

Monique Eade

From: Gary Mitchell and Robert Day [REDACTED] on behalf of info@cheviotnz.com
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 3:43 PM
To: submission Mailbox
Cc: info@cheviotnz.com
Subject: Freedom Camping Submission for Cheviot / Gore Bay

To: Hurunui District Council

Re: Submission for Freedom Camping in the Gore Bay / Cheviot Area

Cheviot Promotions Inc is a voluntary organisation that promotes our region to domestic and international visitors as well as our local community. We are a close knit community who are very proud of what we have to offer in our village and surrounding area with beautiful reserves (more than other regions) and many hidden gems that we like to share providing they are respected and looked after for others to enjoy and our future generations.

Cheviot Promotions Inc does support HDC in terms of removing the two allocated Freedom Camping sites from Gore Bay. Gore Bay does not need Freedom Campers ruining our beautiful environment and making it unsafe. However, we are not convinced moving them to the local Cheviot township is a good move either. There are two Freedom Camping sites located in the main street behind the Cheviot Service centre / Public toilets and we would prefer this is left at two and not add any more. Two Freedom Camping sites for the Cheviot / Gore Bay region is more than enough.

The main reasons are as follows:

Monitoring and Compliance – who is going to monitor that there is only two sites in the main street being used and ensuring compliance? There have been more than two seen on a number of occasions already. Currently there are two sites and often four FC have been seen there. If four sites are permitted we are likely to see 6 or 8 or even 10 Freedom Camping sites.

Waste – the rubbish and recycling will be overflowing and unsightly and creating an unhygienic and unsafe area. It also creates a feeding ground for pests and rodents particularly when food scraps are not secure and quite often left lying on the ground. This causes more work and cost for HDC and in turn the ratepayers.

Although the toilets are modern and cleaned regularly, this will need to be maintained and more regular with the extra people using them. Particularly early morning before the tourists and passers by call in to use them. Can it be guaranteed that the Freedom Campers will use the public toilets? Presumably if they parked close to them they will and not use the bushes or behind buildings as they are on the main street. Will there be more blockages and mess in the public toilets? Will there be mess in our main street? This will create more health and safety issues not to mention inconvenience to other day visitors. The toilets must be accessible to everyone and must be kept sanitary.

Despite the signage stating no more than two (or four) vehicles and only between the hours of 8pm and 8am these rules are not abided by with more than two vehicles currently on a number of occasions and some campers staying more than one night, leaving their possessions behind to secure a spot so others cannot use this parks whilst they are visiting elsewhere during the day. The staff at the Service centre might monitor this during the week but not at the weekends.

Freedom Campers are contributing very little to our economy and in turn are costing rate payer more money to pay for the clean up after they have gone. There needs to be tighter rules and policing of those rules and

until such time that Freedom Campers can respect our region we ask that HDC seriously consider if we need Freedom Camping at all.

We like to share our beautiful scenery with those whose who respect and care for our environment so we strongly encourage HDC to change / amend the Bylaw against Freedom Camping in our region to protect our area, protect access to our area and most importantly to protect the Health and Safety of visitors and locals.

Regards

Gary Mitchell
Secretary

Cheviot Promotions Inc

T 03 319 8823

M 0276356658

E info@cheviotnz.com

