

Online Submission

Freedom Camp: Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw

Submitter

Title: Mrs

First Name: Liz

Last Name: Dickson

Could I gain an advantage in trade competition with this submission?: No

Do we generally support the proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw: No

Submission Details

Please fill in the table below, the tables will stretch to accommodate the text.

Specific comment(s) on areas designated in the proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw:

The Waipara Riverbed is owned by adjacent landowners and as one who has had to clean up broken beer bottles and tell others to put out fires in a closed fire season over the Christmas/New Year periods past, I do not want the Waipara River to be a permitted area of freedom camping.

Specific comment(s) on waste issues associated with the proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw:

I have found piles of poo and toilet paper unburied in the Waipara riverbed after freedom campers have stayed overnight.

Specific comment(s) on roading issues associated with the proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw:

The Waipara riverbed has been used [and is being used] by four wheel drivers as a place to offroad, to test the driving capabilities of their machines by grinding them up high banks, exposing tree roots which makes the trees more susceptible to flood damage. The riverbed is not some wild offroad experience park but is being used by some this way and by some to dump tires. This will only get worse if the riverbed is designated as permissible for freedom camping. It should be designated Prohibited.

Specific comment(s) on other safety issues associated with the proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw:

Fires have been lit regardless of no fires being permitted by HDC order and we have had to go down and search out the campers, some of whom have had guns and been drinking alcohol, and tell them to extinguish the fire. This involves personal risk to us and risk to riverside properties if the fires are disregarded by us.

General comment(s) on the proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw:

The general river environment with its insect life, geckos, birds, fish and eels deserves more protection than is currently offered by the HDC. Making the river a permitted camping area would only make things more precarious especially as the general population increases. The HDC needs to preserve the environment rather than open it to more risk. It should be designated Prohibited.