

Monique Eade

From: Carlyne Latham [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 10 June 2018 4:39 PM
To: submission Mailbox
Subject: Freedom camping bylaw review

Dear Sir/Madam,

My submission is about Freedom Camping in New Zealand generally.

Personally I (and friends, family and colleagues I've spoken to in the last 6-12 months) am over freedom campers in our country. The numbers are now far too high. It is affecting the ability of New Zealanders to enjoy their own country, including some of the most spectacular parts that we all love. It is becoming a financial burden on New Zealanders to cater for freedom campers through our local councils, particularly when some councils seem to think that palatial facilities are required (not HDC fortunately, who are to be commended for the generally appropriate standard of public toilets in the district).

It is an absolute disgrace the indiscriminate toileting by some freedom campers, on Council and private property. The answer is not to spend more and more money on facilities and maintenance, but to limit the numbers of freedom campers. Apparently New Zealand is known on social media overseas as a primo place for freedom camping, so they flock in. I would rather see Council funds spent on increased policing of sites and big on the spot fines for not following the rules, this may put some of them off, making numbers more manageable and improving the experience for other freedom campers who do know how to behave and have respect for our beautiful country.

Campervan rental companies also have a lot to answer for, where is their responsibility when it comes to ensuring on-board toilet waste doesn't end up in our waterways, on roadsides and down drains? My understanding is that if a renter returns to base with a full toilet tank, they are charged by the campervan company for its disposal. This is just encouraging illegal dumping. There should be a charge for the final empty of the tank regardless of how full it is, to discourage illegal dumping. Where is the campervan companies' contribution towards facilities and maintenance at freedom camping sites, which is becoming an on-going burden for communities?

I suspect that what we read about in the media of the disgusting mess that some freedom campers leave behind is just the tip of the iceberg. Councils really need to get tough on this. A recent survey I heard somewhere is that New Zealanders are no longer as highly rated by tourists as the friendly people we used to be. Well maybe that's because we've had a guts-full of too many tourists everywhere, and freedom campers crapping up our countryside.

Regards,
Carolyne

Carolyne Latham
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