

Monique Eade

From: The St. James <stay@thestjames.co.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 3:18 PM
To: submission Mailbox
Cc: Monique Eade
Subject: Proposed Amendment To Freedom Camping Bylaw

Freedom Camping Submission from The St James Hanmer Springs

We own and operate The St James Premium Accommodation directly opposite the Chisholm Crescent Carpark in Hanmer Springs. We support the proposed amendment to the HDC Freedom Camping Bylaw as follows:

1. We fully support the proposal to prohibit freedom camping in Chisholm Crescent Carpark. Many of the issues we raised in our submission opposing the 2018 bylaw have been observed during the first 9 months of it's implementation including:
 - Enforcement difficulty – as the carpark has become increasingly well known for freedom camping the maximum permitted number (2) has quite often been exceeded. We have been reasonably vigilant in reporting these (and action has been taken) but we still find more than two freedom campers the following morning on numerous occasions
 - Unsuitable for winter camping – the freedom camping sites in the carpark have been full (or overfull) virtually every night through the winter. Fortunately it's been a mild winter but in a more normal winter the public toilets would have been closed at times due to frozen pipes and icy conditions (a person has suffered a moderately serious head injury in the past after slipping on ice at the entrance to the toilets)
 - Unsavory litter – while campers have been reasonably well behaved in terms of placing litter in the bins, we have had women's sanitary product in our entrance.
 - Parking congestion and child safety – Chisholm Crescent has become seriously congested at busy times as more shops and restaurants open at Boulder Point. When wide vehicles are parked on both sides the street reduces to one lane. When campervans leave the overnight sites (hopefully at 8am) they often park on Chisholm Crescent exacerbating the congestion. We fear that it is only matter of time before a toddler will be injured after rushing out between campervans to get to the playground on the other side of the road (which is right alongside Chisholm carpark)
2. We fully support the proposal to prohibit freedom camping in the War Memorial Carpark at Hanmer Springs. While we have not been in a situation to closely observe the situation at that site we understand that many of the issues we have observed at Chisholm carpark are happening there as well. Furthermore the centre of the Village is no place for Freedom camping. There are plenty of low cost commercial options in the Village for campers to use.
3. We have no first hand knowledge of the other proposed changes however our observations above about the impact of freedom camping may be helpful in informing that discussion.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on these proposals. If there is going to be a public hearing to consider the submissions we would like the opportunity to attend.

Kind regards

Paul and Rae Baigent
Owner Operators



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