

*Feedback on:*

## **Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand**

11 May 2021

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### **Context**

1. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment released a discussion document for public consultation on 'Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand. The discussion document sets out four proposals to support sustainable freedom camping in New Zealand, in line with the Government's direction for tourism.
2. The four proposals to promote sustainable freedom camping in New Zealand:
  - o Make it mandatory for freedom camping in a vehicle to be done in a certified self-contained vehicle; or
  - o 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); and
  - o improve the regulatory tools for government land managers; and
  - o strengthen the requirements for self-contained vehicles.
3. This feedback from the Puketapapa Local Board is made under delegation to the Chair and will be included in Auckland Council submission.

### **Relevance to the Local board**

4. Local boards are responsible for decision-making on local issues, activities and services and providing input into regional strategies, policies and plans. Local boards also have a role in representing the views of their communities on issues of local importance.
5. Freedom campers use the parks and reserves in Puketāpapa local board area to camp.
6. Looking after the environment has been one of the Puketāpapa local board plan outcomes 'Our environment is protected and enhanced for present and future generations.

### **The Local board submission:**

7. The Puketapapa Local Board:
  - 1) Supports Auckland Council submission (proposals 1, 3, and 4).
  - 2) Notes concern around enforcement and compliance. These functions need to be resourced properly and Auckland Council may not be able to bear all of the cost of that.
  - 3) Notes that the standard of "self-contained toilet" needs to be set higher than the current state.
  - 4) Notes that in point 12, Auckland Council's submission does not mention liability to pay the infringement fees. Puketāpapa local board requests the owner of the vehicle to be responsible for fines, including the rental companies with the suggestion to follow the similar mechanisms that are used to deal with the vehicles damage and other liabilities.