

Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board
Submissions Committee
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Monday 24 May 2021
Time: 3.30pm
Venue: Boardroom, Corner Beresford and Union Streets,
New Brighton

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SUBMISSION TO: Christchurch City Council

ON: Proposed Replacement Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021

BY: Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Waitai Coastal-Burwood Community Board appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the Christchurch City Council on the Proposed Replacement Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021.

The Board wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

2. SUBMISSION

The Board supports the proposal to change the Freedom Camping Bylaw. The proposed changes strike a good balance between encouraging and welcoming responsible campers who bring positive benefits to areas they visit and mitigating the impacts of freedom campers who push the boundaries of acceptable environmental practices and behaviour that creates a nuisance for locals.

Updating the definition of certified self-contained vehicle to reflect the amendment to the Standard (NZS:5465:2001) in 2017

The Board supports the tightening of rules around what is classified as "self-contained" and hope that this will reduce the number of freedom campers using makeshift or camping toilets that are not fit-for-purpose in a camper.

The Board is concerned that it is too easy to obtain a "self-contained" sticker without being certified. For example, we are aware that the stickers can be purchased locally without having to go through any self-containment checks. We would like to see close monitoring of self-contained freedom campers to ensure that those displaying the stickers are in fact fully self-contained. There should be penalties for campers who breach the self-containment certification process and/or incorrectly display a sticker.

Additionally we note that the current definition of a certified self-contained vehicle is not specific enough with regard to the toilet facility, and should require permanently plumbed toilet containment (usually a specifically designed cassette).

We note that a potential impact of requiring that freedom campers are fully self-contained is that they will need places to dump their grey/black water. We would like to see the Council install more places for waste disposal in our Wards. Funding is available through New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) to support this.

Adding a clause to prevent campers from setting-up camp in a way that blocks thoroughfares

The Board supports this proposal.

Improving the process to temporarily waive or modify parts of the bylaw to enable camping for organised events

The Board supports this proposal.

Adding a new prohibited freedom camping area at North Beach Car Park, New Brighton, to enable better public access for weekend events and beach access over the warmer months

The Board supports this proposal.

We suggest it is amended to include restrictions on the number and location of parking in the months when freedom camping is available (as is being proposed for the Te Nukutai o Tapoa Naval Point marine and recreation area in Lyttelton).

Creating a new zone, the City Coastal Restricted Zone, where camping in self-contained vehicles would be allowed for up to four nights in any 30-day period, with no more than two nights in any location

The Board supports this proposal.

The Board suggests that the restricted zone is extended to include Broadpark Road and Larnach Street so that freedom campers could make use of the parking available beside Broad Park.

Conversely, we suggest that freedom camping be prohibited in Southshore from Caspian Street to the Spit, as this area is not suitable for camping – it has few amenities and campers could make evacuation difficult if this was necessary.

Changing how we manage freedom camping at Te Nukutai o Tapoa Naval Point marine and recreation area in Lyttelton to enable better public access

The Board supports this proposal.

Improving the description and map of the prohibited area at Windsport Park, near the Avon-Heathcote Estuary/ Te Ihutai

The Board supports this proposal.

We suggest that all areas that have restrictions on freedom camping need to have clear and consistent maps and explanations of the rules.



Bebe Frayle
Chairperson, Submissions Committee
WAITAI COASTAL-BURWOOD COMMUNITY BOARD
24 May 2021

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