

22 June 2018



Hurunui District Council
66 Carters Road,
Amberley

Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw

We generally oppose the Freedom Camping Bylaw

We do not wish to speak to the submission

Submission

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.

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 6.8 million guest nights 32% of which are international visitors.

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HAPNZ has 300 member parks and over 90 trade members. HAPNZ is a full member of the Tourism Industry Association (TIANZ) and all HAPNZ members are affiliate members of TIANZ. 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 Position of Freedom Camping

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

Freedom camping is prohibited in urban areas.

Outside of urban areas freedom 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 freedom camping areas. In some cases we will support freedom 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 stroke extending to the right.

Fergus G Brown
Chief Executive