

# Auckland Tramping Club (Inc)



14<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
15 Stout Street  
PO Box 1473  
Wellington 6140  
Attention: Responsible Camping Submissions

Kia ora,

Re: Freedom Camping Consultation

Auckland Tramping Club is active throughout New Zealand, organising day, weekend, and extended trips involving a membership that is principally Auckland based.

We welcome the opportunity to provide our submission for the current Freedom Camping consultation process.

Currently we operate at least one weekend trip per month, and at least 6 extended trips (typically more than one week's duration) throughout the year.

We own and operate a club bus that we use for many of our trips, with other options being private cars, commercial shuttles, and hire vans.

Our typical weekend trips involve

- (Friday) evening departure from Auckland and drive to or close to the walking start location
- On arrival, sleep in the bus / other vehicle with some people opting to erect their tent. Given typical driving times from Auckland, we are arriving any time after 10 pm
- Walk starts early the next morning, possibly following a short onward travel to move one or more parties from the overnight location to their walk start point
- The various parties return to the vehicle two or more days' later, and drive home that day

Our destination for the first night is always selected as being one where toilet facilities are available. If there is no toilet right at the start of the walking track, we stay instead at the nearest private or public camping location that provides toilet facilities.

Auckland Tramping Club (Inc), PO Box 2358, Auckland 1140  
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Our vehicles are typically not camping vehicles - their purpose is just to get the group to and from the start of the walk, not a camping experience for several days in one location. If one party needs to use the bus as a base, the bus will be situated at a location where toilet facilities are provided.

By far the most comfortable place for members to sleep the first night is on our bus.

We strongly recommend Option 2 rather than Option 1, generally support Proposal 3 and remain neutral on Proposal 4.

The introduction of the Freedom Camping legislation prompted our club to become more conscious of our vehicle destinations, with the focus now being very much on using only locations where there are public toilet facilities. In the event that is not possible, our members are of course well versed in the procedures for socially and environmentally appropriate backcountry toileting, as they need to be wherever they are on public conservation land.

Our response to the specific options and questions in your discussion document follows.

## **Minister's Foreword**

We generally support the minister's objectives.

## **The scope of the discussion document - page 6**

We are strongly opposed to option 1

We strongly support option 2

We generally support Proposal 3

We are neutral on Proposal 4

## **Benefits of Freedom Camping - page 10**

Your analysis of freedom camping activity reflects quite a different user base and activity than what we have outlined for our members in this submission. It is important that you understand that the legislation catches a much wider range of overnight roadside usage, and as a result you need to ensure that there are not unintended consequences of changing the current regulations.

## **What the Government Wants To Achieve - Page 16**

How much do you agree that certain types of vehicle based freedom camping is a problem? – **Agree**

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## **Proposal 1 - Pages 17 to 19**

How much do you support the proposal to make it mandatory for vehicle based freedom campers to use a certified self-contained vehicle?

**Strongly disagree / opposed to this proposal**

Do you support this proposal? - **No**

Are there impacts of this proposal that you are concerned about?  
and ...

How might this proposal impact you?

**As explained above, this would severely curtail our weekend and longer multi day trip activities OR involve a major expenditure that the club can ill afford to replace our club bus with multiple camper van type vehicles. Our current bus was purchased 4 years ago and its expected lifetime before replacement, based on historical patterns, is a further 16-20 years.**

What things should the Government consider to implement this option?

**Revert to Option 2**

## **Proposal 2 - Pages 20 to 21**

How much do you support the proposal to make it mandatory for freedom campers to stay in vehicles which are certified self-contained, unless they are staying at a site with toilet facilities (excluding public conservation lands and regional parks)?

**Strongly support**

Do you support this proposal? **Yes**

**This proposal still provides scope to better manage freedom camping, but also places the onus on local authorities and DOC to provide suitable facilities at well frequented locations. It is to be noted that quite often the attraction for being there is on adjacent public conservation land administered by DOC, but the road location itself is managed by a local authority. In that scenario it is important that DOC still contributes to the provision and maintenance of suitable roadside facilities.**

How might this proposal impact you?

**Not significantly, since we already use track start destinations with toilet facilities.**

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What things should the Government consider to implement this option?

Working with local authorities and DOC, establish / continue an ongoing programme of assessing well frequented roadside locations to ensure that:

- Toilets are established
- Toilets are maintained regularly to a useable standard
- Signage at other locations clearly indicates the expectation of vehicle requirements and the penalties for non compliance
- Regular enforcement of the rules for freedom camping locations

## **Proposal 3 - Pages 22 to 25**

How much do you support the proposals to improve the regulatory tools for government land managers? **Support**

How might this proposal impact you?

**Minimal, so long as daytime visitors don't get confused with overnight ones**

## **Proposal 4 - Pages 26-27**

Do you think that the requirements for self-containment should be strengthened?

**Neutral**

**This has no impact for our members**

## **Other Considerations - Page 28**

### **Transition**

**Noting the desire by the Minister for quick implementation, it is whatever practical measures achieve that**

### **Homelessness**

**Option 2 would be the best solution for locations where there are homeless people who cannot be accommodated elsewhere**

Yours sincerely,

Tony Walton

President

Auckland Tramping Club

Ph Privacy of natural persons

Email [president@aucktramping.org.nz](mailto:president@aucktramping.org.nz)

Copy to Jim Morrow - secretary

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