

15 July 2019



Hurunui District Council  
66 Carters Road,  
Amberley

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE HDC FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW 2018**

### **Submission**

We support the proposed changes

1. Limiting the number of campers permitted per night at:
  - Scargill-Motunau Reserve,
  - Glenmark Reserve, and
  - Hanmer Springs River Reserve.
  
2. Removing the freedom camping carparks at:
  - Chisholm Crescent Carpark, Hanmer Springs, and
  - War Memorial Hall Carpark, Hanmer Springs.
  
3. Relocating the carparks currently available in Gore Bay to the Cheviot Service Centre Carpark.

We also suggest that freedom camping is prohibited in all urban areas of Waiau.

We fully support freedom camping in the right vehicles and most importantly in appropriate locations. We believe that freedom camping is an activity which is undertaken in the many beautiful remote areas of New Zealand.

We recommend that freedom camping is prohibited in all urban areas of the Hurunui District.

Roadside camping is not appropriate in any urban area.

A good example of a bylaw which does prohibit freedom camping in urban areas is the Queenstown Lakes District Council's bylaw.

Outside of urban areas freedom camping should be restricted to self-contained vehicles only.

We do not wish to speak to the submission

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## **Enforcement**

It is essential that no matter what decisions are made regarding the Freedom Camping Bylaw that Council provides sufficient resources to enforce them. As has been seen in other Districts, the enforcement can provide sufficient funds to cover enforcement costs even if some fines are unpaid.

## **Holiday Accommodation Parks Association of NZ Inc. (HAPNZ)**

Established in 1955 as the Camp and Cabin Association, HAPNZ is the industry association that represents the commercial holiday park sector in New Zealand.

There are 420 commercial holiday parks in New Zealand that annually provide in excess of 8.4 million guest nights 34% of which are international visitors.

HAPNZ has 300 member parks and over 90 trade members. HAPNZ is a full member of the Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) and all HAPNZ members are affiliate members of TIA. HAPNZ is a national partner of the New Zealand Cycle Trail, a full member of the Backpacker, Youth and Adventure Tourism Association (BYATA) and an allied member of the Tourism Export Council of New Zealand.

While staying at Holiday Parks, visitors contribute around \$1 billion in direct expenditure to New Zealand's economy each year. Approximately \$594 million, or 59% of this expenditure, is contributed by domestic visitors and the remaining \$405 million, or 41%, by international visitors. Expenditure by international visitors also contributes directly to New Zealand's export earnings.

An average of just 23% of daily expenditure by Holiday Park visitors goes toward holiday park accommodation costs. The balance, which totals approximately \$769 million annually, is typically spent outside of Holiday Parks in areas such as hospitality (cafes, restaurants, bars), activities and attractions, transport (rental vehicles, fuel, buses, taxis), retail goods and services, and entertainment.

## **Holiday Parks Association of NZ - Position on Responsible Camping**

As an Association we support responsible camping in New Zealand in appropriate locations. We believe that Councils where necessary should develop bylaws that state:

- Free camping is prohibited in urban areas.
- Outside of urban areas free camping is restricted to self-contained vehicles which meet NZS5465.

There is no such thing as free camping – there is a cost whether it is to local ratepayers, DOC or tax payers. We fully support the principle that the user should pay.

As part of local communities our members take an active part in the development of policies and bylaws which apply to freedom camping. Our members provide feedback on suggested responsible camping areas. In some cases we will support free camping areas and in others

we will oppose them; these decisions will be linked to the appropriateness of the location and the mood of the community. We do not consider urban locations as being appropriate for free camping.

While we do not seek special protection for our members from the bylaws it is sensible that some buffer around commercial Holiday Parks be put in place. This can assist in discouraging the unlawful use of facilities e.g. showers toilets and dump stations, which occur at many parks, but also remove the inevitable tension that will arise from campers overnighing for free in close proximity to commercial holiday parks.

HAPNZ has been an active participant in the NZ Responsible Camping Forum and fully supports the key messages and information that has been agreed and promoted by group members.

We believe that strong, consistent national messages, backed by comprehensive regional information will help remove much of the tension that has existed over vehicle-based camping and result in better experiences for campervan holiday-makers and communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'F' followed by a large, circular flourish and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fergus G Brown  
Chief Executive