

# **Freedom Camping Bylaw - Designated Areas**

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**TO** Thames Community Board  
**FROM** Christine Tye - Strategic Planner & Policy Analyst  
**DATE** 3 November 2014  
**SUBJECT** **Freedom Camping Bylaw - Designated Areas**

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## **1 Purpose of Report**

To determine location and size of designated areas within all restricted areas in the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014, in the Thames Community Board area.

## **2 Background**

The Council has undertaken a review of its Freedom Camping Bylaw and the adopted 2014 bylaw includes a number of areas where freedom camping is restricted, with a condition for each restricted area being that vehicles are to freedom camp only in the designated area.

Areas where it is considered necessary to restrict freedom camping were initially identified with the Community Board and included in the proposed draft bylaw. Most restricted areas had conditions applied relating to where freedom campers must stay (designated area) and maximum number of vehicles.

Through the public consultation process some changes were made to the proposed draft bylaw, including for restricted areas and conditions (restrictions) that apply.

At the deliberations meeting for the decision matter relating to designated areas and maximum number of vehicles, Council resolved the following:

1. For all restricted areas, restricts freedom camping to designated area only and remove restrictions for maximum number of vehicles.
2. Staff to work with community boards to determine designated areas, and where feasible allow for a minimum of two vehicles.

Reasons for recommendation:

- Restricting freedom camping to designated areas only can be used as a means to manage the maximum number of vehicles in an area.
- Reasons set out in Section 11 Analysis documentation are still valid justification for designating freedom camping only in restricted areas.

For context, preceding staff comment in the deliberations decision report included that:

- A number of submitters commented that for safety reasons, designated areas should allow for a minimum of two vehicles. Although this is reasonable it should be considered on a case by case basis as many restricted areas don't have sufficient capacity, particularly when considering the reasons for restriction such as to protect access.
- In using the designated area size to manage maximum number of vehicles, the vehicle size and how freedom campers choose to park within the designated area would further determine how many can fit in the space.
- The designated area size should be informed by discussion on maximum number of vehicles already considered.

Some areas as included in the proposed draft bylaw did not include restrictions for designated area and/or maximum number of vehicles that would guide designated area location and size. Therefore where this is the case these matters need to be determined, and resolutions obtained for every restricted area for clarification.

The adopted Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014 comes into effect on 1 December 2014. The designated areas need to be determined now so that appropriate signage can be erected by the operative date.

### **3 Issue**

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014 includes 11 restricted areas in the Thames Community Board area. For each restricted area the Community Board needs to determine (a) location, and (b) size for designated freedom camping.

Content from the bylaw schedule two for restricted areas in the Thames Community Board area is provided as **Attachment A**. This includes area table details and maps.

Due to timeframes pressures work has been progressed to prepare draft designated areas prior to this meeting. This has been through discussion with each community board (full community board / chairperson / delegated members). These discussions are occurring at the time of writing, and draft designated areas will be provided as **Attachment B**.

When considering where to locate freedom camping within a restricted area consideration must be given to one or more of the following purposes, consistent with the Freedom Camping Act 2011:

- I. To protect the area;
- II. To protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area; or
- III. To protect access to the area.

Section 11 Analysis sets out considered justification for protecting identified areas. This documentation and any further related issues raised in submissions should be used to guide decisions on location and size of designated areas.

### **4 Suggested Resolution(s)**

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the report.
2. Determines that the areas shown in Attachment B shall be designated for freedom camping in accordance with the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014.

### **References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments**

**Attachment A** *Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014 - Restricted Areas in the Thames Community Board Area*

**Attachment B** *Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014 - Designations for Restricted Areas in the Thames Community Board Area (distributed separately)*

***Attachment A***

**[Attachment A - Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014 - Restricted Areas in Thames...](#)**