

## Monique Eade

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**From:** Jane Montgomery [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 July 2019 9:52 AM  
**To:** submission Mailbox  
**Subject:** Freedom camping review

I am writing to submit a response to the proposal to relocate two freedom camping sites from Gore Bay to Cheviot.

I am a ratepayer in Gore Bay and have observed the freedom camping sites since they were set up. I support the proposal to relocate the sites from Gore Bay to Cheviot. My reasons include:

- There is a limit of two freedom camping vehicles at Gore Bay, but over the extended summer season there were usually more than two at any one time. From memory the most I counted was eight one night.
- There is no cell phone coverage at Gore Bay. When the two freedom camping spots are full, there is no way for others to know about that before they arrive.
- I often observed the freedom campers using the carpark and the adjacent grass reserve like a bathroom sink or kitchen sink, eg spitting out their toothpaste and throwing out dishwashing water from washing bowls. This grass reserve is the same place that is used as a picnic area and children's play area.
- I saw more evidence of fires being lit on the beach last summer, despite the fire ban and despite the "no fires" signs, than I have done previously. It could have been a coincidence but this did time in with the creation of the freedom camping sites. Most of these fires were above the high tide mark. If a fire spread in an on-shore wind, the delay in calling Fire & Emergency Services could be catastrophic. (The delay would occur because of the lack of cell phone coverage, few visitors would know about the phone box back down the road, and there are few full time residents in the area who could call the Fire and Emergency Services.)
- There seemed to be a direct relationship between the freedom camping sites and the lack of space in the glass and cardboard recycling station adjacent to the freedom camping sites. I lost count of the number of times I went down there to empty our recycling only to find that the station was full. In addition, there was often rubbish and recycling left next to the recycling station and around the carpark where the freedom camping sites are. While the recycling station is understandably often full over Christmas/New Year when everyone is staying in the baches, last summer the station was often full even when most of Gore Bay's baches were empty.
- I observed an increase in freedom camping elsewhere in Gore Bay after the freedom camping sites were created eg on the grass banks beside the road and immediately above the beach. Occasionally I would see these campers throwing dirty water on to the grass and spitting after cleaning their teeth. I can only assume that the publicity about freedom camping at Gore Bay attracted more people to the general area.
- Some of the vehicles displaying the blue self-contained sticker didn't appear to be of a vehicle model of sufficient size to have all of the equipment required to be self-contained, or it was clearly visible (from the boot and doors being open when I went past) that they didn't actually have this equipment.

Regards

Jane Montgomery