

**When will your new Councillors discuss all implications for your local Council land as well as NZTA land in your area if the Motor Vehicle Self Containment amendment to the Freedom Camping Act passes ?*

That will be decided when and if the bill passes in its current form.

** Do you intend to comply with the new Laws (if passed) and apply these restrictions and designations to public land which you manage and NZTA land in your area ?*

Yes

** This Bill redefines what a self-contained vehicle is, and it must include a fixed, permanent toilet (not a portable toilet) so how does your Council currently define self-contained vehicles, if at all ?*

Please refer to our Waitaki District Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021, specifically section 5: Interpretation, on page 2. A link for your convenience is below.

<https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/Council/Council-Documents/Policies-and-Bylaws/Bylaws>

** If this becomes law, HOW do you intend to apply it and monitor it?*

Through the use of enforcement officers and in line with our Compliance and Enforcement Policy and the amended legislation.

**Do you have the time and resources allocated soon to review, consult, and prepare appropriate Freedom Camping Bylaws and have these in place to apply the new law if it passes by March 2023 ?*

Yes

** Have you approached NZTA to discuss collaboration with them over monitoring of their land to enforce the new Bill if it passes, as your district's NZTA land will be included in the new Act?*

No.

** Did you meet the deadline for Transitional Funding applications to provide the resource and funds to review or create the necessary Bylaws (- MBIE closed this on October 3) - <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/immigration-and-tourism/tourism/tourism-projects/supporting-sustainable-freedom-camping-in-aotearoa-new-zealand/transition-fund-for-local-authorities/>*

A transitional funding application was lodged in time. This was for the employment of an ambassador to help with transitional education.

** Do your bylaws enable non-certified self contained freedom camp sites, wherever there are toilet facilities to accommodate the thousands of willing freedom campers who will want to stay, but won't be able to stay at any Certified Self-Contained Restricted sites unless they can change their porta-potties for a fixed toilet ? Note 1.*

NO

** Do you currently have freedom camping bylaws to match this major amendment in the Freedom Camping Act, or can you review and send out appropriate public*

consultation information immediately to amend your current ones, so that this new law can be implemented in your district?

Yes

**Do you use contractors to ensure campers are certified self-contained in all restricted sites, who will be given adequate tutorial and information in how to apply the new law (if it passes)?*

Yes

**Are your enforcement officers also aware that vehicles will have a 2 year transitional period to meet any new standards of self-containment for freedom camping?*

Yes

**Does your community of motor vehicle camper owners have adequate access to members of the Plumbers, Drainlayers and Gasfitters Board who will be able to re-certify vehicles to meet the new standards?*

Out of scope for Councils responsibility

**How do you ensure inspection, patrol, or monitoring officers are safe, and also ensure privacy and safety of the campers by not bullying campers, or shining torches into vehicles late at night, which may disturb and distress them? Do they monitor at reasonable hours of the day ? Note2*

Staff safety is paramount and we go through necessary procedures as part of their training.

Staff will perform their duties within their legislative powers and may respond to freedom camping complaints at any time of the day or night.

**Do you have a clear complaints policy for freedom campers who might receive incorrect infringement notices while the transition period and new Bylaws are being created?*

This is covered by the infringement appeals process as outlined on the rear of an infringement notice.

** Did you realize that the Bill as it stands offers a loop hole for tent stayers? They are not included in the self-contained restrictions outlined in this Bill. Do you have tent camping sites allocated for freedom camping ?*

Until the bill is passed, I cannot comment on any potential loop holes

No

** Is your Council aware of the differences between self containment and 'certified' self containment? (See note 1 for understanding).*

Yes

Note 1; This questions ask specifically about 'certified' self-contained RV's, not just those who are self-contained i.e. able to manage retain waste for proper disposal. Our research suggests at least

120,000 RV based campers are self-contained vs (MBIE estimated) 72,000 Private owned RVs that are certified - mostly (estimate 86%), as a condition of club membership.

Note2; We have asked the select committee to act with urgency to stop the shining of torches into RV's at all hours of the night, noting this is very distressing to single female campers in particular, and that by doing this searching for self-containment certificates which requirements to have, are non-compliant with the freedom Camping legislation and therefore without legal status is totally unnecessary.

The date for making written submissions on the Bill has passed, and oral submissions are now underway.

We suggest that if any of these questions will have an impact on your work and management strategies for your public land, that you urgently address them, and send your answers to Department of Internal Affairs and/or Local Government New Zealand for urgent advice. (RCAi recognize many Councils are unhappy with advice provided by LGNZ, often contradicting their own legal advice).