

Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw amendments - Community Board Submission

TO	Tairua-Pauanui Community Board
FROM	Lorna Price - Community Coordinator Tairua-Pauanui
DATE	16 October 2015
SUBJECT	Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw amendments - Community Board Submission

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board to confirm its submission to the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw amendments.

2 Background

The Thames-Coromandel District Council proposed amendments to its Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014 and sought the views of the community. The proposed amendments were to change the classification of six sites within the current Freedom Camping Bylaw, and to add one site to the Bylaw schedule.

This Statement of Proposal was prepared in accordance with the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and the Local Government Act 2002. This statement included:

- the reasons for the proposal
- a table setting out the proposed amendments

Reason for the Proposal

The Thames-Coromandel District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2014 had been in place since December 2014 and following feedback from the community and staff, Council considered that seven amendments to the bylaw schedules consistent with section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 should be adopted in time for the 2015/2016 summer period.

Freedom Camping Act 2011

Freedom camping is regulated by the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Under the Act, freedom camping is permitted on all public land controlled or managed by a local authority unless the local authority prohibits or restricts freedom camping in some areas for one or more of the following purposes:

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

Council may not make a bylaw that has the effect of creating a blanket ban on freedom camping across the District.

Prohibited areas are where no freedom camping may take place. Restricted areas are areas where freedom camping may occur subject to certain conditions, such as requiring freedom campers to park in a designated area, or requiring campers to be self-contained.

3 Issue

Staff were asked to prepare and lodge a submission in accordance with the community board delegations and are now seeking for the Board to confirm this submission to the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw amendments (**Attachment A**).

4 Discussion

The Community Board were asked to consider the following in its submission:

- To highlight errors or inaccuracies.
- If the draft bylaw did not reflect the preferences of the Community Board.
- If the Board was aware of matters important to the community that were not reflected in the draft bylaw - for the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board area or District as a whole.
- To comment on any other matters it determined appropriate.

Submissions were due by 4.00pm on Monday 19 October 2015.

Following this, hearings will be held on 5 November 2015. The Council will then consider all the submissions made, make some decisions on the proposed amendments to the Freedom Camping Bylaw, and then consider the Freedom Camping Bylaw amendments for adoption on 25 November 2015.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Tairua-Pauanui Community Board:

1. Receives the report.
2. Confirms its submission in support of the Pauanui Waterways Parade Car Parks as a prohibited area in the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw amendment because of access to the Pauanui Waterways Esplanade area.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Submission to the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw amendment*

Attachment A

[Attachment A - Submission to Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw amendments](#)