

Memorandum

7 May 2021

To: Governing Body

Cc: All Waitematā 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: Waitematā Local Board

Purpose

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

Context – Waitematā Local Board area

2. Waitematā is a complex area with a lot of competing demands and pressure on our infrastructure and community facilities. We have an increasing number of residents choosing to live in the city centre and fringe townships. There are also large numbers of commuters travelling to the city centre each day for employment, study, retail and recreation activities.
3. We are facing excessive and continuing commuter parking issues that conflict with the site's primary use particularly in our parks and residential streets where we are seeking to improve access to recreation, and organised sports.
4. There is also a large number of people affected by homelessness in and around the city centre.

Waitematā Local Board Feedback

5. The Waitematā Local Board is generally supportive of the proposals presented in the discussion document with the exception of proposal two.
6. We support the proposal to make it mandatory for freedom camping in a vehicle to be done in a certified self-contained vehicle.
7. We do not support proposal two which allows non self-contained campers to stay at sites with toilets. This proposal would add pressure on our facilities, particularly our public toilets, and impact on its primary users and our ability to service the extra demand on these facilities.

8. In the past, Waitematā has expressed the general view that all sports parks should be prohibited for freedom parking due to their high use and reconfirm the view on the importance of ensuring that the laws/ bylaws prohibits parking on grass.
9. We recommend that the Act also addresses other forms of freedom camping such as camping in tents.
10. We support the proposals that aim to improve regulation and enforcement however we are concerned how these will impact on our homeless communities.
11. The act must consider how we are able to take a compassionate approach to people experiencing homelessness.