



Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand – Submission Form

How to provide us with feedback

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is collecting written submissions to gather a range of views on the Government's proposals to improve the management of freedom camping in New Zealand.

This submission form brings together all the questions asked throughout the discussion document *Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand – Proposed changes to support effective management of freedom camping in New Zealand*.

Please feel free to answer as many or as few of these questions as you wish.

For more information and discussion about these topics please refer to the discussion document available at <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/supporting-sustainable-freedom-camping-in-aotearoa-new-zealand>.

Your submission can be returned by email to responsiblecamping@mbie.govt.nz. Submissions are due by midnight on Sunday 16 May.

Use and release of information

After the consultation period has closed, MBIE will publish a summary of submissions on our website at www.mbie.govt.nz.

We will not be publishing any individual submissions or names of individuals who made a submission. We may wish to include part of your submission in the summary of submissions; in that case, MBIE will first ensure we have your permission to do so.

If you are submitting on behalf of a business or organisation, MBIE will consider that you have consented to the content being included in the summary of submissions unless you clearly state otherwise. If your submission contains any information that is confidential or that you do not want published, you can say this in your submission.

The Privacy Act 2020 applies to your submission. Any personal information you supply to MBIE through your submission will only be used by MBIE for the purpose of producing a summary of submissions. The summary will present themes and no personally identifiable information will be included. The summary will be reported to the Minister of Tourism and be published online.

Submissions may be subject to requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). If your submission, or part of it, comes within the scope of an OIA request, MBIE would normally release it (excluding any personal information) to the person who asks for it. If you consider there are reasons for MBIE to withhold any of the information you are providing, please indicate these reasons in your submission.

Your details

What is the name of the person making this submission?

CHERYL ELSEY

If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of that organisation?

GOLDEN BAY PROMOTION ASSOCIATION

Is it okay for your organisation's details to be published if we publish which organisations made a submission, or include part of your submission in the summary of submissions?

- Yes, you can publish my organisation's details with information from my submission.
 No, keep my organisation's details confidential.

Can we use information in your submission as a case study in the summary of submissions?

- Yes, you can include information from my submission as a case study in the summary of submissions.
 No, keep my information confidential.

Please provide us with your email address in case we need to contact you about your submission.

Email

Privacy of natural persons

What sector(s) does your submission most closely relate to, if applicable?

For example, the sector in which you may work or operate, or which you represent.

- Accommodation provider
 Rental vehicle business
 Iwi, hapū or Māori organisation
 Individual or camper
 Other Visitor Information Centre _____ (please specify)
 N/A
- Other tourism business
 Non-tourism business
 Local Government
 Club or club representative (eg camping club)

Context to Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand

1.1 How much do you agree that certain types of vehicle-based freedom camping is a problem?
Please write a (Y) next to the option which applies to you

Strongly agree Y	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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What are your views on freedom camping in vehicles?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- 1.2
- Is vehicle-based freedom camping an issue in your area?
 - Have you observed any specific issues?
 - Are there specific behaviours which impact on your use of local amenities/infrastructure?
 - What benefits does vehicle-based freedom camping provide for your region?

Freedom camping is a HUGE problem in Golden Bay. In your consultation document there is a picture of the gross overuse of cars being used as campers at a local river in Golden Bay. In this picture there is on y ONE vehicle that is suitable for camping in. Over peak summer months here (prior to Covid) there was on average 800 people with 400 vehicles crammed into spaces that were not suitable for camping eg next to pristine rivers and protected bird nesting sites in Golden Bay.

These places where such vast numbers of people freedom camp house just one toilet and one rubbish bin, this is a health and safety issue for sure. Not to mention this number of people camping so close to each other on the side of a river. There have been numerous reports of human faeces and toilet paper all around the area and reports of people bathing naked in the river and washing their dishes.

These are NOT sustainable or safe practices.

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

2.1

Please write a (Y) next to the option which applies to you

Strongly agree Y	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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Do you support this proposal?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

2.2

- Do you consider this option will improve camper behaviour?
- Will this option support or improve tourism outcomes in your region?
- Will this option decrease pressure on the environment and local government infrastructure?
- Are there impacts of this proposal that you are concerned about?

I think that the certified self contained should work like a WOF. On an annual basis and there are fines that need to be paid if the vehicle does not comply. I think this could improve camper behaviour but it needs to be monitored well.

How might this proposal impact you?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

2.3

- Will this proposal increase or decrease the likelihood of you camping?
- Will this proposal have a direct financial impact on you or your business?
 - If yes, please indicate if this is a personal or business expense, and quantify how much you estimate it would impact you.
- Will this option increase or decrease the attractiveness of visiting other regions in New Zealand?

I think if this is mandatory throughout NZ then there will be no decrease in attractiveness of visiting regions. I believe it will improve safety of vehicles and the camping experience.

What things should Government consider to implement this option?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

2.4

- What exceptions should Government allow under this proposal?
- Do you have any ideas about how this proposal could be implemented?
- Should this option be considered alongside other options proposed in this discussion document?

This needs to be implemented and managed by an organisation that can consistently provide the same services across the country.

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)?

3.1

Please write a (Y) next to the option which applies to you

Strongly agree Y	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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Do you support this proposal?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- Do you consider this option will improve camper behaviour?
- 3.2 • Will this option support or improve tourism outcomes in your region?
- Will this option decrease pressure on the environment and local government infrastructure?
- Are there impacts of this proposal that you are concerned about?

We believe that all vehicles need to be certified and that Cars are excluded as being a self contained vehicle. It is too small to be used as a camper or place to live.

All freedom camper vehicles should carry a toilet. This does not include caravans.

How might this proposal impact you?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- Will this proposal increase or decrease the likelihood of you camping?
- 3.3 • Will this proposal have a direct financial impact on you or your business?
 - If yes, please indicate if this is a personal or business expense, and quantify how much you estimate it would impact you.
- Will this option increase or decrease the attractiveness of visiting other regions in New Zealand?

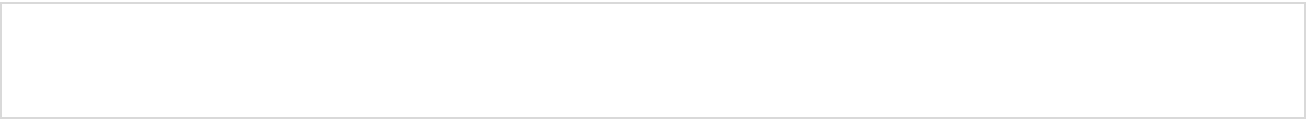
What things should Government consider to implement this option?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- What do you think is required to achieve this option?
- 3.4 • What exceptions should Government allow under this proposal?
- How far from toilet facilities should a person be able to freedom camp if not in a vehicle with a toilet? eg, 100 metres, 200 metres?
- Should this option be considered alongside other options proposed in this discussion document?

The vehicle must have a usable toilet that is permanently available for use.

If not then these vehicles can only stay in a campsite that offers facilities.



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

4.1

Please write a (Y) next to the option which applies to you

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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Do you support this proposal?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

4.2

- Are there any specific parts of this proposal you support or propose?
- Do you consider this option will improve camper behaviour?
- Will this option support or improve tourism outcomes in your region?
- Will this option decrease pressure on the environment and local government infrastructure?
- Are there impacts of this proposal that you are concerned about?

I do not understand what this is about,

How might this proposal impact you?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

4.3

- Will this proposal increase or decrease the likelihood of you camping?
- Will this proposal have a direct financial impact on you or your business?
 - If yes, please indicate if this is a personal or business expense, and quantify how much you estimate it would impact you.
- Will this option increase or decrease the attractiveness of visiting other regions in New Zealand?

What things should Government consider to implement this option?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

4.4

- What would you like to see in practice?
- Should this option be considered alongside other options proposed in this discussion document?

What would be an appropriate penalty?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- Should non-compliant vehicles be confiscated? If so, under what conditions?
- 4.5 • If vehicles are confiscated, what conditions should be placed on returning the vehicle?
- Should fines be similar to those for not holding a valid Warrant of Fitness for a motor vehicle?
- What levels should fines be set at?
- Who should collect a fine?

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

5.1 Please write a (Y) next to the option which applies to you

Yes Y

Neutral

No

Is the current standard fit for purpose?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

5.2

- Should there be a requirement that self-contained vehicles have fixed toilets?
- Should there be specific reference to the types of vehicles that can be self-contained?

Yes for these vehicles to be deemed self contained they need to have a fixed toilet.

Vehicles that are Cars should be excluded as being self contained vehicles under the freedom camping act.

Who should certify to the Standard?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

5.3

- Should any Plumber registered under the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 1976 be able to certify to the Standard, or should certifiers be separately recognised and licensed?
- Once a vehicle has passed its initial certification, should other entities be able to re-certify it?

A registered plumber could be a potential entity to certify the water and toilet facilities are correctly installed. This needs to be done annually like a WOF.

What transition arrangements should be in place?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- 6.1
- How long should Government give people to upgrade or dispose of their vehicles?
 - Should currently certified self-contained vehicles be exempt from any new rules?
 - Are there any other transition arrangements we should consider?

All vehicles that are to be used for freedom camping need to comply.

It would be easier to not allow cars to be used as camper vans or freedom camping.

How could Government ensure vulnerable groups are not further disadvantaged?

- 6.2
- Could Government make homelessness exempt from any new regulatory system? What might this look like?

For people who find themselves in a homeless situation, there could be a 3 or 6 month register for this so that it does not become ongoing issue.

7.1 Is there anything else on the proposed changes or discussion document you would like to mention?

It is disappointing that there is not a major reset for freedom camping. This is the time to do this. Freedom camping IS NOT sustainable. In our area we have 7 camp grounds that remain largely empty whilst our rivers and streams are being overrun with freedom campers. We have one control officer that services our whole area who can simply not cover the distance.

This whole consultation only addresses part of the problem, we need to value what NZ has to offer and not be seen as a free country to travel around.

Lastly, there was a very low turnout in Golden Bay and there was also NO local advertisement about this in our local paper. This is disappointing. For such an important issue that greatly impacts on our region we would have thought that MBIE would contact visitor centres and i-sites to notify about this coming up as we deal with thousands of freedom campers every summer.