

Submission form

Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2018 consultation

Hurunui District Council is proposing a new Freedom Camping Bylaw. Let us know what you think of the proposal by 2 July 2018.

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- I/we generally support the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw
- OR
- I/we generally oppose the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission?

Yes

No

Your comment(s) on the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw: (attach further pages if necessary)

Please refer to attached document.

Please note: Your name and contact details are required for transparency and the decision-making process. It also means we are able to update you on progress. All submissions will be publicly available through inclusion in Council agendas and/or retrievable by request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Submit to Hurunui District Council by **5pm on 2 July 2018** via -
Delivery to the Council at 66 Carters Road, Amberley (or your local service centre)
Post: PO Box 13, Amberley 7441
Email: submissions@hurunui.govt.nz

Freedom camping is to be prohibited in Rotherham due to persistent issues with rubbish and lack of facilities. Rubbish bins were provided and the problem persisted. It is not appropriate to move the issue to outside their (Rotherham residents) properties.

The above are excerpts from the Area assessment document supplied as part of the bylaw proposal. So it proposes a total ban due to persistent issues. Rotherham has no local Police either so if one were required for assistance they would be 10 to 15 minutes away coming from Culverden.

Waiau, like Rotherham, has no local Police presence and in fact the nearest help would be longer at approx. 20 to 25 minutes away coming from Culverden. There is one set of public toilets next to the Village Green. The proposal does not allow Freedom Camping around the Village Green but does allow for self-contained vehicles to park on any residential street.

Waiau is the next town over from Rotherham on SH70 and the proposal is essentially to shift the problem that has been experienced in Rotherham on to Waiau instead. In Rotherham there was a dedicated site for Freedom Camping, in Waiau there is not and the streets will be the sites.

The proposal in allowing SC vehicles to park on residential streets means these vehicles will also be able to park in front of, beside, behind and directly across the road from Waiau Motor Camp. This is a small camp ground that has been operating for 30 years. Previously operating as historic accommodation for Tussock workers in the area. Total age 60 years. The camp is actively involved in Community schemes such as Community showers and laundry. These are a vital service for local residents and the camp has been proud to be a part of the HDC initiative.

Allowing Freedom camping around the camp and surrounding streets will likely require the need to increase security of the camp, such as showers. Shower stealing is a common problem when Freedom camping is present and a method of securing the facility would affect the cost of providing the above services to the community. Ultimately user pays and so Council & community alike would be affected by this proposal.

Waiau is a community still recovering from the 2016 Earthquake and does not have the resources to deal with Freedom Camping problems just as Rotherham also does not. It is unfair to place this burden on local residents when there is a low cost full facility camp ground already present in the township that has catered well to the Freedom Camping market whilst still providing trade for other local businesses that benefit from tourism in the township.

At \$12 per adult per night to park in an unpowered site and use all our facilities including waste dump station, we consider ourselves to be great value for these people. It also keeps the local streets free of vehicles parking up every night potentially causing issues and leaving rubbish behind (as experienced in Rotherham).

As a camp ground, we are required to pay Camp Licence fees, Rates, Health Licence fees and follow all Health and Safety guidelines set out by the HDC. There is a cost associated with doing this and to then have HDC essentially funding a competing facility (the streets) for these tourists is upsetting. The very viability of our business is at stake here and it has been proven nationwide to have a huge impact on Camp Grounds and Holiday parks profitability. We are a small operation and are gravely concerned that this could make our business no longer viable and this would be a huge blow for us and the township, given the already large number of vacant houses and sections and its desire to

rebuild and move forward. I am not convinced those living in difficult conditions will be appreciative of an audience parked outside their property.

HDC engaged the community recently with Peter Kenyon and discussed what Waiaus priorities were and what they felt was important moving forward. There was a desire to increase tourism and visitors. Under businesses to promote, Waiau Motor Camp was there. It is great to see the community getting behind the camp but it would be nice for HDC to do likewise by protecting its future and prevent Freedom Camping throughout our small town.

Freedom Camping has always existed and will continue to exist. Waiau Motor Camp has no issues with this other than the need to be sensitive as to where these sites are placed. A small town with no suitable reserves or car parks is not the place to do it. Just as Rotherham is no place to do it.

There will always be those that want to Freedom Camp and we have no objection to this, provided it is not with unlimited numbers and on any residential street. We would be happy to see perhaps a limit of two SC campers utilising two carparks close to the Village Green or business area of township. This is unlikely to cause issues and provides an option for those in the area.

We need to learn from what other townships have suffered through already with this issue and allow Waiau and its businesses to continue to grow and provide for the local community. The current proposal fails in this regard and HDC would do well to make amendments and support local businesses rather than hinder them.

Best regards,

Brent & Kara Proffitt
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