP) on page 3, is not consistent with the “Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw”. For example, Clause 13 in the SOP is actually Clause 11 in the PFCB. This has caused some confusion with people I have spoken to.

Definitions Section 5 Interpretation

I believe it would be clearer if the definition of freedom camping includes the wording from the Freedom Camping Act rather than just a reference to it. A reader of the Bylaw is not necessarily going to have detailed knowledge of the Freedom Camping Act and what freedom camping is, is fundamental to understanding the Bylaw.

General Conditions

Section 7.12 the maximum number of vehicles per site should be included in the Bylaw and there should not be an option to circumvent the Bylaw through erecting a sign. There is no process in the Bylaw as to who has authority to set the maximum vehicle per site. The number of freedom camping vehicles does affect rate paying residents’ ability to join the same area especially as they stay many days on end.

Marked Freedom Camping Site

I believe all freedom camping sites should be marked out in parking spots so that freedom campers park just in those spots. This would allow rate paying residents freedom to access the surrounding area which includes access to toilets and steps. Currently freedom campers can park where they like, often in large groups huddled around toilets and steps. It is disconcerting for residents to walk through these groups when accessing public amenities. Many just don’t do it. I stopped taking my dog to Middleton’s Bay over the summer months for this reason.

Additionally, this would prevent overcrowding of freedom campers above the number of the allocation in each area. It would then be clear that whoever is not parked in the allocated parking spots need to depart. It’s the same principle as car parking.

Opunake

Opunake has 6 freedom camping sites in the town of 1500 people, where Hawera has 3 for a much larger population. There is an imbalance of providing facilities to rate paying residents and the freedom campers. For example, the initial Officer’s assessment was that the Opunake Lake area,

Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016 Submission
Julian Harkness

which includes a public toilet, was unsafe for elderly and children and yet is a freedom camping site.

6. Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Place (Opunake)?

Yes.

Additionally, Halse Place needs to have marked freedom camping parking spots to ensure residents also have access to the area, including the steps to Middleton's Bay, and to stop over-crowding. There were circumstances last year where marked commercial vehicles were parked at Halse Place week after week.

7. Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Opunake)?

Yes, it's certainly not safe there.

8. Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Opunake Recreation Grounds?

Yes

I would like the opportunity to speak to my submission.



Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 09/08/2024

First name: Anton

Last name: Strydom

Preferred method of contact: Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

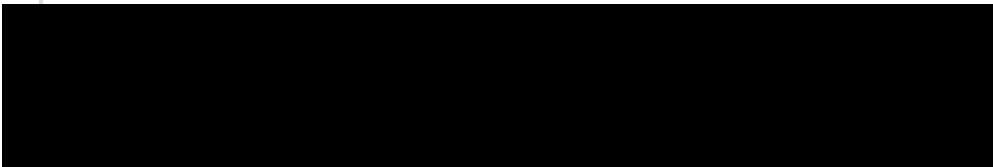
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 09/08/2024

First name: Lynette

Last name: Hendrikse

Preferred method of contact Email



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Vehicles must be officially self contained and proven. There are many stickered vehicles which are not self contained.

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

No

Do you have any further comments? campers should be supporting local campsites.

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

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Yes

Do you have any further comments?

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No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

Link	File
No records to display.	



Freedom Camping Bylaw

5

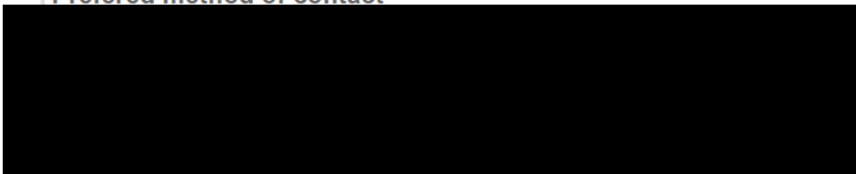
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 19/08/2024

First name: NJ

Last name: Bishop

Preferred method of contact



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Any other comments

Remove the Southern Headland as a Freedom Camping area. If this is referring to the old wharf. I AGREE.

To often Freedom Campers leave soiled toilet paper or tissues outside of their vehicles and park too close to the edge of the clifftops overlooking into Middletons Bay of alongside the Lookout Tower.

The road access is becoming a concern as was the old dump. As a lifetime resident of Opunake I would be happy to see the road/vehicle access closed.

Attached Documents

Link	File
	NJ Bishop Submission



Freedom Camping Bylaw

5

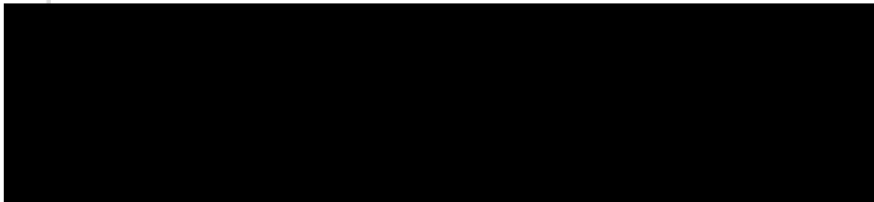
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 19/08/2024

First name: Heather

Last name: Brokenshire

Preferred method of contact



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

Link	File
	Heather Brokenshire submission



Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 19/08/2024

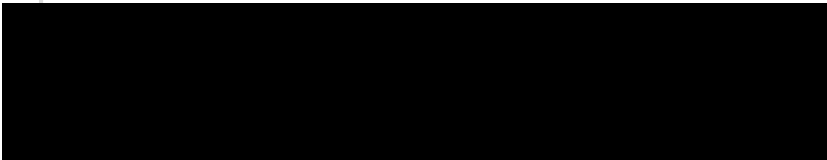
First name: Liz

Last name: Sinclair

Organisation:

Taranaki Coastal Community Board

Preferred method of contact



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

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Yes

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Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?

Yes


Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

Link	File
	Liz Sinclair



Freedom Camping Bylaw

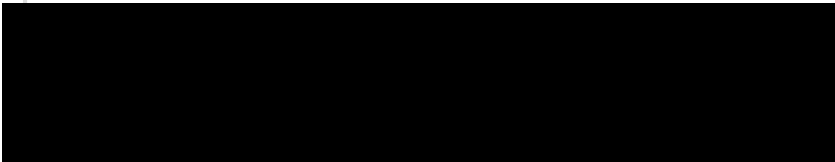
Submitter Details

Submission Date: 19/08/2024

First name: Stephen

Last name: Kay

Preferred method of contact



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

Yes

In Person

Additional requirements for hearing:

Feedback

Do you agree with the introduction of town boundary maps?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Eltham LibraryPlus carpark as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Rukumoana Reserve (Eltham) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing tents and non-self-contained vehicles at the Waihi Beach Reserve (Hāwera)?

No

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Tuke Street Reserve (Normanby) as a freedom camping area?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents and non-self-contained vehicles at Halse Park (Ōpunakē)?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in tents at Middleton Bay (Ōpunakē)?

Yes
Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the ability for people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the western carpark of the Ōpunakē Recreation Grounds?
Yes
Do you have any further comments?


Do you agree with removing the Bedford/Egmont Street Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?
Yes
Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with removing the Stafford Street Pool Reserve (Pātea) as a freedom camping area?
Yes
Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with allowing people to camp in non-self-contained vehicles at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley)?
Yes
Do you have any further comments?

Do you agree with increasing the number of vehicles that can freedom camp at the Wairoa Reserve (Waverley) from 3 to 6 vehicles per night?
Yes
Do you have any further comments?

Attached Documents

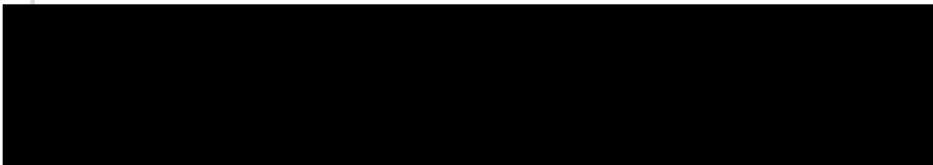
Link	File
	Stephen Kay

Freedom Camping Bylaw

5

Submitter Details

Submission Date: 19/08/2024
 First name: Sarah Last name: Butler
 Organisation: Te Whatu Ora
 Preferred method of contact



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?


I do NOT wish to speak in support of my submission and ask that the following submission be fully considered.

Feedback

Any other comments

Housing is an essential social determinant of health and a key influence on inequitable health outcomes for Maori. Homelessness negatively affects physical and mental health and contributes to other adverse social and economic outcomes. Adverse impacts that result from freedom camping, such as inappropriate disposal of litter or discharge of sewage, pose a risk to public health and negatively affect the environment. Inappropriate freedom camping may also create public nuisance under the Health Act 1956. Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki supports the review of and update to the South Taranaki District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw. Te Manawa Taki supports the review of and update to the South Taranaki District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw. To protect and promote public health the following comments are offered (as part of the submissions).

Attached Documents

Link	File
	STDC Freedom Camping_Final

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora

Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki
Private Bag 2016
New Plymouth 4310

08 August 2024

South Taranaki District Council
consultation@stdc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Re: Freedom Camping Bylaw

This submission is presented on behalf of Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki (Health NZ).

We **DO NOT** wish to speak to our submission.

Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki welcomes the opportunity to submit on the **South Taranaki District Council Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw**.

Building towards Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) for everyone includes taking a cross-sector, population health approach¹ to address social, commercial, and environmental determinants impacting health outcomes and inequities. Health NZ is committed to achieving health equity, guided by the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, as set out in our Te Pae Tata Interim New Zealand Health Plan¹. We endeavour to influence the determinants of health through cross-sector collaboration, community partnerships and by applying an equity lens to plans, policies and resources of local and regional government to support our communities to lead lives of wellness.

In Te Ao Māori, the wellbeing of the natural environment is critical to the wellbeing of people² and actions that protect the natural environment are central to this. Co-designed plans represent an important opportunity to improve health equity in ways that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. A key component of this is recognition of the cultural and historical relationships that tangata whenua have with te taiao (the environment)³. For tangata whenua, this recognition can include increasing the visibility of Te Reo Māori, as well as respecting the inseparable link between whenua (land) and whakapapa through (re)connecting history, culture, and place⁴. The health and wellbeing benefits of such actions are further reinforced by the Te Pae Mahutonga framework for health promotion,

¹ Health New Zealand. Te Pae Tata Interim New Zealand Health Plan 2022[Internet].2022 Oct 28 [cited 2024 Jul 11]. Available from <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/publications/te-pae-tata-interim-new-zealand-health-plan-2022/>

² , R., & Tipa, G. (2007). Placing well-being: A Maori case study of cultural and environmental specificity. *EcoHealth*, 4, 445-460.

³ Raerino, K., Macmillan, A., Field, A., & Hoskins, R. (2021). Local-Indigenous Autonomy and Community Streetscape Enhancement: Learnings from Māori and Te Ara Mua—Future Streets Project. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 18(3), 865.

⁴ Panelli, R., & Tipa, G. (2007). Placing well-being: A Maori case study of cultural and environmental specificity. *EcoHealth*, 4, 445-460.

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora

which emphasizes the importance of *Mauriora* as expressed through a secure cultural identity and *Te Oranga* as expressed through increased participation of Māori in society⁵.

Housing is an essential social determinant of health and a key influence on inequitable health outcomes for Māori⁶. Homelessness negatively affects physical and mental health and contributes to other adverse social and economic outcomes⁷. Māori and Pacific peoples disproportionately experience substantial inequities in housing, including homelessness^{8 9}. Other groups at higher risk of experiencing homelessness include single parent families, disabled people, people in the rainbow community and people with low incomes¹⁰. Council officers may encounter people experiencing homelessness and living in motor vehicles while they are enforcing this bylaw. It is noted that recent changes to the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 includes some regulatory exemptions for people experiencing homelessness and that guidance for Local Government suggests that people experiencing homelessness are not penalised and are referred to social service organisations¹¹.

Adverse impacts that result from freedom camping, such as inappropriate disposal of litter or discharge of sewage, pose a risk to public health and negatively affect the environment. Inappropriate freedom camping may also create public nuisance under the Health Act 1956. Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki **supports** the review of and update to the South Taranaki District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.

To protect and promote public health the following comments are offered:

- It is recommended that alongside the review of the Freedom Camping Bylaw, the Council review its procedures to ensure council staff/contractors are able to offer support to people experiencing homelessness by referral or other engagement with appropriate agencies or groups.
 - Health New Zealand National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki would welcome the opportunity to provide advice or guidance to support this action.
- It is important that self-contained campers are aware of where to dispose of sewage.
 - Recommend that sewage disposal facilities are clearly communicated to freedom campers in the South Taranaki District.
 - Support that non-self-contained camping is permitted only where there are appropriate facilities available.
- Section 9(5) of the Litter Act 1979 requires council to manage litter in public places to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health.
 - Recommend that the Council review its litter management strategies to incorporate proposed amendments to the Freedom Camping Bylaw.

⁵ Panelli, R., & Tipa, G. (2007). Placing well-being: A Maori case study of cultural and environmental specificity. *EcoHealth*, 4, 445-460.

⁶ New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine. (2023). Housing Policy Statement. [2023 NZCPHM Housing Policy Statement.pdf](#)

⁷ [Homelessness Action Plan \(hud.govt.nz\)](#)

⁸ New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine. (2023). Housing Policy Statement. [2023 NZCPHM Housing Policy Statement.pdf](#)

⁹ [Indicators of Homelessness - Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development \(hud.govt.nz\)](#)

¹⁰ [Homelessness Action Plan \(hud.govt.nz\)](#)

¹¹ [Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act Guidance for local authorities on key changes to freedom camping rules \(mbie.govt.nz\)](#)

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

- To reduce the risk of waterborne illness, it is important that information about safe drinking water is communicated to freedom campers.
 - Recommend council provide clear signage to distinguish potable drinking water sources from those that are not of drinking quality and where the water requires appropriate treatment (such as boiling).
- Ensure that when freedom camping is temporarily approved in areas where it is not usually allowed, such as for special events (regardless of size), appropriate plans are in place to manage the provision of potable drinking water and for sewage and rubbish disposal.
- When making decisions relating to specific freedom camping sites, it is recommended that the views of iwi/hapū and the community are prioritised in decision making.
- Ensure that all signage is clear and appropriate and has been co-designed with iwi and hapū.
 - Recommend that signage is accessible, and that the Council consider making use of available technology (such as QR codes or directions to websites) to ensure that available information can be updated as needed and is able to be provided in a variety of languages and formats.
 - Council could also consider developing educational and informative signage/material that highlights the special cultural, historic and natural features of the freedom camping sites in South Taranaki.
- Regularly review and evaluate the enforcement strategies for this bylaw to ensure the protection of the physical environment and the promotion of public health.

Should the Council require any further information to support the decision making regarding the proposed Freedom Camping bylaw please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ngā mihi,

**Ngamata Skipper**

Manager Community and Whanau Wellbeing
National Public Health Service – Te Manawa Taki
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora

About Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) leads the day-to-day running of the health system across Aotearoa New Zealand, and either provides or commissions services at local, regional and national levels. Under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022, one of the key objectives of Health NZ is “to promote health and prevent, reduce, and delay ill-health, including by collaborating with other agencies, organisations, and individuals to address the determinants of health.” The National Public Health Service (NPHS) Te Manawa Taki is within Health NZ and leads the delivery of health protection, health promotion and disease prevention services for communities across Taranaki, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Lakes District and Tairāwhiti. As a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner, NPHS advocates for equitable health outcomes, by striving to eliminate health differences, particularly for Māori, and build towards Pae Ora (healthy futures) for everyone.

Freedom Camping Bylaw



Submitter Details

Submission Date: 19/08/2024

First name: James

Last name: Imlach

Organisation:

New Zealand Motor Caravan Association
Inc.

Preferred method of contact



Would you like to present your submission in person at a hearing?

Yes

Online

Additional requirements for hearing:

Feedback

Any other comments


Overall, we support the proposed amendments to the bylaw insofar as they provide several opportunities for self-contained and non-self-contained freedom campers, and we commend the Council for endeavouring to maintain a balanced and generally permissive regime.

We recommend reviewing:

- a) the definition of a 'Self-contained vehicle',
- b) the extent of prohibition within the town boundary maps,
- c) the scoring system,
- d) the extent to which amenity values are relied on to prohibit freedom camping, and
- e) sections 11 and 12 of the bylaw.

We also have concerns with some of the potential effects outlined in the site assessments.

Attached Documents

Link	File
	240809_South Taranaki DC proposed review of freedom camping bylaw 2016



New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.

" Because you'll never be alone on the road again... "

5

09 August 2024

South Taranaki District Council
Private Bag 902
Hāwera 4640

Emailed to: contact@stdc.govt.nz and anne.sattler@stdc.govt.nz

Submission on the review of South Taranaki District Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016

Introduction

- 1 The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc. appreciates the opportunity to submit on this bylaw review. We understand the review is necessary by operation of law. Our members enjoy travelling the country at leisure in their certified self-contained motorhomes and caravans. Some 118,600 New Zealanders are members of the NZMCA and over 4,800 reside in Taranaki. Our members are directly affected by the proposed amendments to the bylaw.
- 2 While the Association operates a private motorhome park in Hawera, most NZMCA members are hybrid campers frequently alternating between commercial campgrounds, private campsites, and freedom camping areas. Opunake and Hawera are two of 58 official Motorhome Friendly Towns in New Zealand, and we promote both townships as places to visit through our communication channels. The ability to freedom camp responsibly in safe and desirable locations are important criteria for towns to achieve and maintain MHFT status.
- 3 Overall, we **support** the proposed amendments to the bylaw insofar as they provide several opportunities for self-contained and non-self-contained freedom campers, and we commend the Council for endeavouring to maintain a balanced and generally permissive regime.
- 4 We recommend reviewing
 - a) the definition of a 'Self-contained vehicle',
 - b) the extent of prohibition within the town boundary maps,
 - c) the scoring system,
 - d) the extent to which amenity values are relied on to prohibit freedom camping, and
 - e) sections 11 and 12 of the bylaw.
- 5 We also have concerns with some of the potential effects outlined in the site assessments.

Driving towards a Sustainable Future

Freedom to Explore

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Definition of a Self-contained Vehicle

- 6 The revised definition of a 'Self-contained vehicle' explicitly accepts blue warrant cards up to and including June 6, 2025 (the end of Period 4 under the new Act's transitional provisions). However, the Minister of Tourism and MBIE are currently reviewing proposals to extend the Period 4 expiry date for perhaps a further 12-24 months.
- 7 We suggest amending the definition by noting blue warrant cards will be accepted as proof of self-containment up to the end of Period 4. We expect MBIE will consult local authorities if the Government proposes to extend the period beyond June 6, 2025.

Town boundary maps

- 8 While we acknowledge the Council's rationale for prohibiting freedom camping within town boundaries (save for any designated sites) it is important to understand many responsible campers want to freedom camp in urban and residential areas and often do so without causing any nuisance effects or harm to the environment. For example, they may be visiting a motorhome friendly town and want to stay close to shops and amenities. Or they may be visiting relatives and need to camp overnight in their motorhomes on the roadside (see [Appendix 1](#) for comments from our members explaining why freedom camp in urban areas).
- 9 For these reasons, we recommend the bylaw permits freedom camping on the roadside within the prohibited town boundaries. At the very least, it shouldn't be an offence for a local resident to permit their visitors to camp overnight on the roadside directly outside their home. We note the Waitaki District Council's freedom camping bylaw enables this.

Scoring system

- 10 South Taranaki District Council spearheaded the scoring system in 2016 and at the time we thought it was a sensible and pragmatic way of undertaking site assessments. Since then, many other local authorities have followed suit, and some have varied the system. However, having spent eight years observing how local authorities implement the scoring system, we are not convinced a score of '1' should be applied when there are no issues present. Effectively, this means every site with no issues will still score 3/15 and may be prohibited if there are only moderate concerns across all three s.11 assessment criteria.
- 11 A score of 1/5 has been used nine times in the Council's site assessments. A good illustration of our concern with this flaw in the scoring system is the *Stratford Street Reserve* and *Bedford Street/Egmont Street Reserve* freedom camping sites in Pātea. Freedom camping is currently allowed at both sites. Freedom campers do not heavily use them, however they will become prohibited areas because of this review simply because the Council had to score each a 1/5 when assessing the need to protect access, even though there are no access issues.
- 12 We recommend the Council excludes a score of 1/5 before determining if an area should restrict or prohibit freedom camping.

“Freedom camping in townships and urban areas is very convenient for us. We can do our laundry, stock up on groceries, and eat out. We will make a conscious effort to freedom camp in smaller towns and support local businesses as they support us being there. We will bypass a town that does not provide a safe and convenient place to park overnight” **Brenda Graham & Ross McGregor (Christchurch).**

“We are exploring New Zealand fulltime now and love freedom camping. We stay almost exclusively in towns or urban areas for two main reasons: (1) Jude has a disability and cannot walk unassisted. Being close to town means we can look around and shop at our own pace; and (2) we feel much safer staying in town, particularly as it takes a while for us to get in and out of our motorhome. We do not feel safe freedom camping in remote areas.” **Jude Black & Paul Lawrence (Papamoa).**

“We enjoy freedom camping in towns as it provides opportunities to park up our motorhome and go out for dinner or breakfast, or to go shopping. We love supporting local businesses, however if we are not welcome then those towns will simply miss out on our business.” **Paula & Torsten Baker (Wellington).**

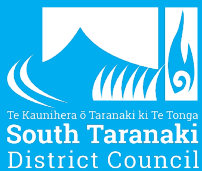
“We purchased our motorhome three years ago. We are still townies at heart and love camping in townships and urban areas when on the road or visiting friends. Close proximity (i.e. walking distance) to townships and shops is important for us as we like to spend a lot of time and money in cafes, restaurants, supermarkets, farmers markets, clothes shops, and at local events etc. We enjoy staying in a variety of locations, including freedom camping areas, low-cost sites, NZMCA parks and campgrounds. We value the free and low-cost parking options that many towns provide and will always spend money as a show of appreciation.” **Heather & John McMurdo (Blenheim).**

“Owning a motorhome makes it easier for us to visit friends and family around the country. It is often more convenient for us to park outside their homes and sleep inside the motorhome overnight. Banning this will make it difficult for us to continue to visit our friends and family.” **Neil Hellewell (Christchurch).**

“We go out of our way to support local businesses and spend money in towns that welcome motorhomers. If the overnight parking areas are easy to get to and enable us to stay close by, we will eat out at local restaurants and explore the town.” **Averil & Robin Williams (Southland).**

“We love motorhoming in towns and have done so in several countries. The convenience of parking in town allows us to shop around and spend money. We find the better the facility the more the town benefits.” **Geoff & Jo Kidd (Christchurch).**

“We love freedom camping as well as visiting public campgrounds, DOC campsites and NZMCA Parks during our travels. Freedom camping, particularly in rural and provincial towns, is a fantastic and easy way for us to learn more about a town’s past. We are more inclined to spend money in local shops and visit tourist attractions run by local residents when we are staying in town. As retirees, if we are forced to stay in campgrounds all the time, we will not be able to afford to travel as much as we do, while learning about New Zealand’s rich history and supporting a wider range of local businesses.” **Christine & Darryl Avery (Foxton Beach).**



Karakia

6. Karakia

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Ruruku Whakakapi – Closing Prayer

Unuhia, unuhia

Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui

Kia wātea, kia māmā te ngākau, te

tinana, te wairua i te ara takatū

Kia wātea, ka wātea, āe rā, kua wātea

Rire rire hau pai marire!

Draw on, draw on,

Draw on the supreme sacredness

*To clear, to free the heart, the body and the
spirit of mankind*

To be clear, will be clear, yes is cleared.

Deeply in peace!