



Freedom Camping infringement offences and penalties

June 2023

- Infringement offences from the Freedom Camping Act (FCA) prior to the Self Contained-Motor Vehicles Legislation Act remain in place for local authority and Department of Conservation land.
- There are new infringement offences for breaching rules associated with freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle.
- There are new infringement offences associated with freedom camping on LINZ land.
- Regulations setting out infringement offences have been made. From 13 July 2023, a person who commits an infringement offence is liable to the penalties set out in the table below.
- The maximum fine level relates to the maximum penalty the Court can impose on a person found guilty of committing an infringement offence.

Infringement offences - local authority land		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
Freedom camping in breach of a bylaw ¹	\$400	\$1,200
*Freedom camping in a non-self-contained vehicle in breach of the national rule ²	\$400	\$1,200
*Failing to display a warrant card in a motor vehicle when freedom camping (unless the area is permitted for non-self-contained vehicles) ³	\$200	\$600
While freedom camping a person: › interferes or damages the area, its flora or fauna, or any structure, or › deposits waste in or on the area (other than into an appropriate waste receptacle) ⁴	\$800	\$2,400
*Freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for ⁵	\$400	\$1,200
Making preparations to freedom camp in breach of a bylaw ⁶	\$400	\$1,200

1 Section 20(1)(a) FCA
2 Section 20(1)(b) FCA
3 Section 20(1)(c) FCA
4 Section 20(1)(e) FCA
5 Section 20(1)(d) FCA
6 Section 20(1)(f) FCA

Infringement offences - local authority land		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
* Making preparations to freedom camp in a non-self-contained vehicle in breach of the national rule ⁷	\$400	\$1,200
Making preparations to freedom camp in a self-contained vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for ⁸	\$400	\$1,200
Failing or refusing to leave a local authority area when required to do so by an enforcement officer ⁹	\$600	\$1,800

Infringement offences - Department of Conservation Land		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
Freedom camping in breach of a prohibition or restriction specified in a notice ¹⁰	\$400	\$1,200
* Failing to display a warrant card in a motor vehicle when freedom camping on conservation land on which freedom camping is restricted to self-contained vehicles ¹¹	\$200	\$600
While freedom camping a person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › interferes or damages the area, its flora or fauna, or any structure, or › deposits waste in or on the area (other than into an appropriate waste receptacle)¹² 	\$800	\$2,400
Making preparations to freedom camp in breach of a prohibition or restriction specified in a notice ¹³	\$400	\$1,200
Failing or refusing to leave conservation land when required to do so by an enforcement officer ¹⁴	\$600	\$1,800

7 Section 20(1)(g) FCA

8 Section 20(1)(h) FCA

9 Section 20(1)(i) FCA

10 Section 20A(a) FCA

11 Section 20A(b) FCA

12 Section 20A(c) FCA

13 Section 20A(d) FCA

14 Section 20A(e) FCA

Infringement offences - LINZ Land		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
*Freedom camping on LINZ land other than where permitted ¹⁵	\$400	\$1,200
*Freedom camping on LINZ land in breach of restriction or condition in notice ¹⁶	\$400	\$1,200
*Failing to display a warrant card when freedom camping in a motor vehicle on LINZ land where freedom camping in a motor vehicle is permitted on the condition that the motor vehicle is self-contained ¹⁷	\$200	\$600
*While freedom camping a person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › interferes or damages the area, its flora or fauna, or any structure, or › deposits waste in or on the area (other than into an appropriate waste receptacle)¹⁸ 	\$800	\$2,400
*Making preparations to freedom camp on LINZ land other than where permitted ¹⁹	\$400	\$1,200
*Making preparations to freedom camp on LINZ land in breach of restriction or condition in notice ²⁰	\$400	\$1,200
*Failing or refusing to leave LINZ land when required to do so by an enforcement officer ²¹	\$600	\$1,800

Other Infringement offences		
Infringement offences	Infringement fee	Maximum fine
*Displaying an altered or fraudulent warrant card ²²	\$600	\$1,800
*Presenting an altered or fraudulent certificate of self-containment ²³	\$600	\$1,800
Refusing to give information when required to do so or giving false or misleading information ²⁴	\$600	\$1,800

- › The Freedom Camping Act continues to have criminal offences to address serious offending, or example, where a person knowingly discharges noxious or dangerous substances over an area in such a way that it has a significant adverse effect on the environment or intentionally preventing an enforcement officer from carry out their functions and duties.
- › A full list of offences and penalties can be found [here](#)

15 Section 20B(a) FCA

16 Section 20B(b) FCA

17 Section 20B(c) FCA

18 Section 20B(d) FCA

19 Section 20B(e) FCA

20 Section 20B(f) FCA

21 Section 20B(g) FCA

22 Section 20C(a) FCA

23 Section 20C(b) FCA

24 Section 20C(c) FCA