

Statement of Proposal

***Review of the
Camping in Public Places Bylaw***

Purpose of this briefing

- Discuss the draft Statement of Proposal
 - Option 1 – full review
 - Changes to specific areas
- Updated bylaw review timeline

Last briefing on 6 August 2020

- Full bylaw review recommended
 - full scope of public consultation - reassess all areas in the District
 - flexibility in response to submissions
- Clearly define matters out of scope of review
 - **Provision of infrastructure/facilities** - budgets for capital cost and ongoing maintenance must come through Long Term Plan funding
 - **Vehicle dwellers and homeless persons** - as freedom camping is inherently a temporary activity it does not include permanently living in a vehicle. The permission to stay overnight on public land applies to camping activities but does not allow campers to use public land for permanent living accommodation.
 - **Competition with commercial campgrounds** – not one of the bylaw-making criteria under s.11(2) of the Freedom camping Act

Key elements of the review proposal

- District-wide matters
 - More flexibility around temporary closures
 - Additional health and safety provisions (parking, effluent)
 - Providing clarity in the Bylaw as to the temporary nature of camping
- Area-specific changes
 - Seasonal restrictions at popular beaches to protect public access;
 - Overflow freedom camping sites for the peak summer season;
 - Further regulation and restriction of areas that have experienced pressure from freedom camping;
 - Providing some additional capacity for freedom camping at suitable locations.
- Associated amendment to the Public Places Bylaw

Seasonal restrictions

Restrict camping to outside peak season (which runs 18 December to 08 February) to maintain appropriate public access to the area and to protect the area.

- **Kowharewa Bay**
- **Matapouri – Wehiwehi Rd carpark**
- **Whangaumu Bay – main reserve**
- **Sandy Bay**
- **Woolleys Bay – western carpark**

Overflow summer sites

Designate as a peak season overflow site for self-contained vehicles only under Schedule 2.

Camping restricted to times where it does not conflict with sporting activities from 18 December up until Northland/Auckland Anniversary Day.

- **Onerahi Sportspark** *Map Reference: S2-02B*
- **Tikipunga Sportspark** *Map Reference: S2-03D*

New prohibited sites

- **Abbey Caves**
 - prohibit camping to protect public access to key district recreational attractions
- **Helena Bay**
 - prohibit camping to protect the area and to protect health (sanitation).
- **McAuslin Road, Matapouri**
 - prohibit camping along the length of the road reserve which is under Council control to protect public safety and access
- **One Tree Point Road layby**
 - Prohibit to protect health and safety (unstable cliff face)
- **Otamure Bay**
 - prohibit camping to protect dunes. DOC camping already available in the same area.
- **Whangaumu Reserve - west (22 Whangaumu Street)**
 - prohibit camping to protect access and parking in the area for people with disabilities to be able to drive up to the picnic table. A designated freedom camping site is available at the main reserve on the east end of Whangaumu Bay.
- **Finlayson Street/ Reyburn House Lane carpark**
 - prohibit camping to protect public access and use for markets

New designated sites

- **Ruakaka Riverside Reserve**

- restrict to self-contained vehicles only in a designated site to protect the area and access to the area.
- maximum one-night stay limit applies under Schedule 2.
- restriction will allow for improved management compared to the status quo, as it would allow control of the number of vehicles and encourage their turnover by limiting stay to one night (as compared to 3 nights under the general rule currently).

- **Riverside/Hatea East Carpark**

- restrict camping to self-contained vehicles only in a designated site to protect access to the area. Maximum one-night stay limit applies under Schedule 2.
- camping restricted to the hours between 6pm-8am. One night stay maximum. Parking rules apply after 8am.
- restriction will help disperse demand by limiting stay to one night only as compared to 3 nights under the general rule.
- benefit of providing balanced access to the Town Basin for day visitors who travel in large motorhomes

Further restrictions at areas under pressure

- **Ruakaka Beach Reserve**

- prohibit the landward side of the designated site at Ruakaka Beach Reserve due to parking safety concerns.
- Retain the seaward side of the designated freedom camping site and amend the maps.

- **Ocean Beach carpark**

- expand the designated site close to the toilets
- prohibit camping on the overflow grass carpark to protect the area and access to the area.

- **Whangaumu Bay – main reserve**

- seasonal restrictions see above
- extend the prohibited area to cover the far eastern end of the reserve in order to protect access to the area for boat launching. Extend the prohibited area to the far western side to protect safety and ecology, as area is sandy.

- **Whananaki North**

- Carpark was gravelled in 2018 and designated site was reduced by half due to soft ground issues
- Amend maps to reflect true location of parking and tenting area
- The carpark area is suitable for a maximum two large camping vehicles.

Reotahi

- Scenic Reserve – camping prohibited under the Reserves Act
- Council can authorise camping in tents in a specified area on the scenic reserve and impose conditions
- Remove the purple area from the prohibited (red) area during bylaw review
- Include a note in the bylaw (i.e. not part of the bylaw itself):
 - *“Explanatory note: Camping in this area permitted under the Reserves Act for Te Araroa Trail walkers only”.*
- Amend SOP accordingly



Next steps

- Feedback to staff to finalise the draft SOP and bylaw
- Council meeting – adopt SOP and decision to consult

Bylaw review timeline

Consultation



Hearings and Deliberations



Adoption

