

Review of the Freedom Camping Policy 2012

Council Briefing
20 February 2024

Background to the Freedom Camping Policy 2012

- First developed in 2010 – ahead of the Freedom Camping Act's introduction in 2011
- Reviewed in 2012 – with a draft bylaw proposed which was not progressed due to risk of legal challenge
- Reviewed in 2018 – status quo was retained ahead of anticipated changes to the Act and supporting processes

Changes to the Act

- Responsible Camping Working Group Report – July 2018
 - Review of the Act – consistency and ease of use
 - Support for councils
 - The need for clarifying self contained vehicles
- Fund introduced in 2019 to provide support to councils to manage responsible camping
- Changes introduced in 2023 to only allow certified self-contained vehicles. Transitional period for certification through to mid-2025.

Current policy

- Identifies nine sites for freedom camping
 - Numbers of campers
 - Self-contained vehicles
 - Duration of stay
- The Policy's approach differs to the Act
- We have no Bylaw under the Act
- A strong focus on education to manage

Need for end-to-end review

- Increasing levels of activity
- Increasing pressures – feedback from mana whenua
- Opportunities to support tourism and business
- Changes for self-contained vehicles
- The opportunity for a Bylaw – new infringement and enforcement provisions
- Aligns with work to review Council's reserve management plans

Review process - timeframes

Stage 1:

early engagement,
evidence gathering
& analysis; report
back on issues

Underway

Stage 2:

Developing draft
options for
consultation

By mid-24

Stage 3:

Consultation &
hearings

By Oct-24

Stage 4:

Proposed
changes for
adoption

Nov-24

Next Steps

- Stocktake of Council owned land underway
- Analysing monitoring information
- Engaging with iwi partners (rescheduling Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti update)
- Early discussion with key stakeholders including NZTA, DoC and NZMCA

- Update briefing in April from scoping work – ahead of work on options