

14 June 2024

Title	Comment
<p>Responsible Camping Forum</p> <p>Dale Elvy, Manager, Tourism Communities and Regions</p> <p><small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On 10 June 2024, we attended the Responsible Camping Forum, hosted by Tourism Industry Aotearoa. Tourism New Zealand also attended. This was the first meeting in the last 18 month. The Forum exists for several years and includes rental vehicle operators, local authorities and peak body representatives. We have recently engaged with many of the meeting participants in other stakeholder forums.</p> <p>Key issues raised in the meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rental vehicle operators continue to be frustrated with the upcoming certification deadline for their vehicles coinciding with the summer season. They are struggling specifically with what to do about fleets of vehicles that employ cassette-style toilets as they await news of the direct venting requirements.• Stakeholders (primarily rental vehicle operators) have suggested that MBIE formulate a “risk mitigation plan” considering actions that could be taken if rental vehicles cannot receive certification in time for the 7 December 2024 deadline.• Some local government representatives raised concerns for dealing with people experiencing homelessness under the new law.• The rental vehicle industry was interested in how suitable campsites’ locations could be communicated to visitors via i-sites. <p>We will brief you next week with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• further information about the stakeholders’ views on the transition period for private vehicles; and• advice on the group’s request for a risk mitigation plan. <p>We will continue to attend future forum meetings (no future dates have been set) and report back to you.</p>

3 May 2024

Title	Comment
<p>Update on the consultation on proposed amendments to the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers (Self-contained Vehicles) Regulations 2023 (Regulations 2023)</p> <p>Dale Elvy Manager, Tourism Communities & Regions</p> <p><small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The targeted consultation on the two proposed amendments (direct venting and levy refund process) to the Regulations 2023 opened on 16 April 2024 and closed on 30 April 2024. Around 30 stakeholders received the discussion document, and 24 responses were submitted. This included submissions from the Regulator, NZ Motor Caravan Association, Rental Vehicle Association, Tourism Industry Aotearoa, NZ Lifestyle Camping, and Master Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers New Zealand Inc.</p> <p>The submissions show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• there is strong support for the option that only fixed wastewater storage tanks are required to ventilate the exterior of a motor vehicle directly.• The strong preference from those who answered the levy change question (less than half of submitters) is for the Regulator to delegate refund powers to Certification Authorities to manage. <p>We will provide you with a draft Cabinet paper (which includes a summary of submissions) to progress to Ministerial and agency consultation. The intention is for the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee to consider this paper at the end of May 2024.</p>

26 April 2024

Title	Comment
<p>Freedom camping stakeholders meeting summary</p> <p>Jon Lyall, Acting Manager, Tourism Communities & Regions</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>At the beginning of March 2024, we provided an update on a freedom camping stakeholder meeting we attended. Last week (18 April 2024), we attended a further meeting with the same group. The meeting was again organised by NZ Lifestyle Camping, and there were 20 attendees, including some peak bodies and rental vehicle company owners (not including the NZMCA).</p> <p>Attendees noted that the communication from MBIE, which came alongside the proposal to amend the regulations, gave them greater clarity on the system's future. While the group gave some feedback on aspects of primary legislation, including the rental vehicle certification deadline, they acknowledged that this is as far as the changes will go for now and that a review will take place later.</p> <p>During the meeting, we received feedback on the options in the Regulations consultation document, specifically some on the refund change proposal. MBIE and the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board explained why this needs to be changed as this issue was less socialised than the ventilation issue. The group then discussed their other actions, which included redirecting their focus to local councils to encourage more spaces for non-self-contained freedom campers.</p> <p>The group has agreed to meet again in a few weeks to assess progress. We will continue to attend and report back to you.</p>

19 April 2024

Title	Comment
<p>Freedom Camping Local Authorities meeting</p> <p>Dale Elvy Manager, Tourism Communities & Regions</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Throughout the freedom camping reforms, MBIE has closely engaged with local authorities. On 11 April 2024, we hosted a meeting with 14 councils, including Queenstown Lakes, Auckland, Wellington, and Thames-Coromandel. MBIE and the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board gave an overview of the implementation of the new laws, and then council representatives updated us on freedom camping in their area.</p> <p>Most councils had positive feedback on the changes in law and how they have impacted their areas. Overall, councils felt they had busy summers, comparable to last summer.</p> <p>A key area of feedback was the new exemption for people experiencing homelessness. Several councils noted that it had not changed their approach to homeless people. Two other councils (Manawatu and Whangarei) noted that homelessness was being used as a "loophole" in their area to bypass the need for self-contained certification. We will continue to monitor this as part of the legislative review on the impact on homelessness.</p> <p>Other issues raised included the progress and stages of councils' bylaw changes and the success of their summer freedom camping ambassadors in engaging with freedom campers and the community.</p> <p>MBIE will continue to stay in touch with local authorities.</p>