

## Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board feedback on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)'s proposed changes to support effective management of freedom camping in New Zealand

### Background

- Aotea / Great Barrier Island lies 90km east of Auckland City in the Hauraki Gulf and is Auckland Council's most remote and isolated area.
- Over 60 per cent of the island is Department of Conservation (DoC) estate; 43 per cent of which is the Aotea Conservation Park.
- The island has a permanent population of 936 residents (2018 Census)
- The island has no reticulated power, wastewater/septic, nor water. Households are off-the-grid powered by generators, solar and wind, and collect water by bore, stream-take or rainwater.
- Transport and freight to and from the island is by either plane, a 35-minute flight one way, or by ferry a four-and-a-half-hour trip one way. There is no on-island public transport.
- Telecommunications can be a challenge on the island with many black spots.

### Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board feedback

1. Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board has mixed views on the proposed options one and two with regards to individual freedoms over regulatory constraint, and waste/septic impacts to the local environment.

In addition, the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board:

2. endorses both proposed options three and four to improve the regulatory tools for government land managers and strengthen requirements for self-contained vehicles
3. notes that the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board area is under resourced with very limited staffing to give effect to any regulatory compliance monitoring
4. notes and supports the work being done to clearly distinguished homelessness from freedom camping to support public understanding, and to guide compliance and enforcement staff.

Signed:

Privacy of natural  
persons

Izzy Fordham  
Chair, Aotea/ Great Barrier Local Board

Signed:

Privacy of natural persons

Luke Coles  
Deputy Chair, Aotea/ Great Barrier Local Board