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From: Kim Bestic [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 November 2017 11:59 AM
To: submission Mailbox
Subject: Freedom camping submission

Freedom camping submission

What we want:

- 1) We object to the proposal that “For any local authority not explicitly identified as a prohibited, restricted or permitted area, that freedom camping be permitted in certified self-contained vehicles only”.
- 2) Please DO NOT make any of the carparks in Gore Bay a permitted area for overnight freedom camping.
- 3) We object to the proposal that all forms of freedom camping are permitted at any locations.

Our reasons:

- 1) “Self-contained” stickers do not necessarily bear any relation to facilities on board a camper vehicle because the sticker can be downloaded for a membership fee and commercially printed. As described on the NZ Motor Caravan Association website “[Displaying the blue responsible camper sticker does not verify certification](https://www.nzmca.org.nz/certified-self-containment/)”. <https://www.nzmca.org.nz/certified-self-containment/>

A law where “freedom camping be permitted in certified self-contained vehicles only in areas not explicitly identified as a prohibited, restricted or permitted area” is meaningless unless policed. Unless someone in authority visits every potential freedom camping site daily to move on or fine those not certified to be there, there is nothing stopping vehicles without appropriate facilities overnighing there also. It would be better to lobby the government to only allow stickers on vehicles that satisfy the full requirement of NZS 5464:2001 and make it an offence to falsify the certification (like it is an offence to falsify other vehicle certification such as road user charges, motor vehicle licence, WOF, COF, certificates of loading etc) and in the meantime not allow freedom camping at all to avoid ambiguity.

- 2) We have a vested interest in preventing freedom camping within Gore Bay from a business point of view because we run the campgrounds there.

As residents and ratepayers of the Hurunui District we are unhappy with freedom camping by non-self-contained vehicles, because we visit picnic areas in our district with our young children and don't like having to avoid toilet paper in the grass at, for example, the end of the Hurunui Mouth road, the end of Port Robinson road, or NapeNape when having a picnic. We love to share rest areas, picnic areas, road-ends, walkways and beaches with travelling visitors but have already experienced, on multiple occasions, degradation of these recreational resources that can only have been caused by overnight parking. We are even aware of an instance where faeces and toilet paper were left on the path to the public toilet at the Gore Bay tennis courts, and it is most likely that this incident occurred during the hours of darkness.

Please DO NOT make any of the carparks in Gore Bay a permitted area for overnight freedom camping. We pay rent, insurance, certificate of registration and rates to run campsites in Gore Bay. We clean and maintain the campground facilities and grounds and feel it would be a double standard for the Hurunui District Council to allow freedom camping in the same area in direct competition with their tenant of council-owned camping-grounds. HDC has been to significant lengths and expense to provide camping facilities in Gore Bay therefore it seems logical to make every effort to encourage all campers to use these facilities.

Also, if freedom campers were attracted to Gore Bay by advertised permitted overnighting areas it would be hard for us to police, especially during busy periods, whether they were coming to use our camper's toilets, shower with our camper's hot water, fill our camper's rubbish/recycling bins, charge their cellphones with our camper's electricity, etc.

We've had people kick open the locked doors of the toilets and showers at the Buxton campground when it was closed in the off-season. We had to replace the damaged door hardware. The local police thought the damage was probably caused by freedom campers. Freedom campers have parked overnight in the public carpark immediately adjacent to the Buxton campground ablutions-block on several occasions.

3)

Allowing all forms of freedom camping in some areas eg. Motunau/Scargill will encourage people to take the liberty to camp elsewhere, pleading ignorance and using the justification that there is parking and public toilets available as there are at the permitted area.

If HDC allows and gazettes freedom camping in designated areas within a certain distance of appropriate public toilets despite our objection, they will need to budget for and increase the frequency of the cleaning regime, re-stocking of toilet paper, and emptying septic tank systems to allow for the greater numbers and greater frequency of use, AND because of the reasons above (3), ALSO do this for other public toilets around the district.

Problems caused by freedom campers (relates to (2) and (3))

Fouling eg. dirty nappy seen thrown from window of "Jucy" van parked in Gore Bay, eg. toilet paper in the long grass around the edges of picnic areas, lookout point parking areas and road-ends, eg. dumping of blackwater.

Limited parking availability: Freedom Campers occupy a parking position for the night and much of the day in an area designed to be shared by several day visitors each occupying a parking spot for a shorter period.

Fire risk – cigarette butts, campfires, portable barbecues, thermettes. I spoke to the hirer of a Jucy camper this week who had been told by Jucy staff that a portable charcoal burner could be used anywhere in NZ. Fire risk is also heightened with these activities by daytime visitors, but if a fire starts in the evening or during the night at a remote road-end it is much more difficult to deal with.