

Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand – Submission Form

Your details

What is the name of the person making this submission?
Roger Lindsay
If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of that organisation?
Oreti River House, Lumsden, Southland New Zealand
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?
<input type="checkbox"/> No, keep my organisation's details confidential.
Can we use information in your submission as a case study in the summary of submissions?
<input type="checkbox"/> YES Yes, you can include information from my submission as a case study in the summary of submissions.
Please provide us with your email address in case we need to contact you about your oretiriverhouse@hotmail.com
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.
<input type="checkbox"/> YES Accommodation provider

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 yes	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree

What are your views on freedom camping in vehicles?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- Is vehicle-based freedom camping an issue in your area? YES it has caused a huge number of issues in Lumsden. Initially all forms of free camping were contentiously allowed in the middle of the public carpark in town. We had issues with public nudity, drug use near children, unsightly washing lines between trees, no carparking for locals, ratepayers paying for cleaning costs of other people's holidays, weeing and smell of urine in park, bins overflowing, people sleeping on historic rail platform looking like lines of cadavers and noise from parties disturbing residents.

When the rules changed restricting numbers and making vehicles have a self contained toilet the same problems persisted but at a lesser scale. Station wagons filled with 5 young travellers appeared displaying a self contained sticker in clear defiance of the intent of the rules. The same problems with bins overflowing and overuse of toilets persisted. Dirty toilet paper was left next to cisterns in the European way of not putting it in the toilet bowl. The existence of the free camping area also undermined the commercial viability of the nearby camping ground and allowed a public body to engage in anticompetitive behaviour. We also have a conflict of interest when a local community board council official promotes the activity because it brings a benefit to his nearby cafe. Community interests are not being applied.

- Have you observed any specific issues? **Privacy of natural persons**

I have seen the local bus not be able to park and pick up elderly passengers due to camping vehicle congestion in the public carpark. I have been asked by my guests if there had been a local disaster in the surrounding area because why would there be tents in the central park and people sleeping on the historic railway platform when there was a formal camping area nearby unless there had been an earthquake or flood. I have been asked by my guests if NZ has a huge problem with homeless people who need to sleep in vehicles and on railway platforms and carparks because why would you see this when a commercial camping ground was less than 5 minutes walk away where you can camp for \$20/ night.

- Are there specific behaviours which impact on your use of local amenities/infrastructure? YES My guests do not visit and view the local Lumsden railway precinct due to it being surrounded by free wheeling campers. **Privacy of natural persons**

I wouldn't dare take children or visitors to the park public toilets because of reports of nakedness in them. I have repeatedly observed motor homes pull out of the free camping area in Lumsden onto State Highway 6 onto the wrong side of the road begging for a head-on collision and fatality. I have seen the rubbish bins next to the free camping area overflowing with rubbish making the town look unkempt and untidy. Where is the pure green NZ image in this situation. My guests do not visit the public library as it is difficult to enter the building due to campers sitting in the library using the free WiFi.

- What benefits does vehicle-based freedom camping provide for your region? LITTLE. I have observed 5 free campers inside the Lumsden 4 square supermarket only buying a few apples and some rice. They loiter outside the public library all day to access the free WiFi. Why is this allowed to happen when we have a beautiful commercial camping area right in town? Freedom Camping in the centre of a little town in the close proximity of a great commercial camping ground is illogical. Good town planning organises land use to minimise conflict. Inherently allowing freedom camping on a towns asphalt shopping centre carpark next to a children's playground alongside a bus stop on a state highway is promoting conflicting use and chaos. It creates the appearance of an unkempt, untidy town.

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 Yes	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? Yes if it is enforced
- Will this option support or improve tourism outcomes in your region? Yes. Only if it is allowed in places where another option is not available. There is no need for free camping in a small country town that has a properly operated and functional camping ground that offers all the required facilities for a minimal cost within walking distance to the shops. In other words only have freedom camping using self contained vehicles where no commercial camping areas exist.
- Will this option decrease pressure on the environment and local government infrastructure? YES. Ratepayers should not have to subsidise other people's holidays by cleaning up their mess. Shopping centre carparks should not be used for camping and be used for people shopping, catching the bus, visiting the cafe or enjoying the playground. Tourists, anglers or trampers should not have to see the rubbish and excrement left by campers alongside rivers and near walking trails.
- Are there impacts of this proposal that you are concerned about? I am concerned that this opportunity may be wasted by only addressing the effluent left by freedom campers and not seriously looking at the broader issue that free camping impacts on legitimate businesses. Why should a council subsidised camping spot be allowed near to a commercial site and undermine their business. Why is a government body allowed to engage in anticompetitive behaviour? Why are public bodies exempt from the Camping Regulations Act. Why is NZ a two rule country where a public body and a commercial concern operate under 2 systems. Why doesn't the government clearly support existing previously successful tourist businesses. Of course we need to offer different tiers of accommodation in a small country town like Lumsden. We have 2 pubs, a motel, lots of holiday houses for rent, a few bed and breakfasts and a big privately screened camping ground near to the shops. Why why why is there a need for a ratepayer subsidised free camping site in the middle of town on the shopping centre carpark?????

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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? Knowing the camping sites were clean and not surrounded by rubbish and human waste would increase my interest in camping
- Will this proposal have a direct financial impact on you or your business? Commercial Information
Banning camping within a short distance from existing commercial grounds would help the appearance of the township of Lumsden as it currently looks like a refugee camp. Stopping camping in the middle of towns allows for the functional use of spaces designed for shopping, carparking, transit parking, picnicking in the adjacent park and play. Hard to give a dollar value on this. Not addressing this issue undermines my and other businesses.
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- Will this option increase or decrease the attractiveness of visiting other regions in New Zealand? Definately! I have been horrified to see images in the press of camping sites full of rubbish, toilet paper and poo!

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?

Homeless nz residents should be subsidised in commercial camping areas. No need for freedom camping near to existing commercial camping grounds. Say within 10kms? Maybe make all overseas tourists pay a camping tax to help with costs of managing their rubbish disposal from free sites.

3.1 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)?

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

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

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- 3.2
- 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?

Yes it will make camping sites more sanitary. It will make camping a more family friendly activity. It will keep to NZ image of offering a pristine environment. It will force tent campers into commercial camping grounds where they have to contribute a small cost to disposing of their organic and inorganic waste.

How might this proposal impact you?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- 3.3
- 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?

Controlling the cancer of freedom camping that has spread across New Zealand since the Rugby World Cup in 2011 has long been contentious. It undermines legitimate businesses, allows government bodies to engage in uncompetitive behaviour on an uneven playing field. It unnecessarily introduces camping into shopping centre car parks in small country towns like Lumsden when a camping ground already exists. It allows the self interest of a few local community board council members to override the interests of the wider community. In Lumsden it has interfered with the operation of the playground, public toilet, shop car park, train museum and bus stop. It has adversely impacted on the amenity of the town leaving it looking like a refugee camp.

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?

Freedom camping rules should be the same as specified under the Camping Regulations Act. One rule for both. An even playing field. Same rules for provision of facilities, screening, rubbish removal, numbers etc. Tourists should contribute for the costs associated with their activities. Maybe pay a general tax to generally free camp to help with the expense if removing their trash and waste. Maybe consider two sets of rules for nz residents who are already taxpayers compared to overseas tourists who should pay a small camping tax.

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

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- Are there any specific parts of this proposal you support or propose?
- 4.2 • 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?

Banning freedom camping within 10km of an existing camping ground would have enormous positive benefit for a town like Lumsden and for the commercial viability of all camping ground operator's . Freedom Camping should not be in places that restrict the free use of spaces and places by New Zealand residents.

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?
- 4.3 • 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?

Cleaning up the refuse associated with camping brings NZ back into the pure nz image it likes to promote and brings overseas tourists to rent my houses which then employs cleaners, gardeners, managers, plumbers, builders, hedge cutters, window cleaners, painters, linen services and electricians.

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?

Yes ban any form of freedom camping within 5 (or 10 or 50) km of existing commercial sites. Ban camping on shopping centre car parks or transit bus stops. Only allow freedom camping where privacy screening available. Ban camping near public children's playgrounds.

What would be an appropriate penalty?

When answering this question you may like to think about:

- 4.5
- Should non-compliant vehicles be confiscated? If so, under what conditions?
 - 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?

A strong yes to all of the above. Make it workable and cumulative.

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	Yes	Neutral	No
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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

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?

Not sure probably the second option.

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?

Help homeless residents with housing and costs

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?

No but they need assistance to camp in regulated areas. Even homeless people create waste, rubbish and excrement. They too should be able to live in an environment with showers, toilets, rubbish facilities, electricity and safety.

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

Yes again no camping in close proximity to existing commercial camping sites. No camping in unscreened areas in the middle of a town carpark. No camping without addressing cost of refuse removal ie not borne by ratepayers.