



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Stuart Nash	<b>Portfolio</b>	Tourism
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Release of Discussion Document: Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand	<b>Date to be published</b>	9 April 2021

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
March 2021	Release of Discussion Document: Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand	Office of the Minister of Tourism
24 March 2021	Cabinet Economic Development Committee Minute of Decision: Release of Discussion Document: Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand DEV-21-MIN-0054	Cabinet Office

### **Information redacted**

**NO**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

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### Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand: Release of Discussion Document

Portfolio                      Tourism

On 24 March 2021, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1        **noted** that:
  - 1.1      freedom camping is an important part of the tourism offering for both New Zealanders and international visitors;
  - 1.2      the social licence granted by communities is being disrespected and disregarded by some freedom campers;
- 2        **noted** that the Freedom Camping Act 2011 was introduced to support local authorities and the Department of Conservation to manage freedom camping on publicly owned land;
- 3        **noted** that the government has provided substantial support to help manage freedom camping since 2017, including providing \$27 million to fund infrastructure, education activities, waste management and technology pilots;
- 4        **noted** that despite the actions taken by the government, many members of the community remain concerned about the impact of freedom camping in their regions;
- 5        **noted** that people who freedom camp in vehicles that are not certified as self-contained are likely contributing to community concerns about the environmental impact and cost of managing freedom camping;
- 6        **noted** that the discussion document *Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand: Proposed Changes to Support Effective Management of Freedom Camping in New Zealand* (the discussion document), attached to the paper under DEV-21-SUB-0054, sets out the following four proposals, which could help address a substantial proportion of freedom camping issues:
  - 6.1      make it mandatory for freedom camping in a vehicle to be done in a certified self-contained vehicle;
  - 6.2      make it mandatory for freedom campers to stay in a vehicle that is certified self-contained, unless they are staying at a site with toilet facilities (excluding public conservation lands and regional parks);

- 6.3 improve the regulatory tools for government land managers;
- 6.4 strengthen the requirements for self-contained vehicles;
- 7 **noted** that the costs of each of the above four proposals are yet to be fully worked out, including implementation costs for local government and the Department of Conservation, and that costs will be explored further in consultation with the Department of Conservation, Department of Internal Affairs and local authorities;
- 8 **agreed** to the public release of the discussion document, subject to any minor or editorial changes that may be required;
- 9 **agreed** to a five week public consultation period;
- 10 **invited** the Minister of Tourism, in consultation with the Minister of Local Government, Minister of Transport and Minister of Conservation, to report back to DEV in July 2021 on the outcome of the consultation and with final policy proposals.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Michael Wood  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Meka Whaitiri  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Rino Tirikatene, MP  
Dr Deborah Russell, MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister of Tourism