

Council Briefing Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 15 September, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Cr Shelley Deeming (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

Scribe N. Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

The briefing was facilitated by Councillor Shelley Deeming.

2. Reports

2.1 Camping in Public Places bylaw review - draft Statement of Proposal 2020

Vita Strohush (Strategic Planner - Bylaws) covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda and presentation.

The purpose of the briefing is:

- To seek feedback from Elected Members on the draft Statement of Proposal for the review of the Camping in Public Places Bylaw;
- To provide Elected Members a proposed timetable for the adoption of the Statement of Proposal, consultation and hearings.

Elected members have had two previous briefings on the review of the Camping in Public Places Bylaw. The work presented today reflects feedback received from elected members. At the briefing held on 6 August 2020, elected members indicated comfort with Option 1 (a full review of the Bylaw and the associated schedules). Staff have prepared the draft Statement of Proposal for the review of the Camping in Public Places Bylaw based on Option 1 – full review of the Bylaw. The next step in this process is to finalise the Statement of Proposal to go out to the public. Feedback from this briefing will be incorporated into the finalised Statement of Proposal for adoption by Council.

Elected Member feedback

- *Schedule 2: Restricted areas for self-contained vehicles – the designated sites in Ruakaka are close to campgrounds which creates competition, the logical thing to do would be to prohibit freedom camping in these sites, this would encourage people to use the camping sites – Staff advised that that the proposed designated site is a small area, allowing for control over the numbers of freedom campers. The proposal provides for a balanced approach that can be defended under the criteria. Protecting commercial campgrounds from competition is not one of the criteria Council can use for restricting freedom camping under the Freedom Camping Act. Feedback from community members on the Statement of Proposal will be considered.*
- *Schedule 3: Restricted areas for self-contained and non self-contained vehicles – the proposed designated site at Ocean Beach carpark was supported.*
- *Schedule 3: Restricted areas for self-contained and non self-contained vehicles – the proposed designated site at Reotahi was supported.*
- *Schedule 4: Restricted areas for all camping – there are four campgrounds in Whananaki North, yet we are proposing designated sites for tents as well as self-contained and non self-contained vehicles. Enforcement of Freedom Camping is a cost to Council.*
- *Maps – elected members supported the inclusion of the sites of toilet blocks on the maps.*
- *Maps – the scale of the maps should be consistent.*
- *The introduction of seasonal restrictions on freedom camping at busy destination beaches and allowing freedom camping at Onerahi Sportspark and Tikipunga Sportspark from 18 December to the end of January was supported.*
- *It would be helpful if the Statement of Proposal included an indication of how many vehicles can be accommodated at a site.*
- *Submissions from local people must be considered as this review impacts on local people.*
- *There was discussion on the issue of permanent vehicle dwellers and homeless people. Elected members indicated that there is a need for policy around these issues - Staff advised that these issues are not within scope of*

the review of the Camping in Public Places Bylaw. A small related change to the Public Places Bylaw is recommended to provide clarity around the use of public places for the purposes of accommodation.

3. Closure of Meeting

The briefing concluded at 13.56pm.