

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

The Kāpiti Coast District Council's Freedom Camping Policy was adopted in February 2011 to set conditions regarding freedom camping in the Kāpiti Coast District. Over the last year the Policy has been reasonably effective at managing the activities of freedom campers to help ensure they have a safe and positive camping experience. As an informational tool to explain the conditions of stay it has also helped to reduce damage to the local environment or conflict with local residents and business; but as a regulatory tool it has been less effective when dealing with minor breaches caused by deliberately non compliant campers.

The current Policy (which is enforced via the Public Places Bylaw 2010) only provides Council compliance officers with a limited range of enforcement options - many of them too severe or impractical for dealing with minor offences. However, the Freedom Camping Policy was only ever intended as an interim measure whilst the government was developing freedom camping legislation.

In August last year the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the Act) received royal assent. The main intent of the new statute was to provide local authorities with access to a more effective suite of enforcement tools to better manage the nuisance created by errant freedom campers. A significant enforcement improvement is the ability of Council enforcement officers to issue \$200 infringement fines for minor breaches to freedom camping bylaws made under section 11 of the Act.

The new Act provides the Council with the ability to issue infringement fines under its existing Freedom Camping Policy but only until 1 September 2012 when this capability will be revoked. To retain the ability to issue infringement fines for breaches of local freedom camping rules the Council must adopt a new Freedom Camping Bylaw in accordance with section 11 of the Act by 1 September.

To ensure the Council has a Freedom Camping Bylaw in place by 1 September it has prepared a statement of proposal with an attached Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw for public consultation. The conditions for freedom camping imposed by the proposed Bylaw are not significantly different to the existing Freedom Camping Policy 2011.

WHERE TO INSPECT THE STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL AND THE METHOD OF OBTAINING COPIES

Council Service Centres at:

Otaki: Main/Aotaki Street, 06 364 8039

Waikanae: Mahara Place, 04 296 4761

Paraparaumu: Council Offices, 175 Rimu Road, Private Bag 60601, 04 296 4700

Copies may also be obtained from the Council website: www.kapiticoast.govt.nz or by phoning a local service centre to request a copy by mail.

METHODS OF MAKING SUBMISSIONS

Submissions can be made in writing or via a submission form obtained from Council Service Centres, the website or by mail.

THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH SUBMISSIONS MAY BE MADE

The closing date for submissions is **4pm on Friday 25 May 2012.**

Submissions can be mailed to:

Kapiti Coast District Council
Private Bag 60601
Paraparaumu

Or faxed to 04 296 4830 or email: kapiti.council@kapiticoast.govt.nz

And marked: **Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2012**