
MINUTES
of the
SUBMISSIONS HEARING MEETING

held
**2:32pm - Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and
Deliberations, Thursday, 28 August 2025**
at
Tasman Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond

Present: Councillors Cr C Hill (Chair), T Walker, M Kininmonth (Zoom)

In Attendance: Group Manager Environmental Assurance (K Drummond), Group Manager Service & Strategy (J Ridd), Strategy & Policy Manager (D Fletcher), Governance Manager (R Byrne), Senior Governance Advisor (K McLean) and Governance Officer (K Latham)

Apologies Councillor C Butler

1 OPENING KARAKIA, WELCOME

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Moved Councillor Walker/Councillor Hill
SH25-08-1**

That the apology from Councillor Butler be accepted.

CARRIED

3 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

3.1 Submitter: David Melville, on behalf of The Ornithological Society of New Zealand (35203)

Topic: Mr Melville spoke about aligned wording, grammar corrections and appropriate signage concerns in the draft Responsible Camping Bylaw.

There were no questions.

3.2 Submitter: David Richards, on behalf of Richards Patarau Trust (35172)

Topic: Mr Richards spoke about his experience with freedom campers and noted the resource pressures regarding rubbish and effluent. He supported signage and restricted camping days.

Questions and answers:

- Would non self-contained campers being prohibited improve the situation? – yes.
- Do you think containment night rules need to be implemented? – yes.
- Have the Golden Bay families caused any issues? – no, it's another group of people that have caused damage to signs, broken bottles and smashed glass in fires.
- What does enforcement look like on your land and how do you see self-contained rules being regulated and enforced? – it should be managed by the owner of the land.

3.3 Submitter: Rohan Haskell, on behalf of Motueka TOP 10 Holiday Park (35184)

Topic: Mr Haskell, on behalf of Ashlee Levien, spoke regarding Decks Reserve and Staple Street. He noted they did not support freedom camping at Decks Reserve and Staple Street due to behavioral, hygiene and safety concerns.

Questions and answers:

- Would you support a reduction to the spots at Decks Reserve? – yes, our biggest concerns were around enforcement and safety.
- What is your alternative to Decks Reserve and Staple Street? – to support local campgrounds.

3.4 Submitter: Leo Byatt

Topic: Mr Byatt spoke to his submission and presented a diorama that showed carpark and campervan scales (visible on the Council's YouTube channel).

Questions and answers:

- Have you found an increase in larger campervans freedom camping? – yes.
- Was your proposal to make four carparks become one and do they require more space? – yes, if possible, as this would allow for larger motorhomes to be self-contained.

3.5 Submitter: Mathias Schaeffner, on behalf of Tasman Democracy Incorporated

Topic: Mr Schaeffner spoke about the statutory timeframe of the expired Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 to be reviewed and fines collected for breaches to the Bylaw.

Mr Schaeffner asked for staff to provide confirmation regarding the outcome to the points raised in his submission. Officers confirmed that the process was to respond to all submitters.

Questions and answers:

- What do you think of the new draft Responsible Camping Bylaw? – we have no strong opinion on the areas, our group is focused on legislative timeframes and provisions.

4. REPORTS

4.1 Draft Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations

Senior Community Policy Advisor, Amy Smith and Team Leader Regulatory, Shannon Green, presented the report and answered questions.

Discussion was held around fines received while the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 was expired, officers confirmed that there were no fines issued for breaching the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017 rules, they were for breaching the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Moved Councillor Walker/Councillor Kininmonth SH25-08-2

That the Submissions Hearing and Deliberations Panel:

1. receives the Draft Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations report; 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.

CARRIED

5 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

The meeting concluded at 3.29pm.

Confirmed as a correct record of proceedings by resolution on 11 September 2025

CN25-09-7

That the Tasman District Council

9. confirms the [minutes](#) of the 28 August 2025 Responsible Camping Bylaw Hearing and Deliberations meeting as a true and correct record.