

Manurewa Local Board feedback to Auckland Council's submission on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's proposed changes to support effective management of freedom camping in New Zealand

Proposal 1: Make it mandatory for freedom camping in a vehicle to be done in a certified self-contained vehicle

The board supports this proposal as it will help to mitigate some of the potential environmental and public health impacts of freedom camping. We prefer this proposal over proposal two for the reasons set out below.

Proposal 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)

The board does not support exempting freedom campers at sites with toilet facilities from using a self-contained vehicle. Public toilet facilities will not necessarily be suitable for use by campers and may not be open 24 hours a day. Additionally, use of such facilities by campers would place additional strain on the infrastructure and might affect the ability of members of the public to make use of them.

Proposal 3: Improve the regulatory tools for government land managers

The board supports increasing fines for offences under the Act. We agree with the council submission to allow a graduated scale of fines depending on the severity of the offence.

We support introducing a requirement for vehicle hire companies to pass on infringement notices to customers, and for the company to be liable for non-payment of fines incurred by customers.

We agree that creating a national register of self-contained vehicles would aid local authorities in identifying non-complying vehicles.

Proposal 4: Strengthen the requirements for self-contained vehicles

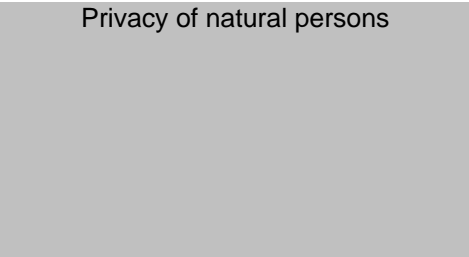
The board supports the development of a standard for self-contained vehicles, but we do not have a preference at this time regarding the types of toilets or vehicles that should be required.

Homelessness

The board strongly supports amending the Act to make it explicit that its provisions do not apply to homeless people sleeping in vehicles. We note the council submission's comment that 'council compliance officers confirm that they can readily identify people experiencing homelessness.' However, we recommend that any definition of homelessness to be included in the legislation should be sufficiently precise to avoid any confusion when enforcing the Act.

This feedback is authorised in accordance with Manurewa Local Board resolution MR/2020/44 – 16 April 2020.

Privacy of natural persons



Joseph Allan, Chairperson
13 May 2021
On behalf of the Manurewa Local Board