

Notice is given that a Submissions Hearing meeting will be held on:

Date: Thursday 28 August 2025
Time: 2:30pm
Meeting Room: Tasman Council Chamber
Venue: 189 Queen Street, Richmond
Zoom conference link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81219452191?pwd=AdB6qO3pcw82tan6k5pvfdljvWai0Q.1>
Meeting ID: 812 1945 2191
Meeting Passcode: 216187

Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations

AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson Councillor C Hill
Members Councillor C Butler
Councillor M Kininmonth
Councillor T Walker

(Quorum 2)

Contact Telephone: 03 543 8400
Email: tdc.governance@tasman.govt.nz
Website: www.tasman.govt.nz

AGENDA

- 1 OPENING, WELCOME, KARAKIA**
- 2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Recommendation

That the apologies be accepted.

- 3 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS**
- 4 REPORTS**
 - 4.1 Draft Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations 4
- 5 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

Nil
- 6 CLOSING KARAKIA**

4 REPORTS

4.1 DRAFT RESPONSIBLE CAMPING BYLAW HEARING AND DELIBERATIONS

Decision Required

Report To:	Submissions Hearing
Meeting Date:	28 August 2025
Report Author:	Amy Smith, Community Policy Advisor
Report Authorisers:	Dwayne Fletcher, Strategic Policy Manager; Kim Drummond, Group Manager - Environmental Assurance
Report Number:	RSH25-08-3

1. Purpose of the Report / Te Take mō te Pūrongo

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to:
 - 1.1.1 Receive, hear and consider the submissions received during consultation on the draft Responsible Camping Bylaw (“**the Bylaw**”);
 - 1.1.2 Summarise the feedback received on the Bylaw and provide staff recommendations on the issues raised;
 - 1.1.3 Provide the Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations Panel (“**the Panel**”) with an opportunity to discuss this feedback;
 - 1.1.4 Seek decisions on any amendments to the Bylaw; and
 - 1.1.5 Seek a recommendation from the Panel on whether the Bylaw should be made by the Council.
- 1.2 The final Bylaw, along with the Panel’s recommendation, is scheduled to be presented to the Tasman District Council on 11 September 2025.

2. Summary / Te Tuhinga Whakarāpoto

- 2.1 This report is to enable the Panel to receive, hear and consider submissions on the draft Bylaw and summarise the public feedback from consultation.
- 2.2 Consultation for the draft Bylaw ran from 6 June to 14 July 2025, with an extra week of consultation to account for the community’s more acute priorities during the state of emergency. The Council received 58 formal submissions, 36 comments on the Shape Tasman social map, and 116 poll votes on weekend freedom camping at Decks Reserve.
- 2.3 There were no late submissions received between 14 July and 18 August.
- 2.4 Eight submitters indicated they wish to be heard at today’s hearing, but only five submitters have confirmed their attendance.
- 2.5 The schedule of presenters for this meeting is provided in **Attachment 1**. Any updates will be advised before the hearing commences. A copy of the submissions made by the five submitters presenting today has been circulated to the Panel via LG Hub.

- 2.6 Staff request that the Panel consider all the feedback received during consultation and deliberate on any changes they may wish to make to the Bylaw, before making a recommendation to the Council on whether the final Bylaw should be made.
- 2.7 A copy of all submissions has been circulated to the Panel via LG Hub and are also available for viewing online via the Council's [consultation submission portal](#).
- 2.8 There was general support for the intent of the Bylaw and many submitters made comments or suggestions on specific provisions or sites/areas. The other key themes we heard were:
 - 2.8.1 Strong feedback for increased monitoring and enforcement of the bylaw restrictions and prohibitions, as well as improved signage and communication.
 - 2.8.2 The importance of providing sufficient facilities at freedom camping locations to support the number of people using the areas.
 - 2.8.3 The impact of freedom camping on commercial accommodation providers.
 - 2.8.4 Some submitters considered the Bylaw too lenient and requested further restrictions or prohibitions, while other submitters wanted less regulation of freedom camping.
- 2.9 Staff have prepared a summary of the submissions received during the consultation (see **Attachment 2**). Staff advice on the issues raised in the feedback and recommended changes to the Bylaw are set out in **section 6** of this report to assist the deliberations, and the proposed changes are detailed in **Attachment 3**.
- 2.10 The draft Bylaw is included as **Attachment 4**. Staff will incorporate any changes requested by the Panel and prepare the final Bylaw for the Council's consideration at its meeting on 11 September 2025.

3. Recommendation/s / Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Submissions Hearing and Deliberations Panel:

1. **receives the Draft Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations report RSH25-08-3; and**
2. **receives and considers all [58 submissions](#) on the Draft Responsible Camping Bylaw received by 14 July 2025; and**
3. **agrees to staff amending wording, for the reasons set out in 'Table 1: Changes proposed in response to feedback in submissions' (Attachment 3 to the agenda report), in the follow clauses:**
 - 3.1 **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping (typo corrected)**
 - 3.2 **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping (Taupata Point added)**
 - 3.3 **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping (Staples Street added)**
 - 3.4 **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping (George Quay Boat Ramp added); and**
4. **agrees to staff amending the wording, for the reasons set out in 'Table 2: Other changes proposed by staff' (Attachment 3 to the agenda report), in the follow clauses:**
 - 4.1 **Title and commencement (commencement date added)**
 - 4.2 **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping (weblink added)**
 - 4.3 **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping (location names corrected)**

- 4.4 **Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping (all maps updated)**
- 4.5 **Schedule 2: Restricted Areas for Freedom Camping (weblink added)**
- 4.6 **Schedule 2: Restricted Areas for Freedom Camping (location names corrected)**
- 4.7 **Schedule 2: Restricted Areas for Freedom Camping (all maps updated); and**

5 agrees that:

- 5.1 **the recommended changes to the draft Responsible Camping Bylaw are within the scope of decisions that can be made following consideration of views presented during consultation; and**
- 5.2 **in accordance with Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy further consultation is not required on the recommended changes; and**

6 agrees that, in accordance with section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, restricting or prohibiting freedom camping in defined local authority areas under the Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw (Attachment 4 to the agenda report), is:

- 6.1 **necessary for one or more of the following reasons: to protect areas in the Tasman District, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit those areas in the District, and to protect access to those areas; and**
- 6.2 **the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problems in relation to freedom camping in local authority areas; and**
- 6.3 **not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990; and**

7 agrees that the Draft Responsible Camping Bylaw (Attachment 4 to the agenda report) and the Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations Panel’s recommendations be presented to the Full Council for consideration and making at its meeting on 11 September 2025; and

8 delegates authority to the Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations Panel Chair and the Chief Executive Officer to approve any minor changes or minor editorial changes to the Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025, prior to being submitted to Tasman District Council; and

9 notes that the updated Site Assessments (Attachment 5 to the agenda report) will be published on the Council’s website, as supporting information to the Bylaw.

Recommendations to the Tasman District Council

That the Tasman District Council:

- 1. **agrees that, in accordance with section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, the proposed Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 is:**
 - a. **necessary for one or more of the following reasons: to protect areas in the Tasman District, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit those areas in the District, and to protect access to those areas; and**
 - b. **the most appropriate form of bylaw for addressing perceived problems in relation to freedom camping in local authority areas; and**
 - c. **is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990; and**

2. **approves the revocation of the Tasman District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 effective from 1 November 2025; and**
3. **pursuant to sections 11 and 11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, makes the Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 (Attachment 1 to the agenda report) with effect from 1 November 2025; and**
4. **authorises staff to publicly notify the Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 and the date it has effect from; and**
5. **notes that the Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 will need to be reviewed before 11 September 2030; and**
6. **notes that the Site Assessments (Attachment 2 to the agenda report) will be published on the Council’s website, as supporting information to the Bylaw; and**
7. **confirms the minutes of the 28 August 2025 Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations meeting as a true and correct record.**

4. Background / Horopaki

- 4.1 Tasman District has always been a popular destination for camping holidays. Generations of New Zealanders have enjoyed summers camping at Kaiteriteri, Tōtaranui, Māpua and other camping destinations throughout the District.
- 4.2 The Freedom Camping Act 2011 (“**the Act**”) is the key legislation regulating freedom camping in New Zealand. The Act was amended on 6 June 2023 by the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023, which established a new default position.
- 4.3 The Act now permits freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle, tent, or other temporary structure in local authority areas. Freedom camping in a non-self-contained vehicle on local authority land is prohibited, unless specifically allowed by a Council bylaw.
- 4.4 Councils may make freedom camping bylaws under sections 11 and 11A of the Act to deviate from the default position. These bylaws can define areas where:
 - 4.4.1 freedom camping is restricted or prohibited; or
 - 4.4.2 freedom camping in a non-self-contained vehicle is allowed (subject to restrictions or conditions such as a limit on the number of consecutive days that a person may freedom camp in that location).
- 4.5 Bylaws cannot regulate issues outside the Act’s definition of camping. This means that the bylaw cannot cover staying at a camping ground, temporary or short-term parking of a motor vehicle, day trip excursions, resting or sleeping at the roadside to avoid fatigue, or people experiencing homelessness who may be living in a vehicle, a tent or a temporary structure.
- 4.6 The Council is now outside of the statutory timeframe for a review of the 2017 bylaw. Staff advise that the Council must revoke the 2017 bylaw and establish a new bylaw.
- 4.7 Staff consider a new bylaw the most appropriate way of regulating freedom camping activities in the Tasman District. A bylaw can provide more control over specific sites and identify areas where freedom camping is restricted or prohibited.

- 4.8 A new freedom camping bylaw will complement national rules and the Council's Responsible Camping Strategy 2020. The bylaw will help the Council to manage freedom camping issues in the District and strengthen the Council's regulatory and enforcement powers.

The proposed Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025

- 4.9 The Bylaw will enable the Council to effectively manage freedom camping in the Tasman District and aims to balance tourism growth and community wellbeing. The Bylaw identifies the local authority areas where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted, and any restrictions that apply. It gives Council officers the ability to issue infringements fines when the bylaw rules are not followed.
- 4.10 The Bylaw provides 147 freedom camping parking spaces across the District. A range of general provisions apply to all Schedule 2 sites where freedom camping is permitted with restrictions, including a maximum period of stay in any of the specified locations and a departure time of 8am (unless otherwise specified).
- 4.11 Freedom camping is prohibited in all reserves, parks and sports grounds, unless listed in Schedule 2 or provided for in a Reserve Management Plan. It is also prohibited in any cemetery listed in Schedule 1, which are identified with a cemetery name and address. Freedom camping in a tent is not permitted under the Bylaw, however this is provided for under a Reserve Management Plan in some reserves.
- 4.12 The Nelson City Council adopted its Responsible Camping Bylaw on 3 July 2025, which comes into force on 1 October 2025.

5. Analysis and Advice / Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu

Consultation

- 5.1 The Environment and Regulatory Committee ("**the Committee**") agreed on 5 June 2025 (RRC25-06-3) to undertake consultation on the Bylaw using the Special Consultative Procedure ("**SCP**"), in accordance with sections 83 and 87 of the Local Government Act 2002 ("**the LGA**"). The consultation period was extended by one week to account for the community's more acute priorities during the states of emergency.
- 5.2 A public communication and consultation process has been carried out. The Statement of Proposal (including the draft bylaw), and a summary of information were available at Council offices and public libraries throughout the consultation period. A Shape Tasman project page provided background information, site assessments, a link to the submissions portal, a social map for location-specific comments, and a poll on weekend freedom camping in Decks Reserve. The Statement of Proposal and summary of information were also available for download. The public were informed about the consultation through Newsline on 13 June 2025 and via social media.
- 5.3 The Council received 58 submissions and these are now publicly available via the Council's [online submission portal](#). Eight submitters indicated that they wish to be heard. Hearings and deliberations are scheduled for today's meeting.

Submission hearing and deliberation purpose

- 5.4 The Committee appointed a hearing panel for the Bylaw on 5 June 2025 (RRC25-06-3). Councillor Chris Hill is the Hearing Panel Chair.
- 5.5 The purpose of the Panel is to:

5.5.1 consider the views of the submitters (from this hearing and from the written submissions);

5.5.2 deliberate and decide on any changes to the Bylaw; and

5.5.3 recommend to the Council whether the Bylaw should be adopted.

The hearing process

5.6 As part of the consultation process, submitters may present their views to the Council verbally. Eight submitters indicated that they wished to be heard at today's hearing, but only five submitters have confirmed their attendance.

5.7 The schedule of presenters for this meeting is provided in **Attachment 1**. Any updates will be advised before the hearing commences. A copy of the submissions made by the five submitters presenting today has been circulated to the Panel via LG Hub.

5.8 Each submitter has a maximum of five minutes to speak to their submission, including time for any points of clarification from the Panel. All submitters are presenting in person today.

6. Submissions and recommended changes

6.1 The Council received 58 submissions by the closing date, 14 July 2025, with no late submissions by 18 August 2025.

6.2 There was general support for the intent of the Bylaw and many submitters made comments or suggestions on specific provisions or sites/areas. The other key themes we heard were:

6.2.1 Strong feedback for increased monitoring and enforcement of the bylaw restrictions and prohibitions, as well as improved signage and communication.

6.2.2 The importance of providing sufficient facilities at freedom camping locations to support the number of people using the areas.

6.2.3 The impact of freedom camping on commercial accommodation providers

6.2.4 Some submitters considered the Bylaw too lenient and requested further restrictions or prohibitions, while other submitters wanted lesser regulation of freedom camping.

6.3 Staff have prepared an overview of submissions, grouped by theme, to assist the Panel's deliberations (see **Attachment 2**). Changes to the Bylaw proposed by staff, largely based on feedback from the submitters, are set out in **Attachment 3** with supporting rationale and tracked into the consultation copy of the Bylaw (see **Attachment 4**).

6.4 The submissions and recommended changes are summarised below, with staff advice.

General support

6.5 Most submitters supported regulating freedom camping in Tasman through a bylaw, particularly to specify where vehicles can and cannot park overnight to protect local amenities, public health and safety, wildlife and the environment.

6.6 The Golden Bay Community Board (35197) supports self-contained camping only in Golden Bay. The Department of Conservation (35170) supports retaining the prohibited status for sites that were previously prohibited under the 2017 bylaw. Te Ātiawa O Te Waka-a-Māui (35183) supports the bylaw, particularly the protections near Puketawai.

\Monitoring and enforcement

- 6.7 There was strong feedback for increased monitoring and enforcement of the Bylaw restrictions and prohibitions, including policing of self-contained vehicles, to encourage compliance and reduce issues associated with freedom campers. Submitter's suggestions included ensuring sufficient funding for monitoring and enforcement, patrols at dusk and dawn rather than during the day, and issuing instant fines instead of ticketing.
- 6.8 As in many other councils around New Zealand, significant time and resources have been invested over the past few years to respond to managing freedom camping in the District. Our enforcement approach is guided by the VADE model and recently adopted Council enforcement policy; education and warnings first, scaling up to issuing infringement notices. The Council sets budgets for freedom camping compliance and enforcement work, with patrols and bylaw enforcement currently costing approximately \$56,000 annually. Staff consider this level of funding sufficient to deliver a similar level of monitoring and enforcement in the first year of the new Bylaw. However, any increase in activity, such as more frequent patrols, would require additional budget.

Education and communication

- 6.9 Some submitters suggested that better signage and communication would support understanding and enforcement of the Bylaw. Ideas included bigger bolder information signs, clearly marked parking spaces, details about self-contained vehicle requirements, and outreach programmes about environmental expectations and local rules.
- 6.10 Once the Bylaw is adopted, the Council's website, freedom camping signage and education material will be updated to explain the new rules and national requirements. An interactive online map will show where freedom camping is prohibited and restricted, with a QR code linking to the webpage. Information will also be shared through Newsline.

Provision of facilities

- 6.11 Submitters emphasised the importance of sufficient facilities at freedom camping locations to support the number of people using the areas, and to help promote responsible camping behaviour and reduce issues associated with rubbish disposal and toilet waste. Suggestions included providing accessible user-pays showers, public toilets at all freedom camping sites, rubbish and recycling bins, clear waste disposal guidance, and safe area for camping fires or cooking.
- 6.12 Freedom camping impacts our local facilities, particularly in the peak summer season, but so do other visitors to these areas. Recent legislative changes have resulted in tougher rules for certified self-contained vehicles and non-self-contained vehicles are prohibited from freedom camping on local authority land, unless specifically allowed by a bylaw.
- 6.13 These new rules, together with by the Bylaw, should help reduce some of the issues raised by submitters. Public information on the local and national freedom camping rules will be updated and promoted to support implementation of the new Bylaw and responsible camping behaviour. Council staff and enforcement officers will closely monitor freedom camping, arranging extra cleaning or rubbish removal when needed.

Increased regulation of freedom camping

- 6.14 Some submitters consider the Bylaw too lenient and argued the negatives of freedom camping outweigh the positives. Concerns included rubbish and human waste, and calls to extend prohibitions to all riparian river zones or areas near campgrounds.

- 6.15 The significant new certified self-contained requirements will rule out many smaller vans due to space requirements and conversion costs. These apply to all privately-owned vehicles from mid-2026. Infringement fees have also increased, strengthening compliance incentives and supporting enforcement of the Bylaw.
- 6.16 Three submitters suggested charging freedom campers to use designated sites, either with a one-off charge, nightly charge, or a good behaviour bond. However, under section 5 of the Act, charging a fee would mean the site is no longer freedom camping but a campground, subject to the Camping-Grounds Regulations 1985.
- 6.17 Three submitters called for a district-wide ban on freedom camping and raised concerns about the cost to ratepayers to provide and maintain freedom camping areas. However, section 13 of the Act prevents the Council from imposing a total prohibition on freedom camping in the Tasman District.

Impact on commercial accommodation providers

- 6.18 Five submitters raised concerns about the impact of freedom camping on commercial accommodation providers. One campground owner reported dishonesty, disrespect and theft, as well as attempts by freedom campers to access campground amenities without paying. The Motueka TOP10 Holiday Park (35184) noted direct impacts from nearby free camping, including revenue loss, unfair competition and undermining of local business.
- 6.19 Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic increase in the level of vehicle-based camping activity, particularly in Motueka and Golden Bay and with campers who wish to stay overnight for free. Freedom camping visitors choose to do so as there is no need to book in advance, they have free access to basic facilities, and it provides flexibility to their travel plans.
- 6.20 The Council's Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 provides direction for managing the increasing numbers of visitors seeking free or low-cost camping opportunities within the Tasman District, through regulations, provision of facilities and visitor information. We want to provide a wide range of camping opportunities with facilities that meet the needs of different types of camping and welcome visitors that show respect, appreciation and a positive contribution to our special places and the communities through which they pass.
- 6.21 Freedom campers will continue to visit our District and the Bylaw enables us to specify where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted, and any restrictions that apply. It also gives Council officers the ability to issue infringements when these rules are not followed.
- 6.22 Impacts on commercial accommodation providers are not part of the necessary purposes in the Act that the Council must consider when developing a bylaw and assessing whether to restrict or prohibit freedom camping at a site.

Reduce regulation of freedom camping

- 6.23 Some submissions wanted less regulation of freedom camping in Tasman because, noting its economic benefits for smaller communities with beautiful scenery and its affordability for lower-income families.
- 6.24 Suggestions to provide for more freedom campers included more sites for both self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, additional parking (including for larger self-contained vehicles), and removing or reducing the time limits. One submitter opposed the Bylaw entirely, objecting to any constraints on freedom of movement local rights.
- 6.25 The policy challenge is to manage the effects of freedom campers on the environment, infrastructure, public safety, and community wellbeing, while enabling the benefits of

freedom camping activities. Staff consider the 2017 Bylaw was an effective management tool, and the proposed new Bylaw strikes a reasonable balance between enabling freedom camping and protecting the environment, public access, and the health and safety of people.

Feedback on specific locations that are included in the Bylaw

6.26 Many submitters provided feedback on specific prohibited or restricted sites in the bylaw.

Decks Reserve, Motueka

6.27 13 submissions addressed freedom camping at Decks Reserve. Some supported the restrictions to ensure wider public use, particularly behaviour and nighttime noise level guidelines. Other suggestions included stronger monitoring and enforcement, additional rubbish and recycling facilities over busy periods and more frequent removal, and on-site enforcement.

6.28 Three submitters sought tighter restrictions, such as further reducing freedom camping, changing the 8am leaving time to 7am, or moving the allocated parking spaces away from the family-focussed activity areas.

6.29 Five submitters did not support freedom camping at Decks Reserve. Concerns included the proximity to residential and commercial areas, noise, anti-social behaviour, undermining investment in a family-friendly environment, and health and safety risks.

6.30 The *three elected Motueka Community Board members* (35196) recognise some benefits of freedom camping but do not support any further freedom camping at Decks Reserve, regardless of whether the vehicle is self-contained or the time limits are altered. They did not consider the site suitable for accommodation and shared supporting feedback and observations.

6.31 We ran a poll asking *Should freedom camping in self-contained vehicles be permitted overnight in weekends (Saturday and Sunday) between 6pm and 6am at Decks Reserve?* The poll, promoted on social media, received 116 votes: 52% (61 votes) supported weekend freedom camping at Decks Reserve and 47% (55 votes) opposed. Submission feedback ranged from views that freedom camping did not impact the Sunday Market and retaining the 8am leaving time unless there were activities happening there, to concerns about access for other users of the parking area and enabling the stall holders to set up early.

6.32 Staff acknowledge a history of antisocial behaviour at Decks Reserve, perceived to be linked to freedom campers. Stricter national certification rules for self-contained vehicles may reduce these issues. Staff also note the presence of people experiencing homelessness in this area, which cannot be addressed through the Bylaw.

6.33 Staff recommend retaining the proposed changes to freedom camping at Decks Reserve; reducing the self-contained vehicle sites from 60 to 40 parking spaces and restricting overnight parking to weeknights only (i.e. no overnight parking on Saturday and Sunday). Decks Reserve is a popular site for freedom camping and this reduction in parking spaces is offset by new parking spaces at George Quay.

Motueka Beach Reserve

6.34 Five submissions were received on freedom camping at Motueka Beach Reserve. Feedback noted poor enforcement at this site, campers relocating to the carpark when the allocated spaces are full, small self-contained vehicles making full use of the facilities that are not intended for freedom camping, and that the area is often overloaded. Two submitters opposed any expansion of freedom camping, while one submitter supported limiting it to self-contained vehicles only.

- 6.35 Staff recommend retaining the proposed changes to freedom camping at the Motueka Beach Reserve, reducing the self-contained parking spaces by three (to 19) and reallocating the three parking spaces closest to the entrance for non-self-contained vehicles. The total number of parking spaces available for freedom camping remains unchanged. Facilities are considered adequate for this level of use and the area is closely monitored by Council staff and enforcement officers, especially over the summer.

George Quay, Motueka

- 6.36 There were mixed views on the inclusion of George Quay as a restricted area for freedom camping. One submitter supported restrictions as the area is currently used by both self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles. Others opposed any freedom camping at George Quay, citing lack of enforcement and negative impacts on the use and enjoyment of the area.
- 6.37 Talley's Limited (35199) strongly opposed including George Quay as a freedom camping site, raising concerns about food and operational safety at its processing plant, improper waste disposal, and limited oversight and enforcement.
- 6.38 Staff recommend retaining the proposed freedom camping site at George Quay Carpark, with 12 parking spaces for self-contained vehicles only, allowing monitoring and enforcement under the Bylaw. In response to submissions, staff also recommend prohibiting freedom camping at the adjoining area by the public boat ramp (adding this site to Schedule 1 of the Bylaw), to ensure parking remains available for locals and visitors heading out on the water or using the area for recreation.

Motupipi Carpark, Tākaka

- 6.39 Submitters raised concerns about overcrowding at the Motupipi Street Carpark and some campers using the area as a toilet. It was suggested that the freedom camping site be moved back to the old i-SITE carpark on Willow Street, where toilets, showers and recycling facilities are available.
- 6.40 Staff recommend retaining the proposed changes to freedom camping at the Motupipi Carpark, reducing the available self-contained parking spaces from 22 to 11. The wider prohibition in the Tākaka township area will also be reduced, allowing freedom camping in self-contained vehicles closer to the central business district than previously permitted and potentially easing demand at the Motupipi Carpark. Staff do not support relocating the site to Willow Street, as that carpark and its facilities are well-used by other visitors to the area, including buses and tour groups.

Kaiteriteri township area

- 6.41 Te Ātiawa O Te Waka-a-Māui (35183) requested that the Kaiteriteri township area prohibition be extended, specifically in the Puketawai area, to further cover the Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road where there have been multiple issues with freedom campers. Other submitters also supported prohibiting camping along the Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road.
- 6.42 Staff support this request, acknowledging the cultural significance of the area, which protected under an iwi Long Term Management Plan. It is recommended that the Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay township area ban be extended south along the Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road to protect these cultural values. The site assessment for the Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay township, carried out against the criteria in section 11 of the Act (see **Attachment 5**), has been updated and provides further detail on this recommendation.

Feedback on other locations that are not included in the Bylaw

- 6.43 Several submissions requested specific sites be added as prohibited areas, including Murchison, penguin habitat areas, Milnthorpe Park, Anatori River area, Waitapu Bridge, Bronte Peninsula and the Alex Ryder Memorial Reserve.
- 6.44 Other submissions suggested additional sites where freedom camping could be permitted by subject to restrictions, such as Hope Domain, Rototai Road, Cobb River Campsite, Twin Bridges Reserve, and provision made near Collingwood.

Taupata Point area

- 6.45 During consultation, views were sought on the impact of freedom camping activity at the Taupata Point gravel reserve, located on the coast between Pākawau and Pūponga. Twelve submissions were received, all opposing freedom camping here due to its ecological sensitivity and the potential disturbance to birds and marine life.
- 6.46 Submitters advocated for the protection of this ecologically sensitive area from the negative impacts of freedom camping. Forest & Bird (35070, 35195) and the Department of Conservation (35170) request that the Taupata Point gravel reserve be a prohibited area for freedom camping, as this activity will undermine local efforts to protect the endangered birds and other species that need a peaceful place to rest and nest. Local roading contractors also require vehicle access to the gravel reserve. The Ornithological Society of NZ (35203) submits that allowing freedom camping at the Taupata gravel reserve is expected to result in adverse impacts on the avifauna, interfering with the birds and causing disturbance or displacement.
- 6.47 Staff support the submissions opposing freedom camping at Taupata Point and recommend the site be added to Schedule 1 of the Bylaw as a prohibited area for freedom camping to protect the area from damage, access to the area and the local fauna. A site assessment has been undertaken against the criteria in section 11 of the Act (see **Attachment 5**), which provides further detail on this recommendation.

Staples Street, Motueka

- 6.48 Under the 2017 bylaw, freedom camping was prohibited at the end of Staples Street, Motueka where the Council administers a legal road within the carpark. The adjoining land is a Department of Conservation reserve where overnight camping is not permitted and the area is well used by locals and visitors for recreation. The site was not included as a prohibited site in the proposed Bylaw, as there have been no recent complaints or enforcement issues here.
- 6.49 Six submissions were received, all opposing freedom camping here due to the high natural significance of the adjoining wetland and access concerns for other users. The Department of Conservation (3517) requested that the current prohibition be retained, as the wetland areas with and adjoining the Raumanuka Reserve have significant natural values and would be negatively impacted by freedom camping here. Forest & Bird (35195) and the Ornithological Society of NZ (35203) also sought prohibition, citing risks to birdlife and potential impacts on community predator-control efforts.
- 6.50 Staff support the submissions and recommend that Staples Street, Motueka be added to Schedule 1 of the Bylaw as a prohibited area due to the significant conservation values and to protect access to the area. A site assessment against the section 11 Act criteria has been completed (see **Attachment 5**) and provides further detail on this recommendation.

Onekaka

- 6.51 Three submissions raised concerns about freedom camping activities at various sites in the Onekaka area requesting stronger enforcement, restrictions, or prohibition to prevent environmental damage and protect wildlife. The end of Washbourn Road adjoins a DOC scenic reserve with a boat ramp. Staff do not consider that it is a location requiring further protection from freedom camping.

Feedback from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association

- 6.52 The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc (NZMCA), a not-for-profit organisation formed in 1956, represents over 120,000 New Zealanders who travel in certified self-contained motorhomes and caravans. The NZMCA assisted the Minister of Tourism and MBIE with the new self-containment legislation and regulations, and worked with LGNZ and Simpson Grierson on guidance for councils developing freedom camping bylaws.
- 6.53 In April, during early engagement, the NZMCA encouraged the Council to consider case law before undertaking new site assessments. It suggested that further prohibitions in Tasman would be difficult for members to reconcile with the new legislative regime.
- 6.54 The NZMCA did not make a formal submission during consultation, due to capacity, but was invited to informally provide further comment. Its main concern is the general prohibition on all reserve land not listed in Schedule 2 or covered by a Reserve Management Plan (RMP).
- 6.55 NZMCA understands the intent of this approach but argues the Council has not assessed these reserves under section 11 of the Act, yet still retains the ability to prohibit camping and issue fines under the Act and/or the Reserves Act. It considers this reflects a broader issue also seen in other draft bylaws (e.g. Queenstown Lakes District Council), where, in its view, reliance on the Reserves Act is used for convenience and to bypass the Act's assessment requirements.
- 6.56 Tasman District Council manages 528 parks and reserves (excluding esplanade reserves) under five main RMPs. Of these, 62 are covered by an RMP but are not reserves under the Reserves Act. The Council does not currently delegate Reserves Act powers to officers to issue infringement fines, including for overnight camping. When reviewing RMPs, the Council considers current and future uses for each reserve, including camping. Through this process, some reserves have been permitted for camping. Some reserves have also been assessed under the Act and included in Schedule 1 or 2 of the Bylaw. Staff do not consider it necessary or practical to assess every reserve in the District as this would require significant time and resources.

7. Financial or Budgetary Implications / Ngā Ritenga ā-Pūtea

- 7.1 Like many councils across New Zealand, Tasman District Council has invested significant time and resources into managing freedom camping. The Council allocates a budget for compliance and enforcement, with patrols and bylaw enforcement currently costing around \$56,000 per year. This is funded mainly through general rates, with minimal cost recovery. Infringement offences and fines were updated in regulations in July 2023.

8. Options / Kōwhiringa

8.1 The options are outlined in the following table:

Option		Advantage	Disadvantage
1.	Accept staff recommendations on matters raised in the submissions, and associated amendments to the draft Bylaw.	Staff have considered the submissions in the context of the requirements of the Act and propose recommendations on changes to make to the Bylaw. Enables the Bylaw to be finalised to take effect before summer.	If staff recommendations are not supported by the Panel, the Bylaw will not reflect the views of elected representatives.
2.	Make changes to staff recommendations, or further amendments to the draft Bylaw, in response to matters raised in submissions.	The Panel demonstrate they have exercised their governance responsibilities by critically assessing staff recommendations. Other advantages will depend on the changes the Panel makes.	Disadvantages will depend on the changes requested. Significant changes may require further consultation or legal advice, disrupting the timeline and risking not having a Bylaw in effect for summer.
3.	Do not proceed with a new Bylaw	Not proceeding with a new Bylaw would free up some enforcement officer time, however the Council retains a responsibility under the Act and some reactive enforcement would still be required.	The Council will have less control over and ability to manage freedom camping in the Tasman District. Regulating freedom camping via a bylaw is generally supported by the community.

8.2 Option 1 is recommended.

9. Legal / Ngā ture

9.1 Sections [11](#) and [11A](#) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 allows the Council to make a bylaw defining the local authority areas:

9.1.1 Where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted, and the restrictions that apply to freedom camping in those areas, and

9.1.2 Where freedom camping in a motor vehicle that is not self-contained is permitted, and the restrictions or conditions, if any, that apply to freedom camping in those areas.

- 9.2 Section 12 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 provides that the Council must not absolutely prohibit freedom camping in the Tasman District.
- 9.3 Section 13 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 requires a bylaw made under the Act to be reviewed no later than five years after the date on which the bylaw was made. The Council is now outside the five year timeframe for reviewing the previous bylaw. Staff recommend that the 2017 bylaw should be revoked, and a new bylaw be made.

Consultation requirements

- 9.4 Section [11B\(3\)](#) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 sets out the consultation requirements when making a new bylaw. Public consultation on the draft Bylaw was carried out using the special consultative procedure as set out in section 83 of the LGA 2002 (and as amended by section 86 of that Act), which satisfies the Freedom Camping Act 2011 requirements.
- 9.5 To ensure due process, it is important that the Panel receives and considers submissions with an open mind.
- 9.6 At its meeting on 5 June 2025, the Committee determined to consult on the draft Bylaw. In the case of a significant decision, the Council must ensure that the decision is made in accordance with the provisions of sections 77, 78, 80, 81 and 82 of the LGA 2002. In summary, the Council must:
- 9.6.1 identify and assess the reasonably practicable options;
 - 9.6.2 consider the views of interested and affected parties; and
 - 9.6.3 establish processes for Māori to participate in decision-making.
- 9.7 The Council must also ensure that the principles of consultation are met. This means that people who will or may be affected or have an interest have reasonable access to relevant information, including about the purpose and scope of the decisions, and are encouraged to present their views. The Council must ensure that:
- 9.7.1 submitters can present their views in a manner and format appropriate to their preferences;
 - 9.7.2 the views presented are received with an open mind; and
 - 9.7.3 submitters have access to a clear record and explanation of the relevant decisions made by the Council.
- 9.8 The bylaw process must follow the special consultative procedure under the LGA 2002, which means the Council is required to offer the opportunity for submitters to present their views verbally. At its meeting on 5 June 2025, the Committee decided to hold a submission hearing on the Draft Responsible Camping Bylaw so that the public can present their views verbally. At the same meeting, the Council adopted the Statement of Proposal (including the draft bylaw) and Summary of Information.

Determination on whether the bylaw is necessary, appropriate and proportionate

- 9.9 The Bylaw proposes to prohibit freedom camping in specified areas and to allow restricted freedom camping in other specified areas. Before being able to make this bylaw, section [11\(2\)](#) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 requires that the Council must be satisfied of three matters in relation to each area proposed for prohibition or restriction of freedom camping:
- (a) The bylaw is necessary, in relation to that area, for one or more of the following purposes:

- i. To protect the area:
- ii. To protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area:
- iii. To protect access to the area; and

(b) The bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area; and

(c) The bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

Is the bylaw necessary to protect the area, access to the area and the health and safety of people who may visit the area?

9.10 Staff consider that the prohibitions and restrictions in the draft Bylaw are necessary for the purposes identified in section [11](#) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011. The Site Assessments (**Attachment 5**) includes a detailed assessment of why the proposed prohibitions or restrictions are considered necessary for the specified purposes for each area. Each site has been assessed under the criteria set out in the Act.

9.11 The Site Assessments document has been updated as a result of consultation feedback and to help inform staff recommendations on the Bylaw. Staff suggest that it is published on the Council's website, as supporting material to the Bylaw.

Is the proposed bylaw the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem?

9.12 Staff considered five reasonable and viable options for addressing freedom camping issues in the Tasman District (refer to paragraph 8.8 of RRC25-06-3). Staff consider that a bylaw made under section [11\(1\)](#) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 is the best tool available to Council to manage the perceived problems identified with freedom camping.

9.13 These bylaws are limited to those purposes outlined in section [11\(2\)\(a\)](#) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, but they offer stronger the enforcement options than bylaws made under the LGA 2002 or through other methods, such as reserve management plans, signage or new facilities.

9.14 A bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables the Council to specifically regulate freedom camping issues on an area-by-area basis and provides certainty and clear direction for visitors and residents.

9.15 Additionally, the 2017 Bylaw was an effective mechanism for managing freedom camping in the Tasman District. The proposed new bylaw strikes a reasonable balance between providing for freedom camping and protecting the environment, the health and safety of people and public access.

Is the bylaw consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990?

9.16 [Section 11\(3\)](#) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 requires Council to be satisfied that the bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ("**NZ BORA 1990**"). An assessment of whether the bylaw will give rise to any implications under the NZ BORA 1990 cannot be fully considered until after the Panel has deliberated on submissions received on the Bylaw and the Bylaw is finalised for consideration by Council.

9.17 The new Bylaw may give rise to some implications under the NZ BORA 1990 but is not inconsistent with that Act. The Bylaw may infringe on members of the public's freedom of movement (protected under section 18 of the NZ BORA 1990), and will restrict, or may

provide for the imposition of restrictions on, who may use certain local authority areas in the Tasman District, and how and when they may be used.

- 9.18 However, such limits on the freedom of movement under the Bylaw can be considered reasonable limits that are demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society (in line with section 5 of the NZ BORA 1990), as some regulation of freedom camping is necessary to the wider public interest to ensure areas, access to areas and people are protected.
- 9.19 Staff advice is that, based on the findings of the Site Assessments (**Attachment 5**), the imposition of prohibitions and restrictions on freedom camping in those local authority areas with high significance against the criteria in section 11(2) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 are fair and reasonably justified limitations on individual rights to address the identified problems relating to freedom camping in the Tasman District.
- 9.20 At this stage of the bylaw process, staff do not anticipate that the Bylaw would give rise to any implications under the NZ BORA 1990. This will be confirmed by staff prior to final decisions being made on the Bylaw.

10. Iwi Engagement / Whakawhitiwhiti ā-Hapori Māori

- 10.1 Iwi were informed of the consultation via *Whakawhitiwhiti Whakaaro*, the Council's Iwi Engagement Portal, and encouraged to make a submission. Iwi who had indicated they would like to be involved in this project were also contacted directly by email and invited to participate.
- 10.2 Staff met with representatives from Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui during the early engagement stage to discuss freedom camping concerns and areas of interest. Te Ātiawa requested that Pukekoikoi Reserve be assessed for prohibition due to its high cultural significance.
- 10.3 In its submission, Te Ātiawa (35183) further requested that the Kaiteriteri township prohibition be extended, specifically along the Riwaka–Kaiteriteri Road towards Riwaka, including the Puketawai area. The site assessments (**Attachment 5**) identify areas of iwi significance and history, and these values were taken into account within the scoring framework.

11. Significance and Engagement / Hiranga me te Whakawhitiwhiti ā-Hapori Whānui

- 11.1 The Environment and Regulatory Committee determined at its meeting on 5 June 2025 (RCC25-06-3) that the provisions of the Bylaw are of moderate significance. While freedom camping bylaws have generally not attracted high levels of public interest in the Tasman District, the Bylaw is of greater significance to some organisations and members of the public, including the Department of Conservation and local commercial accommodation providers.
- 11.2 The Bylaw has been through an appropriate consultation process, and the deliberations at this meeting are in response to that feedback. The staff recommendations do not represent substantial departures from the proposals in the consultation documents. Accordingly, staff consider that the Panel can make the recommended amendments to the Bylaw without the need for further consultation.
- 11.3 The Bylaw is unlikely to require major changes in behaviour for most members of the public, and the overall level of significance remains assessed as moderate.

	Issue	Level of Significance	Explanation of Assessment
1.	Is there a high level of public interest, or is decision likely to be controversial?	Moderate	Historically, the freedom camping bylaw has not had significant public interest. The 2017 bylaw had been in place for a number of years and minimal changes are proposed.
2.	Are there impacts on the social, economic, environmental or cultural aspects of well-being of the community in the present or future?	Moderate	This Bylaw is intended to improve protection of specific sites with cultural or environmental significance and the health and safety of visitors, which will have a positive effect on the community
3.	Is there a significant impact arising from duration of the effects from the decision?	Low	The Freedom Camping Act 2011 requires this bylaw to be reviewed within five years, but could be reviewed earlier if necessary and resourcing allows
4.	Does the decision relate to a strategic asset? (refer Significance and Engagement Policy for list of strategic assets)	No	
5.	Does the decision create a substantial change in the level of service provided by Council?	Low	This proposal is largely consistent with the Council's current enforcement activities.
6.	Does the proposal, activity or decision substantially affect debt, rates or Council finances in any one year or more of the LTP?	Low	Patrols and bylaw enforcement costs approximately \$56,000 annually. This is largely funded by general rates with negligible cost recovery.
7.	Does the decision involve the sale of a substantial proportion or controlling interest in a CCO or CCTO?	No	
8.	Does the proposal or decision involve entry into a private sector partnership or contract to carry out the deliver on any Council group of activities?	No	
9.	Does the proposal or decision involve Council exiting from or entering into a group of activities?	No	
10.	Does the proposal require particular consideration of the obligations of Te	No	Consideration of TMOTW obligations is not within the

	Issue	Level of Significance	Explanation of Assessment
	Mana O Te Wai (TMOTW) relating to freshwater or particular consideration of current legislation relating to water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and services?		scope of a freedom camping bylaw, as set out in section 11 and 11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

12. Communication / Whakawhitiwhiti Kōrero

- 12.1 The public were notified of the Bylaw process and invited to participate in both early engagement and the formal consultation through *Newsline* and social media. Direct invitations were also sent to:
- 12.1.1 The NZ Motor Caravan Assn and the Responsible Campers Assn.
 - 12.1.2 The Department of Conservation, Forest & Bird.
 - 12.1.3 Te Whatu Ora/Health NZ and Waka Kotahi/the New Zealand Transport Agency.
 - 12.1.4 Business, tourism and hospitality sector stakeholders.
 - 12.1.5 The Motueka and Golden Bay Community Boards.
 - 12.1.6 Approximately 35 commercial accommodation providers in the District, including holiday parks, backpackers and campgrounds.
- 12.2 The Statement of Proposal (including the draft Bylaw) and a summary of information were available throughout the consultation period at all Council offices and public libraries.
- 12.3 A Shape Tasman project page also provided background information, site assessments, links to the submissions portal, an interactive map for location-specific comments, and a poll on weekend freedom camping at Decks Reserve. The Statement of Proposal and summary of information were also available for download.
- 12.4 If the Bylaw is approved by the Council, a public notice will be issued in *Newsline* and on the Council’s website, which will meet the notification requirements for bylaws under section 157 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 12.5 All submitters will be notified of the Council’s decision on making the Bylaw. Submissions are publicly available through the Council’s [online submission portal](#).

13. Risks / Ngā Tūraru

- 13.1 Not approving the Bylaw will mean that the Council will continue to rely on general enforcement powers under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, other legislation, public education, or the Tasman Resource Management Plan to manage freedom camping activities in the Tasman District. This is already a current risk, as the 2017 Bylaw was not reviewed within the required timeframe and cannot be used for the upcoming summer season.
- 13.2 If approved, the new Bylaw will be reviewed within five years to ensure it remains fit for purpose in a changing environment.

14. Climate Change Considerations / Whakaaro Whakaaweawe Āhuarangi

- 14.1 Tourism can contribute to carbon emissions; however, the decision on the Bylaw is unlikely to affect the Council's or the District's carbon footprint.
- 14.2 Implementation of the Bylaw is not expected to be affected by climate change. Freedom camping sites near the coast, waterways, or areas vulnerable to weather events will be closely monitored. The Bylaw provides for temporary site closures if required to prevent or repair damage, carry out maintenance, protect health and safety, or improve public access.
- 14.3 The Bylaw neither aligns or detracts from the Council and Government's plans, policies and legal obligations relating to climate change.

15. Alignment with Policy and Strategic Plans / Te Hangai ki ngā aupapa Here me ngā Mahere Rautaki Tūraru

- 15.1 The scope of a local freedom camping bylaw is defined by sections 11 and 11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
- 15.2 The Council's Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 guides management of increasing numbers of visitors seeking free or low-cost camping opportunities in the District through regulation, facilities, and information. The Bylaw is consistent with and supports this Strategy.
- 15.3 The purpose of the Bylaw aligns with two of the Council's Community Outcomes in its Long-Term Plan:
 - 15.3.1 Our unique natural environment is healthy, protected and sustainably managed.
 - 15.3.2 Our communities are healthy, safe, inclusive and resilient.











16. Conclusion / Kupu Whakatepe

- 16.1 The Responsible Camping Bylaw will enable the Council to effectively manage freedom camping in the Tasman District and aims to balance tourism growth and community wellbeing. The Bylaw identifies the local authority areas where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted, and any restrictions that apply. It gives Council officers the ability to issue infringements fines when the Bylaw rules are not followed.
- 16.2 Public feedback generally supported the Bylaw's intent, with comments on specific provisions or sites. Key themes included the need for increased monitoring and enforcement, improved signage and communication, adequate facilities, and impacts on commercial accommodation providers.
- 16.3 In response to submissions, staff have recommended several changes to the Bylaw for the Panel's consideration (see **Attachment 3**). Staff will incorporate any additional changes requested by the Panel and, if recommended, prepare the final Bylaw for Council consideration at its 11 September 2025 meeting.
- 16.4 The Bylaw is a new bylaw and, once adopted, will be reviewed within five years to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

17. Next Steps and Timeline / Ngā Mahi Whai Ake

- 17.1 Staff will prepare a referral report with the Panel's recommendations for consideration by the Full Council at its 11 September 2025 meeting.
- 17.2 If the Council agree to make the Bylaw, it will be publicly notified in Newsline and on the Council's website and will come into effect on 1 November 2025.

18. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1.	  Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 - Speakers Schedule	24
2.	  Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 - Submissions Summary	25
3.	  Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 - Proposed Changes	32
4.	  Proposed Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025 (changes tracked)	36
5.	  TDC Freedom Camping Site Assessments July 2025	74

Submissions Hearing 2:30 pm Thursday 28 August 2025 – 5 minutes per speaker

Submitters in italics have not yet confirmed if they still wish to speak

Submission	Time	Name	Organisation
35203	2:30 pm	David Melville	The Ornithological Society of NZ / Birds NZ
35172	2:30 pm	David Richards	Richards Patarau Trust
35184	2:30 pm	Rohan Haskell	Motueka TOP 10 Holiday Park
35200	2:30 pm	Leo Byatt	
35205	2:30 pm	Mathias Schaeffner	Tasman Democracy Inc

Overview of submissions for the Responsible Camping Bylaw consultation

Summary of submissions received

Public consultation on the draft Responsible Camping Bylaw ran from 6 June to 14 July with an extra week to account for the community's more acute priorities during the state of emergency. We received 58 submissions, 36 location-based pin drops, and 116 poll votes.

The submissions hearing is scheduled for 28 August 2025 in Richmond at the Council Chambers and 8 submitters have indicated that they wish to speak.

The community were invited to provide feedback on any aspects of the draft bylaw. We also invited views on:

- Increasing the proposed restricted freedom camping at Decks Reserve in self-contained vehicles to also allow this on weekends (Saturday and Sunday nights) between 6pm and 6am.
- The impact of freedom camping activity at the Taupata Point gravel reserve, located on the coast between Pākawau and Pūponga.

Organisations and groups that submitted included

- The Department of Conservation and Raumanuka Reserve Community Agreement
- Forest & Bird, Tasman Bay Penguin Trust and the Ornithological Society of NZ
- Wharariki Holiday Park, KiwiPark Motels & Holiday Park and Motueka TOP10 Holiday Park,
- Talley's Limited and Tasman Democracy Incorporated
- Motueka and Golden Bay Community Boards
- Te Ātiawa O Te Waka-a-Māui

The remaining submissions were from individuals.

Submitters generally supported the intent of the draft Bylaw, with many providing comments or suggestions on specific provisions or sites/areas. This feedback has been summarised below by theme and is discussed in the Deliberations Report.

Submission feedback grouped by theme

Staff have grouped the feedback from submitters by theme on the following pages. Note that some submission had feedback that covered one or more of the themes and so the submission may be referenced more than once.

General support for the bylaw

The main theme of public feedback was that submitters supported the regulation of freedom camping in Tasman via a bylaw, particularly to specify where vehicles can and cannot park overnight to protect local amenities, public health and safety, wildlife and the environment.

The Golden Bay Community Board (35197) supported self-contained camping only in Golden Bay and acknowledged that the new bylaw allows for tents. The Department of Conservation (35170) supports retaining the prohibited status for sites that were previously prohibited under the 2017 bylaw because they adjoin DOC-administered land where camping is prohibited under a DOC notice.

Te Ātiawa O Te Waka-a-Māui (35183) are in support of the bylaw, particularly the protections near the Puketawai site as the area is culturally significant to both tangata whenua iwi who hold manawhenua and iwi who are acknowledged by the Crown, under statute.

Monitoring and enforcement

There was strong feedback in submissions for increased monitoring and enforcement of the bylaw restrictions and prohibitions.

Submitter 35140 asked how the areas will be monitored and noted that as a local they had been met with abusive tourists when they have tried to move these vehicles on. Submitter 35076 noted their local area is not checked in the evening and freedom campers here leave human waste lying around. Submitter 35072 also supported tougher regulation of what is a self-contained vehicle and better policing of this.

Two submitters (35123, 35166) noted a current lack of enforcement of the rules. Submitter 35125 agreed that if the bylaw is not properly policed there will be no incentive to comply by people who are not self-contained. One submitter noted that monitoring needed to be done at dusk and dawn, not during the day. Submitter 35108 emphasised that unless funding was provided to police this new bylaw, it is only as good as the paper it is written on.

One submitter (35178) suggested that instant fines instead of ticketing. Tasman Democracy Inc (35205) suggested that recently issued infringement fines were illegal, as the previous bylaw was revoked

Education and communication

Some submitters suggested that improved signage and communication would support understanding and enforcement of the bylaw. Feedback included requesting clearer, bolder signs informing tourists what they can and can't park (35140, 35182), clearly marked parking spaces (356178, 35182), communication of self-contained requirements in areas where these vehicles were permitted (35171) and new signage at Riwaka Wharf (35076). One submitter (35165) suggested education campaigns with signage and outreach programmes informing campers of environmental expectations and local rules.

Provision of facilities

Various submissions emphasised the importance of providing sufficient facilities at freedom camping locations to support the number of people using the areas. Three submitters suggested more toilets are needed at the Wai-iti Domain, closer to the freedom camping area. Submitter 35125 noted that unless proper toilet facilities and rubbish bins are provided in the designated areas that allow camping then the issues of rubbish disposal and toilet waste will be no different to what happens now. Submitter 35194 suggested clear information should be provided on how to deal with waste of any kind.

Submitter 35165 noted that adopting practical solutions, including investing in the provision of public toilets, recycling bins and basic facilities at freedom camping areas, would promote responsible camping behaviour. Submitter 35182 noted the importance of ablution facilities being able to cope in locations where non-self-contained vehicles are permitted. Submitter 35137 requested toilets be provided in freedom camping locations that are fit for purpose and the number of people using the areas. Submitter 35074 wanted more tent camping areas with at least one toilet provided. Submitter 35173 suggested having accessible public showers for visitors with an entry fee.

Submitter 35167 is concerned about fire risk in the dry season of camping activities at Wai-iti Domain and suggested that safer camping fires/cooking areas could be provided in the freedom camping area.

Increased regulation of freedom camping

Some submitters considered that the bylaw is too lenient and that the negatives of freedom camping outweigh the positives. Suggestions on further restricting or prohibiting freedom camping included that rules regarding how many days they can camp are pointless with no system to record this, issues/concerns with rubbish and human waste, and increasing prohibition in all riparian river zones or where there are campground options close by.

Other submitters suggested that freedom campers should have to pay to use the designated sites. Ideas included a one-off or nightly charge contributing to the costs of clearing rubbish away, facilities and local amenities, a bond returned for good behaviour, or only permitting residents to freedom camp with tourists directed towards paid accommodation providers (35185, 35109, 35194). One submitter wanted non-compliance fines to be increased and enforced prior to visitors departing New Zealand (35185).

Three submitters thought that freedom camping should be banned across the whole district. Concerns included the financial burden on rate payers to maintain freedom camping areas, and clean up and provide for them (35192), providing freedom camping areas at any cost to rate payers (35164) and that rate payers should not be subsidising freedom camping when there are enough options for visitors to stay at commercial camping grounds (35071).

Impact on commercial accommodation providers

Five submitters raised concerns about the impact of freedom camping on commercial accommodation providers. The Motueka TOP10 Holiday Park (35184) offers facilities for both self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles and are directly impacted by free camping in close proximity to their business through revenue loss, unfair competition and undermining of local business.

Submitters 35166 and 35204 thought that allowing freedom campers has hurt once-thriving motel and backpackers businesses, as many have closed due to the large number of people being able to camp in the area. One campground owner (35174) has faced numerous challenges from freedom campers including dishonest, disrespect, theft, and attempts to access campground amenities without paying.

Reduce regulation of freedom camping

Some submitters wanted less regulation of freedom camping in Tasman, noting that it brings good economic growth to places with low population yet beautiful scenery (35173) and provides a holiday option for lower-income families (35194).

Suggestions included allowing freedom camping at more sites to reduce overcrowding (35128, 35194), providing more parking spaces for campers at the sites, and increasing the sites for non-self-contained vehicles (35163). Other suggestions from submitters included removing departure times, allowing a later departure time, or setting maximum stay limits before moving on (35128, 35163). Submitter 35200 requested better parking options for longer/larger self-contained-vehicles, which struggle to fit in carparks.

One submitter (35131) objected to any constraints on freedom of movement local rights and objected entirely to the bylaw.

Feedback on locations that are included in the bylaw

Various submitters provided feedback on specific prohibited or restricted sites in the bylaw, including increasing the St Arnaud area ban. Other views are summarised below, by location.

Decks Reserve

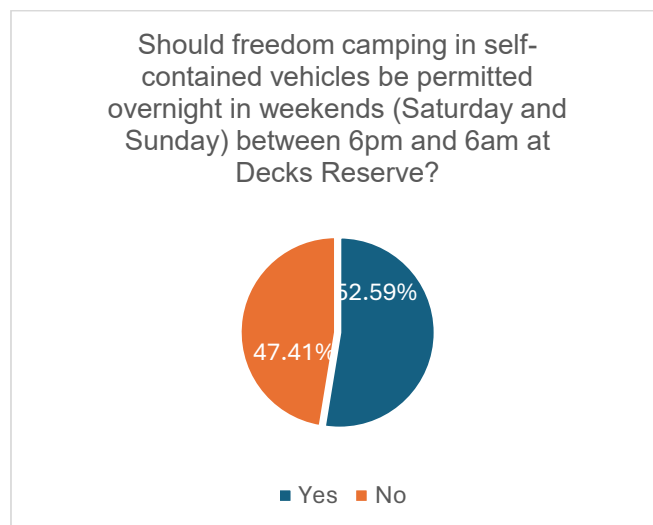
13 submissions were made regarding freedom camping at Decks Reserve. Some submitters supported the restrictions to ensure other users could also enjoy the area, particularly the inclusion of behaviour and nighttime noise level guidelines. Suggestions included increasing monitoring and enforcement to ensure the parking spaces could be used by others during the day, providing more rubbish and recycling facilities when its busy and more frequent removal, and on-site enforcement.

Three submitters wanted tighter restrictions, such as reducing reduce freedom camping at Decks Reserve (35137), changing the leaving time from 8am to 7am (35185), or moving the parking spaces currently allocated in the family-focused activity zones (35184).

Five submitters did not support freedom camping at Decks Reserve. Views included that it was located too close to residential and commercial activities, increased noise and anti-social behaviour from freedom campers (35188), undermining investment in a vibrant and family-friendly environment, and that campers posed significant safety and health risks to local users – particularly children (35184). Submitter 35189 thinks that the number of campers has discouraged young families use Decks Reserve and the mess left behind is not inviting to the locals or any visitors to Motueka.

The three elected Motueka Community Board members (35196) recognise some of the benefits that freedom camping has provided but do not support any further freedom camping at Decks Reserve, regardless of whether the vehicle is self-contained or the time limits are altered. They do not consider Decks Reserve to be an appropriate accommodation site and shared feedback and observations regarding campers not sticking to time limits or allocated parking spaces, littering or over-filling reserve bins and using business rubbish and recycling bins, indecent exposure and feeling unsafe, concerns with monitoring and lack of evidence validating economic contribution.

A quick poll that was promoted on social media, received 116 votes as shown below:



Supporters of weekend freedom camping at Decks Reserve said that the Sunday Market is not impacted (35137) and the 8am departure time should remain unless there were activities happening there (35178). Feedback opposing weekend freedom camping at Decks Reserve said it interfered with the Sunday Market stall holders to set up early (35166, 35191), and causes access issues for other users of the parking area (35169).

Motueka Beach Reserve

Five submissions were received regarding freedom camping at the Motueka Beach Reserve. Submitter 35181 noted that the rules at this site are not well enforced and is predominantly used by small vehicles with self-contained certifications that make full use of the facilities that are not intended for freedom campers.

Submitter 35127 opposed any changes to parking space allocated at the Motueka Beach Reserve, noting that it is already overloaded during the summer right through to approaching winter and this is overwhelming the facilities. Campers also park in the carpark when the spaces are full and enforcement efforts seem insufficient and difficult. Submitter 35162 did not support any expansion of the freedom camping at this site and considered this would encroach on Motueka residents use of the area.

One submitter (35168) thought a fee should be charged on this site, as it provides toilets, shower and rubbish removed and had concerns about campers parking here all day during the summer, not just overnight. Submitter 35185 thought that it should remain for self-contained vehicles only.

George Quay, Motueka

There were mixed views on the inclusion of George Quay as a restricted area for freedom camping. Submitter 35202 is supportive of the restrictions and noted that it is currently used by a large number of self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles that leave behind rubbish and sometimes human waste, impacting other's use and enjoyment of the area.

Submitter 35127 opposes a freedom camping area for self-contained vehicles at George Quay, concerned about the impact that campers will have on other people using the area and the feel of this beautiful scenic location. The submitter considered that Decks Reserve was a more suitable site. Other submitters did not support any freedom camping at George Quay. Feedback included not wanting to see this area ruined by allowing freedom campers or lack of enforcement of the rules (35181) and protecting the amenity area for the enjoyment of locals and others visiting (35162, 35181, 35204).

Talley's Limited (35199) strongly opposes the inclusion of George Quay as a freedom camping site in the bylaw and has concerns regarding food and operational safety risks at its food processing plant, improper waste disposal, and limited oversight and enforcement. They note that the presence of overnight visitors increase the risk of unauthorised access, vandalism, littering, and interference with factory operations.

Motupipi carpark, Tākaka

Submitter 35186 is concerned about overcrowding and the lack of toilets, noting over the summer the carpark is fairly full with campers and a stench of stale urine. Two submitters suggested the freedom camping area be moved back to the old i-site carpark as there are toilets, showers and recycling facilities there, to reduce the strain on the overloaded Motupipi St carpark and improve safety and security for everyone.

Kaiteriteri township area

Te Ātiawa O Te Waka-a-Māui (35183) request the prohibition under the Kaiteriteri township area ban is considered to be increased, specifically in the Puketawai area to extend to cover the entire Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road. The Puketawai site is culturally significant to both tangata whenua iwi who hold manawhenua and iwi who are acknowledged by the Crown, under statute. Te Ātiawa note that there have been multiple issues with freedom campers in this area and that there is an Iwi Long Term Management Plan in place for the area, with a committee to ensure its protection.

Other submissions also supported prohibiting freedom camping along the Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road.

Feedback on other locations that are not included in the bylaw

Submitters requested additional prohibited areas, including Murchison (35180), penguin habitat areas (35177), Milnthorpe Park (35175), Anatori River area (35172), Waitapu Bridge (35137), Bronte Peninsula and the Alex Ryder Memorial Reserve. Some submitters suggested sites where freedom camping could be restricted, including Hope Domain, Rototai Road, Cobb River Campsite, Twin Bridges Reserve, and provision made near Collingwood.

Other submissions regarding areas not included in the bylaw are summarised below, by location.

Taupata Area

Views were invited, as part of the consultation on the draft bylaw, on the impact of freedom camping activity at the Taupata Point gravel reserve located on the coast between Pākawau and Pūponga. We received twelve submissions regarding the Taupata area, all opposing freedom camping here due to concerns about the impacts on birds and sea life close to the site and vulnerable to disturbance, including vehicles that are not self-contained parking overnight in the area, as many visitors do not respect the significance of the area or the local conservation efforts to turn this site into a safe haven for shore birds.

Submissions from Forest & Bird (35070, 35195) and from the Department of Conservation (35170) request that Taupata Point gravel reserve be added to Schedule 1 of the Bylaw as a prohibited area for freedom camping. It is an important site for birds that are now endangered and other species that need peaceful places to rest and nest. Despite extensive signage, disturbance from visitors to the area continues and include damage to riparian vegetation, littering, human waste, and direct disturbance to roosting and foraging shorebirds. Freedom camping will undermine local efforts to protect these populations and is inconsistent with the Tasman Biodiversity Strategy. DoC also notes that the area is also used by contractors accessing the gravel reserve.

The Ornithological Society of NZ (35203) submits that allowing freedom camping at the Taupata gravel reserve is expected result in adverse impacts on the avifauna. The adjacent area at the outflow of the Taupata Stream is used as a high tide roosting site by shorebirds and other waterbirds, including threatened, at risk or endangered species. Freedom camping in this area will interfere with roosting and nesting birds, causing disturbance or displacement.

Staples Street, Motueka

Six submitters urged the Council to prohibit freedom camping at the end of Staples Street, due to the high natural significance of the adjoining wetland which requires full protection and significant access concerns for other users of the area. The adjoining wetland and sandspit is recognised and promoted as one of Motueka's most beautiful and ecologically sensitive areas and it is well used

by locals and visitors for walking, running, biking the Great Taste Trail, dog-walking and family recreation.

The Department of Conservation (35170) does not support the proposal to allow freedom camping at this site and requests that the current prohibition be retained. DOC notes that the land ownership in this area is complicated but includes legal road administered by TDC. Freedom camping is not permitted at the adjoining DOC-administered scenic reserve and there are no plans for camping to be provided here in the future. The wetland areas within and adjoining the reserve have significant natural values. DOC submits that allowing freedom camping here would have negative impacts on the reserve and adjoining area.

Forest & Bird (35195) submits that Staple Street must be included in the bylaw as a prohibited site, as it is adjacent to the Raumanuka Scenic Reserve which provides important habitat for the 'At Risk-Declining' Marsh Crake and nesting and roosting sites for other 'At Risk' shorebirds. Allowing camping here would compromise the integrity of the adjacent reserve and undermine active community trapping work and have adverse impacts on avifauna.

The Ornithological Society of NZ (35203) is also concerned about the impacts of freedom camping on birds in the adjoining wetland. This wetland is already suffering from fly tipping and dumping of general waste, and encouraging use of the area for freedom camping will only exacerbate the problem. The Society submits that the prohibition of freedom camping remains necessary to protect the DOC reserve from damage and to protect access to the area and that the Council had provided no assessment of the site to indicate otherwise.

Submitter 35153 has worked with DOC and other volunteers under the Raumanuka Reserve Community Agreement to trap predators and protect the rare birds that frequent the area. Freedom campers currently use this area illegally, sometimes for days at a time, leaving behind rubbish and human waste. The submitter is concerned that, if it is opened up to legal freedom campers, the environment will be subject to greater abuse.

Onekaka

Three submitters raised concerns about freedom camping in the Onekaka area, Submitter 35175 noted that freedom campers park at the end of Washbourn Road in Onekaka and requested more enforcement and control over this area. Submitter 35137 requested that camping be prohibited in Onekaka beach, along the Waitapu beach. Submitter 35120 wants freedom camping prohibited at the Onekaka river mouth, which is often used by campers due to its proximity to the Mussel Inn but is an important site for wildlife due to the rich feeding areas associated with estuaries and rivers and endangered birds feed, nest and rest there.

Proposed changes to the Responsible Camping Bylaw following consultation

Table 1: Changes proposed in response to feedback in submissions

Current wording	Recommended changes (addition or deletion)	Reasons for the proposed changes												
<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="259 424 842 520"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cemetery Name</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Foxhill Cemetery</td> <td>32 Foxhill Cemetery Road, Belgorve</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Cemetery Name	Location	Foxhill Cemetery	32 Foxhill Cemetery Road, Belgorve	<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="880 424 1453 520"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cemetery Name</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Foxhill Cemetery</td> <td>32 Foxhill Cemetery Road, Belgorve Belgrove</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Cemetery Name	Location	Foxhill Cemetery	32 Foxhill Cemetery Road, Belgorve Belgrove	<p>This amendment corrects a typo that was identified by Submitter 35123.</p>				
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<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p>	<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p> <p>TAUPATA POINT, COLLINGWOOD-PŪPONGA MAP 1.1</p> <p>Legal road (near 1775 & 1807 Collingwood-Pūponga Main Road) shaded red on the map below:</p>	<p>This addition to Schedule 1 has the effect of prohibiting freedom camping at Taupata Point, Collingwood-Pūponga as described and shaded red on Map 1.1.</p> <p>This change is in response to twelve submissions opposing freedom camping at this site.</p>												
<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p>	<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p> <p>STAPLES STREET, MOTUEKA MAP 1.16</p> <p>Staples Street, Motueka (eastern end at Raumanuka Reserve) shaded red on the map below:</p>	<p>This addition to Schedule 1 has the effect of prohibiting freedom camping at Staples Street, Motueka as described and shaded red on Map 1.16.</p> <p>This change is in response to six submissions opposing freedom camping at this site.</p>												

<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p>	<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p> <p>GEORGE QUAY BOAT RAMP, MOTUEKA MAP 1.19</p> <p>Massey Street, Motueka (legal road and Lot 1 DP 19868) shaded red on the map below:</p>	<p>This addition to Schedule 1 has the effect of prohibiting freedom camping at George Quay Boat Ramp, Motueka as described and shaded red on Map 1.19.</p> <p>This change is in response to Talley’s Limited (35199) and five other submissions opposing freedom camping in this area.</p>
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Table 2: Other changes proposed by staff

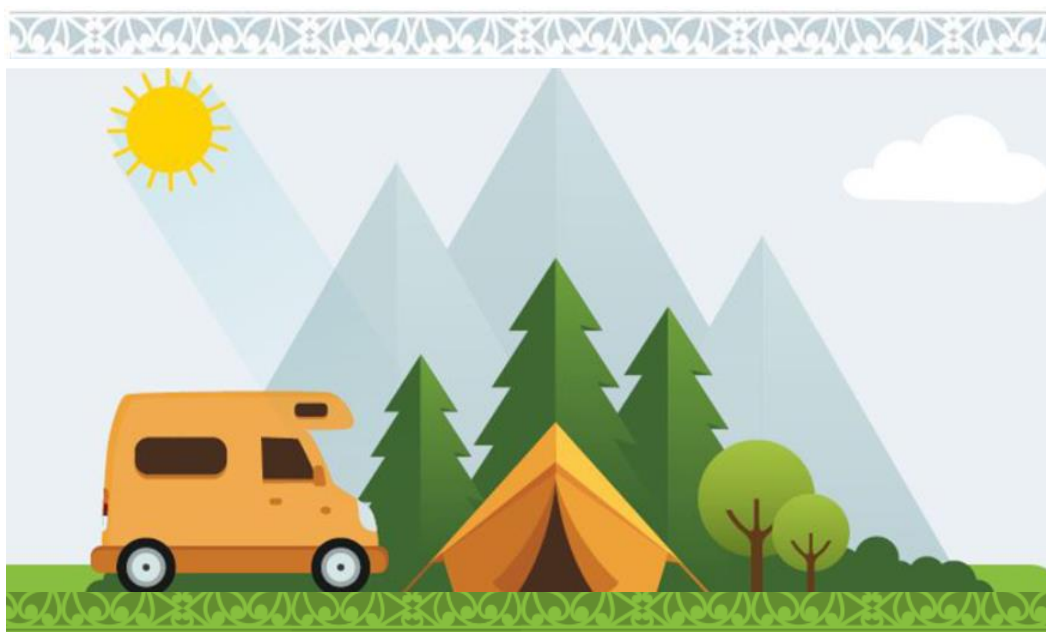
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<p>1. Title and commencement</p> <p>1.1. This Bylaw is the Tasman District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025.</p> <p>1.2. This Bylaw comes into force on [DATE MONTH 2025].</p>	<p>2. Title and commencement</p> <p>1.3. This Bylaw is the Tasman District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025.</p> <p>1.4. This Bylaw comes into force on [DATE MONTH 2025] 1 November 2025.</p>	<p>This date ensures sufficient time for public notification of the Bylaw.</p>												
<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p> <p>An interactive map is also available on the TDC website: [LINK].</p>	<p>Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping</p> <p>An interactive map is also available on the TDC website: [LINK] at: www.tasman.govt.nz/camping-bylaw.</p>	<p>This amendment inserts a link to the Council’s webpage.</p> <p>This change will make it easier for the public to access maps and information regarding prohibited areas for freedom camping.</p>												
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Tasman District Council

DRAFT Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025



Council resolution

This bylaw was made by Tasman District Council at a meeting of the Council on **XX YYY 2025.**

The common seal of the Tasman District Council is attached in the presence of:

_____ Mayor

_____ Chief Executive

Bylaw record

Action	Approved	Reference	In force
Bylaw made	Xx/xx/2025	RCN25-xx-xx	Xx/xx/20251/11/2025
Next review completed by	Xx/xx/2030		

Post-consultation changes to the Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025

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DRAFT

The Tasman District Council makes this Bylaw under sections 11 and 11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and should be read alongside that Act.

Explanatory note: This Bylaw applies to areas under the control of the Tasman District Council. Compliance with this Bylaw does not remove the need to comply with all applicable Acts, regulations, bylaws, the Tasman Resource Management Plan, Reserve Management Plans and rules of law.

1. Title and commencement

- 1.1. This Bylaw is the Tasman District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025.
- 1.2. This Bylaw comes into force on ~~[DATE MONTH 2025]~~ 1 November 2025.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this Bylaw is to regulate freedom camping in the Tasman District in order to:
 - 2.1.1. Protect the local authority areas;
 - 2.1.2. Protect the health and safety of people who may visit local authority areas;
 - 2.1.3. Protect access to local authority areas

3. Interpretation

- 3.1. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

Act means the [Freedom Camping Act 2011](#).

Camping ground has the same meaning as in [section 5\(3\)](#) of the Act, and means:

- (a) a camping ground that is subject to a current certificate of registration under the Camping-Grounds Regulations 1985; and
- (b) any site at which a fee is payable for camping at the site.

Chief Executive means the chief executive appointed by the Council under [section 42](#) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Council means the Tasman District Council.

Enforcement officer means a person appointed as an enforcement officer under [section 32](#) of the Act.

Freedom camp and **freedom camping** has the same meaning as in [section 5](#) of the Act, and means to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200m of an area accessible by motor vehicle or within 200m of the mean low-water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200m of a formed road or a Great Walks Track, using either or both of the following:

- (a) a tent or other temporary structure;
- (b) a motor vehicle.

Freedom camping does not include the following activities:

- (a) temporary and short-term parking of a motor vehicle;
- (b) recreational activities commonly known as day-trip excursions;
- (c) resting or sleeping at the roadside in a motor vehicle to avoid driver fatigue.

[Post-consultation changes to the](#) Tasman District Council [Responsible](#) Camping Bylaw 2025

A person is not freedom camping if the person —

- (a) is a person other than a person who is in New Zealand on the basis of a visitor visa (within the meaning of the immigration instructions); and
- (b) is unable to live in appropriate residential accommodation; and
- (c) as a consequence of that inability, is living in either or both of the following:
 - (i) a tent or other temporary structure;
 - (ii) a motor vehicle.

Great Walks Track has the same meaning as in [section 5\(3\)](#) of the Act, and means:

- (a) a track specified in [Schedule 1](#) [of the Act]; and
- (b) any other track specified by Order in Council made under [section 44](#) [of the Act] as a Great Walks Track.

Local authority area has the same meaning as in [section 6](#) of the Act, and means:

- (a) an area of land —
 - (i) that is within the district or region of a local authority; and
 - (ii) that is —
 - (A) controlled or managed by or on behalf of the local authority under any enactment; or
 - (B) an area of NZTA land declared to be a local authority area in accordance with a bylaw made under [section 10A](#) [of the Act]; and
- (b) includes any part of an area of land referred to in paragraph a); but
- (c) does not include an area of land referred to in paragraph a) or b) that is permanently covered by water.

Prohibited area means an area identified in Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping. Freedom camping is not allowed in this area unless prior written consent has been obtained from the Chief Executive.

Restricted area means an area identified in Schedule 2: Restricted Areas for Freedom Camping. Freedom camping is allowed in these areas, subject to complying with all of the restrictions imposed.

Self-contained, in relation to a motor vehicle, has the same meaning as in [section 4](#) of the Act, and means that the vehicle has a valid certificate of self-containment issued in accordance with [section 87U\(3\)\(d\)](#) of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006 (but see subpart 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 1AA of the Freedom Camping Act for the meaning of self-contained during the transitional period).

Non-self-contained, in relation to a motor vehicle, means a motor vehicle that is not self-contained in accordance with the Act.

This bylaw contains explanatory notes, which are not part of the bylaw. The Council may add, amend or delete explanatory notes at any time without amending the bylaw

4. Local Authority Areas Where Freedom Camping is Permitted

- 4.1. Freedom camping is permitted in any local authority area within the Tasman District unless it is prohibited or restricted:
 - 4.1.1. by this Bylaw; or
 - 4.1.2. under any other enactment or bylaw.

5

| [Post-consultation changes to the](#) Tasman District Council [Responsible](#) Camping Bylaw 2025

Explanatory note: Other legislation includes the Reserves Act 1977, which generally prohibits camping in reserves (pursuant to section 44) and provides for infringement notices to be issued. The Council's Reserve Management Plans will indicate where any reserve accommodates freedom camping and can be accessed at this link: www.tasman.govt.nz/my-council/key-documents/more/environment-reserves-and-open-spaces/reserves-general-policies-and-management-plans

5. Prohibited Areas

- 5.1. A person must not freedom camp in any local authority area in the Tasman District in any vehicle that is not a certified self-contained vehicle, except as allowed in clause 6.
- 5.2. A person must not freedom camp in any tent or temporary structure in any local authority area, unless allowed for in clause 6.
- 5.3. A person must not freedom camp in any local authority area described and shaded red on the maps in Schedule 1.

6. Restricted Areas

- 6.1. In any area described and shaded yellow or green on the maps in Schedule 2, freedom camping is allowed subject to the following restrictions:
 - 6.1.1. in relation to freedom camping in vehicles that are self-contained or not self-contained, or freedom camping in a tent, freedom camping must only take place as specified in Schedule 2; and
 - 6.1.2. the maximum period of stay permitted in any location specified in Schedule 2 is two consecutive nights on no more than two separate occasions in any calendar month; and
 - 6.1.3. other restrictions as specified in Schedule 2.
- 6.2. In clause 6.1.2 location means the land with 500m of the place where the certified self-contained vehicle is situated for the purpose of freedom camping.

7. Prior Consent from Council

- 7.1. The Chief Executive (or their delegate) may grant consent to a person to freedom camp in any prohibited area, restricted area, or non-self-contained area, contrary to any prohibition, restrictions, or conditions that apply to that area under this Bylaw.
- 7.2. Any application for consent must be made in writing to the Chief Executive, including contact details, and:
 - 7.2.1. provide sufficient detail provided about the proposed freedom camping, including why the freedom camping will not comply with the prohibition or the restrictions imposed under this Bylaw; and
 - 7.2.2. provide sufficient detail about how the area will be protected, health and safety of people will be protected (including information about how the applicant will manage all human and other waste generated while freedom camping), and access will be protected; and
 - 7.2.3. be made at least 20 working days in advance of the date the freedom camping is proposed to commence.
- 7.3. If the Chief Executive (or their delegate) grants an application, they may impose any conditions considered appropriate with the purpose of this Bylaw.
- 7.4. If the Chief Executive (or their delegate) refuses an application, they must inform the applicant of the reasons for the decisions.

- 7.5. The Chief Executive (or their delegate) may revoke a consent granted under this Bylaw if any person breaches the conditions specified in the notice of consent, or the freedom camping covered by the consent otherwise the Act.

Explanatory note: The purpose of this clause is to enable permission for temporary sites for freedom camping in prohibited or restricted areas, for example associated with one-off events.

8. The Council may Temporarily Close an Area to Freedom Camping

- 8.1. The Chief Executive (or their delegate) may temporarily close or restrict freedom camping in any area or part of any area where the closure or restriction is considered necessary to:
- 8.1.1. repair damage that significantly affects the use of the local authority area or facilities in the area for freedom camping; or
 - 8.1.2. prevent damage occurring where there is an imminent threat of damage that would otherwise require the Council to close the area to prevent or repair the damage; or
 - 8.1.3. allow maintenance to be carried out on the local authority area or facilities; or
 - 8.1.4. protect the health and safety of persons or property; or
 - 8.1.5. provide for better public access, including in circumstances where events are planned for that area.
- 8.2. Notice will be given of any temporary closure or restriction, and the removal of any closure or restriction, in any manner the Chief Executive (or their delegate) considers is appropriate given the reason and timeliness for the closure or restriction.
- 8.3. Prior notice of any temporary closure or restriction will be given where possible.

Explanatory note: Notice given by the Council may include any of the following: a sign erected in the area; advertising on the Council's website, official social media pages, or on the radio; notifications via Council-approved apps; a public notice in the paper; and/or a written notice handed out by a Council enforcement officer.

9. Offences and Penalties

- 9.1. Section 20(1) and 20C of the Act specifies the infringement offences applicable to local authority areas, which include that every person commits an offence who:
- 9.1.1. freedom camps in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw that applies to the area concerned; or
 - 9.1.2. makes preparations to freedom camp in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw that applies to the area concerned.
- 9.2. For the purposes of section 20(1)(a) and (f) of the Act, any person who has obtained the prior written consent of the Council, granted under clause 7.1 of this Bylaw, and who complies with any conditions on the consent, is not acting in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw.
- 9.3. The infringement penalties referred to in clause 9.1 above are enabled by section 20E of the Act and are specified in regulations.

Explanatory note: Section 22 of the Act sets out defences to a freedom camping offence. The defences include that an offence was committed due to an action or event beyond the control of the defendant that could not reasonably have been foreseen, or the act was necessary to protect life or health, prevent injury or serious damage to property. Council officers use their discretion when investigating freedom camping complaints, which will include consideration of any defences that may be available to a person.

Schedule 1: Prohibited Areas for Freedom Camping

A person must not freedom camp in any reserve, park or sportsground in the Tasman District, unless listed in Schedule 2 or provided for in the Council's Reserve Management Plans.

A person must not freedom camp in any cemetery in the Tasman District listed in the table below.

Cemetery Name	Location
Bainham Cemetery	1646 Collingwood/Bainham Main Road
Clifton Historic (Closed)	95 Boyle Street, Clifton
Collingwood Public	37 Collingwood/Bainham Main Road
Collingwood Historic (DOC)	49 Orion Street, Collingwood
Flett Road	49 Flett Road, Lower Moutere
Foxhill Cemetery	32 Foxhill Cemetery Road, Belgerve Belgrove
Kotinga Cemetery	39 Cemetery Road, Takaka
Mararewa Cemetery	4635 Motueka Valley Highway, Tapawera
Motueka Pioneer (Closed)	44 Thorp Street, Motueka
Murchison Public Cemetery	11 Riverview Road, Murchison
Motueka Public	27 Cemetery Road, Motueka
Richmond Cemetery	86 Wensley Road, Richmond
Rototai Cemetery	230 Rototai Road, Takaka
Sandy Bay (Closed)	35 Moss Road, Sandy Bay
Spring Grove Cemetery	477 Mount Heslington Road, Brightwater
Waimea West Cemetery	569 Waimea West Road, Appleby

A person must not freedom camp in any local authority area described in the table below and shown on the referenced map. An interactive map is ~~also~~ available at: www.tasman.govt.nz/camping-bylaw, on the TDC website: [\[LINK\]](#).

Local Authority Area Name / Description	Map Reference
Taupata Point, Collingwood-Pūponga	Map 1.1
Patons Rock township	Map 1.24
Tākaka township	Map 1.32
Pohara Recreation Reserve	Map 1.43
Abel Tasman Memorial	Map 1.54
Ligar Bay	Map 1.65
Tata Beach	Map 1.76
McShane Road, Wainui Bay	Map 1.87
Marahau township	Map 1.98
Kaiteriteri-Sandy Bay Road and Sandy Bay-Marahau Road	Map 1.109
Split Apple Rock	Map 1.114
Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay	Map 1.124
Puketawia Pukekoikoi Historic Reserve	Map 1.134
Riuwaka Resurgence / Te Puna Wai o Riuwaka	Map 1.143
Riwaka township	Map 1.154
Staples Street, Motueka	Map 1.16
Motueka township	Map 1.164
Te Maata Thorp Bush, Motueka	Map 1.174
George Quay Boat Ramp, Motueka	Map 1.18
Edward Baigent Scenic Reserve, Wakefield	Map 1.194
Saint Arnaud township	Map 1.204
Lake Rotoiti, Kerr Bay	Map 1.214

TAUPATA POINT, COLLINGWOOD-PŪPONGA


MAP 1.1

Legal road (near 1775 & 1807 Collingwood-Pūponga Main Road) shaded red on the map below:



Taupata Area

Local authority area prohibited for freedom camping, shaded red on the map

Map Key
 Prohibited



0 35 70 140 metre

PATONS ROCK TOWNSHIP

MAP 1.2

All local authority areas, shaded red on the map below:



10

[Post-consultation changes to the](#) Tasman District Council [Responsible](#) Camping Bylaw 2025

TAKAKA TOWNSHIP

MAP 1.3

All local authority areas, excluding Motupipi Carpark, shaded red on the map below:



POHARA RECREATION RESERVE

MAP 1.4

870 Abel Tasman Drive, Pohara (Lot 1 DP 14874) shaded red on the map below:



ABEL TASMAN MEMORIAL

MAP 1.5

Abel Tasman Memorial Walk parking area, Abel Tasman Drive, shaded red on the map below:



LIGAR BAY

MAP 1.6

Abel Tasman Drive, Ligar Bay shaded red on the map below:



TATA BEACH

MAP 1.7

All local authority areas, shaded red on the map below:



[Post-consultation changes to the Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025](#)

MCSHANE ROAD, WAINUI BAY

MAP 1.8

Legal road, shaded red on the map below:



MARAHAU TOWNSHIP

MAP 1.9

All local authority areas, shaded red on the map below:



SANDY BAY – MARAHAU ROAD AND KAITERITERI – SANDY BAY ROAD

MAP 1.10

Legal road, shaded red on the map below



SPLIT APPLE ROCK AREA

MAP 1.11

All local authority area, shaded red on the map below:



KAITERITERI AND STEPHENS BAY

MAP 1.12

All local authority areas, shaded red on the map below:



PUKEKOIKOI HISTORIC RESERVE

MAP 1.13

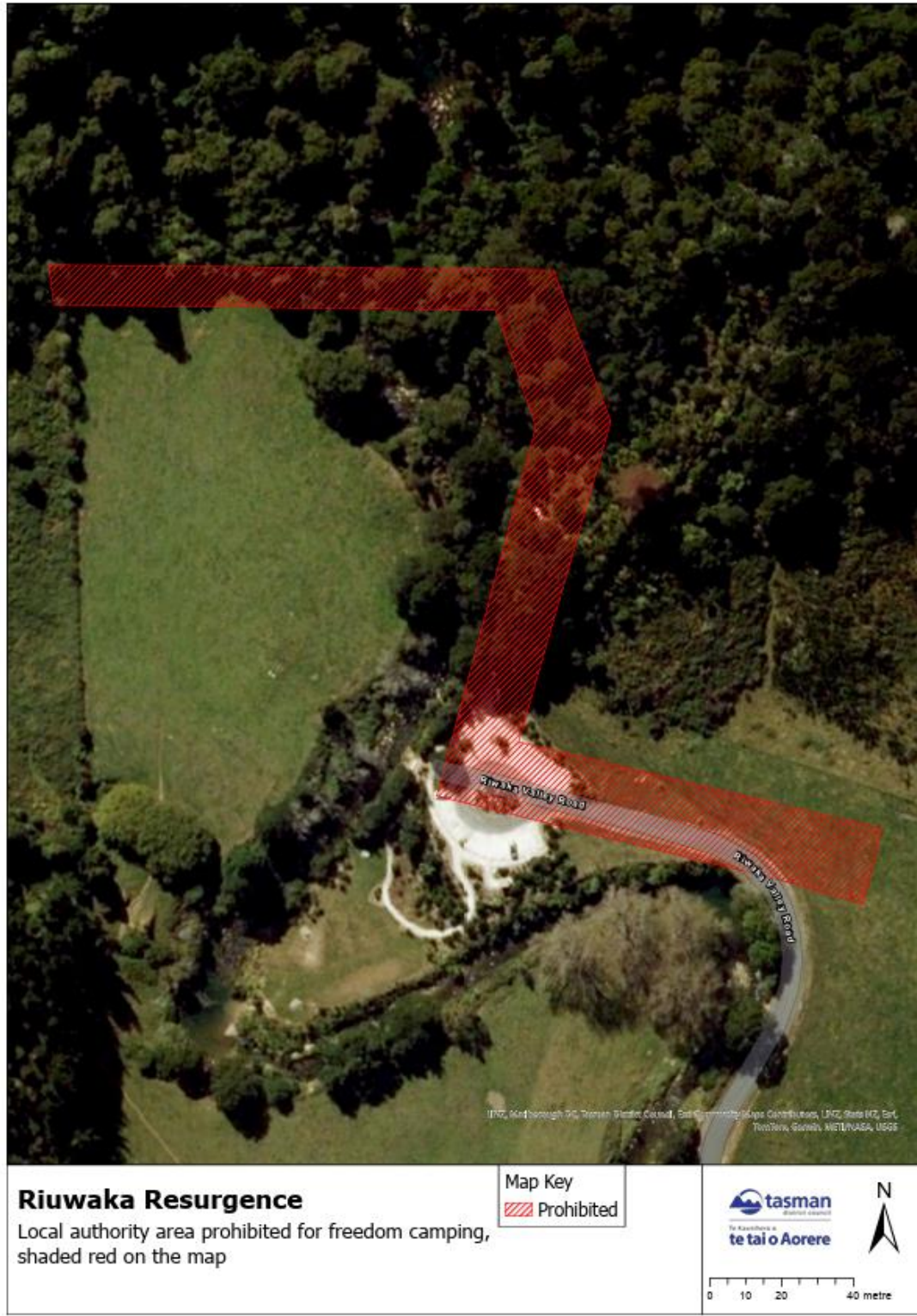
Pukekoikoi Historic Reserve, Riwaka – Kaiteriteri Road, shaded red on the map below:



RIWAKA RESURGENCE / TE PUNA WAI O RIUWAKA

MAP 1.14

Legal road, shaded red on the map below:



RIWAKA TOWNSHIP

MAP 1.15

All local authority areas, shaded red on the map below:



STAPLES STREET, MOTUEKA

MAP 1.16

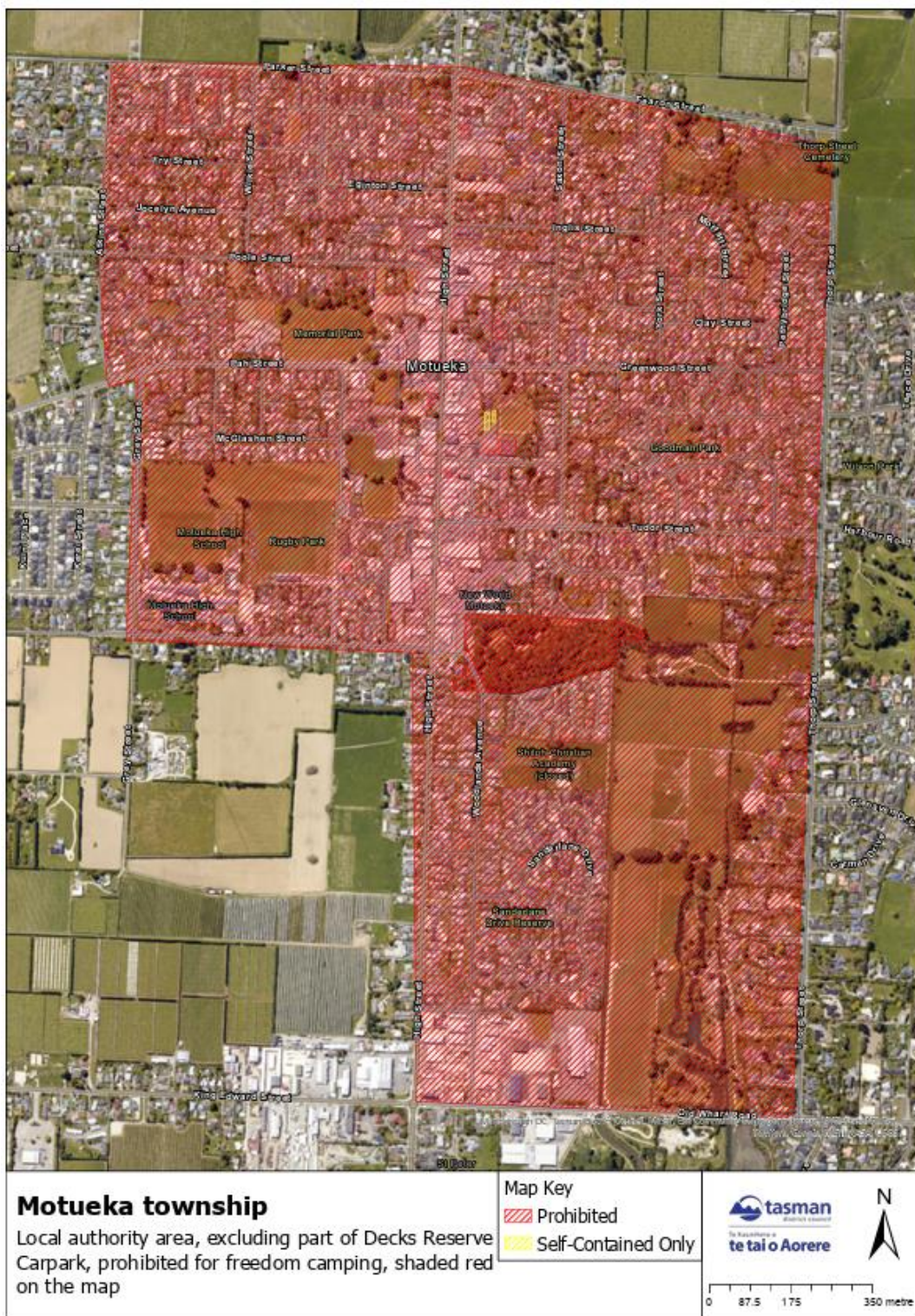
Staples Street, Motueka (eastern end at Raumanuka Reserve), shaded red on the map below:



MOTUEKA TOWNSHIP

MAP 1.17

All local authority areas, excluding part of Decks Reserve Carpark, shaded red on the map below:



TE MAATU THORP BUSH, MOTUEKA

MAP 1.18

3 Woodland Avenue, Motueka, shaded red on the map below:



GEORGE QUAY BOAT RAMP, MOTUEKA

MAP 1.19

Massey Street, Motueka (legal road and Lot 1 DP 19868), shaded red on the map below:



EDWARD BAIGENT MEMORIAL RESERVE

MAP 1.20

8 Wakefield – Kohatu Highway (Loy 2 DP 4029), shaded red on the map below:



SAINT ARNAUD TOWNSHIP

MAP 1.21

All local authority areas, shaded red on the map below



KERR BAY, LAKE ROTOITI

MAP 1.22

All local authority areas, shaded red on the map below:



30

[Post-consultation changes to the Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025](#)

Schedule 2: Restricted Areas for Freedom Camping

Freedom camping is allowed in any local authority area described in the table below and shown on the referenced map, subject to the following general and area specific restrictions. An interactive map is ~~also~~ available at: www.tasman.govt.nz/camping-bylaw on the TDC website: [LINK](#)

General restrictions:

- a) The freedom camping must only take place in a vehicle as specified in the table below.
- b) The maximum period of stay in any location is two consecutive nights on no more than two separate occasions in any calendar month.
- c) Freedom camping in a certified self-contained vehicle is restricted to the signposted area. Space will be on a 'first-in first-served' basis.
- d) Unless subject to area-specific restrictions, all vehicles being used for freedom camping must depart by 8am.
- e) All vehicles being used for freedom camping must be legally parked and any possessions associated with freedom camping contained within a single, defined carparking space. If undefined, vehicles must park in a courteous manner to allow other vehicles to also park within the permitted area, with all possessions no more than one metre from the vehicle in any direction.
- f) No person may light any fire while freedom camping in a local authority area except in a place specifically provided by the Council for that purpose, or with the prior written permission of Council.
- g) All waste must be disposed of into an appropriate waste receptacle.
- h) The site must be left in a clean and tidy state.
- i) All conditions stipulated on any signs in the local authority area must be complied with.
- j) The motor vehicle must not prevent others from undertaking legitimate activities in the area and comply with the noise requirements set out in the operative Tasman Resource Management Plan.

Area specific restrictions:

Location / Area		Map
Motupipi Carpark, Takaka Tākaka	Self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area only (11 parking spaces)	2.1
Decks Reserve, Motueka	Self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area only (40 parking spaces) Overnight parking (6pm to 8am) only permitted on weeknights	2.3 2.2
George Quay Parking , Motueka	Self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area only (12 parking spaces)	2.2 2.3
Motueka Beach Reserve	Self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area only (19 parking spaces) Non-self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area only (3 parking spaces)	2.4
Alexander Bluff Road Reserve	Self-contained vehicles and non non-self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area (maximum 40 vehicles)	2.5
Fittal Street, Richmond	Self-contained vehicles and non-self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area only (12 parking spaces)	2.6
Wai-iti Recreation Reserve	Self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area only (maximum 10 vehicles)	2.7

MOTUPIPI CARPARK, TĀKAKA

MAP 2.1

33 Motupipi Street, Tākaka, (Lot 3 DP 15325) shaded yellow on the map below:



DECKS RESERVE CARPARK, MOTUEKA

MAP 2.2

Wallace Street, Motueka (Part Section 153 Motueka District) shaded yellow on the map below:



GEORGE QUAY PARKING, MOTUEKA

MAP 2.3

Massey Street, Motueka (legal road and Lot 1 DP 19868) shaded yellow on the map below:



MOTUEKA BEACH RESERVE

MAP 2.4

10 Everett Street, Motueka (Lot 2 DP 4706 and Section 289 Motueka District) shaded yellow and green on the map below:



ALEXANDER BLUFF ROAD RESERVE

MAP 2.5

Motueka Valley Highway, 350m south of Alexander Bluff Bridge, shaded green on the map below:



FITTAL STREET, RICHMOND

MAP 2.6

Adjacent to 14 Fittal Street, Richmond, shaded green on the map below:





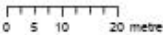


WAI-ITI RECREATION RESERVE

MAP 2.7

439 Wakefield-Kohatu Highway (Sec 191 Waimea South District) shaded yellow on the map below:



<p>Wai-iti Recreation Reserve Self-contained vehicles permitted within the available marked or signed area only*</p>	<p>Map Key  Self-Contained Only</p>	  
<p>10 Available Parks</p>	<p>*Pre-2025 Floods, actual area may be different</p>	



TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FREEDOM CAMPING SITE ASSESSMENTS

July 2025

Site assessments against the criteria within the Freedom Camping Act 2011 to inform a proposed Tasman District Council Responsible Camping Bylaw



TDC Freedom Camping Site Assessments 2025

1

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INTRODUCTION

This document is to identify Council owned or controlled areas which have the potential to be used for freedom camping. Each site is then assessed against the specific criteria under section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the Act), with a scoring system to determine its significance.

If a site is scored as a 'significant site,' an assessment has been made on the type of restrictions which would apply, such as prohibited or restricted. This helps us to determine what a significant site is in regard to freedom camping in the Tasman District.

Aim

The aim of these assessments is to:

- provide clear guidance on site significance in relation to freedom camping; and
- provide a consistent and fair approach to the classification of the land and potential restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping within the Tasman District.

Requirements of the Act

The Act seeks to regulate freedom camping but is generally permissive in its approach, enabling self-contained freedom camping unless it is controlled or restricted by a bylaw. Bylaws must be made in accordance with the Act or any other enactment and cannot completely prohibit freedom camping across the whole District.

When a council is developing a bylaw, it must be satisfied that a bylaw is necessary for one or more of the following purposes:

- to protect the area;
- to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area; and
- to protect access to the area

A bylaw can determine if an area within the district is restricted and state the restrictions which apply, and a bylaw can also determine if freedom camping in an specific area is prohibited. The areas defined under a bylaw must be detailed in a map or a description of its locality.

Amendments to the legislation

The Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 amended the Freedom camping Act and the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006. The main changes were as follows:

- Freedom camping in certified self-contained vehicles is permitted, unless regulated in a bylaw. Freedom camping in non-self-contained vehicles is only permitted if enabled through a bylaw.
- Self-contained vehicles must be inspected and certified by a Certification Authority, which is regulated by the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. Certified vehicles are listed on the publicly-accessible Self-Contained Motor Vehicles Register.
- New regulations introduced for certified self-contained vehicles relating to water supply, greywater management, waste bins and wastewater. Portable toilets no longer satisfactory.

- Two-year transition period for vehicles to be certified (recently extended to mid-2026 for privately owned vehicles only).
- Infringement fees increased..
- Definition of Freedom Camping amended to not exclude homeless people.

Council's role and responsibilities

Under section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002, the purpose of Local Government is to “meet the current and future needs of communities for ... [the] performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.”

Under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, councils are given powers to regulate and enforce any freedom camping bylaws which have been developed and adopted under the Act. This enables the Council to place reasonable restrictions on freedom camping to protect the area, the health and safety of people who may visit the area, and protect access to the area.

It is important to be able to balance the regulatory aspect of enforcing a bylaw to protect and maintain the natural environment of the district, with the need to promote and encourage the opportunity of freedom camping in the district.

Relevant land

- **Public land.** The assessment looks at sites on property controlled or managed by Council. Under section 3 and 4 of the Act, the regulation of freedom camping on private land is specifically excluded.
- **Reserve land.** The Reserves Act 1977 generally prohibits camping in reserves (pursuant to section 44) and provides for infringement notices to be issued. The Council's Reserve Management Plans will indicate where any reserve accommodates freedom camping and can be accessed at this link: [Reserves - General policies and management plans | Tasman District Council](#)
- **NZTA land.** The Council may make a bylaw that declares any area of NZTA land in its district or region to be a local authority area for the purposes of the Freedom Camping Act, providing it has the written consent of the chief executive of the NZTA. NZTA land is not included within this assessment.
- **Leased Council land.** The Council may lease land for purposes such as camping grounds. Such leased land is not included within this assessment as it is not considered freely available public land which can be utilised for freedom camping purposes.

Assessment criteria and methodology

Under section 11 of the Act, the Council must be satisfied that a bylaw is necessary for the following purposes:

- a) To protect the area
- b) To protect the health and safety of those visiting the area
- c) To protect access to the area

These criteria are used to assess each site in a holistic and consistent way, in line with the requirements of the Act. The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 suggests a range of considerations for site assessments for each of the three criteria and examples are set out below.

a) Protection of the Area

The types of sites assessed for the bylaw have a wide range of environments, including road reserves and rest areas, recreation reserves and carparks, to bush and coastal sites in rural areas. The protection of the natural environment, such as the fauna and flora, and associated conservation and natural resource values will be assessed when reviewing the sites. Cultural values, as informed by iwi, and historical values for each site will also be considered. Recreation assets and the potential for physical damage to the facilities or land by freedom camping will be considered, along with landscape and amenity values.

b) Health and safety of those visiting the Area

The Act requires that the health and safety of those visiting the site is considered. The Tasman District has many remote areas, uneven ground, and river and coastal areas prone to erosion. Some freedom camping sites have a high level of vehicular traffic (carparks and rest areas), or have a high level of use for other activities (like beach access or recreation). This assessment considers the effects of freedom camping, including faecal contamination and the health hazards this creates for those visiting the sites. Natural hazards, such as cliffs and rockfalls, built environment hazards, such as unsafe buildings or structures, and human hazards, such as road users at or near the site, have all been considered during the review of each site.

c) Access to the Area

For any site to be eligible for consideration, it must have existing vehicle access or be able to be readily provided with vehicle access and appropriate parking. This document will assess the current access to each site, to ensure that no unreasonable damage is caused by the access of vehicles or the impact that people accessing the site will have on the area (e.g pedestrians, other visitors). This assessment also considers if freedom camping could contribute to physical obstruction of access or discourage other from visiting the site.

Assessment methodology

Analysis has been undertaken based on the criteria in the Act and then an assessment has been made about which types (categories) of freedom camping are appropriate for each site, if any. Each site assessment includes a brief description followed by a table showing the assessment against criteria in the Act and the assessment of freedom camping category types.

Assessment against the criteria in the Act

The scoring method is based on the three assessment criteria set out in the Act. Each criteria (protection of area, health and safety, and access) has been allocated 'traffic light' significance scores from 1 (being the lowest) to 5 (being the highest) to guide the overall assessment. Descriptions of these significance ratings are provided below.

If a significance score is 5 for any of the criteria, the site is determined to be a significant site and freedom camping is prohibited. If the significance score for each of the criteria is 4 or below, freedom camping is permitted at the site however there could be some restrictions placed on the conditions specific to the type of camping at the site.

Significance Score	Protection of the area – cultural significance, historical significance, flora and fauna	Protection of the health and safety of those visiting the area	Protection of access to the area
1	No concerns regarding areas that need protecting	No health and safety concerns	No access concerns
2	Low concerns regarding significant sites	Low health and safety concerns	Low access concerns
3	Some or moderate concerns regarding areas that need protecting	Minimal health and safety concerns	Some or moderate access concerns
4	Significant site but not fully protected	Significant health and safety concerns	Significant access concerns
5	Area has significance and needs full protection e.g. for historical, cultural or native significance	Significant risks to health and safety, too great to allow access to the site	Significant access concerns, access must be protected

Assessment of freedom camping category types

Once a site has been assessed, it will inform whether freedom camping is permitted or prohibited. The freedom camping categories are defined below:

- **Self-contained** (as defined in the Act): Self-contained, in relation to a motor vehicle, means that the vehicle has a valid certificate of self-containment issued in accordance with section 87U(3)(d) of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006.
- **Non-self-contained:** A non-self-contained vehicle is a vehicle which does not have the necessary certificate of self-containment described under the definition of self-contained.
- **Tenting:** Means camping in a portable and collapsible temporary structure (which is usually made of fabric), is generally supported by poles and affixed to the ground with pegs.

SUMMARY SITE ASSESSMENTS

An initial assessment of land suitable for freedom camping was undertaken in May 2025. This identified and evaluated the sites covered by the 2017 Bylaw against the criteria set out in the Act.

An additional assessment of three other council sites was then undertaken, with council officers considering the local use of sites with regards to the factors identified in the Act and the criteria considerations set out in the TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020. This assessment considered the known historic, cultural, and heritage significance, and ecological issues supporting the protection of the area, and recreational and other uses of areas that may impact access and health and safety of users on sites.

The suitability of Council reserves for freedom camping will be considered as part of the process to update the Council's reserve management plans under the Reserves Act 1977, except for:

- The Wai-iti Recreation Reserve has been identified as part of this site assessment and bylaw process for inclusion in the bylaw; camping in self-contained vehicles is provided for in the reserve management plan.
- The Motueka Beach Reserve is recommended to continue to remain as a freedom camping site in the proposed Responsible Camping Bylaw 2025.

Name of Area	Description	Assessment
All cemeteries	Sixteen cemeteries throughout the Tasman District	Prohibit due to high cultural and historical significance
Golden Bay		
Taupata Point	Seaward side of Collingwood-Pūponga Main Road at the Taupata Stream (legal road opposite 1775 and 1807 Collingwood- Pūponga Main Road)	Prohibit to protect the area from damage, access to the area and the local fauna
Pohara Recreation Reserve	870 Abel Tasman Drive, Pohara (Lot 1 DP 14874)	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the local fauna
Tata Beach	Petersen Road, Tata Beach including part of Tata Beach Esplanade Reserve, Western Petersen Road reserve, Eastern Petersen Road reserve, Cornwall Haven Recreation Reserve and legal road.	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the local fauna
Ligar Bay	Abel Tasman Drive, Ligar Bay	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the local flora
Motupipi Carpark, Takaka	33 Motupipi Street, Takaka	Permitted for SCV, with restrictions to protect access to the area
Takaka township	All local authority areas, excluding Motupipi Carpark, within the area shaded red on Figure 1	Prohibit to protect access to the area, local flora, and the health and safety of visitors

McShane Road, Wainui Bay	The north end of McShane Road, at the Wainui picnic area and carpark	Prohibit to protect the significant conservation values and access to the area
Abel Tasman Memorial	Abel Tasman Memorial parking area, Abel Tasman Drive	Prohibit to protect the significant conservation values access to the area, and the health and safety of visitors
Patons Rock township	All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 2	Prohibit to protect the area from damage and access to the area
Motueka		
Te Maatu Thorp Bush	3 Woodland Avenue, Motueka	Prohibit due to the significant natural and cultural values and to protect access to the area
Motueka Beach Recreation Reserve	10 Everett Street, Motueka	Permitted for SCV and NSCV, with restrictions to protect the area from damage and access to the area
Decks Reserve Carpark	Wallace Street, Motueka	Permitted for SCV, with restrictions to protect access to the area
George Quay	Massey Street, Motueka, as shown shaded red on Figure 3	Permitted for SCV, with restrictions to protect access to the area
Staples Street (Raumanuka Reserve), Motueka	Staples Street, Motueka (east end of the formed legal road)	Prohibit due to the significant conservations values and to protect access to the area
Riuwaka Resurgence / Te Puna Wai o Riuwaka	The east end of Riwaka Valley Road, at the Riuwaka Resurgence carpark area	Prohibit due to the significant cultural and conservation values and to protect access to the area
Riwaka township	All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 4	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the health and safety of visitors
Motueka township	All local authority areas, excluding Decks Reserve Carpark, within the area shaded red on Figure 5	Prohibit to protect the area from damage, access to the area and the health and safety of visitors
Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay	All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 6	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the health and safety of visitors
Pukekoikoi Reserve	Opposite 293 Riwaka – Kaiteriteri Road, Kaiteriteri	Prohibit due to the significant cultural values and the health and safety of visitors
Kaiteriteri-Sandy Bay Road and Sany Bay-Marahau Road	Legal road, shaded red on Figure 7	Prohibit to protect the area from damage, access to the area and the health and safety of visitors
Split Apple Rock area	All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 8	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the health and safety of visitors

Marahau township	All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 9	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the health and safety of visitors
Moutere-Waimea		
Edward Baigent Memorial Reserve	8 Wakefield – Kohatu Highway, Wakefield	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the flora
Alexander Bluff Road Reserve, Ngatimoti	Motueka Valley Highway, 350m south of the Alexander Bluff Bridge, as shown shaded green on Figure 10	Permitted for SCV and NSCV, with restrictions to protect the area from damage and the health and safety of visitors
Wai-iti Recreation Reserve	439 Wakefield – Kohatu Highway, shaded yellow on Figure 11	Permitted for SCV, with restrictions to protect the area from damage, access to the area and the significant natural values
Richmond		
Fittal Street	Adjacent to 14 Fittal Street, Richmond	Permitted for SCV, with restrictions to protect access to the area
Kerr Bay, Lake Rotoiti	Legal road at Lake Rotoiti waterfront (Kerr Bay Road and Lake Road)	Prohibit to protect the significant conservation values and access to the area
Saint Arnaud township	All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 12	Prohibit to protect access to the area and the health and safety of visitors

DETAILED SITE ASSESSMENTS

Tasman District Council cemeteries

There are sixteen cemeteries under Council control in the Tasman District, as listed below.

Cemetery Name	Location
Bainham Cemetery	Collingwood/Bainham Main Road
Clifton Historic (Closed)	Boyle Street, Clifton
Collingwood Public	Collingwood/Bainham Main Road
Collingwood Historic (DOC)	Orion Street, Collingwood
Flett Road	Flett Road, Lower Moutere
Foxhill Cemetery	Foxhill Cemetery Road, Belgrove
Kotinga Cemetery	Cemetery Road, Takaka
Mararewa Cemetery	Motueka Valley Highway, Tapawera
Motueka Pioneer (Closed)	Cnr Thorp/Fearon Street, Motueka
Murchison Public Cemetery	Riverview Road, Murchison
Motueka Public	Cemetery Road, Motueka
Richmond Cemetery	Wensley Road, Richmond
Rototai Cemetery	Rototai Road, Takaka
Sandy Bay (Closed)	Moss Road, Sandy Bay
Spring Grove Cemetery	Mountt Heslington Road, Brightwater
Waimea West Cemetery	Waimea West Road, Appleby

All of these cemeteries are considered to have a high level of social, historical and cultural significance. There are moderate health and safety concerns particularly for active cemeteries, due to the likelihood of open ground (plots), use of specialised digging equipment and burial services taking place. Access to cemeteries in the District is granted to the public generally during the day, however many are locked at night. Cemeteries generally have sealed entranceways, vehicle accessways and carparks. Some of these sites are closed cemeteries and most sites are fenced to restrict access.

It is recommended that all types of freedom camping be prohibited in all Council-controlled cemeteries. Freedom camping within cemeteries can potentially adversely impact on the significant cultural and historical values that these sites have for communities and can impact access for other people visiting the sites.

Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	3	3
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained		Tenting
No	No		No

Golden Bay

Taupata Point, Collingwood-Pūponga

Description: The seaward side of Collingwood-Pūponga Main Road at the Taupata Stream (legal road opposite 1775 and 1807 Collingwood-Pūponga Main Road)

Taupata Point is a coastal site, accessed from the Collingwood-Pūponga Main Road at either side of the Taupata Stream. This is an important area for more than 70 bird species to rest or nest, many of which travel long distances to do so and are considered taonga species. They are located very close to the site and are vulnerable to disturbance.

There has been significant investment in enhancing this site for conservation and public education, creating a safe haven for shorebirds and a valuable resource for locals and visitors to watch a wide variety of birds without causing undue disturbance. This includes construction of a bird-watching hide, planting of native species and the installation of interpretive panels.

Despite extensive signage in the area, disturbance to birds from visitors continues. Ongoing issues include damage to riparian vegetation from vehicles and people accessing the stream, rubbish and human waste, and direct disturbance to roosting and foraging shorebirds. Freedom camping is contributing to these issues and is adversely impacting the avifauna.

The area also includes a gravel reserve for local roading contractors, requiring vehicle access.

It is recommended that all types of freedom camping be prohibited at this site. Freedom camping could adversely affect the local fauna, impact on access or damage the surrounding area.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	3	3
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
	No	No	No

Pohara Recreation Reserve

Description: 870 Abel Tasman Drive, Pohara (Lot 1 DP 14874)

Pohara Recreation Reserve is located on the inland (south) side of Abel Tasman Drive, between Pohara and Tarakohe. It covers an area of level ground backed by a steep forested limestone outcrop, part of which is protected as Hanson Winter Scenic Reserve.

The Pohara Bowling Club greens and clubrooms occupy the southwest end of the Reserve and the Pohara Tennis Club’s fenced tennis courts are at the east end of the Reserve. The large Pohara Hall is also located on the Reserve and there are public toilets available to visitors.

The Reserve is a popular location for visitors and locals accessing recreational activities on and around the Reserve. Penguins also nest in the adjoining beach area, are known to cross Abel Tasman Drive and are at risk of being impacted by campers using this area.

It is recommended that all types of freedom camping be prohibited at this site. Freedom camping could adversely affect the local fauna and impact on access and parking capacity.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	3	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
	No	No	No

Tata Beach

Description: Petersen Road, Tata Beach including part of Tata Beach Esplanade Reserve, Western Petersen Road reserve, Eastern Petersen Road reserve, Cornwall Haven Recreation Reserve and legal road.

The main access for visitors to Tata Beach is via Petersen Road, which provides access from the main road (Abel Tasman Drive) to the waterfront and to the only boat ramp at Tata Beach. Western Petersen Road reserve provides a sealed parking area adjacent to the boat ramp. There is another parking area to the north of the boat ramp that extends to Cornwall Haven Reserve, which has a walkway through to Cornwall Place. The Eastern Peterson Road reserve has a block of public toilets and a sewage pumping station. Informal parking of cars and boat-trailers occurs on the open grassed areas and turning area adjacent to Petersen Road.

There is limited space for vehicle parking in the vicinity of the boat ramp at the beach end of Petersen Road and this often creates congestion during periods of high visitor use. People use the area to access the beach, use the boat ramp, and view the sea. Tata Beach is also home to little blue penguins and are at risk of being impacted by campers using this area.

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area at Tata Beach and one infringement notice has been issued in the area over the last two summers. It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017. Freedom camping could adversely affect the local fauna and impact on access and parking capacity.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	3	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Ligar Bay

Description: Abel Tasman Drive, Ligar Bay, being part of Ligar Bay esplanade reserve (Lot 3 DP 9236) and legal road.

This area is located at the waterfront of Ligar Bay and includes the narrow peninsula at the north of the Bay. There is a grassed rest area along the beachfront side of Abel Tasman Drive, with picnic tables, seating and public toilets available. The area is popular with visitors and locals and is used to access the beach, recreational activities and for viewing the ocean. The marked parking spaces are well used throughout the day during peak season. The area has also undergone replanting to help protect the area from coastal damage.

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area at Ligar Bay and nine infringement notices have been issued in the area over the last two summers. It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017. Freedom camping could impact on access and parking capacity or damage the area.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	3	4	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Motupipi Carpark, Takaka

Description: 33 Motupipi Street, Takaka (Lot 3 DP 15325)

This carpark is located on Motupipi Street down a driveway behind businesses and provides approximately 90 parking spaces. There are no facilities available in the carpark and the nearest public toilets are a short walk away at the Takaka Memorial Reserve, 63 Commercial Street. The Motupipi Car Park is one of three carparks located in central Takaka and is well used by locals and visitors to the area, as it is close to retail shops and restaurants

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 restricted freedom camping at Motupipi Car Park to self-contained vehicles in a designated area only located in the central area of the carpark. There could be a risk of overcrowding if all parking spaces were available for freedom camping in self-contained vehicles, as the carpark is used by other vehicles in the evening.

The carpark has been well utilised by visitors and no infringements were issued here in the summer periods of 2023/24 and 2024/25. Self-contained vehicles were required to leave by 7am and this is proposed to be increased to 8am. It is recommended that freedom camping is restricted and is reduced to 11 self-contained vehicles, permitted in designated areas only.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	2	3	3
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
	Yes	No	No

Takaka township

Description: All local authority areas, excluding Motupipi Carpark, shaded red on Figure 1

The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 recommends an approach that welcomes responsible campers to our special places and the communities through which they pass. The central Takaka township area is popular for both visitors and locals to meet or to shop.

The concentration on vehicles in central Takaka has sometime made it difficult for locals and visitors to access social areas, such as the library and the village green, and recreational activities. Some parking areas are quite narrow and would not be able to accommodate self-contained vehicles. Health and safety concerns have also arisen in terms of the effects of flooding on people freedom camping next to the Takaka River. The township area is not considered appropriate for freedom camping. A site assessment of the Motupipi Carpark has recommended that freedom camping be permitted there, with restrictions on hours and number of vehicles.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables self-contained freedom camping to occur on any local authority area, unless it is restricted or prohibited through a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area of the Takaka township and four infringement notices have been issued in the Takaka area over the last two summers. Concerns are raised about the impact of freedom camping here, but there is an appreciation of the contribution these visitors have to the local economy.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017, however the prohibited area has been reviewed and reduced. The proposed prohibited Takaka township area is defined as all local authority areas within the area shaded red on Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Map of Tākaka township area, excluding Motupipi Carpark

Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	4	4	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
	No	No	No

McShane Road, Wainui Bay

Description: McShane Road, Wainui Bay

The northern end of this road provides access to the Wainui picnic area and carpark at the start of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track and the area backs onto the Wainui Estuary. Much of the adjoining land is Department of Conservation (DOC) areas where freedom camping is prohibited under a DOC Notice, pursuant to section 17 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Freedom camping here could result in damage to the surrounding conservation land by campers.

The pullover area along McShane Road approximately 35m before the carpark is often used for parking when the main area is full. There are no facilities provided at the Wainui picnic area and it is not appropriate for non-self-contained vehicles or tenting. Freedom campers using this area, particularly with long vehicles, could make it difficult for locals and other visitors to access it for recreational activities.

This area is not suitable for freedom camping and prohibition is recommended to protect the significant conservation values and to protect access to the area.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	2	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Abel Tasman Memorial

Description: Abel Tasman Memorial Walk parking area, Abel Tasman Drive

This parking area is used by visitors to the Abel Tasman Memorial walkway and is at the edge of a busy main road (Abel Tasman Drive). There is limited, unmarked parking space in this area and there could be road safety issues with long vehicles parking at the roadside or pulling in/out to Abel Tasman Drive. Freedom campers using this parking area could make it difficult for locals and visitors to access the walkway to the Abel Tasman Memorial.

The adjoining land is a Department of Conservation (DOC) area where freedom camping is prohibited under a DOC Notice, pursuant to section 17 of the FCA 2011. Freedom camping here could result in damage to the surrounding conservation land by campers.

It is recommended that freedom camping is prohibited due to road safety issues and to protect access to the area and significant conservation values.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	4	5	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Patons Rock township

Description: All local authority areas, shaded red on Figure 2

The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 recommends an approach that welcomes responsible campers to our special places and the communities through which they pass. The Patons Rock township popular for both visitors and locals to the area.

The main road at the Patons Rock township is quite narrow with limited parking available and not suitable for long self-contained vehicles. The reserves in the area are used for picnicking, informal recreation and to access the beach and foreshore. Public toilets are available at Patons Rock Recreation Reserve. Freedom camping in the area could make it difficult for people to access these areas or damage the sandy, grassed reserves. The township area is not considered appropriate for freedom camping.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables self-contained freedom camping to occur on any local authority area, unless it is restricted or prohibited through a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area of the Patons Rock township.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017, however the prohibited area has been reviewed and reduced. The proposed prohibited Patons Rock township area is defined as all local authority areas within the area shaded red on Figure 2 below.



Figure 2: Patons Rock township



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	3	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Motueka

Te Maatu Thorp Bush, Motueka

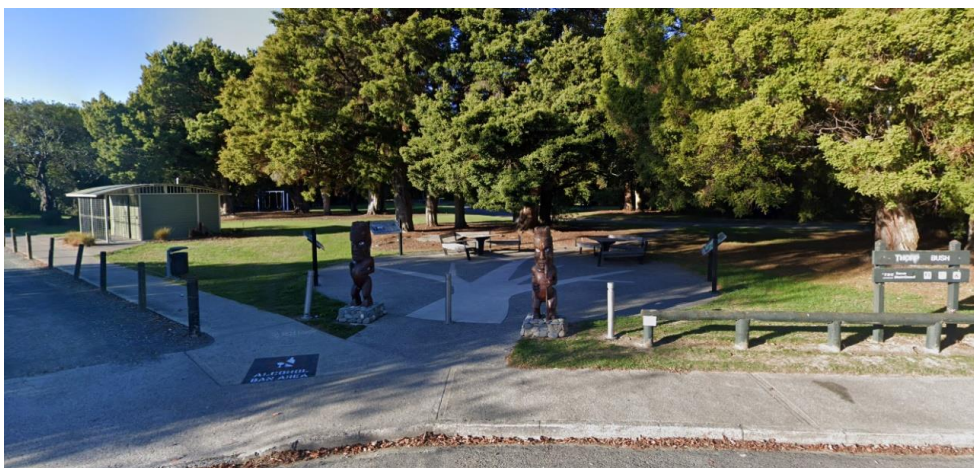
Location: 3 Woodland Avenue, Motueka (Part Lot 1 DP 4811 and Lot 5 DP 16000)

Te Maatu Thorp Bush is a remnant of the lush lowland podocarp hardwood forest known as Te Maatu (“the Big Wood), which formerly covered the Motueka Plain. It has significant natural and ecological values and is classed as an acutely threatened ecosystem. It also holds immense cultural significance to the tangata whenua of Motueka, who lived upon and used the rich fertile lands to cultivate crops.

Te Maatu Thorp Bush is located near central Motueka and is a popular destination for informal outdoor recreation and regular community events. There is a playground area, picnic areas and seating, grassed areas and several walkways. The Imagine Theatre building provides space for a local amateur theatre group, dance classes and other social and recreational activities.

The entranceway off Woodland Avenue, including two pou and interpretive signage, welcomes visitors to Te Maatu Thorp Bush. There is a small carpark here and public toilets, but no other facilities. This limited onsite parking is not appropriate for long self-contained vehicles. The Te Maatu Thorp Bush area also includes a grassed area across the road (Woodland Avenue).

It is recommended that freedom camping is prohibited. Freedom camping in this area could make it difficult for locals and visitors to access it for social and recreational activities and adversely affect the significant natural and cultural values.



TDC Freedom Camping Site Assessments 2025



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	2	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Motueka Beach Recreation Reserve

Location: 10 Everett Street, Motueka (Lot 2 DP 4706 and Section 289 Motueka District)

The Motueka Beach Recreation Reserve is located next to the North Street Recreation Reserve and Saltwater Baths. Most of the reserve area is grassed and low wooden fences prevent vehicles from driving onto these open space areas. A path meanders in a loop around the outskirts of the reserve and along the foreshore towards East Quay and George Quay.

There is a barbeque for public use and picnic tables and the area is popular for picnicking, informal recreation and beach access. In the northeastern corner of the reserve is the Everett Street public toilets, a cold water shower and changing rooms. An outdoor sink is also attached to this building, for campers to wash dishes at.

The facilities at this site are considered adequate for people in non-self-contained vehicles. It is proposed that a limited number of non-self-contained vehicles are permitted but are restricted to three designated parking spaces to be provided near the entrance to the site. This has been a very popular freedom camping site and is well used by other visitors to the area. It is recommended that 19 designated parking spaces are provided for self-contained vehicles. Vehicles must only park in the designated space (from 6pm to 8am), to prevent overcrowding or damage to the area and to ensure that the area can still be accessed by other visitors.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	2	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
	Yes	Yes	No

Decks Reserve Carpark, Motueka

Location: Wallace Street, Motueka (Part Section 153 Motueka District)

Decks Reserve is a multi-purpose community space located in central Motueka. Community facilities include the Motueka i-SITE building, Motueka Community House and the Motueka Library. It provides open space areas that are well used for recreation, picnicking and relaxation.

The Carpark is located in the western/central area of Decks Reserve down a driveway from Wallace Street and serves the surrounding community facilities and businesses. It is used for the popular Motueka Sunday Market every Sunday from 8am to 1pm year round and has been operating here since 1994. At present, there is only one vehicle access point onto the green space, located at the northeastern corner of the carpark. There are no facilities available within the carpark, but the Wallace Street Public Toilets are located near the entrance.

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 was amended in 2020 and this area was restricted to self-contained vehicles only and approximately 48 designated parking spaces. These vehicles had to leave the carpark by 7am and 6am on Sunday, so that the area could be used for the Sunday Market. Previously, a limited number of non-self-contained vehicles had also permitted.

Community events are held at Decks Reserve and vehicle access can be difficult, particularly when they coincide with the Motueka Sunday Market. Concerns are frequently raised about the behaviour of freedom campers and of locals at this area, which has discouraged some people from using or walking through the carpark particularly at night if it seems unsafe. Three infringement notices were issued at Decks Reserve over the summer period of 2023/2024.

The area is particularly busy during weekends, and it is no longer considered suitable for overnight parking on Saturday and Sunday. It is recommended that self-contained vehicle parking is reduced to 40 designated parking spaces and overnight parking (6pm to 8am) is only permitted on weeknights. Freedom camping is not allowed in all other areas of the carpark.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	3	3	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
	Yes	No	No

George Quay, Motueka

Location: Massey Street, Motueka (legal road and Lot 1 DP 19868)

George Quay is at the end of Massey Street, Motueka and is located in front of the TDC Harbourmaster Office and the Motueka Power Boat Club garages. A public fishing jetty and boat ramp are located at the west end of George Quay.

There is a formed, sealed parking area at the east end of the Quay and two picnic tables provided for visitors to the area. The East Quay Reserve and Motueka Beach Walkway runs into the northern corner of the parking area.

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 was amended in 2020, and freedom camping was prohibited in the entire George Quay area, as there were concerns that the number of campers using the area made it difficult for locals to access it for recreational activities. However, vehicles accessing the fishing wharf and boat ramp usually park at the west end of the area and the east end parking area is rarely busy so is considered suitable for overnight camping. There are no facilities at George Quay so freedom camping in non-self-contained vehicles or tenting is not appropriate.

It is proposed that freedom camping is permitted overnight (6pm to 8am) at the east end parking area but restricted to self-contained vehicles and only in 12 designated parking spaces, as shown shaded green on Figure 3 below. The west end of George Quay will continue to be prohibited for freedom camping, as shown shaded red on Figure 3 below.

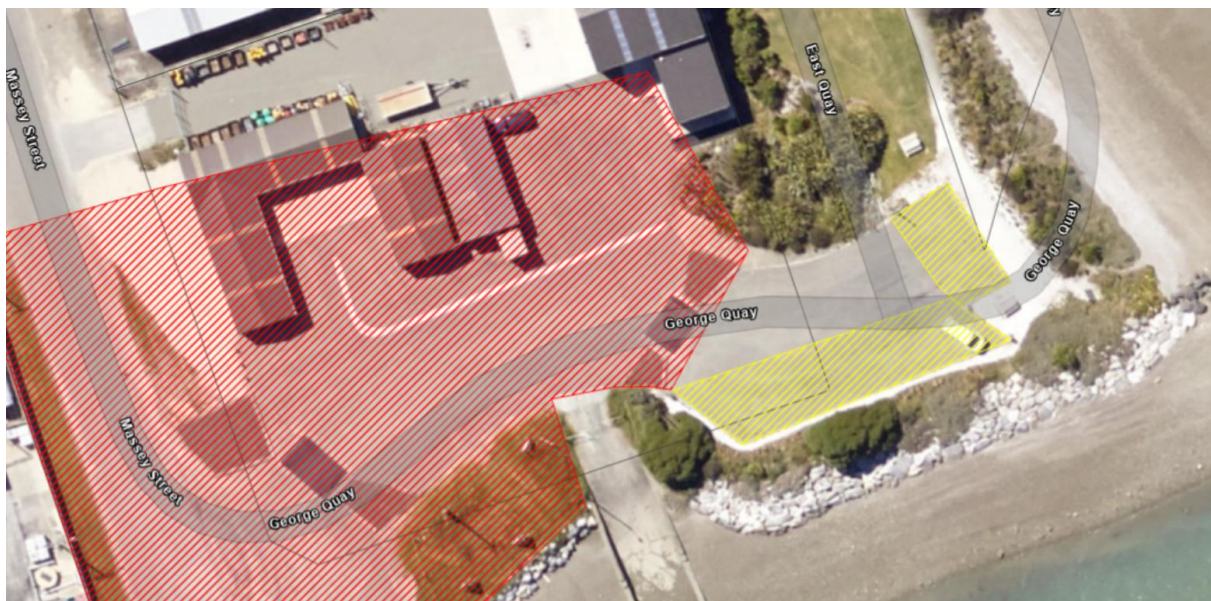


Figure 3: Proposed freedom camping area at George Quay, Motueka



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	3	1	3
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
Yes	No	No	

Staples Street (Raumanuka Reserve), Motueka

Location: Staples Street, Motueka (east end of the formed legal road)

Staples Street ends in a vehicle parking area at the Raumanuka Scenic Reserve. Part of this area is legal road administered by the Council.

The adjoining land is a Department of Conservation (DOC) area where freedom camping is prohibited under a DOC Notice, pursuant to section 17 of the FCA 2011. Freedom camping here could result in damage to the surrounding conservation land by campers and impact community efforts to protect the vulnerable birds that frequent this area.

The wetland areas within and adjoining the scenic reserve has high natural significance and are of international importance. Wetlands are scarce in Tasman and can be particularly impacted by pollution. The area is already affected by rubbish dumping and human waste, despite the provision of rubbish bins and a public toilet.

The area is used by locals and visitors to access the Tasman Great Taste Trail and Motueka Sandspit, and for walking and biking. Freedom campers using this area could impact on access to these recreational activities or damage the surrounding area.

It is recommended that freedom camping is prohibited to protect access to the area, particularly the Raumanuka Reserve, and to protect the significant conservation values.





Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	2	3
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Riuwaka Resurgence / Te Puna Wai o Riuwaka

Location: Riwaka Valley Road, Riwaka (east end of the legal road)

The Riwaka Valley Road ends in the vehicle parking area at the Riwaka Scenic Reserve, approximately 11km from Riwaka township.

The adjoining land is a Department of Conservation (DOC) area where freedom camping is prohibited under a DOC Notice, pursuant to section 17 of the FCA 2011. Freedom camping here could result in damage to the surrounding conservation land by campers.

The area contains the site where the north branch of the Riuwaka River emerges from the caves of Takaka Hill in this beautiful area of Kahurangi National Park. It has high cultural significance to tangata whenua iwi, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Rārua, who recognise it as wahi tapu a sacred place.

DOC provides public toilets at the carpark and it is a popular area used by visitors for picnicking, walking and fishing. Freedom campers using this area could impact on access to these recreational activities or damage the surrounding area.

It is recommended that freedom camping is prohibited to protect access to the area, particularly the Riuwaka River, and to protect the significant cultural and conservation values.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	2	3
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Riwaka township

Description: All local authority areas, shaded red on Figure 4

The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 recommends an approach that welcomes responsible campers to our special places and the communities through which they pass. The Riwaka township popular for both visitors and locals to the area.

Riwaka is a busy visitor location, particular in peak season, as it is on the main road from Motueka to Kaiteriteri and Golden Bay. The Wharf Road and Green Tree Road area has narrow, unmarked roads with limited parking available that is usually used by locals accessing their vessels. The small parking area at the end of Wharf Road is not suitable for long self-contained vehicles as turning is difficult. The township is not considered suitable for freedom camping.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables self-contained freedom camping to occur on any local authority area, unless it is restricted or prohibited through a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area of the Riwaka township.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017, however the prohibited area has been reviewed and reduced. The proposed prohibited Riwaka township area is defined as all local authority areas shaded red on Figure 4 below.



Figure 4: Local authority areas within Riwaka township



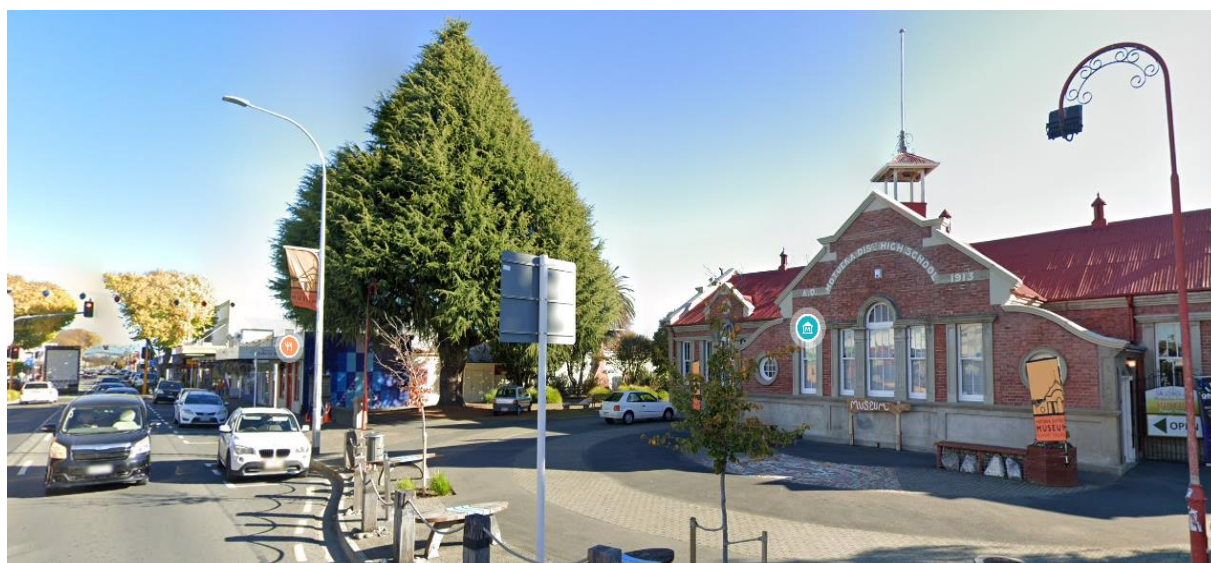
Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	2	4	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Motueka township

Description: All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 5

The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 recommends an approach that welcomes responsible campers to our special places and the communities through which they pass. The Motueka township popular for both visitors and locals to the area.

Motueka is the second largest town in the Tasman District and swells with visitors and seasonal workers during summer. State Highway 60 (High Street) is the main road through town and is the gateway to Abel Tasman National Park, Kaiteriteri Beach and Golden Bay. There is high demand for carparking throughout the day, as people visit the shops and cafes and socialise in the recreational spaces. The township area is not considered appropriate for freedom camping.



A site assessment of Decks Reserve Carpark within the township has recommended that freedom camping be permitted there, with restrictions on hours and number of vehicles. There are two other sites in close proximity to Motueka township that have also been assessed as suitable for freedom camping; Motueka Beach Reserve and George Quay.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables self-contained freedom camping to occur on any local authority area, unless it is restricted or prohibited through a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area of the Motueka township. Concerns are raised about the impact of freedom camping here, but there is an appreciation of the contribution these visitors have to the local economy.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017, however the prohibited area has been reviewed and reduced. The proposed prohibited Motueka township area is defined as all local authority areas shaded red on Figure 5 below.



Figure 5: Motueka township, excluding Decks Reserve

Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	2	4	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay areas

Description: All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 6

The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 recommends an approach that welcomes responsible campers to our special places and the communities through which they pass. Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay are popular for both visitors and locals to the area.

The golden sand of Kaiteriteri is synonymous with summer sun, sea and camping and attracts holidaymakers all year round. Locals also enjoy the recreation options. The areas are very congested during peak season and freedom campers parked on public roads could prevent access for locals and visitors. Many of the roads in this area are also very narrow and parking on or beside them creates a health and safety hazard. Freedom camping is not appropriate in these areas. There is a large campground located near the waterfront, providing 435 sites.



Puketawai, a low hill located at the mouth of the Riuwaka River within Tapu Bay, is culturally significant to both tangata whenua iwi who hold manawhenua and iwi who are acknowledged by the Crown, under statute. Puketawai, also known as Pā Hill or Pā Point, is a former harbour, pā site and kāinga, and it is a wāhi tapu associated with the Riuwaka River. There have been multiple issues with freedom campers in this area and there is an Iwi Long Term Management Plan in place for this area, with a committee to ensure its protection.



The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables self-contained freedom camping to occur on any local authority area, unless it is restricted or prohibited through a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area of Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017, however the prohibited area has been reviewed and reduced although the Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road prohibition has been extended towards Riwaka to include more of the Puketawai area. The proposed prohibited Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay areas are defined as all local authority areas shaded red on Figure 6 below.



Figure 6: Kaiteriteri and Stephens Bay

Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	3	4	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Pukekoikoi Reserve

Description: Pukekoikoi Historic Reserve, opposite 293 Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road

This reserve was formed as part of the Turners Bluff roadworks in 2015. The area historically formed part of the Tapu Bay Pā site and is highly significant to iwi/Māori.

Tasman’s Great Taste Cycle Trail runs alongside the reserve. The historic value of this culturally significant site is not well known and recreational use of the site has been infrequent. Access along the formed road is blocked for use as a loop road by vehicles and the entrance/exit is directly onto the very busy Riwaka-Kaiteriteri Road. This site is not appropriate for freedom camping due to the high cultural significance of the areas and potential road safety issues.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	4	4
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Kaiteriteri-Sandy Bay Road and Sandy Bay-Marahau Road

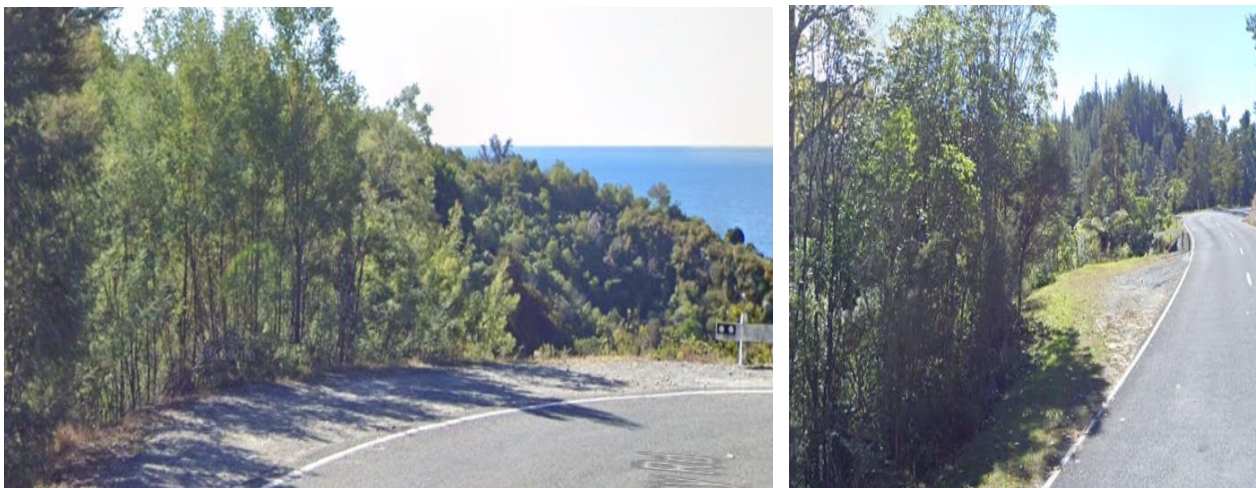
Description: Legal road, shaded red on Figure 7

These roads are very busy during the summer, as large numbers of visitors travel between Kaiteriteri, Marahau and the Abel Tasman National Park. Some areas of the road are particularly narrow and not suitable for freedom camping beside or pulling over in a large vehicle. In the areas which are used as passing bays there is usually a serious fire risk during summer.

It is recommended that freedom camping is prohibited due to the road safety issues, to protect access to the area and to protect the area from damage.



Figure 7: Kaiteriteri-Sandy Bay Road and Sandy Bay-Marahau Road



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	4	5	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Split Apple Rock area

Description: All local authority areas, within the area shaded red on Figure 8

The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 recommends an approach that welcomes responsible campers to our special places and the communities through which they pass.

The Split Apple Rock area is used to access the beaches in front of Split Apple Rock. The roads are very narrow in places and parking is limited and not suitable for larger vehicles. Freedom campers parked on public roads could prevent access for locals and other visitors to the area. Freedom camping is not appropriate in this area, due to the road safety issues and to protect access to the area.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables self-contained freedom camping to occur on any local authority area, unless it is restricted or prohibited through a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area of Split Apple Rock.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017, however the prohibited area has been reviewed and reduced. The proposed prohibited Split Apple Rock area is defined as all local authority areas shaded red on Figure 8 below.



Figure 8: Split Apple Rock area



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	2	4	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Marahau township

Description: All local authority area, within the area shaded red on Figure 9

The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 recommends an approach that welcomes responsible campers to our special places and the communities through which they pass. Marahau is a small township, that is very popular with visitors accessing Abel Tasman National Park, by land or water.

The main road through Marahau has limited on-street parking available and there is a walkway running alongside it. The parking areas near the main boat ramp and Otuwhero Inlet are often busy with vehicles towing boat trailers or viewing the sea. Freedom campers parked on the public roads could create congestion, prevent access for visitors and cause road safety issues. The township area is not considered appropriate for freedom camping.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables self-contained freedom camping to occur on any local authority area, unless it is restricted or prohibited through a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area of the Marahau township and four infringement notices have been issued in the area over the last two summers.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017, however the prohibited area has been reviewed and reduced. The proposed prohibited Marahau township area is defined as all local authority areas within area shaded red on Figure 9 below.



Figure 9: Marahau township



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	2	4	5
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Moutere-Waimea

Edward Baigent Memorial Reserve

Location: 8 Wakefield-Kohatu Highway (Lot 2 DP 4029)

This reserve is located just southwest of Wakefield, 250m from Faulkner Bush across the highway, and adjoins Wakefield Recreation Reserve. The land was gifted to Waimea County Council in 1951 “for the health, amusement and instruction of the public” as a memorial to Edward Baigent and his wife, Mary Ann, who settled in Wakefield in 1843 and are considered by many as the ‘founders’ of Wakefield Village.

This is classified as a scenic reserve and supports a small but important alluvial podocarp forest, which was protected by the Baigents. The reserve is a popular picnic and recreation area, with public toilets, picnic tables, a gas barbeque and rubbish bins. The path through the reserve links to the walkway along the Wai-iti River.

Camping is not permitted in this reserve, under the Reserve Management Plan, and it is not considered suitable for freedom camping. Freedom camping could adversely impact the protection of the flora in this area and compromise access for other visitors to the site.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	2	4
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	

Alexander Bluff Road Reserve, Ngatimoti

Location: Motueka Valley Highway, approximately 350m south of the Alexander Bluff Bridge

This area is accessed from the Motueka Valley Highway via a track next to the public toilet. The track leads down to a large, gravel parking area next to the river.

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 permitted a maximum of forty vehicles within the designated area. This area has suffered from damage to the flora and uncontrolled fires previously, so no fires are permitted and it is not considered suitable for tenting. The river is pleasant but the area is occasionally liable to flooding, but this is closely monitored by Council officers. The big parking zone appeals to many visitors, as it doesn't get crowded. It has been well utilised by freedom campers and no infringements have been issued in the area over the past two years.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 and permit self-contained vehicles and non-self contained vehicles to camp overnight within the designated area, as shaded in green on Figure10 below.

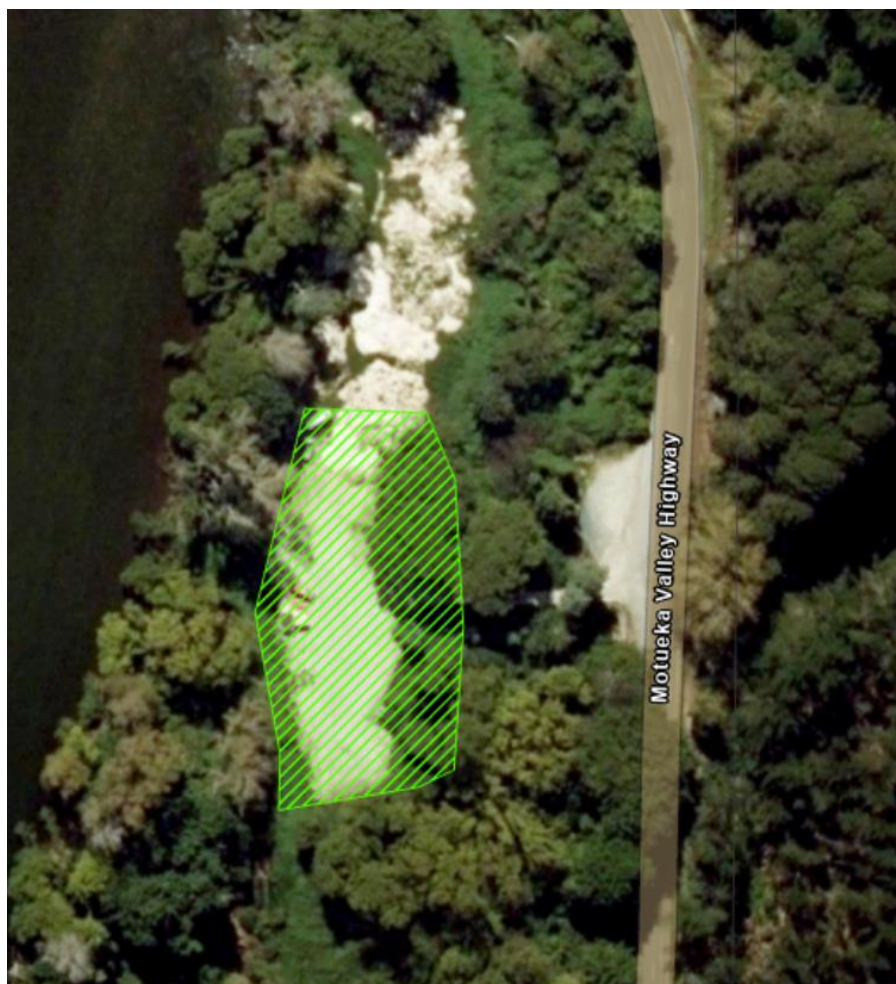


Figure 10: Alexander Bluff Road Reserve



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	2	3	2
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
Yes	Yes	No	

Wai-iti Recreation Reserve

Location: 439 Wakefield-Kohatu Highway (Section 191 Waimea South District)

The Wai-iti Recreation Reserve is located alongside the Wai-iti River on the Wakefield-Kohatu Highway at Wai-iti. The Reserve entrance is located approximately 10m from the Nelson side of the Wai-iti River Bridge approximately 5km from the village of Wakefield.

The area provides a roadside picnic area, with rubbish bins, barbeques and picnic tables. Road metal is also stockpiled here. There is a public toilet at the south end of the reserve, but not other facilities. Tasman's Great Taste Cycle Trail runs through the reserve and cyclists also go riding in the adjacent Tunnickliff Forest, as do horse riders. The reserve is part of the Wai-iti Dark Sky Park and has no power and no lighting fixtures. It is considered valuable for scientific research and education, preservation of night life and for the enjoyment of visitors.

The north end of the reserve has been used by people camping overnight in vehicles and it is appropriate for this to continue. This should be restricted to protect the area from damage, ensure access is not restricted for other users and to help preserve the dark sky values.

Informal camping in tents generally prohibited, although occasional use of the south end of the reserve for organised camping can be requested. This is managed under the Reserve Management Plan and is not proposed to be covered by a bylaw.

It is proposed that freedom camping is permitted overnight (6pm to 8am) but restricted to a maximum of 10 self-contained vehicles parked in the designated area only, as shown shaded yellow on Figure 11 below.



Figure 11: Proposed freedom camping area at Wai-iti Recreation Reserve



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	4	1	2
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
Yes	No	As permitted under the RMP	

Richmond

Fittal Street, Richmond

Location: Adjacent to 14 Fittal Street (legal road and Part Lot 2 DP 16384)

This site is located at the end of Fittal Street, next to the entrance of the Richmond Resource Recovery Centre. The sealed parking area provides views over the Waimea Estuary and is adjacent to Tasman’s Great Taste Cycle Trail. There is potable drinking water and a wastewater dumping station are provided here. The Fittal Street public toilets are located at the northeast end of the parking area

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 permitted self-contained vehicles and non-self-contained vehicles to camp overnight in the designated parking spaces; in all other areas of the car park freedom camping is prohibited to allow access to other users of this area, as well as campers.

This has been a busy freedom camping site and no infringements were issued over the summer of 2024/25. Vehicles were required to leave by 7am and this is proposed to be increased to 8am. It is recommended that freedom camping is restricted to 12 designated parking spaces only, to ensure other visitors can also access the area.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	2	2	3
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
	Yes	Yes	No

Lakes-Murchison

Kerr Bay, Lake Rotoiti

Location: Kerr Bay Road, Lake Rotoiti

The Kerr Bay Road leads down to Lake Rotoiti within the Nelson Lakes National Park. The Kerr Bay area is surrounded by beech forest and is very popular with visitors who enjoy many recreational activities including walking, tramping, fishing, swimming or viewing the eels under the jetty. There are public toilets available and the main boat launching ramp is nearby. The Kerr Bay road leads to a DOC campsite and Lake Road.

The adjoining foreshore and carpark land is a Department of Conservation (DOC) area where freedom camping is prohibited under a DOC Notice, pursuant to section 17 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Freedom camping here could result in damage to the surrounding conservation land by campers. Freedom campers using this area could also make it difficult for other visitors to access the area for recreational activities.

It is recommended that freedom camping is prohibited, due to the significant conservation values and to protect access to the area.



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	5	3	3
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting
	No	No	No

Saint Arnaud township

Description: All local authority areas, shaded red on Figure 12

The alpine village of Saint Arnaud is situated at the northern end of Lake Rotoiti and is the gateway to Nelson Lakes National Park.

The TDC Responsible Camping Strategy 2020 recommends an approach that welcomes responsible campers to our special places and the communities through which they pass. The Saint Arnaud township is a popular destination for tramping and skiing visitors.

State Highway 63 (Main Road St Arnaud) runs through the town and traffic can be busy. Freedom campers could create road safety issues parking or pulling out onto roads or impact access to the area. The township area is not considered appropriate for freedom camping. There is a DOC campsite located nearby, next to Lake Rotoiti.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables self-contained freedom camping to occur on any local authority area, unless it is restricted or prohibited through a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 prohibited freedom camping in a defined area of the Saint Arnaud township.

It is the recommended position to remain consistent with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017, however the prohibited area has been reviewed and reduced. The proposed prohibited Saint Arnaud township area is defined as all local authority areas shaded red on Figure 12 below.



Figure 12: Saint Arnaud township



Assessment against the criteria in the Freedom Camping Act 2011			
Legislative purpose	Protection of the Area (Significance)	Health and Safety of Visitors	Access to the Area
Significance	2	5	4
Assessment of freedom camping category types			
Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Tenting	
No	No	No	