

**Kapiti Coast District Council
Freedom Camping Bylaw 2026**

1 Title

- 1.1 This bylaw is the Kapiti Coast District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2026.

2 Consistency Accountability Statement

- 2.1 Kapiti Coast District Council confirms that it has assessed this bylaw, and the process for developing it, for consistency with the principles of responsible regulation as set out in section 9 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025.
- 2.2 This assessment identified no inconsistencies with the principles of responsible regulation.

3 Authority and Commencement

- 3.1 This Bylaw is made under sections 11 and 11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and under the Local Government Act 2002 and applies to the Kapiti Coast District.
- 3.2 This Bylaw comes into force on 1 November 2026.

4 The Kapiti Coast District Council Validation

- 4.1 The Kapiti Coast District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2026 was approved at a meeting of the Kapiti Coast District Council (Resolution CO2026/61) held on 23 July 2026 after consultation undertaken pursuant to the Local Government Act's Special Consultative Procedure.

4.2 Bylaw Review

Bylaw adopted by Council	23 July 2026
Bylaw came into effect	1 November 2026
Review due date	1 November 2031

The Common seal of the Kapiti Coast District Council was affixed hereto, pursuant to a resolution of Council on 23 July 2026, in the presence of:

.....
Janet Holborow
Mayor

.....
Darren Edwards
Chief Executive

.....
Martin Halliday
Deputy Mayor



5 Purpose

- 5.1 The purpose of this Bylaw is to regulate, through prohibitions and restrictions, freedom camping in the Kapiti district in order to protect:

- 5.1.1 Local authority areas;
- 5.1.2 The health and safety of people who may visit local authority areas;
- 5.1.3 Access to local authority areas.

6 Interpretation

- 6.1 In this Bylaw unless the context otherwise requires:

Act means the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Consent means a consent issued under clause 10 of this Bylaw to a person, group of persons or an event organiser.

Council means the Kapiti Coast District Council.

District means the Kapiti Coast District.

Prohibited area means an area identified in Schedule 2A or 2B of this Bylaw. Freedom camping is not allowed in this area unless prior written consent has been obtained from Council.

Restricted area means an area identified in Schedule 1A, 1B or 1C of this Bylaw. Freedom camping is allowed in these areas, subject to complying with the restrictions imposed.

Self-contained motor vehicle means a motor vehicle that has a valid certificate of self-containment issued in accordance with section 87U(3)(d) of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006.

6.2 The following terms have the same definitions as in the Act:

Certificate of self-containment, and certified

Freedom camp (freedom camping)

Local authority area

Motor vehicle

Self-contained.

7 Council Resolution Process for Adding, Amending, Varying or Removing Maps from the Schedules

7.1 Council may, by a publicly notified resolution, add, amend or remove a map from the Schedules to this Bylaw. The resolution may also add, amend or remove the restrictions that apply to an area allowing restricted freedom camping.

7.2 Any map added or amended under clause 7.1 will be in a similar format, and with similar content, to the other maps in the Schedule concerned.

7.3 A resolution made under clause 7.1 must clearly state which Schedule is being changed.

7.4 A resolution made under clause 7.1 may authorise any consequential changes necessary within the Schedule to maintain its structure, order and readability.

7.5 The Chief Executive shall authorise the necessary implementation requirements such as signage and marking of roads/carparks to give effect to any resolution made under this Bylaw.

Process for making resolutions under this clause

7.6 A resolution proposed under this Bylaw along with the proposed addition, amendment or removal of a map or restriction in a Schedule will be made publicly available for at least four weeks before Council considers it, to enable any interested party to make a submission and provide comments.

- 7.7 Council has discretion to hold a Hearing for interested parties wanting to be heard on their submissions.
- 7.8 Council will have regard to the provisions in section 11B of the Act when making amendments under this clause.

The following note is explanatory and is not part of the Bylaw:

A resolution under clause 7.1 is intended to enable Council to keep maps and associated restrictions within the Schedules up to date without amending the entire bylaw. It is not a substitute for a review of this bylaw under section 13 of the Act. The process for publication and consultation on the proposed resolutions is intended to be consistent with the principles of consultation within the Local Government Act and Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

8 Where Freedom Camping is Permitted

Self-contained motor vehicles

- 8.1 Freedom camping using a self-contained motor vehicle is permitted in any local authority area within the district unless it is prohibited or restricted in an area:
- 8.1.1 under clause 9 or 10 of this Bylaw and the associated schedule maps; or
 - 8.1.2 under a temporary closure in accord with clause 12 of this Bylaw; or
 - 8.1.3 under any other legislation; or
 - 8.1.4 in the case of a self-contained motor vehicle, by the limit placed on the maximum number of people for which the vehicle is certified.

Tents or other temporary structures

- 8.2 Freedom camping using a tent or other temporary structure is only permitted in the local authority areas identified for that purpose in Schedule 1C.

Non-self-contained motor vehicles

- 8.3 Freedom camping in a non-self-contained motor vehicle is only permitted in the parking spaces specifically identified for that purpose on the area maps in Schedules 1A or 1B, if any.

The following note is explanatory and is not part of the Bylaw:

Other legislation includes the Reserves Act 1977, which generally prohibits camping in reserves (pursuant to section 44) and provides for infringement notices to be issued. The Council's Reserve Management Plan will indicate where reserve land is able to accommodate freedom camping.

9 Where Freedom Camping is Prohibited

- 9.1 A person must not freedom camp:
- 9.1.1 in a local authority area, including a local road, that is within the boundary area marked red on a map included in Schedule 2A; or
 - 9.1.2 within the boundary area marked red on a map included in Schedule 2B; or
 - 9.1.3 in any local authority area in non-self-contained motor vehicles unless specifically allowed for in Schedules 1A or 1B, if any; or
 - 9.1.4 in any local authority area in tents or other temporary structures unless allowed for in Schedule 1C, if any.
- 9.2 Despite clause 9.1 a person may freedom camp in any prohibited area if they have obtained the prior written consent from the Council in accordance with clause 11 and they comply with any conditions of that notice of consent.
- 9.3 In accordance with Schedule 2A a person must not freedom camp on local authority land within any metropolitan centre, town centre, local centre or mixed-use zones as described in the Kapiti Coast's operative district plan, unless expressly provided for in Schedule 1A or by consent.
- 9.4 A person must not freedom camp on roads where the speed limit is 80km/h or greater unless the self-contained motor vehicle can be parked safely on the road margin completely clear of the formed carriageway.

10 Where Freedom Camping is Restricted

- 10.1 A person may freedom camp in a self-contained motor vehicle in any of the local authority areas identified in Schedules 1A and 1B, so long as they comply with the specific restrictions for the area concerned as well as the restrictions listed in clauses 10.2 and 10.3.
- 10.2 Where freedom camping in a reserve is enabled by a Reserve Management Plan:
- 10.2.1 that reserve area will be a restricted freedom camping area and included in Schedule 1B of this Bylaw; and
 - 10.2.2 for the avoidance of doubt, where there is a conflict between the authority of the Reserves Act 1977 and the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and this Bylaw, the Reserves Act will take precedence.
- 10.3 The self-contained motor vehicle must:

- 10.3.1 not stay in any particular restricted area for more than 48 hours unless Schedules 1A or 1B specify an alternative maximum length of stay applying to that particular area including where that alternative maximum length of stay is applied to a specified seasonal period; and
 - 10.3.2 not return and re-stay within 500 metres of that restricted area within 28 days unless Schedules 1A or 1B specify an alternative return period applying to that area; and
 - 10.3.3 be parked legally; and
 - 10.3.4 not prevent others from doing legitimate activities in the area.
- 10.4 Despite clause 10.1, a person may freedom camp in any restricted area if they have obtained a notice of consent from the Council in accordance with clause 11 and they comply with any conditions of that notice, if any.

11 Prior Consent from Council

- 11.1 The Council may grant a notice of consent to a person or group of persons or an event organiser, to freedom camp or provide for freedom camping in any prohibited area or restricted area contrary to any prohibition or restrictions that apply to that area under this Bylaw.
- 11.2 An application for consent must be made in writing to the Chief Executive and:
 - 11.2.1 include the applicant's contact details; and
 - 11.2.2 in the case of an event organiser provide sufficient information to establish the credentials of that person and their authority to speak and act for the event, and description of the event concerned; and
 - 11.2.3 provide sufficient detail about the proposed freedom camping, including why the consent is wanted and why it does not comply with the prohibition, or the restrictions imposed under this bylaw; and
 - 11.2.4 provide sufficient detail about how the applicant will manage:
 - i effects on the area to be camped on,
 - ii the health and safety of anyone who may visit the area,
 - iii protection of access to the area for members of the public; and
 - 11.2.5 be made at least 20 working days in advance of the date the freedom camping is proposed to commence.
- 11.3 If the Council grants an application, it may impose any conditions it considers appropriate to meet the purpose of this bylaw.

- 11.4 The notice of consent and its conditions will be enforced in accordance with the Act and its regulations.
- 11.5 Notwithstanding clause 11.4, an enforcement officer may revoke a notice of consent granted under this bylaw if any person breaches the conditions specified in the consent, or the freedom camping activity covered by the consent otherwise breaches the Act.
- 11.6 If the Council refuses an application, it must inform the applicant of the reasons for the decision.

12 The Council may temporarily close an area to freedom camping

- 12.1 The Council may temporarily close any of its areas (or part of such area) where freedom camping can be done should the closure be necessary to:
 - 12.1.1 repair damage that significantly affects the environment of that area, the use of the local authority area, or facilities in the area for freedom camping; or
 - 12.1.2 to prevent damage occurring where there is an immediate threat of damage that could otherwise require the Council to close the area to repair the damage; or
 - 12.1.3 allow for landscaping, re-planting, refurbishment or maintenance to be carried out on the local authority area or facilities; or
 - 12.1.4 ensure public health and safety can be maintained; or
 - 12.1.5 or ensuring safe public access to and from temporary events and occasions.
- 12.2 Council may temporarily close a freedom camping area that when an emergency situation exists or is likely to occur, and:
 - 12.2.1 the Chief Executive is satisfied there could be risk of injury or harm to persons; and
 - 12.2.2 the Chief Executive gives notice of any temporary closure in any manner considered appropriate given the reason and level of risk associated with the event; and
 - 12.2.3 the Chief Executive must give notice of the removal of any closure notice in a timely and appropriate manner.
- 12.3 When it is necessary to temporarily close a freedom camping area in any other situation, the Council must:

- 12.3.1 confirm any decision made under this clause is consistent with the criteria set out in section 11(2)(a) of the Act; and
- 12.3.2 define the affected area either by a map or description of its locality, including by reference to a schedule of this Bylaw; and
- 12.3.3 give appropriate advance notification, of at least 48 hours, when possible, of the planned closure to the public and key stakeholders; and
- 12.3.4 describe the timeframe of the closure or the criteria to be met for the temporary closure to be lifted; and
- 12.3.5 give notice of the removal of any closure notice in a timely and appropriate manner.

The following note is explanatory and is not part of the Bylaw:

Without limiting the notification options, notice given by the Council or the Chief Executive may include any of the following: a sign erected in the area, advertising on the Council's website or on the radio, a public notice in the paper or a written notice handed out by a Council officer.

13 Effect of this Bylaw on other bylaws and enactments

- 13.1 This Bylaw does not override or affect any time, vehicle class or other restrictions that apply to the parking of a vehicle, made under any other bylaw or enactment.

The following note is explanatory and is not part of the Bylaw:

This clause is to make it clear that approval of freedom camping under this Bylaw must also satisfy any requirement for approval under another bylaw or enactment. For example: freedom camping must still comply with any applicable traffic parking rules.

14 Offences

- 14.1 Section 20(1) and 20C of the Act specifies the infringement offences applicable to local authority areas, which includes that every person commits an offence who:
 - 14.1.1 freedom camps in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw that applies to the area concerned; or
 - 14.1.2 makes preparations to freedom camp in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw that applies to the area concerned.

- 14.2 For the purpose of section 20(1)(a) and (f) of the Act, any person who has obtained the consent of Council to freedom camp under clause 11 of this Bylaw and who complies with the conditions of that consent is not acting in breach of any prohibition or restriction of this Bylaw.

15 Penalties

- 15.1 The infringement penalties are enabled by section 20E of the Act and are specified in regulations.

16 Revocation and savings

- 16.1 The Kapiti Coast District Council Freedom Camping Policy 2012 is revoked as of 1 November 2026.
- 16.2 Any permission, consent, agreement or any other act of authority which originated under the Freedom Camping Policy 2012 and which is still in force at the commencement of this Bylaw continues to have full force and effect for the purpose of this Bylaw.

17 Schedules

- 17.1 The following schedules form part of this Bylaw:

Schedule 1

Schedule 1A: Areas where freedom camping is allowed in self-contained vehicles subject to complying with the restrictions imposed

Schedule 1B: Reserve areas where freedom camping is allowed under the Reserve Management Plan, subject to complying with any restrictions imposed

Schedule 1C: Areas where freedom camping is allowed in tents subject to complying with the restrictions imposed

Schedule 2

Schedule 2A: Prohibitions - city centres and town centres where freedom camping is not allowed on local authority land

Schedule 2B: Prohibitions – specific areas where freedom camping is not allowed

The following note is explanatory and is not part of the Bylaw:

The Schedules to this Bylaw show areas within the Kapiti Coast District where freedom camping is restricted or prohibited. The Schedules provide clarity of site recognition and definition.

Freedom Camping Bylaw – Schedules of Site Maps

Schedule 1 – Restrictions

Please note that where a restricted zone adjoins a prohibited zone listed in Schedule 2, we have mapped the prohibited zone for clarity.

Schedule 1A

Areas where freedom camping is allowed subject to complying with the restrictions imposed (NB: the reserves are in Schedule 1B)

Site	Designated Parks by signage or marking (Self-Contained Vehicles)	Maximum Vehicle Length	Maximum Stay	Maximum Summer Stay (1 December to last day of February)	Return Period
Park area Ōtaki Beach (North of Ōtaki Surf Club)	2	8 metres	2 nights	1 night	28 days
Carpark Ōtaki Beach (South of the Surf Club) opposite Tasman Road	4	10 metres	2 nights	1 night	28 days
Layby Area by Expressway Interchange, South of Ōtaki	3	8 metres	2 nights	2 nights	14 days
North Carpark Field Way Road, Waikanae Beach	2	8 metres	2 nights	1 night	28 days
Carpark Opposite #68 Marine Parade, Paraparaumu Beach	3	8 metres	2 nights	1 night	28 days
Carpark Opposite #62 Marine Parade, Paraparaumu Beach	3	8 metres	2 nights	1 night	28 days
McLean Street carpark (besides Kāpiti Court Motel), Paraparaumu Beach	3	8 metres	2 nights	2 nights	28 days
Raumati Marine Gardens, Raumati Beach	2	8 metres	2 nights	1 night	28 days
North End The Parade, Paekākāriki	2	8 metres	2 nights	1 night	28 days
KCDC Staff Carpark, Civic Precinct, Paraparaumu	4	8 metres	1 night (6pm to 7am)	1 night (6pm to 7am)	14 days

Ōtaki Beach: Marine Parade (North of Ōtaki Surf Club)



Ōtaki Beach: Ōtaki Beach carpark (South of Ōtaki Surf Club)



Ōtaki: Carpark by Expressway, South of Ōtaki



Waikanae Beach: Field Way, North carpark



Paraparaumu Beach: Opposite #68 Marine Parade



Paraparaumu Beach: Opposite #62 Marine Parade



Paraparaumu Beach: Maclean Street carpark



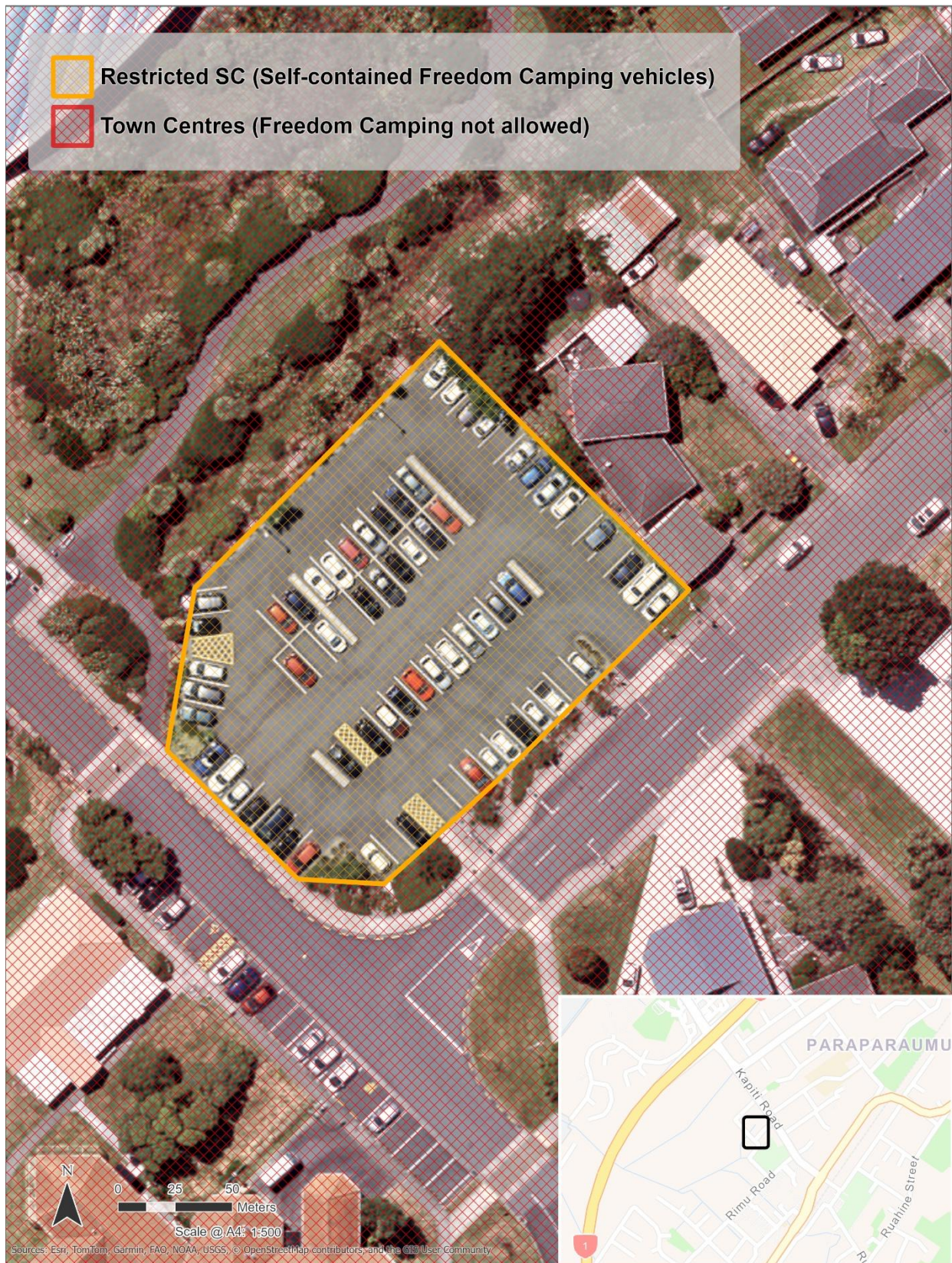
Raumati Beach: Raumati Marine Gardens carpark



Paekākāriki: The Parade (North end)



Paraparaumu Central: KCDC Council carpark



Schedule 1B

**Reserve areas where freedom camping is allowed
subject to complying with the restrictions imposed**

Site	Designated Parks by signage or marking (Self-Contained Vehicles)	Maximum Vehicle Length	Maximum Stay	Maximum Summer Stay (1 December to last day of February)	Return Period
Reserves					
Waikanae Park, Waikanae	2	8 metres	2 nights	2 nights	14 days
Field Way Reserve, Waikanae Beach	2	8 metres	2 nights	2 nights	28 days
Waimea Rd Beach Carpark, Waikanae Beach	3	10 metres	2 nights	2 nights	28 days

Waikanae: Waikanae Park



Waikanae Beach: Field Way Reserve



Waikanae Beach: Waimea Road Beach Reserve



Schedule 1C

Area where freedom camping is allowed in tents subject to complying with the restrictions imposed

Site	Designated Parks (Self-Contained Vehicles)	Maximum Vehicle Length	Maximum Stay	Maximum Summer Stay (1 December to last day of February)	Return Period
Mangaone South Road end, Reikorangi	10 Tents	n/a	2 nights	2 nights	n/a

Waikanae: Mangaone South Road end



Schedule 2 – Prohibitions

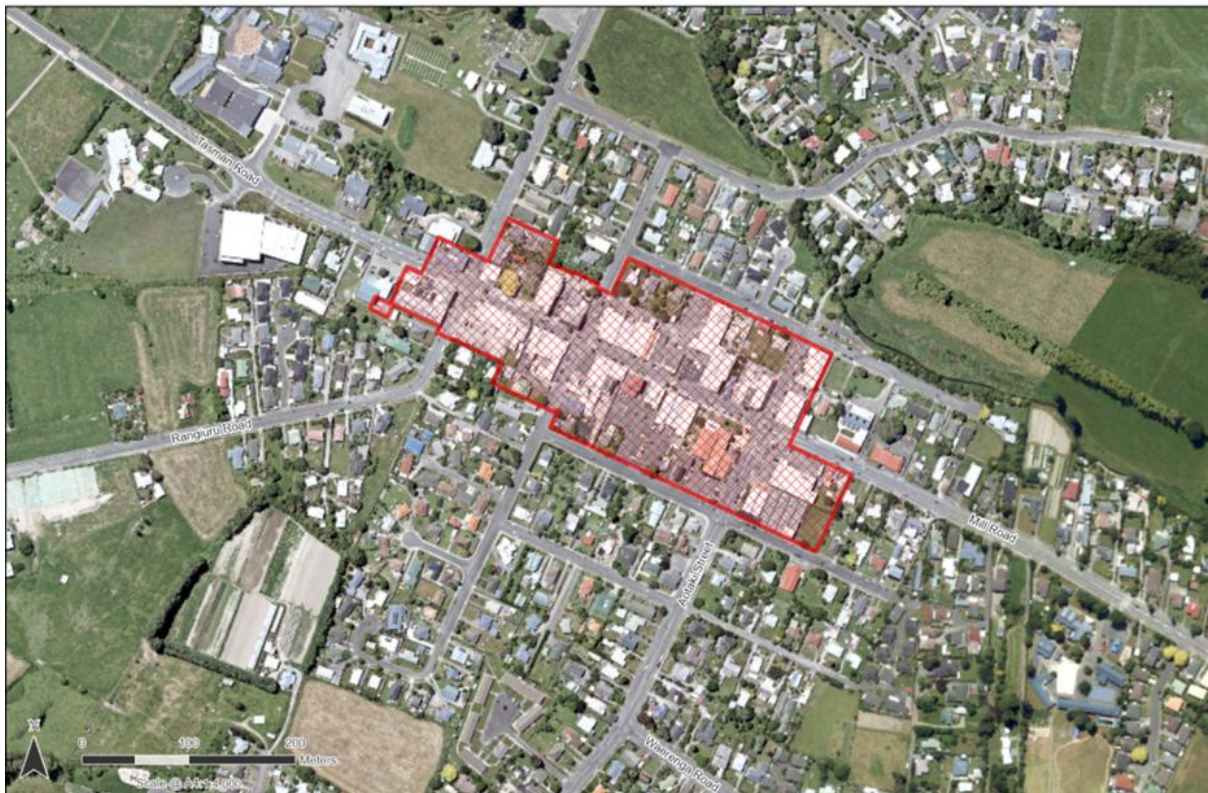
In addition to the prohibited list of centres and areas contained in this Schedule, freedom camping is prohibited in all council reserves unless allowed for in Schedule 1.

Schedule 2A

Prohibitions - town centres where freedom camping is not allowed on local authority land, including local roads

Listing of Prohibited town centres
Ōtaki Main Road shopping area
Ōtaki State Highway shopping area
Waikanae shopping area
Paraparaumu Coastlands and associated area
Paraparaumu Beach shopping area
Paraparaumu business park area
Raumatī Beach shopping area
Raumatī South shops
Paekākāriki shops

Prohibited Area - Ōtaki Main Road shopping area



Prohibited Area - Ōtaki State Highway shopping area



Prohibited Area - Waikanae shopping area



Prohibited Area - Paraparaumu Coastlands and central area



Prohibited Area - Paraparaumu Beach shopping area





Prohibited Area - Raumati Beach shopping area



Prohibited Area - Raumati South shops



Prohibited Area - Paekākāriki shops



Schedule 2B

Prohibitions – specific local authority areas/carparks where freedom camping is not allowed

Listing of specific sites where freedom camping is prohibited
Ōtaki, Anzac Road
Ōtaki Beach, Ōtaki Surf Club
Ōtaki, Dog Park
Ōtaki Public Tennis Courts Greenwood Blvd
Te Horo Beach, Sea Road
Peka Peka Beach, Peka Peka Road end
Waikanae Beach, Pharazyn Reserve
Waikanae Beach, Te Moana Road end Reserve
Waikanae Beach, Waimeha Domain
Paraparaumu Beach, Arawa Street road end
Paraparaumu Beach, George Street road end
Paraparaumu Beach, Kapiti Boating Club carpark
Paraparaumu Beach, Manly Street esplanade (between #197 and #199)
Paraparaumu Beach, Ngapotiki Street road end
Paraparaumu Beach, Nathan Avenue road end
Paraparaumu Beach, Takutai Street
Paraparaumu Central, Barry Hadfield Nikau Reserve
Paraparaumu Central, Nikau Palm Road
Raumati Beach, Garden Road (Raumati Marine playground carpark)
Raumati Beach, Tainui Street road end
Raumati Beach, Takitimu Street road end
Raumati Beach, Weka Road
Raumati South, Aotea Road end
Raumati South, Hydes Road end
Raumati South, Tennis Court Road
Paekākāriki, Robertson Road
Paekākāriki, Ames Street Reserve

Ōtaki: Ōtaki, Anzac Road



Ōtaki Beach: Ōtaki Surf Club



Ōtaki: Ōtaki, Dog Park



Ōtaki: Ōtaki, Public Tennis Courts



Te Horo: Te Horo Beach, Sea Road



Peka Peka Beach: Peka Peka Road end



Waikanae Beach: Pharazyn Reserve



Waikanae Beach: Te Moana Road end Reserve



Waikanae Beach: Waimeha Domain



Paraparaumu Beach: Arawa Street road end



Paraparaumu Beach: George Street road end



Paraparaumu Beach: Kapiti Boating Club carpark



Paraparaumu Beach: Manly Street esplanade (between #197 and #199)



Paraparaumu Beach: Ngapotiki Street road end



Paraparaumu Beach: Nathan Avenue road end



Paraparaumu Beach: Takutai Street



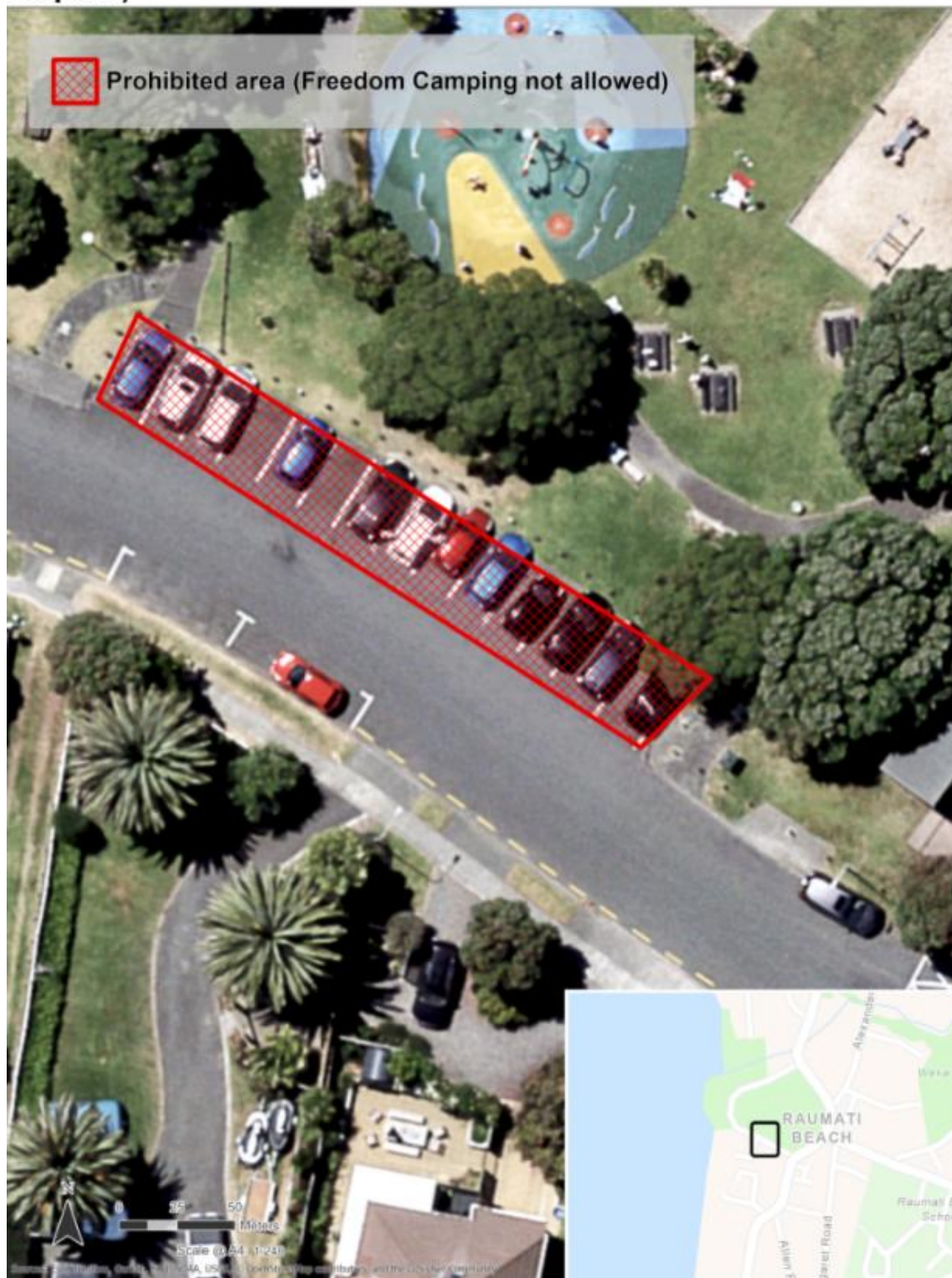
Paraparaumu Central: Barry Hadfield Nikau Reserve



Paraparaumu Central: Nikau Palm Road



Raumati Beach: Garden Road (Raumati Marine playground carpark)



Raumati Beach: Tainui Street road end



Raumati Beach: Takitimu Street road end



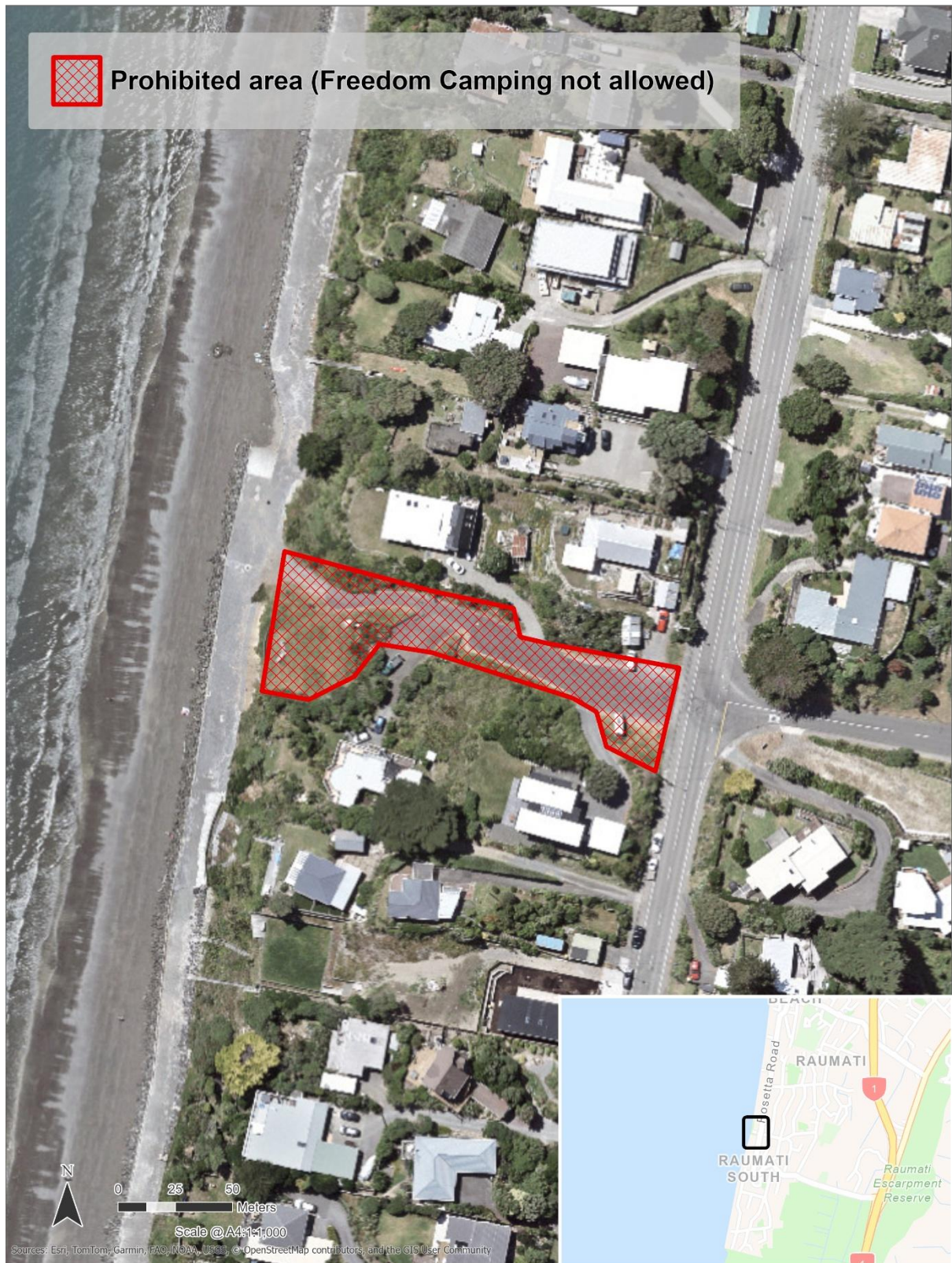
Raumati Beach: Weka Road



Raumati South: Aotea Road end



Raumati South: Hydes Road end



Raumati South: Tennis Court Road



Paekākāriki: Robertson Road



Paekākāriki: Ames Street Reserve

