

Memorandum

10 May 2021

To: Governing Body

Cc: All Ōrākei Local Board members
Carol Stewart, Senior Policy Advisor Central Teams
Elizabeth Osborne, Senior Policy Advisor Regulatory Practice

Subject: Feedback on proposed changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011

From: Ōrākei Local Board

Purpose

1. To provide Ōrākei Local Board's feedback on proposed changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Context – Ōrākei Local Board area

2. The Ōrākei Local Board area is a high visitor destination area due to its attractive coastline and swimmable beaches. It also has several high-grade sports parks which serve a sub-regional purpose with large numbers of teams travelling from across the region to play sport in parks such as Shore Road Reserve and the Colin Maiden Precinct.
3. We are facing increasing on-street parking issues, due to changes in Unitary Plan parking requirements for residential development and we expect this to only get worse as urban areas intensify. We have previously stated that we believe freedom camping is not appropriate in or near parks and streets in residential and business zones. However, we acknowledge that some of these issues will be revisited when bylaws are reviewed in the coming months.

Summary of the Proposals to Amend the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

4. The discussion document presents four proposals and options for consideration:
 1. *Make it mandatory for freedom camping in a vehicle to be done in a certified self-contained vehicle.*
 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).*
 3. *Improve the regulatory tools for government land managers.*
 4. *Strengthen the requirements for self-contained vehicles.*

Ōrākei Local Board Feedback on the Proposed Amendments

4. The Ōrākei Local Board supports all four proposals but believes that Proposal 2 should be reworded as follows:

*Make it mandatory for freedom campers to stay in a vehicle that is certified self-contained, **AND** to stay at a site with toilet facilities (excluding public conservation lands and regional parks).*

5. We do not support any proposal which allows non self-contained campers. We do not support any proposal which allows non self-contained campers to stay in an urban environment which may lead to increased operational costs to that site.
6. We also note, in regard to Proposal 2, that most conservation land and regional parks are held under the Reserves Act 1977 which does not allow for camping, and therefore freedom camping, unless it is specifically provided for in the management plan for that park. Many urban, but not all parks are also held under the Reserves Act but the same requirement for the freedom camping needing to be explicitly provided for in the park's management plan should also apply to parks held under the Local Government Act 2002.
7. The Ōrākei Local Board also supports Proposal 3 as it believes legal provisions must be consistently monitored and enforced. It is noted that enacting the provisions of the Freedom Camping Act will require local authorities to amend and/or adopt new bylaws and sufficient resource should be provided to ensure they are then monitored and enforced effectively.
8. This logically leads to the requirements for self-contained vehicles to be strengthened (Proposal 4).

Ōrākei Local Board
10 May 2021.