

Kaunihera | Council

Ngā Tāpiritanga – Pūrongo | Attachments – Reports ATTACHMENTS UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of Matamata-Piako District Council will be held on:

Ko te rā | Date: Wednesday 8 November 2023
Wā | Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Council Chambers
Wāhi | Venue: 35 Kenrick Street
TE AROHA

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7.1 Freedom Camping Bylaw Hearing 2023

A. Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw - Submissions

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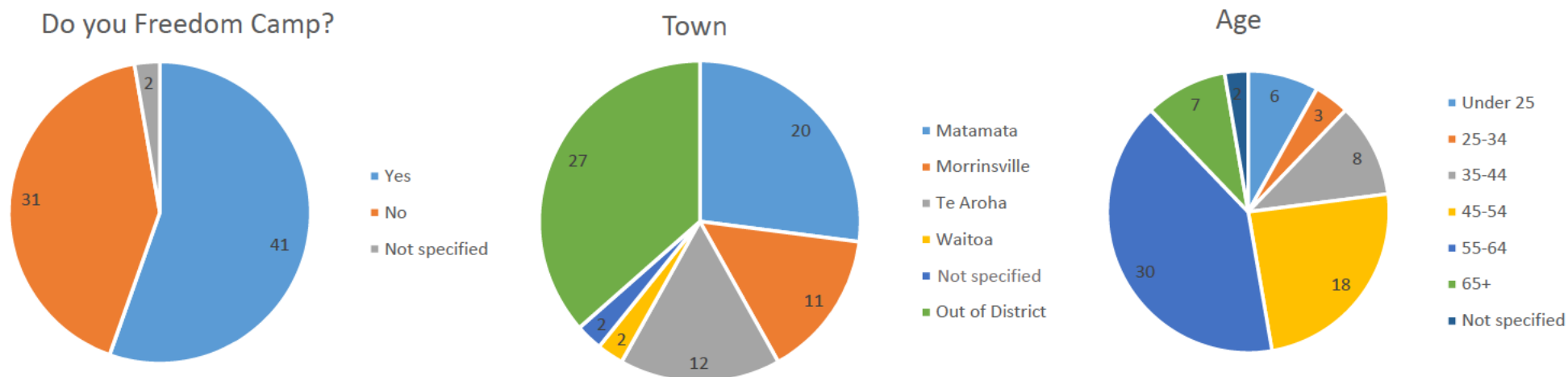
Freedom Camping Bylaw Hearing Submissions and Feedback

8 November 2023

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Submission Statistics



Note: graphs may not add up to the number of submissions due to the ability to choose more than one option or none of the options.

Summary of submissions

Generally, submissions supported the overall proposal. There were many positive comments which supported Council providing more availability for freedom camping, especially on reserve land. There were also submissions which encouraged Council to investigate opportunities to reduce restrictions on camping further; and submitters who raised concerns with the negative effects that freedom camping has on surrounding residential areas of identified restricted sites and sought more restriction on freedom camping.

Of the 74 submissions received, 26 submitters expressed general support for the proposal, specifically district wide rules and the areas proposed for restriction and prohibition. One submitter advised the district wide restrictions provide a good balance between encouraging visitors to stay in the area without paying for a campsite and protecting the environment.

27 submitters generally supported the implementation of the NZ Standard. One of these expressed they supported the Standard as it discourages inappropriate use of areas without facilities, including rubbish bins. Other submitters described the Standard as 'essential', 'brilliant' and an 'excellent idea'. However, 25 submitters expressed they were concerned with how Council intends to manage and enforce the new NZ Standard of self-containment rules. One of these suggested additional resource needs to be hired specifically to do this role. Currently, Council intends to enforce the bylaw on a complaints basis due to current staffing and resourcing levels. Signage and education are also effective forms of enforcement.

Ten submitters highlighted how significant Freedom Camping is to tourism and the economy, with differing views on how the Bylaw would either promote or restrict this economic benefit. Ten submitters requested Council reconsider providing areas for freedom camping in vehicles that are not self-contained. Three of these mentioned Hetana Street and/or Herries Park as options. During the development of the proposed Bylaw, Council investigated potential areas for freedom camping in vehicles that are not self-contained. Hetana Street Reserve, Herries Park and the area around the public toilets on Studholme Street in Morrinsville (near Countdown) were assessed, due to their proximity to 24-hour toilets. At that time Council determined none of these areas were appropriate.

Nine submitters requested Council provide more facilities including more toilets and rubbish bins. Two of these requested the existing rubbish bins be emptied more frequently. Six submitters emphasised the need to adequate signage and some suggested repainting of car parking areas to better show where Freedom Campers can park. Council is currently developing updated signage to accompany the new Bylaw, and have applied for further Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment funding regarding signage, carpark painting and enforcement.

Four submitters suggested reducing the district-wide maximum number of nights a person can freedom camp in a particular location. The four-night maximum within the proposal is consistent with the approach already taken on reserves which provide for freedom camping as detailed in the General Policies Reserve Management Plan, and provides for enough time to camp over a long weekend. This maximum ensure short stays that will not adversely impact on any one location within the district and provides for turn over at highly sought after freedom camping areas.

Submissions

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
1	Te Rauna Cawker		Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Agree to the above restrictions</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Agree to the 'prohibited' areas cannot be used for freedom camping within the Matamata ward. Agree to the 'restricted' areas that may be considered for freedom camping, including an amendment to allow Hetana Street for some restricted freedom parking.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Agree to include reference of NZ self contained standard in the Freedom Camping Bylaw.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Would appreciate signs been placed around those prohibited areas. No freedom camping.</p>
2	Gary Stoneley	NZ Lifestyle Camping Ltd	Feilding	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> As stated in the Matamata-Piako proposal the district has not previously had a freedom camping bylaw but is now proposing a considerably strict / prohibitive bylaw. The question must asked if why is there a sudden need to create considerable restrictions and how will this affect residents / local campers, businesses and those vehicle travellers who visit the region and stay over. Is this bylaw simply an over-reaction or bureaucracy for the sake of it. It is important to note that at the current time there are considerable legislative changes to Freedom Camping and what constitutes a self-contained vehicle occurring. This affects not only councils but all owners of any type of camping vehicle, effectively excluding thousands of NZ campers, including your residents from enjoying recreational camping on council managed land. As you know, camping in its various forms teaches basic skills, resilience and preparedness enabling campers to be better prepared and cope in an emergency situation. These skills don't develop in commercial campgrounds and are something that all district councils should be encouraging. Your council will have received advisory documentation on the new legislations and amended Freedom Camping Act from MBIE and Local Govt NZ. How will the council manage the new legislation? Will your bylaw be compatible? Will you be like Thames Coromandel District</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>Council and merrily hand out \$400.00 fines to tourists who have only been here a couple of days? Bad news travels fast and your districts reputation to international tourists are at stake. The new legislation has affected national campervan hire businesses as well as domestic tourists and travellers. Where before 6 June 2023 a vehicle, including many older motorhomes with portable toilets could be certified as self-contained no longer can be. Travelling campers, who may have been travelling NZ responsibly for sometime or just arrived may have well fitted out vehicle with a portable toilet that is no longer considered self-contained under the Freedom Camping Act. Local residents with trailer campers or retro caravans with portable toilets can no longer be considered self-contained under the Act and subject to legislated/mandated \$400 fines for camping by a river or reserve unless the area is designated for non self-contained vehicles or all campers. It is important that your district council considers the implications of the legislation, whether you wish to remain a welcoming district for domestic and international tourists or a district to avoid? Establishing this bylaw is not a simple matter. For independent viewpoints check out www.campingthekiwiway.org</p> <p>Note: At the select committee hearings on the changes it was emphasised that there was an expectation that councils would continue to provide vehicle camping facilities, where facilities are available, for what are deemed non self-contained vehicles.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u></p> <p>The current self-containment standard, NZS5465:2001 is a valid four year standard which identifies vehicles have met a certain level of self-containment (no of persons for 3 days) . However the Labour Government amended the Freedom Camping Act to 1) not recognise new certifications of vehicles with portable toilets as self-contained for 'free' camping council controlled land, even though these vehicles are self-contained under the standard. The council should also be considering the new Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers (Self-Contained Vehicles) Regulations 2023 which are in the transitional, implementation stage.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u></p> <p>When a resident wants to take their family camping, pitch a tent or maybe with a vehicle with a rooftop tent or a trailer tent, older caravan - where can they do this in your district currently? In the future? Camping is a healthy recreational activity. Should you take this away?</p>
3	James Imlach	New Zealand Motor	Auckland	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>The NZMCA generally agrees with these district-wide rules.</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
		Caravan Association Inc.			<p><u>Matamata Ward</u> The NZMCA generally agrees with the proposed prohibited and restricted areas in the Matamata Ward and the amendment to the RMP for Hetana Street. We suggest Council reconsiders its position on whether non-self-contained vehicles can freedom camp at this site, particularly in light of the accessible toilets. Visitors in non-self-contained vehicles still contribute to the local economy and with a toilet nearby the occupants will unlikely create H&S concerns, particularly if they carry onboard portable toilets.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> The NZMCA generally agrees with the proposed prohibited and restricted areas in the Morrinsville Ward.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> The NZMCA generally agrees with the proposed prohibited and restricted areas in the Te Aroha Ward, including the amendments for Waihou Recreation Reserve, Waitoa Railway Reserve, and Schedule E of the Active RMP. We encourage Council to reconsider its position not to allow non-self-contained campers at Herriers Memorial Park, for the reasons discussed above. A limited number of spaces set aside for non-self-contained vehicles should alleviate the concerns raised in the SOP. We appreciate why Council wants to prohibit freedom camping at their office carpark (35 Kenrick St) in Te Aroha, however given the proximity to enforcement officers and the size of the carpark it may be feasible and easier to manage to permit a small number of vehicles freedom camping on site from 7pm Friday to 7am Monday.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> The NZMCA agrees with the rationale, understanding the intention here is to ensure the bylaw remains consistent with the transitional provisions described under the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023. For consistency, and in light of the proposed amendments to RMP's, it might be prudent to align the definition of a 'certified self contained' vehicle under the General Policies RMP with the bylaw. The General Policies RMP only refers to NZS 5465:2001 and it is unclear whether the SOP anticipates this alignment. We imagine it might be difficult to enforce inconsistencies</p>

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					<p>between the bylaw and RMP's, particularly if the RMP policies supersede the bylaw (refer sections 10 and 42 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011).</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u></p> <p>We commend the Council's thorough approach to assessing 'hot spot' sites and its endeavour to uphold the permissive premise of the Freedom Camping Act, while ensuring there are sufficient controls in place to manage the activity and protect the community from potential harm.</p> <p>We support the scope of the bylaw (as it refers to local authority areas) and generally support the site assessment tool (specifically the matters considered relevant under s 11 of the FCA). It's pleasing to see a genuine attempt has been made to justify prohibitions or restrictions, although we believe a score of 12 is a more appropriate threshold to consider outright prohibition. The new self-containment legislation alleviates many of the H&S concerns that would influence these site assessments.</p> <p>Section 1.2 of the bylaw should refer to sections 11 and 11A of the FCA if the intention is to keep Schedule 3 and possibly add to this list.</p> <p>Freedom camping is an important pastime for tens of thousands of NZMCA members and kiwi campers, many of whom will not be able to comply with the new self-contained laws from June 2025. These members (and non-members alike) are still responsible campers and should be accommodated at least in designated areas that can be monitored by enforcement officers.</p>
4	Hamuera Evans		Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>I'm agree that we need forms of restrictions.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p> <p>Yes definitely restrictions</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u></p> <p>Yes incorporate standards</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u></p> <p>A bush gate at the entrance of Rapurapu reserve is certainly needed</p>

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5	Aroha Smith	Raukawa Charitable Trust	Te awamutu	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think it should not be happening! All they do is destroy our whenua! I'm saying a big FAT NO to freedom camping at our awa! Rapurapu</p>
6	Peter and Judith Doughty		Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> We think they are a good idea but think the residents need to be consulted about the parks in Pohlen Park. Parking needs to be policed day + night. Most campers don't arrive until evening time. Need to consider the use of freedom camping ambassadors, particularly in the summer months. Also need to move on other vehicles that park in the designated parks, particularly in the Hetana St Reserve, happens all the time.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Agree <u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I think it will be good to have one standard for the whole of New Zealand.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> If the new rules are not policed, particularly at night time I think the whole thing is a waste of time. We think it is great that the Matamata is a Motorhome friendly town. There are a lot of motorhome/caravan owners living in Matamata.</p>
7	Kellie Hollingsworth	Land Information new Zealand	Wellington	No	<p><u>Other feedback</u> Thanks for the opportunity to comment. The Self-contained Motor Vehicle Amendments in 2023 outlined how LINZ-administered land can be used for Freedom Camping. For land to be used for Freedom Camping, it must be gazetted and any new sites will need to be publicly notified prior. Our currently gazetted sites are found here: https://www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/camping-areas/location-and-guidelines-our-camping-areas</p>

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					No sites within this District are gazetted and therefore all Freedom Camping on LINZ administered land is prohibited in this District.
8	Peter and Debbie Hopkins		Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> 2 nights instead of 4 nights</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Day parking only at Hetana</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> We suggest 2 nights instead of 4 as some freedom campers do not take notice of limited stay and only move on when asked, so shorter time stop is less inviting to them. More and more people live permanently in their vans. We are seeing more caravans freedom camping so in most cases they take 2 or more parks, so this needs to be considered. Also a lot of campers have one or more pets. Hetana street should be day parking only. We love towns that allow motorhomes into their towns for the day of retail therapy, laundry, cafes and restocking.</p>
9	Hannah Pitcon		Hamilton	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I don't think any of these restrictions are necessary</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> I don't think any of these restrictions are necessary</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I don't think any of these restrictions are necessary</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> I don't think any of these restrictions are necessary</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I don't agree with incorporating this standard. We have a self contained campervan but have never used the toilet! We always park near a public toilet. Lets face it...no one wants to go #2 in a small confined space near to where they sleep!</p>

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10	Veronique Blanchet		Wellington	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> With the new laws I think it is very restricted and unfair for families who are looking to vacation on a low budget. For a family of 4 a campsite is expensive. Also there are toilets in most freedom locations so I think self containment is not required in those and no one ever used their toilets anyway.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> I dont understand why they are further restricted. Freedom campers are not the ones bothering the most the residents etc</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I dont understand why they are further restricted. Freedom campers are not the ones bothering the most the residents etc</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> I dont understand why they are further restricted. Freedom campers are not the ones bothering the most the residents etc</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I guess this is necessary.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Dont further restrict the last freedom people with low budget have to go on holidays! New Zealand is one of the hardest country to camp here and it is a very expensive country to travel otherwise. This is unfair.</p>
11	Jan Stokes		Hamilton	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I agree with the proposed Freedom Camping bylaw and identified restricted areas.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> I agree</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I Agree</p>

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					<p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> I agree</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I agree</p>
12	John and Margaret Osborne		Te Aroha	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> We agree with them.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> We agree with the proposal. The Te Aroha Domain has very limited parking for users of the facilities and very pleased to see it removed.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> We agree, freedom camping must be for Self Contained vehicles only.</p>
13	Chris Tynan		Morrinsville		<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I support these restrictions but think there are some other designated areas that should be restricted.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I agree with these areas but think that the Golf Club area should also be restricted as well.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Agree</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> I live on Carnoustie PI and often we get camper vans parking on the road into the golf course. We have them looking directly into our properties - they look into our lounge, our patio and our bedroom which is on this side. We feel like we have our privacy invaded. Last week there was a whole group of them on both sides of the road. Even if there is only one or two they tend to be on our side of the road and not on the golf club side which would have been better.</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					I'm sure I'm not the only resident in the street with this issue. Could you please look at having them restricted from the Golf Club road just as you've done with Holmwood Park. Thanks
14	Sam Vercoe		Te Aroha	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> The rules always said vehicles must be self contained yet council has never bothered to enforce this anyways. Te Aroha let a freedom camper with dangerous dogs and in a not self contained bus live behind their office for at least several months. Please include a no dogs policy. We've had several sheep mauled to death this year by freedom campers who come with unregistered dangerous dogs. After the mauling we were told the ranger had to return the dogs to owner as had no other choice, eventually council conceded one dog at least was dangerous which was later stolen back from their inadequate pound facility by the freedom camping owner. The dogs were also known to be menacing toward children which people had complained about and council still let them stay by Herries park. Complaints to council are just ignored. A risk assessment should be completed about dogs being allowed in freedom camping areas to ensure the safety of residents. Council staff need more training and understanding about their role within regulatory compliance</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Agree</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Agree but staff need training to enforce this</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> No</p>
15	Bette Cosgrove		Wellington	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Making your district wide restrictions and more clear prohibitions please ensure you justify all these by referring to Section 11 of the Act and that ALL restrictions are fair. I know you have to balance environmental use with providing affordable and sustainable places for valuable travellers and locals to enjoy the massive benefits of camping. It's disappointing you're not allowing tent camping...because that activity is so important for families and others on a budget who enjoy it as a major recreation for wellbeing.</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>Ensure all restrictions adhere to the Act local authority may make a bylaw under subsection (1) only if it is satisfied that— (a)the bylaw is necessary for 1 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. Please consider welcoming non self contained campers wherever you provide public toilets at any of these sites. It's about managing your manaaki and allowing responsible campers to enjoy spending their money on experiences and businesses in your region.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> If there are toilets please consider some limited restricted freedom.camping for non self contained vehicles.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> If there are toilets please consider some limited restricted freedom.camping for non self contained vehicles.alongside these areas.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> If there are toilets please consider some limited restricted freedom.camping for non self contained vehicles. Offer places which are a destination not just carpark to welcome responsible campers.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Please DO NOT consider doing this The laws and regulations for self containment have just changed to be universal national legislation This Standard in legislation is about to be defunct..it's in the law that it will no longer be valid in future . There is NO need to add this to the CSC restrictions. You would never legally be able to enforce it, because infringement officers don't have knowledge of what's in the NZS PLUS the new regulations.</p>

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					<p>This is unnecessary and would only create confusion amongst freedom campers and your staff trying to manage them It's completely redundant.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> I understand you need to balance the resourcing of managing Freedom campers, but consider that before you had the Bylaw how many actual environmental issues and complaints were you dealing with which caused any concern. Be fair be welcoming . We love to come and camp and spend our money in your area. There are thousands of responsible campers who find the well being of travelling within a budget. Only a small number of free campers may have caused issues so follow the Act and legislation to ensure your decisions are proportionate to any real issues.</p>
16	Jonathan Bowen		Te Aroha	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> We need to consider the number of displaced people whom can no longer afford to purchase or rent homes. People are being forced into cars vans and campers due to cost of living and unavailability of homes to rent. I would propose that all rest areas in the district should have toilet facilities installed. How to fund this...difficult but maybe not impossible. These proposed rules are to punitive for low income people. Never mind the tourists....</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Opinion unchanged from previous comments</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> As by previous comment</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> As per previous comments. If toilets are made available more people will be able to be accomodated. I had never seen homeless people sleeping in doorways in Matamata.. now i have....its an indictment on nz society in its current state....dissappointing and unacceptable. .</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Too harsh alround</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p><u>Other feedback</u></p> <p>As per previous comments. More toilets in rest areas are neccessary and maybe if rates have to increase so be it. Otherwise immigration has to be curbed.....insufficient housing is forcing many law abiding people homeless and hence into freedom camping situations. This situation affects many people irrespective of race or economic status.</p>
17	Kerryn		Huntly	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>I think more freedom camping areas and more areas where you don't need to be self contained would help not only tourists but locals to better see the country they live in. I have camped in other countries where it is common for a small fee or even for free in some areas to have basic facilities such as a long drop and rain water tanks and areas people can camp. If a small fee needs to be put in place for upkeep of facilities that is reasonable but restricting freedom camping to richer people who can afford vehicles that meet the standards alone seems unfair and very restrictive.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p> <p>I disagree with more restrictions. Put better systems in place and charge if need be for upkeep but camping is a beautiful experience and makes travelling around a country far more accessible for budget travellers, including a lot of local travelers and those who make up the seasonal workforce around the country.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u></p> <p>I disagree with more restrictions. Put better systems in place and charge if need be for upkeep but camping is a beautiful experience and makes travelling around a country far more accessible for budget travellers, including a lot of local travelers and those who make up the seasonal workforce around the country.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u></p> <p>I disagree with more restrictions. Put better systems in place and charge if need be for upkeep but camping is a beautiful experience and makes travelling around a country far more accessible for budget travellers, including a lot of local travelers and those who make up the seasonal workforce around the country.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u></p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					I disagree with more restrictions. Making camping less and less accessible for those with a lower budget is unfair and unkind.. All people should be able to visit and travel the country.. I agree with fines and punishment for breaking rules but punishing all budget travellers is unfair.
18	Ray Talbot	NZMCA	Cambridge	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I agree with all of the proposed restrictions.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I agree that only vehicles which meet the Self Containment standard with appropriate certification, should be allowed to freedom camp.</p>
19	David Clay		Morrinsville	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> agree</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I agree with the proposed prohibited and restricted areas in the Morrinsville Ward</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> agree</p>
20	Luke van Veen	Hospitality New Zealand	Tauranga	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> in support of the listed restrictions</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> no issues</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Please feel free to reach out to me if required, plus in the future on any other by law changes regarding tourism, accommodation and hospitality in the area. Kind regards Luke _____</p>
21	Glenys Crawford	Te Aroha Motel	Te Aroha	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I believe the proposal is sound and reasonable and should be passed. While I am an advocate of freedom in life as a rule of thumb, we live in a community and the</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>needs of the wider community are served by having some boundaries. Coming from a time when one could expect people to respect others and their property including public facilities, it would be ideal if we continued with that ethos, unfortunately it would appear this is a bridge too far for some nowadays and rules need to be in place to enable councils to stem errant behavior. To be honest this could have easily become a longer more prohibitive bylaw and its pleasing to see it is not too restrictive, while ensuring some commonsense rules around this issue. As the moteliors in Te Aroha we are very supportive of the other accommodation providers and the NZMCA facility, the more people come the more the hospitality and other businesses benefit in the town benefit - the more things there are to do for our guest...win - win but I do believe this particular side of accommodation needs rules around it. Thanks Robin & Glenys</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Sounds good</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> It has my tick; the standard is obviously something that is able to be monitored/policed relatively easily and is a national standard. Sounds good to me.</p>
22	Michael Cullen	NZMCA	Te Awamutu	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> In my opinion and that of the NZMCA Waikato Area that i represent what is being proposed is a positive move that benefit both our members, the residents of the Matamata Piako district and gives clear guideline to tourist that that enjoy touring in hired motorhomes. The choice of locations preserves the beauty of those that are prohibited while offering other areas that can be enjoyed under the restricted rules and guidelines.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Totally support the MPDCs direction</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Totally support the MPDCs direction</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Totally support the MPDCs direction</p>

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					<p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> To protect the use of the restricted areas now and in the future, ensuring that only Motorhomes and Caravan that are Certified to the Standard use the restricted sites is essential</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> This is a very positive move by the MPDC and should be viewed as a win win for all concerned</p>
23	Des Austin	NZMCA Waikato Area Secretary and Custodian of NZMCA Park Stanley Ave.	Te Aroha	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> As a local resident, I agree with the proposal from the council and the letter written by Michael Cullen, Chairman of the NZMCA Waikato Area. The areas that the council has proposed to allow certified self-containment vehicles are adequate and fit for purpose.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Fully agree with the council proposal.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I think that the standard should include the use of vehicles that have Port-a-potties, as it is the person and not the vehicle that needs to be a responsible camper.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> I am worried that the council may not have the funds or staff to manage or monitor the prohibited areas and educate those that are not fully compliant in the approved areas.</p>
24	Ann O'Brien		Matamata, Waikato - Piako District	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I agree with the proposals above. I think they allow enough freedom and camping areas for campers to enjoy our local sites.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Seems to be adequate for the present.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Essential.</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
25	Virginia McMillan		Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I am pleased with the research carried out and consideration given to protecting amenities while allowing some freedom camping.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Fair enough.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I have been told some people falsely use signage on their vehicle when it is not up to standard, so this does not guarantee everyone will be compliant.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> The Matamata provision of space seems to cater for very few visitors. I also wonder how council staff will move people on when they are at risk of over-staying their night limit etc.</p>
26	John Lagaluga		Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Based on other districts this work.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Leave both prohibited and restricted as proposed. Contact Community Patrol to give council feedback on vehicle numbers so as not to allow overloading of the restricted sites. Make sure signage is in place.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> brilliant.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> All vehicles that freedom camp must have a current COF / WOF and Registration .</p>
27	Jacqui Griffin		Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I strongly agree with the proposed district-wide restrictions.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>Is it possible that all the 11 large car parks at Wairere Falls may be occupied by vehicles staying for up to 4 days each, with no vacant large car parks left for day trippers to use? I trust MPDC have considered this and have a contingency for day-visitors.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I strongly agree with the incorporation of the Standard.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Some other places we have visited have been a highly positive experience when local 'ambassadors' have checked in with us that everything with the freedom camp site is okay, thanked us for camping responsibly, gifted small items (e.g. small tube of hand sanitiser, lip balm, sunscreen, or insect repellent - all handy items for camping/life on the road, but inexpensive and also branded with the logo of the local entity involved (Council/DOC/Chamber of Commerce/Keep our Town Beautiful-type group). This could be an opportunity to promote local walks, cycle paths, hospitality and retail, and tourist spots.</p>
28	Barry Hayden	NZMCA	Morrinsville	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think it has been really thought out. Looks good</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Looks good</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> i am a scs officer so I know the standards</p>
29	Peter Crisp & Barbara Delaney		Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Stupid idea... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why are you making unnecessary laws? - Is it a problem currently? - will this reduce our rates? - Will it make life better for the rate payers? OR add more bureaucracy to the council? - We want to encourage visitors to our town- Specifically Self Contained RVs (which most are) </p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>- Why are you wanting to eliminating 9/12 freedom camping options?</p> <p>- Why are you wanting them to be at end or the other of the allocated parking spaces?</p> <p>- Do you NOT understand that there are 80,000 Self Contained RVs in New Zealand. A large portion of them owned by retired or semi retired people who are mostly responsible adults who travel around the country (spending money) and if they want to stay a few days (or weeks) in a Motorhome friendly town why would YOU want to LIMIT that? Most of these types of vehicles are self contained - meaning they have actual toilets and showers.</p> <p>YOU are proposing a MAXIMUM of 20 vehicles at any one time allowed to stay in Matamata?</p> <p>YOU are wanting to impose a MAXIMUM stay period (limiting their spending) in Matamata ?Stupid.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u></p> <p>Happy to see a freedom camping standard introduced. Proper certified Self Contained vehicles' (which most RVs are) are not going to cause you any of the problems you are imagining. It's not the blue sticker on the rear but the blue identification tag on the left hand front windscreen that identifies it as "truly self contained". They also have an expiry date and are inspected regularly to ensure compliance. Vehicles with this classification should be welcomed and encouraged to stay longer than four days a month.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u></p> <p>- We have experienced situations where all to often the very limited "allocated RV parking spaces" are occupied during the day or early evening - by CARS... so there is little opportunity to park in the "allocated space"</p> <p>- Many times we have only stopped over-night and are gone early in the morning (occasionally staying longer or just long enough for fuel and coffee) So what harm or problem does that cause the community that needs a bylaw to protect the rate payers from?</p> <p>- Also the allocated (car sized) parking areas are (usually) way too small for an RV (many RV's are at least 7mtrs long).</p> <p>Why instead of trying to limit Freedom Camping you ENCOURAGE properly certified SELF Contained vehicles (RV's displaying the Blue Tag) to spend more time in the town. Perhaps they might enjoy it so much they buy a house and become ratepayers - like us.</p>
30	Ruth McLennan		Gisborne	Yes	<u>District-wide restrictions</u>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>We have a self contained RV and love freedom camping as it allows us to stay at beautiful unspoiled places. The issue of homeless people being excluded should not be a Council problem. We recently stopped at a lovely Park in Morrinsville and thought it would be a great place to stay over.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I think it was the Morrinsville recreation ground we liked. Agree with it</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Agree with it</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> There are large numbers of retirees with fully SC RVs who love travelling and spending money in small towns.</p>
31	Beau Timberland		matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think points one and four are great - 'certified self contained requirement and prohibition from cemetery camping'. but i think the monitoring, management and enforcement of points two and three - 'four night max and 500 meters of an area' aren't appropriate since we don't have the ability or intention of implementing this. it would cost a great deal to monitor, manage and enforce - the cost of this would be greater than the potential risks posed by having people stay.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> I totally agree that all the prohibited spaces should not allow freedom camping - espceially Rapurapu, which has been totally destroyed by visitors. many people in our community are opposed to Hetana Street Reserve being used for freedom camping - i wonder if there is a more suitable park to camp in - not Hetana Street Reserve. perhaps Swap park might be better suited instead of Hetana?</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> agree :)</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p><u>Other feedback</u> im aware that there are campers who live in Hetana Street Reserve. while i think its nice that they have somewhere safe and beautiful to stay, they seem to have set up permanent residence there. theyre essentially homeless people and i wonder if we can enable camping in a less central spot (Swap Park has alot of space on the Burwood Road side and there is already heaps of potential for parking</p>
32	Eric Karshagen		Waitoa	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Happy with freedom camping for fully selfcontained campervans. Has to be monitored effectively.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Happy with that</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Happy with that</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Happy with that</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Perfect</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Proposed waitoa site often prone to drivers hooning on the park area across from the dairy that tear up the grass. A proposal from me will be to cordon off the area through wooden bollards/posts to safeguard campers and discourage hooning behavior and campers feeling unsafe. Also add a bigger or additional rubbish bin. Yes a small number of freedom campers give the majority a bad name but if well monitored I see no problem with it.</p>
33	Jenny Karshagen		Waitoa	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think this is a great idea for mpdc. Currently as a resident and freedom camper it is very unclear where how long etc people can freedom camp in the district</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Fantastic proposal. I would be keen to see good signage and clear marking like many other districts. Do clarify where parking is permissible. I would also ask council consider number of vehicles permitted at one given time. Particularly at Waitoa there is not the room for four vehicles to stay for four days along with the vehicles coming and going using the dairy. I would also like to see the identified spots monitored daily and non-freedom camping areas also monitored as other council districts do. This encourages appropriate use of the areas and discourages inappropriate use.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Great idea as it discourages inappropriate use of areas without appropriate facilities ie toilets and rubbish.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Along with ensuring adequate rubbish and signage I would be keen for the council to mark the sites clearly for all the freedom camping spots. As freedom camper I appreciate this in other districts and believe it provides clear ways to monitor for not only council but also allows non campers to enjoy the areas too.</p>
34	Leanne Gordon		Morrinsville	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> It is good to have places available for freedom camping within rules, that encourage travellers to stop in Morrinsville - they will spend money in supermarkets and fuel stations at the very least. The above looks good and consideration should be given to how to police this and whether rubbish bins will be provided and emptied on a regular basis.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I think Murray Oaks could be a good option for having restricted freedom camping and perhaps other spots in Morrinsville to encourage travellers to overnight in safe areas.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I agree with incorporation of the Standard. If vehicles have a permanent fixed toilet in their vehicle, we could have more spots throughout the district available for freedom camping</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u></p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					While it might mean some policing of freedom camping and perhaps rubbish bins available. It could mean being seen as truly Motorhome friendly region encouraging visitors to the region. With the cycle trails through our region - I think a bit more well managed freedom camping throughout the entire region would be great. This does come with the proviso to manage & police it so the areas do not become an eyesore. As motorhomers, the West Coast of NZ have great signs showing where you can park and encourage visitors to the region.
35	Tony & Pam Warner		Morrinsville	No	<p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> We agree</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> We do not want freedom camping at Holmwood Park or the car parking area at the top of the park</p>
36	Ron Partridge		Te Aroha	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> If these rules are to mean anything they must be checked daily. Also any freedom area must have a toilet, a self contained sticker can be copied so are the certificates going to check? If not that's why a toilet must be available. I am in favor of freedom camping and would like it to continue so it is important that it is not abused or it will be lost for everyone.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Not all. Toilets must be available</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Ok</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> The freedom camping areas must be checked daily or they will be abused. A self containment sticker is easily copied so a certificate needs to be seen. As this will be difficult a toilet must be available or there will be issues. I am in favor of freedom camping but we will lose it if it is not controlled.</p>
37	Paul Tilsley	Inspiring minds early	Te aroha	No	<u>Te Aroha Ward</u>

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		learning centre			Strongly object to the waihou recreational reserve being used for freedom camping. We have enough trouble at the rugby club now and don't want anymore dropkick staying there. Leaving rubbish everywhere which blows all over our property or the fieces and toilet paper all over the place. We have a childcare over the road and honestly this is not appropriate to have all these people hanging around able to see our children. Waihou recreational grounds needs to be removed from any proposal for rmp's. Thanks Paul Tilsley
38	Raewyn Louise Clay		Morrinsville	No	<p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I totally agree with the proposal to prohibit freedom camping in the four areas listed above in the Morrinsville Ward.</p> <p>I raise the question of how is Council going to police the numbers of vehicles that may freedom camp at Morrinsville Recreation Ground and Waterworks Road Reserve?</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I agree with Council including reference to the Standard in the Freedom Camping Bylaw and hope that the owners of these vehicles adhere to the Freedom Camping Bylaw for our area. Again, I ask how this can be policed?</p>
39	meryl marks		morrinsville	No	<p><u>Other feedback</u> I would like to see the freedom camping only available for 2 nights maximum in the one area. This applies to places like Whangamata. The Recreation ground public carpark is not a very user friendly place for campers to stay. Could the area of grass where the original camping area was be utilized? Also a big problem with the Recreation Ground is security. Its plagued by a few undesirable people hanging around.</p>
40	Faye Mathews		Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I do not agree with the proposal. I do not feel we need by laws about freedom camping in Matamata/Piako. Keep the status quo please.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p>

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					<p>I do not think restricting/ banning these places for freedom camping is necessary. I have never seen motorhome or campervans in any of these places. I do not feel freedom camping is a problem at all in Matamata. Matamata recently became a motorhome friendly town, and now you are wanting to restrict where self contained vehicles can camp.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> How will this get policed? I stay in a motorhome around the country. I see vehicles that are not self contained, but no one seems to move them on. I do not see any vehicles camping in town as causing any problems. I see motor homes at railside, the RSA, the Club, and out at the tower. No problems that I can see.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Keep the status quo. No appearance of abuse of current rules.</p>
41	A Brown		Morrinsville	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> They seem fair and are reasonable. A few more spaces in Morrinsville would be helpful as the few at the Rec grounds seem to be full on occasions. There is a lot to see and do here. It is great that a dump station is available, thanks Council. We'd love to see the old campground site used for freedom camping, or part of it, than the vehicles don't use up the car spaces.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I think more sites are needed. Only 6 in Morrinsville! And then only if there are no cars in the spaces.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Yes, I agree to self contained vehicles only.</p>
42	Sandra Gilchrist		Te Aroha	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I agree with the district-wide restrictions proposed as I think they strike a good balance between allowing / encouraging visitors to stay in the district for a few days without having to incur the additional cost of a camp site whilst protecting the environment (self-contained vehicles only) and preventing people from permanently camping in one area. Regarding the cemeteries it would be good to understand what constitutes their car parks. In</p>

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					<p>Te Aroha the cemetery doesn't have a hard standing car park and the grass area outside the railings at the front is used for parking. I think Freedom Camping should be prohibited in that area (and similar areas in Matamata and Morrinsville) not only for practical reasons but also sensitivity issues. I don't think it is appropriate for Freedom Campers to be parked in an area where mourners are coming to pay their last respects.</p> <p>I am aware of at least 2 blocks of Council Owned land that are leased to farmers and wonder how this is covered by the Bylaw. Strictly speaking the land is council owned however it's use is being paid for by private individuals.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u></p> <p>I think the proposal strikes a good balance between protecting areas that are not suitable for Freedom Camping whilst providing a reasonable number of parks in designated areas that are appropriate. If the designated areas are clearly signposted and this information is available on Tourist Information websites and maps, visitors will know there are areas that are suitable and they will be welcome to park there.</p> <p>See my earlier comments about cemetery car parks / land adjacent to cemeteries.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u></p> <p>Great. Referring to a standard makes it easier for Freedom Campers to know what is expected of them and easier to enforce if needs be.</p>
43	Garry McQuoid		Kerikeri	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>I agree with your proposal and only wish more councils would do the same The only point I would make is the current fashion of providing parking but only for motorhomes 6 metres or under in a lot of districts We travel full time in a 9 metre bus which is a very common vehicle size for a large number of travellers This length can make it very difficult to find suitable camping areas.</p> <p>Bit disappointing when you see this limit in areas that would easily take larger vehicles .Other than that keep the good work up and look forward to your future enlightened policy</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u></p> <p>Excellent idea</p>

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44	Nelson Elgar		Te Aroha	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think all of the proposed changes are good. The only thing I am concerned with is to differentiate between people who are genuinely on a camping holiday and people who are homeless and "living on the cheap". These people are not contributing to the rates pool but are still relying on council services to deal with their wastewater and provide safe drinking water. The proviso that people will effectively police themselves with a complaint based system is a little hopeful and I believe that some type of "ranger" will be required properly enforce the new bylaws.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> It's a surprise to me to learn that camping is not allowed at Hetana st. For the last 2 years I cannot recall a time when there has been no one camping there. Therefore the complaint system does not work and someone should be actively policing these locations.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> All these proposals are fair enough, but they will mean nothing unless they are properly policed. There are, and have been for some time, always people camping in these areas that are deemed to not allow camping such as - Hetana st. - Te Aroha council carpark.</p>
45	Pixie Davis		Te Awamutu	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Very constricting. Why do you need to place these restrictions? Camping is supposed to be a fun experience. When you place rules and regulations, you are taking away the fun, from "let's do this" to "not allowed to do that", with no real justification. eg You can't send your teenagers off to the park for the night any more, because they don't have a self contained vehicle. Point 3 - make it a two week period. Obviously you are worried about people "living" on the site for an extended period of time. I personally find it frustrating, when touring around an area, to have to find a different overnight spot when I'm returning or backtracking, If I stayed there 3 weeks ago, I can't stay this week. Ridiculous. I will just leave the area instead. People generally do not use car parks and/or cemeteries for their intended purpose during night hours, so why would you restrict self contained parking overnight in these areas? Who are the campers hurting by being there?</p>

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					<p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Half a dozen vehicles (6) offers tourists to the area more choice (Pohlen Park)</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I see no need at all, for Self Contained Freedom Camping to have any outdoor public area as forbidden/ prohibited for overnight camping. Unless there is danger to the environment or the public, I see no reason to restrict overnights to two vehicles. Less than 10 vehicles, certainly, but why only two?</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> A total of 21 overnight parking spots. Sounds reasonable, but in practice, especially during holiday times, not so much. Te Aroha Domain ought to be included as an overnight spot, for more than two vehicles at a time. This will encourage more visitors/money to the area.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Incorporate the standard. Ensure the wording is correct.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> If you want to discourage freedom camping, then set a charge for camping. Restricting areas and making by-laws just makes people cross and reluctant to remain in your area, spending money locally and giving good reviews in travel links. Look to be the leaders in new Freedom Camping bylaws, don't follow the herd. Be innovative, be welcoming, be Friendly. Embrace the movement, NZ was once known for it's camping availability, no so much any more. There are too many restrictions and prohibitions, laws and by-laws, already. If you make it too hard, people won't bother coming, then everyone pays the price and it snowballs throughout the whole region. Make it easier to visit, not harder.</p>
46	Sam Brown		Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> If these restrictions are put in place, does the council have the resources to monitor the areas and enforce breaches?</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p>

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					<p>Please ensure that areas that are set aside for freedom camping have parking spaces that are large enough to fit motorhomes and campervans into, with space between them for exit and entry. Many councils only provide a standard car width and length parking space and this is not adequate for the majority of fully self contained vehicles.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Please ensure that areas that are set aside for freedom camping have parking spaces that are large enough to fit motorhomes and campervans into, with space between them for exit and entry. Many councils only provide a standard car width and length parking space and this is not adequate for the majority of fully self contained vehicles.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Please ensure that areas that are set aside for freedom camping have parking spaces that are large enough to fit motorhomes and campervans into, with space between them for exit and entry. Many councils only provide a standard car width and length parking space and this is not adequate for the majority of fully self contained vehicles.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> If you incorporate it, do you have the resources and knowledge to monitor parking areas and enforce any breaches?</p>
47	Meg Macfie		Hamilton	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> As long as they have a toilet, it doesn't matter if it's fixed but as long as it's self contained. Should be 2 nights max in one place and then a maximum of 4 within the local area.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> As above</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> As above</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> As above</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Nope. Shouldn't be just for fixed toilets. I have a camper and have a porta potti on my own. A fixed toilet is prohibitive and only works for the wealthy.</p>
48	Sandy Wesford		Cambridge	No	<p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> I think the Waterworks Road Reserve proposal is realistic during the off season, ie between when daylight saving stops and then starts again (late Autumn to early Spring). Not during late spring, summer and early autumn, as this is the very busy time with lots & lots of vehicles.</p> <p>As a local resident, I have been using the Te Miro Forest park for many years and during the summer months the existing carparking isn't sufficient and cars park on the edge of the already narrow Waterworks Road causing risk. I know the carpark has been recently extended, however if you are going to fill that with freedom campers, the carpark extension benefits will be neutralised and will remain insufficient.</p> <p>Who is going to police the self contained use, freedom campers already stay at the Reserve for more than the number of nights that is being proposed?</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> If the proposed two self contained vehicle parks go ahead, will these be clearly marked to ensure they are parking in the approved space. Also, has consideration been given to what happens when the main carpark is completely full and self contained vehicles are parked in? If you are expecting an exit route to be left this will reduce available car park spaces in the existing car park, that as already mentioned, is often overflowing in the summer months.</p> <p>What about provision of rubbish bins and poop bins, as many self contained vehicle owners travel with dog/s?</p> <p>Can you please clarify who reads and considers submissions if I don't come and speak?</p>
49	Sue Tighe		Tauranga	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Members of NZMCA who will comply with their certification but who do not have a fixed toilet (only a portable toilet) will now be excluded from coming to your towns to freedom camp. There are approximately 5000 members who do not have fixed, only porta potti toilets. Please</p>

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					<p>consider accepting all official NZCMA members who comply to their high standards. Membership identification is not just the wings badge but a highly regulated financial card allocated that could be displayed to prove current membership status and verification that vehicle meets stringent NZMCA self-containment rules.</p> <p>New Plymouth have adopted designated marked parking areas for freedom camping for compliant and non-compliant campers together, close to public facilities. This is an alternative option to be more inclusive to a wider population of motorhomes and campervans.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> See above comments about recognising NZMCA membership in addition to the standard.</p>
50	Leonie Gentry	Retired	Tokoroa and Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I freedom camp s lot but also stay at NZMCA parks. Happy to follow rules set down by council. I am self contained.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> I think it's sad to restrict. I am a responsible freedom camper and the none ones are messing it up for others. They are the ones that need to be banned not the good ones.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Same as mentioned above.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Same as above</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I think if people are freedom camping they need to respect the area they are in. Saddly there are those that don't and need to be held accountable for their actions.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u></p>

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					<p>I really enjoy staying in these towns from time to time. I also respect the areas as it's a privilege to be able to stay. I have sadly seen those that trash the areas and disrespect. They are the ones that neglect their responsibilities and make it hard for the good ones. If only the council could supply a sticker for the good ones to display. Would be fantastic. Would be happy to pay a small yearly fee for the privilege of staying at them. Just a thought</p>
51	Doug Meyer	Dougs Kitchens	Auckland	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Agree with the above.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Disagree.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Disagree.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Disagree.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Agree.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Enforce the new self containment rules (green sticker fixed toilet) but open up more area's for freedom camping under the new rules. This will stop overcrowding affecting the local residents. The more places to stop overnight the less impact on local residents everybody wins.</p>
52	Don leitch		Auckland	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I used to qualify certified ,the new rules make a porta pottie illegal .unless a local council allows them . All govt parties except labour, did not agree with this. Labour did this as a demanded block vote. This rule alone will cost many people thousands. Please many people like me use a porta pottie properly we even use the Same cassette as one screwed to the floor. Soon though</p>

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					<p>NZMCA will have our own parks all over the country, we won't need freedom sites , as we will all have toilets that our group deems to be legal. Please look closely at this</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Change it to allow porta potties</p>
53	John Williams	Braeburn House	Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think it is a very good proposal.</p>
54	Nicky Howarth		New Plymouth	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Personally, I think these new self-containment rules are non-sensical and it is the irresponsible campers (NZ and tourists) who have spoilt it for the responsible camper like myself. I am currently self-contained under the old ruling but this will change for me in 2 years when the new requirements kick in. It will then mean it is only campground or the odd DOC, Council run camps that will allow non-self-containment. They really affect me as on a part time wage, still paying a mortgage, single it will become too expensive for me to stay at campsites. The whole reason I went down this route was because of budget. I will never be able to afford a campervan/motorhome. I have never poured my porta Potti out on the ground and use dump stations. I do not litter (which a lot of people (non-camping) do everyday. I use nonchemical products for washing my dishes and leave the sites as I find them. Si I consider myself a responsible camper. I love this country and want to treat it well as well as to not spoil it for others. I agree with restrictions on how long you can stay in one site, so it all gets shared around and not monopolised by those who want to stay for long periods of time or live. The new self-containment rules will really affect the good old kiwi camper who is responsible from camping especially whilst everything has turned so expensive. We still deserve a holiday we can afford.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> I don't feel I can add to this as I am not familiar with these areas.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Can't comment as not familiar with these areas.</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Not familiar with these areas.</p> <p>All I can say is with all areas if you aren't having issue please do not take them away as freedom camping is becoming really limiting in some areas.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Not sure I'm of much help as I live in Taranaki but I have stayed in some lovely Council run campsites that have a basic toilet (often long drops) and/or a shower. This means you can stay non-self-contained Check out Council run-Ashhurst -Manawatu " " " - a few in South Waikato " " " - Vinegar Hill These are all either free or about \$8.00 p/p or per site. Areas like this are fantastic.</p>
55	Sean kingsley		Yes		<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think that the changes in freedom camping laws are unfair to people who lack the funds to buy a vehicle large enough to meet these new requirements. To comfortably and respectfully freedom camp campers only need, water, a sink, grey water and a public toilet near the camp. More freedom camping setups should be available to people with these setups and ensure they can park within a short distance from the bathroom. What is freedom camping for. Just people who can afford large motorhomes? Or should it be an affordable way for young and old people to explore Aotearoa. Freedom camping is one of NZ's best attributes in travel. It is ridiculous this is not even available to me in a hiace.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Lazy</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Unnecessary</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Will highly likely decrease the local economy.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I think that the changes in freedom camping laws are unfair to people who lack the funds to buy a vehicle large enough to meet these new requirements. To comfortably and respectfully freedom camp campers only need, water, a sink, grey water and a public toilet near the camp. There must be options for people who are in a lower socio economic background to use freedom camping to go on holiday.</p>
56	Emma Martindale		Ngatea	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> How can it even be called Freedom Camping when restrictions are placed on where, when and how it can occur? What is the actual purpose of the bylaw? Is it necessary? Do you have or ave you ever had problems with people Freedom Camping across the district?</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Why does a vehicle have to be self contained if there are toilets available such as at Herries Park? This standard, NZ Self Contained Standard, makes it more difficult for responsible campers to be able to camp as few vehicles may be able to comply with the unnecessary NZ Self Contained Standard.</p>
57	Thomas Forrest		Queenstown	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Remove the need to be certified self contained from the bylaw. Being a responsible camper is on the driver and not the vehicle. Provide public toilets in specific camping locations which can be used. Keep the limit to 4 days, and restrict the camping to certain areas. The self contained certification doesn't provide any education about responsible camping whatsoever. Education and signage is more beneficial and would attract a wider range of travellers.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Keep the domain</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
58	Malcolm Banks		Morrinsville	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Dont have a problem with this proposal at all</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Prohibited areas (Davies Park, Holmwood Park and Thomas Park - dont think these are suitable anyway so agree with prohibiting Murray Oaks - believe this could be an attractive spot but agree with prohibiting Rec Ground - there is room for more than 6 parks, suggest 10-12 parks, quite a big carpark Te Miro - no problem with this area as proposed</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Agree with that</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Dont see a problem with regulation</p>
59	Kathy Brown		Morrinsville	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think there should be freedom camps in every township - but good to have restrictions in place</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Needs restrictions so people dont overstay their welcome!</p>
60	Wendy-Jean FENN		WHITIAN GA	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Having lived in a hotspot on the Coromandel Peninsula for 23 years I suggest you reduce the number of days to 3 as this gives a wider number of people access to freedom camping and less of a hog the spot situation.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> I think they are sufficient for the area. The council should be aware of over subscribing to the idea and placing an onerous task on compliance officers</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Very wise and makes the situation 100 percent clear</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p><u>Other feedback</u></p> <p>Who will be monitoring the sites and how often. Clear notices should be put in these places to avoid any confusion. Will fines be issued due to non compliance ie campers that are not self contained. You should also share the final results with the new Zealand motor caravan association as these people will be your future customers.</p>
61	Jill Gibbs		Te Aroha	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>I think there is no need for freedom camping in Te Aroha at all. We have a campground and also the Caravan Association campground . It has been inviting undesirables to the area which we do not need. No one seems to police the policies that already exist when complaints have been made in the past. People who come here to tramp are either in accommodation provided or in one of the two campgrounds mentioned. The freedom campers we have been attracting are people who don't want to conform to our rules and regulations. Have no respect for locals or environment. Wairongomai should be prohibited. We feel unsafe there when tramping because of the undesirables that park there. Herries park should be prohibited as there is a children's playground there and again it attracts the undesirable freedom campers.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u></p> <p>Herries has a children's playground there shouldn't be any freedom camping there it just attracts the undesirable freedom campers who have no respect for anyone or rules. Last time a unregistered unwarranted bus was there with dogs that were complained about council didn't want to know.</p>
62	J Warrander		Currently matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>Having returned to NZ due to Covid we have been forced to live in a self contained vehicle. Initially we were able to gain employment which gave us free camping but since May I have become unemployed due to having a hip operation and my wife is unable to work since braking her ankle. So, how do you suggest we make ends meet on an income of approximately \$600 if we aren't able to freedom camp? We understand that some spoil it for others. But we always contribute to rubbish collecting, odd jobs etc. Most campgrounds charge in excess of \$300 week which we cannot afford. Please consider scenarios like ours before judging all freedom campers as home owners with income enough to pay \$400 fines. Perhaps permanent campers could enlist with Councils for more leniency? Thankyou</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p><u>Matamata Ward</u> We need more freedom camping please for people without homes</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> We need more freedom camping for self contained vehicles for people who do not own/rent homes</p>
63	Dan Warren		Te Aroha	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I personally think we should encourage freedom camping and provide the services required. The number of short term beds in the area are limited and the number of freedom campers are increasing. The campers spend their money on experiences and activities, that spend is spread across the whole Matamata Piako District, not just with short term accommodation suppliers.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Increase the Freedom Camping areas or improve the existing areas.</p>
64	Derek Bown		Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I agree with the proposal. Tourism at all budget levels brings income to the community (even freedom campers need food and lattes)</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> I don't agree with Pohlen Park. It is a residential area and no reason for campers to be there Otherwise I agree with all other locations</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Agreed</p>
65	Gary Stenersen	RCAi	Waitarere Beach	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> New proposed by laws stating must have CSC. My question to you is why change what you have now as your area is great to freedom camp in I see no need for change</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>There needs to more space available as some people have no reward for spaces provided and tend to take up more than one space.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> Once again more spaces need be available</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> At least there are more options with so many places available</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> The new proposed standard was created to suit a very small minority of by a certain club to promote their own agenda</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> RCAi have in place a strict protocol in that members need to answer and understand what it means to freedom camp responsibly and we will ban members that break the rules. We have window cards stating that a toilet is on board the vehicle. We believe our accreditation program should also be allowed to be accepted along beside the current proposed CSC regulations. The link to our accreditation and education site https://www.accreditedcampersnz.com/?fbclid=IwAR0I2A4RoAAmj8PcJpcKWZasCXvBEUbsR41QhxKjjULbpQWqO4pj-VxMW2o</p>
66	Brett Harris	Barrister	Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think this is a mature and sensible step for your region and for other regions like Central Otago and Queenstown. We have enduring duties as guardians of our regions and of this country to ensure that we protect what we have - as much as possible. We can and do welcome visitors but real structure around what can be done will create much needed certainty. Great idea.</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> In my view Pohlen park should be entirely camping free. This is a public area and recreational ground and having only 3 vehicles runs the very real risk that people will turn up thinking they "can" stay and perhaps decide that 4 or 5 vehicles is also</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>good enough if they arrive late - for example. Personally I think this should be an excluded area.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u></p> <p>(a) This is a good idea in theory but who will take the time to find it?</p> <p>(b) If it is easily available - yes.</p> <p>(c) Just this morning, I went to the Standards website and although this is a Sponsored Standard, I was unable to download the Standard, so this would need to be resolved of course.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u></p> <p>I have not seen the suggested penalties for intentionally or for accidentally breaching the Rules.</p> <p>I do think those penalties must be "real". There might be some discretion to reduce or minimise penalties but constant, reckless and the worst of offending should be penalised in a meaningful way. Thanks for listening - Brett</p>
67	Bruce Maxwell		Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>Who is going to enforce the freedom camping by-law, Mr freedom camper will sleep in whatever he wishes and stay where ever he wishes simply because Council wont police the bylaw.You say in your phamplet, that if you are homeless you can sleep in your car wherever you like. Are you serious</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p> <p>Unless you police it, no point in the bylaw</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u></p> <p>W.O.T</p>
68	Denise Williams		Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>Excellent so long as they are enforced</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u></p> <p>The same people park here every week, have seen them raid the fridge and two in particular appear to be drug dealing, not good. These people should not be allowed to do this week in</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
					<p>week out, there appears to be 4 or 5 regularsparkingthere which means the true casual freedom campers can't as there is no space.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> Definitely, the rules should apply the same everywhere then there is no confusion.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Must be monitored.</p>
69	Peter Colmore-Williams		Matamata	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u></p> <p>Councils need to wake up to the fact that csc freedom campers spend money, lots of it in fact \$64 per couple per day. The more 3+day fc sites the more money the businesses get in their towns .</p> <p>20 sites within ready teach of a town center can produce over \$400,000 per year. Fc need food, fuel, repairs and maintenance, cafes, op shopping, retail, takeaways, etc. All of these make up csc freedom camping needs. On a recent trip to Nelson we spent \$4000 in 3 weeks due to the above needs. If you don't want to miss out on this money you need to provide sites and these sites need to be accessable to town. Home travelers travel Nz and go back to the friends that look then regularly. Be forward thinking as Home travelers are the old Batch owners, it's the new trend and it's big business. The NZMCA club in 14 years has grown from 36,000 members to over 117,000, that's roughly 60,000 vehicles in their club alone, that's money you need to have. Think big.</p> <p>Peter</p> <p><u>Matamata Ward</u> Not enough sites available</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> That's fine</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> RE read my comments and think big.</p>

#	Name	Organisation	Town	Freedom camp?	Comments
70	Katrina tarrant		Morrinsville	Yes	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> Wrong! The cost of a family able to take a holiday in New Zealand is just so far out of reach. We love to take out tent and kids and give them a kiwi summer without having to pay huge amounts of money. If you make tenting not an option you are just taking away from young family's. Go back 30 years you could pull up and camp anywhere my parents tell me how easy it was. How is it far that your generation is now saying we cant!!!! It's unfair and I highly oppose. We always take all our rubbish away and stay close to amenities. Stop making more rules for people and put more things out of reach for the below average New Zealand family. You talk about having to be self contained. Surely you guys can work out how far out of reach that is for most people!! Again supporting the rich with their flash Campers.</p> <p><u>Morrinsville Ward</u> If you allow campers allow tents stop discriminating.</p>
71	David King		Te Aroha	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> They look fair to everyone.</p> <p><u>Te Aroha Ward</u> Very happy to see The Domain is prohibited.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> A critical part of the policy.</p>
72	Aileen Crayford		Matamata	No	<p><u>District-wide restrictions</u> I think they are reasonable except for point 3. I don't see the necessity for the stipulation of not camping within 500m of a site used within the month. I think rules should be clear and logical, and this one, to me, is not. We are NZMCA members, and have full CSC on our caravan. We are unlikely to freedom camp locally, but see benefits to the local towns if rules are reasonable. I question whether point 3 is necessary.</p> <p><u>Incorporation of New Zealand Standards</u> I agree with it and understand what it includes.</p> <p><u>Other feedback</u> Motorhome Friendly towns are known to travellers, who do spend money there.</p>

21st September 2023

Matamata Piako District Council

Mesdames/Sirs, RE FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

In making my submission to the above the first point I would like to make is that 17-25% of Kiwis cannot afford/with frequent cyberattacks =do not use the internet to go to the only proffered way by MPDC NZ Freedom Camping. Being one of this percentage hence this written submission.

Unclear as to why MPDC has Passive and Active Reserve Management Plans in the first place. Also nothing listed regarding the distinct variety of so termed..'Freedom Campers' ..

- A. Overseas visitor travellers, in self contained vehicles
- B. N.Z. Citizen freedom campers, in self contained vehicles.
- C. Homeless people, living in their cars or vans.

The first two seem to be acceptable to M.P.D.C.; the 4 night stay @ one approved MPDC site reasonable as well as maximum number of vehicles on site on any one night. But why the specific location ban within any one month period?

The writer is in B. having lost 2 successive rental owing to landlords 'selling up'.

As regards C. other Press articles hint that the proposed Bylaw will NOT apply to 'homeless people'.

A,B, & C, in all cases who from MPDC will police the new bylaw conditions? MPDC poor policing on other public transgressions appear to be non existant. Regularly one observes Kaimai Valley utes with empty trays wizz past fkytipping and abandoned road cones to cite an example.

From personal observation the number of C.who whilst they may be able to toilet/shower @ work or use gym membership facilities , surely MPDC could include 'coin in the slot' shower facilities with Public Toilet sites. The Rec. ground Morrinsville camping grounds has such a facility = toilet/showers for both sexes, all locked up since 1947 (only joking). At least MPDC could raise some income from this amenity.

Yours faithfully,

A.R. BAKER.

cc Morrinsville News



Freedom Campers

Matamata Piako District Council is developing a Freedom Camping Bylaw in response to changes to the freedom camping legislation. This will include proposing specific sites in the district where freedom campers should camp and can't camp.

Council will enter a consultation period starting September 18 through to mid-October. To receive e-updates on this please go to the MPDC website and select Bylaws under document type, and sign up.

Freedom Camping Bylaw - have your say

Do you have an opinion on freedom camping?

We're looking for feedback on a proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.

Matamata-Piako is one of New Zealand's visitor hot spots. We've got lots of attractions to explore and host around 18,000 nights of freedom camping each year, but we currently don't have a Freedom Camping Bylaw to identify areas which are not suitable for those visitors to park.

New Zealand's freedom camping laws allow camping on all Council land and roads, unless the Council prohibits it through other methods (like a Bylaw or Reserve Management Plan (RMP)). So we're proposing to put a new Bylaw in place that strikes a balance between attracting and supporting tourism in our area, while protecting special places in our district.

This is your opportunity to have your say about the Freedom Camping Bylaw which proposes to:

- Restrict freedom camping to people in self-contained motor vehicles (i.e. not tents or other temporary structures).
- Identify areas where people CAN'T freedom camp (prohibited areas).
- Identify areas where people MAY freedom camp (restricted areas), with a maximum number of self-contained vehicles that can stay in each location.
- Set a maximum of four nights stay in any specific location within any one-month period.
- Prevent freedom camping within 500m of a place you have previously camped within the last month.
- Also, we would incorporate the NZ Self-containment Standard for Freedom Camping into the Bylaw.

In line with this, we are also proposing to make amendments to some of our Reserve Management Plans.

The following RMPs would be amended by adding the following statement to the Management Intent section of each RMP: "That freedom camping is permitted in self-contained vehicles in designated areas for a maximum of four consecutive nights."

- Hetana Street Reserve, Matamata (Passive RMP)
- Waitoa Railway Reserve, Waitoa (Passive RMP)
- Herries Memorial Park, Te Aroha (Active RMP)
- Waihou Recreation Reserve, Waihou (Active RMP)

We also propose to remove Te Aroha Domain from Appendix E of the Active RMP, so it is no longer noted as a location which may be appropriate for camping.

For more information, or to have your say, visit mpdc.nz/freedomcamping.

Feedback opened on Monday, 18 September, and closes on **Wednesday, 18 October 2023**.

From:
Sent: Monday, 16 October 2023
To: Info-line
Subject: Freedom camping

ATTENTION! This e-mail originates from outside of the council. Do not open attachments or click links unless you are sure this e-mail comes from a known sender and you know the content is safe.

Points to remember, mobile homes (talking about self contained vehicles) bring money to the town.

Retirees, families and visitors come to town to eat out at restaurants, clubs, visit races, wairere falls, hobbitville, Firth tower, base for visiting other small towns ie Morrinsville, etc
4 days is not long enough.

If Work needs to be done on RVs it will help the economy/businesses here
and the better/ longer their stay the more money will be spent and more people from word of mouth will follow.

I do think there should be more places to stay and/or for longer in each town for vans to stay in. I.e. we have rallies for 60+ vans, where is the place in these towns to hold rallies?. Only holding 4 vans a night doesn't help in this regard.

Also dump stations and water at the sights is important.
Thanks
GC

Facebook comments

Post message: 🚐 Hi campers, do you have an opinion on Freedom Camping in the Matamata-Piako District? We want to hear your thoughts!

We're currently seeking feedback on: where people will and won't be able to Freedom Camp, how long they'll be able to stay there, and what type of vehicle they'll need to be in. Consultation for the Bylaw is now open, and you have until Wednesday, 18 October 2023 to get your submissions in.

🌲 For more information, or to have your say, go to [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#)

Posted on: All Points Camping NZ

Posted by: MPDC

Time posted: September 26 at 8:46am

13 Comments

Comment: Thank you for engaging about this

4 👍

Commenter name: Gary Stoneley

Comment: There's no actual area to have your say. The link keeps going around in circles. Anyone else having trouble

1 👍

Commenter name: Nicky Howarth

Response: Hi Nicky, try this link and let me know if it's still not working for you: [Freedom Camping Bylaw Submission Form](#) 2 👍

Responder name: MPDC

Response: nope. Maybe someone else can try and see if its just me

Responder name: Nicky Howarth

Response: Nicky oh dear, that's no good. Can you see the main MPDC web page okay? You might be able to navigate to it from the landing page.

Try here: <https://www.mpdcc.govt.nz/>

Responder name: MPDC

Response: MPDC ues I can getcas far as the link about have your say and freedom camping but nothing happens clicking on either of those. Click other links that say have yr say but same thing. Probably the operator 😊

Responder name: Nicky Howarth

Response:

Comment: What happens with our 4 legged or feathered family members?

1 👍

Commenter name: Gillian Searle

Response: Hi Gillian, when it comes to dogs they will still need to comply with our dog bylaw. The main things to remember are that they need to be on a lead unless in a specific dog exercise area, and they aren't allowed in main town centres between 8am-6pm. You can see the full dog bylaw here:

Responder name: MPDC

Response: That main town centre rule is a bit tough! A dog severely limits where folk can stop, take a break, buy a coffee or use other shops. But does this by-law also mean that the farmers cannot come to town with dogs on the back of the ute? They won't get much shopping done before 8am or after 6pm! And I imagine that most dog owners will not want to leave their dog alone in their vehicle at any distance form where they shop, as the vehicle or dog may be stolen if the windows need to be left down.

Responder name: Anne Grondman

Comment: NOT INTERESTED 8 NEVER ASKED to receive such postj!!!!!!

Commenter name: Dominique Greenslade

Post: If you use these Waikato areas for freedom camping. Please have your say Although I have no clue HOW. The link at <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/> does not offer any survey or questionnaire or details on how to HAVE YOUR SAY? But found it here <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/>

PLUS they want to try and include the old NZS regulations in the Certified Self-containment requirements??? <https://www.mpd.govt.nz/>

Posted by: Bette Cosgrove

Post time: October 16 at 6:48am

2 comments

Comment: I have. Went to their website on freedom camping proposal 2 👍

Commenter name: Leonie Gentry

Comment: You can park any where in your own country

Commenter name: Tracey Maitland

Post message: 🚗 Do you think self-contained vehicles should be able to freedom camp here?

You might see a few signs around the district highlighting the areas that we're discussing in the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.

🗓️ Submissions are open now and close on Wednesday, 18th October, so don't wait too long to have your say! [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#)

Posted on: MPDC Facebook page

Time Posted: 1 October 2023

26 comments

Comment: Where is "here"

Commenter name: Jan Heal

Response: Hi Jan, we have identified some areas that may not be suitable for Freedom Camping, these are the prohibited areas. We have also identified areas appropriate for Freedom Camping subject to restrictions. You can see a these areas through an interactive map found on our website here: [Freedom Camping Interactive Maps](#) 1 👍

Responder name: MPDC

Response: MPDC I just liked the area and wondered where it was. I live in Matamata

Responder name: Jan Heal

Comment: Sure. 1 👍

Commenter name: James Paterson

Response: Hi James, be sure to have your say, by putting in a submission through our online form at [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#)

Responder name: MPDC

Comment: Absolutely!! And restart Morrinsville camping ground... such a waste!! 21 👍

Commenter name: Coke Fitzgibbon

Response: Coke Fitzgibbon agreed

Responder name: John Howlett

Comment: Absolutely and I agree with restarting camping ground. Total waste and in this economic climate the councils all around NZ should be making camping easier and not harder for family's!!!Holidays should not just be for the ones that can afford self containment campers. I'm actually appalled that is has been allowed to happen. I have already made a submission. 17👍

Commenter name: Katrina Tarrant

Comment: Have never understood why our recreation ground was closed down for camping. It's no wonder campers sometimes revert to freedom camping, and this includes all of New Zealand. What an absolute waste! Plus no wonder mobile homes are often parked in local swimming pool carport. There's nowhere else for them to park. Morrinsville can do better than this. Come on councillors. You've been voted in to look after our towns and people. We pay high rates, I would now like to see our taxes working for us. 6👍

Commenter name: Judy Hayes

Comment: Absolutely yes with fn bells on 1👍

Commenter name: Allison Edwards

Comment: The problem with the old Morrinsville Recreation Ground camping ground was that more and more it was used by Hamilton WINZ for emergency housing. Without any of the services that some of these people need. Anti social behaviour stopped other campers enjoying the site. There were drugs being openly sold there. At the time there was also a children's park nearby where kids were being harassed and/or subjected to abuse. Also sex workers operating out of caravans. This was, of course before such work was decriminalised

The toilet blocks were constantly being vandalised (especially for the copper). How many times did Council have to repaint facilities because of tagging? Too many to mention.

The camping ground didn't take a lot in camping fees, with all of the above CONSTANT repair costs it wasn't fair on the Council to keep ratepayers paying for it to stay open.

Lastly the camping grounds were never set up for long term residents and yet some people lived there for years. IT was very traumatic when they had to move.

If a camping ground was to open it needs to have good, safe short term spaces. Strict but basic visitor terms of use in place. Preferable an on-site manager. 7👍

Commenter name: Teresa-Anne Brown

Comment: I can tell you, there are two kinds of people. Those who don't mind parking up under Street lights, and those that won't. 😊

Commenter name: Marlon Mark James

Comment: If they're supporting local and spending money in our district they can park where they like! 7👍

Commenter name: Caron Stewart

Response: Caron agree! People forget self contained campers don't need shower, toilet, bins ect. Just literally somewhere to park overnight.

Completely different kettle of fish to freedom campers who hang their laundry out on public netball courts. 5👍

Responder name: Annaliese Farrelly

Comment: Yes!!! 1👍

Commenter name: Nellie Engelbrecht

Comment: Great idea 🖐️ 1👍

Commenter name: Matt Ratcliffe

Comment: Yea they should be aloud 1👍

Commenter name: Lisa O'Hanlon

Comment: good on Matamata-Piako for this initiative for consultation 🖐️ 3👍

Commenter name: Peter McIndoe

Comment: Maybe yes, but limit number of nights (1-2) and max number of vehicles at any time, true self-contained vehicles, not vans with a porta pottie. Strict enforcement. 1👍

Commenter name: Beverly Taylor

Response: Hi Beverly, thanks for your feedback. Can you please fill out an online submission form at [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#) so we can have a record of your official submission/feedback. 1 👍

Responder name: MPDC

Comment: Yes

1 👍

Commenter name: Garry Clark

Comment: absolutely yes

1 👍

Commenter name: Jo Cottingham

Comment: Good idea, are there toilets there

Commenter name: David Keeble

Response: David most of the locations we've identified for freedom camping are near public toilets. However to freedom camp at these sites the vehicles must be certified as self contained, so should also have a toilet and water on board 😊

Responder name: MPDC

Comment: Council should clean the creek at their back door b4hand. Sad sooo full of rubbish

Commenter name: Sharon Taylor

Post message: 🚐 Hi campers, do you have an opinion on Freedom Camping in the Matamata-Piako District? We want to hear your thoughts!

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🏕️ For more information, or to have your say, go to [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#)

Posted on: Living on the road in NZ

Posted by: MPDC

Time posted: September 26 at 8:48am

20 comments

Comment: The answer to the question is: permit freedom camping anywhere on public land except the clearly identified and mapped and described restricted and prohibited areas. Blanket bans are not lawful, and contravene the bill of rights. 6 👍

Commenter name: Marlon Mark James

Response: Hi Marlon, thanks for your feedback. That is what we are trying to achieve with this Bylaw, by identifying the areas that should be restricted and prohibited. You can see the maps of those areas here: [Freedom Camping Interactive Maps](#) 2 👍

Responder name: MPDC

Comment: Fully self contained on any areas you allow Freedom Camping and inspected/enforced regularly and if not fully self contained – fine them and move them on 2 👍 😊

Commenter name: Robyn Heta

Response: Hi Robyn, thanks for the feedback. If you enter it here then it will be seen by our councillors and taken into consideration.

Responder name: MPDC

Response: MPDC can't fine homeless people fyi 1 🗳️

Responder name: Gina Castle-Taylor

Response: Robyn move them on in this first instance, with warning. Imo. Infringe if they don't comply. 2 👍

Comment: I often park over in Matamata on my way through. Its quite nice at the Green, but can get a bit busy... Although I've seen rather a lot of people there who weren't full self-contained parked overnight there as well. I've never had a problem at all... Also, I do stay the occasional night at RapuRapu Reserve on the RapuRapu road Te Poi area... Its lovely there, but can get a bit rough at time with rubbish often being dumped and you do need to be fully self-contained... They got rid of the public toilets there years ago because of constant vandalism. It's a pity about RapuRapu Reserve... One of the last places where people could take their families for free camping has gone because of bad behaviour by a few hoons... 1👍

Commenter name: Annie Bland

Response: Thanks Annie, it's great to hear from people who camp in our district. If you send us a submission then it will be included in the consultation process, and you can have your say on the different areas. Click here for more: [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#) thanks!

Responder name: MPDC

Response: Annie what needs to happen is to put MORE freedom campers there. The responsible users of the place act as guardians of the place. 3👍

Responder name: Marlon Mark James

Response: Marlon Its definitely a place worth protecting 2👍

Responder name: Annie Bland

Comment: Is there a bylaw in place already as it's noticeable a couple of bus things stay more than 2/3 nights in Matamata township. 1👍

Commenter name: Karen Sales

Response: Hi Karen, no we don't currently have any Bylaw in place. This would provide us with a tool to more people on after 4 nights if necessary, thanks. 1👍

Responder name: MPDC

Comment: The situation with homeless freedom camping needs to be clarified. 1👍

Commenter name: Pippa Bayley

Response: Hi Pippa, thanks for your message. This Bylaw will not include people who are homeless and therefore need to sleep in their vehicles. It also won't include drivers resting to avoid fatigue. This is specifically targeted to give guidance around Freedom Camping. 3👍

Responder name: MPDC

Response: MPDC tough ask for the ranger who has to decide

2👍

Responder name: Karen Sales

Response: MPDC As an ex-resident of Matamata, I visit often... and do enjoy 'coming home' (so to speak) I've also notices the growing homeless problem (Not just Matamata)... Would there be a way to also sort out an overnight parking area for them and those who wish to freedom camp but aren't fully compliant with the self containment laws specifically... It could possible alleviate some of the problems or distractions that are sometimes created with freedom camping and self-containment... Just a quiet and respectful suggestion...

Responder name: Annie Bland

Response: Annie yes, build more affordable housing

1👍

Responder name: Michael Tarr

Comment: I've never freedom Camped, only ever done DOC sites, but we've just purchased a caravan and our daughter still wants us to camp together, most of these places prohibit tents, but if they're using our facilities only sleeping in a tent, can they still come with us to a free site? Unfortunately the economy is forcing people to budget further and this year we're not sure she'll be able to afford the DOC fee's I think councils should Think if families who Camp in tents too, not everyone can afford an RV or caravan.

Commenter name: Kat Smith

Response: Kat I am sure if your caravan self containment certificate covers the amount of people it can berth. Then whether they sleep in a tent or the caravan shouldn't make a difference. 1👍

Responder name: Doug Meyer

Response: Doug tents are not covered by the self containment rules and never should be.

Responder name: Michael Tarr

Post: 🚐 Hi campers, do you have an opinion on Freedom Camping in the Matamata-Piako District? We want to hear your thoughts! We're currently seeking feedback on: where people will and won't be able to Freedom Camp, how long they'll be able to stay there, and what type of vehicle they'll need to be in. Consultation for the Bylaw is now open, and you have until Wednesday, 18 October 2023 to get your submissions in. 🏕️ For more information, or to have your say, go to [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#)

Posted on: Self Build Campervans New Zealand

Posted by: MPDC

Time posted: September 26 at 8:43am

17 comments

Comment: They don't need a bylaw, there's a government freedom camping law and there is a Bill of rights that says, we can responsibly use any public land we like as long as we're responsible, so all they want to do is not for freedom camping, this is to close down freedom camping their new by law not to help freedom camping its to end freedom camping as we know as the Kiwi way of life 8👍

Commenter name: Jon Seal

Response: Hi Jon, the idea of this Bylaw it to look at areas that might need to be restricted or prohibited, based off the assessment criteria in the Freedom Camping Act that you mentioned. We can only stop or restrict Freedom Camping in an area if its necessary to: protect the area, protect people's health and safety, or protect access to an area. You can see the site assessments and more here: [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#) 3👍

Responder name: MPDC

Response: MPDC yes while it's true, your area is one of the better in the whole country for freedom camping this is still going to be a clamp down of our freedom to camp. You already have laws about littering and pollution and you already can stop people doing these things, it's just endless bylaws on top of bylaws on top of bylaws on top of bylaws. 1👍

Responder name: Jon Seal

Response: Hi Jon, thanks for your feedback. I'm sorry you feel that way, we have definitely been lucky to have very few problems with freedom campers in our district. Currently the Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment are funding a majority of the work around this Bylaw, so we thought it would be a good time to get a framework in place. Education and enforcement will only come from complaints, so if there are no issues then we won't need to get involved. Either way, we would love to have your feedback included with our proposal, so please do fill out a submission form and share your thoughts. Thank you 😊 1👍

Responder name: MPDC

Response: MPDC having a fixed toilet will fix absolutely nothing anyone with half a brain would realize this and it's the people that need educating not the vehicle 2👍

Responder name: Graeme Haszard

Response: Hi Graeme, thanks for your message, and we are certainly planning to educate people. We'd love to hear your thoughts around fixed toilets, as that's what this consultation period is all about. Please send through a submission if you have ideas about our proposal [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#) thanks! 1👍

Responder name: MPDC

Response: Fixed toilets is ridiculous as the law will achieve nothing after all both porta loo and fixed cassettes which have to be carried to empty at some point. 1👍

Responder name: Graeme Haszard

Response: Hi Graeme, I appreciate what you're saying. The Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 is now a law, and so fixed toilets are a part of being certified self-contained. Our Bylaw proposes that Freedom Camping is restricted to people using self-contained motor vehicles. If you think we've got that wrong, then please put in a submission. Thanks.

Responder name: MPDC

Response: MPDC no you havnt got it wrong but having a fixed toilet is such a crazy idea people will just flout the law and who is going to police it

Responder name: Graeme Haszard

Response: Graeme I understand that certified plumbers will be issuing the self-contained stickers, so hopefully that will keep things aligned with the law. Within our district we will have an enforcement team to follow up with any complaints that come in.

Responder name: MPDC

Response: Jon do you expect anything else from a money hungry government/councils? They will do anything in their power to create more laws, so they can hand out more fines and make more money, behind the façade that they are making these bs laws to protect the community/land. In reality – behind the façade, they are doing anything in favour of their own interests they can whole pretending its all for the better of the community. And that's just the tip off the iceberg. Doesn't matter where u go. Every government is the same. Its just a matter of how well they hide their bs. Its sickening tbh 1👍

Responder name: Zuckky Suckky

Response: MPDC again, bill of rights over rules your excuses. That's why councils never go thru with court action when some one disputes. You all are wolves in sheep's clothing. Fact

Responder name: Dave Sth

Response: Notice how the framework, contains nothing about diesel heaters, the whole thing is a farce

Responder name: Paul Stevenson

Response: Zukky well the whole plan is to get rid of private cars, 15 minute cities the reality is we're not allowed to go 15 minutes away from home. And when we do we'll need to be herded on to a train or a bus to go to the beach. But only if our social credit score allows us otherwise we'll be sitting a home freezing with no power or food. 2👍😬

Responder name: Jon Seal

Response: MPDC your bylaw seeks to restrict it to people who have certified self contained vehicles. Thereby discriminating against those who can't afford to have them.

Responder name: Mike MikeApril Sf

Comment: That's the idea by we.know in this so called democracy, any law of restriction to our freedoms is going to lead to penalties and fines, and further restrictions for the imaginary "sake of health and safety." 2👍

Commenter name: Wiremu-Hone Nuitone

Comment: First of all hats off for at least directly asking those affected for feedback. This is more than most other councils have done. Have you asked NZMCA if you can put a similar post on their Facebook page? They have over 100k members. But please be honest, how much notice are you going to take of any (non abusive) comments and do any of the people making the final decisions have any experience in vehicle camping and freedom camping?

Commenter name: Bruce Graham

Post: 🚗 Hi campers, do you have an opinion on Freedom Camping in the Matamata-Piako District? We want to hear your thoughts! We're currently seeking feedback on: where people will and won't be able to Freedom Camp, how long they'll be able to stay there, and what type of vehicle they'll need to be in. Consultation for the Bylaw is now open, and you have until Wednesday, 18 October 2023 to get your submissions in. 🏕️ For more information, or to have your say, go to [Freedom Camping Bylaw](#)

Posted on: NZ Fun Adventures Camping

Posted by: MPDC

Time posted: 26 September

Comment: What about homeless people living in cars? Where are they allowed to park? Under Labour and National our housing crisis is only going to get worse with the cost of living etc. 1 👍

Commenter name: Angel Char

Response: Hi Angel, thanks for your comment. This Bylaw does not include people who are homeless and as a result need to stay in their vehicles. It is specific to Freedom Campers wanting to camp outside of a campground. 2 🗳️ 👍

Responder name: MPDC

Response: Angel how is it any Councils problem regarding the homeless – round them all up and put them in a designated compound ie dessert road – let them make their own futures and learn how to survive by growing their own food, make a constructive effort to help themselves 6 👍 🗳️

Responder name: Robyn Heta

Response: Robyn a lot of people are not homeless by choice with the housing crisis all over New Zealand. I was homeless once and I worked a 40 hrs week while living in my car because I was unable to afford a home. You are a very cruel person who has no empathy for people who are genuinely homeless due to National selling off state houses and this Labour govt not doing anything about the cost of living crisis. You could be homeless sooner than you think under this current govt even if you own home. As Klaus Schwab the founder of the WEF said You will own nothing, but be happy. And our govt apart of the WEF, UN. So get off your high horse and stop thinking all homeless people are so called low lives. A lot of them work and pay taxes, so have a good hard look at yourself because you are pure evil with your comment. 1 👍

Responder name: Angel Char

Response: Robyn you will be surprised how many people are homeless, yet are contributing to society. They work like the rest of us (yes, actual jobs) and look like the rest of us. They are not necessarily drunk or on drugs. So, Robyn, I hope you will be flush with money once you get some huge unexpected bills and health problems, although you could do with some karma to humble you.

Responder name: Keka Gatycob

Comment: I am just going to jump in and say this quickly... If someone is homeless and choosing to sleep in a vehicle they are not camping. They are “residing” out of a vehicle. “Camping” is a recreational activity which people chose to do separately from their standard way of life. We should not use “camping” as a means to blur the lines and lives of the “homeless” who may need assistance or support to improve their situation. The whole “Freedom Camping” topic is actually simple if you apply it only to those who are actually camping. 9👍

Commenter name: NZ Fun Adventures Admin

Comment: The bit where you can’t camp within 500m of where you previously camped within a month, is something you could police using discretion. If an area is full and the only area to park is where you camped last is the only spot left, then that should be aloud.

Commenter name: Wendy Lankshear

Response: Wendy how often is this a thing? Is this not a conversation opportunity to be had?

Responder name: NZ Fun Adventures Admin

Response: I used to be a responsible camping ambassador for a council and yes it happens more than you think. People passing through on there way to somewhere and then stopping over night again on there way back, and all the other spots were full so they have no choice. Because of the bylaw of not staying in the same place I was meant to get them to move on but I would just note the situation...and sometimes it got me in trouble lol

Responder name: Wendy Lankshear
