



Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw – Central Hawke's Bay

Engagement document

Te Kaunihera a rohe o Tamatea / Central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC) is seeking public feedback on its proposed bylaw to help manage freedom camping and ensure everyone, including visitors to Central Hawke's Bay, continue to enjoy our public spaces.

Freedom camping is an increasingly popular sector of the tourism market. We are committed to encouraging the benefits it brings, while managing the increasing pressure it places on key coastal and river publicly owned sites, particularly at peak times of the year.

The proposed bylaw sets out areas where freedom camping will be permitted, restricted or prohibited within the district to protect the environment, health and safety of residents and access to key public sites. It covers staying overnight in vehicles on public land controlled by the Council, which includes most local roads and some carparks. Please see 'Introducing restricted, prohibited and permitted areas' over the page.

Freedom camping - what are some of the issues?

In general, freedom camping refers to overnight camping in tents or vehicles in places other than a camping ground as part of leisure travel, or for lifestyle reasons. It provides a flexible and affordable way for residents and for domestic and international visitors to experience and enjoy our district.

Most freedom campers are respectful and contribute positively to Central Hawke's Bay, supporting local business and tourism. However, freedom camping can cause some issues:

- Irresponsible camping, including harmful and antisocial behaviours, such as going to the toilet in public places and dumping rubbish.
- Demand for legal camping areas exceeding supply at periods of high demand, such as Christmas and Easter.
- Noises and smells impacting other users and nearby local residents.
- Campers blocking views / access or displacing other users of an area.
- Kaitiakitanga principles not being upheld.

About the proposed bylaw

Council currently manages freedom camping by educating and engaging with campers through our compliance team. Voluntary kaitiaki groups also assist us along our coast through the peak season.

However, we have no enforcement powers when asking campers to move on if they are adversely impacting others or the environment. The proposed bylaw contains rules that will help to prevent irresponsible camping along with other laws and bylaws.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 allows for a bylaw when they are 'appropriate' and 'proportionate' to address the problems experienced. Based on the number of freedom camping related complaints, feedback received during our **Thriving Places and Spaces** consultation in 2022, and consultation to date, the need for a bylaw is both appropriate and proportionate.

The proposed bylaw has been designed to address the following:

- Allow freedom camping in suitable areas where the impacts are low and can be managed.
- Set stricter rules in areas where they are required and their protection is justified under the **Freedom Camping Act 2011** to protect the area, public health and safety, and/or access to the area.
- Introduce general rules for other areas that protect our environment and public health; protect access for everyone to shared amenities and parking; and ensure that kaitiakitanga principles are upheld.

The proposed bylaw also gives Council enforcement powers and the ability to apply penalties for offences.

Introducing restricted, prohibited and permitted areas

The proposed bylaw manages freedom camping on land it covers within three categories:

- **Prohibited areas** where no freedom camping is allowed. The council is proposing to introduce prohibited areas in Waipukurau, Waipawa, Takapau, Otāne and a number of rural areas and reserves as well as coastal towns and reserves. When considering these areas council has considered public health needs, impact to the environment and public safety as well as other factors.
- **Restricted areas** where freedom camping is allowed for certified self-contained vehicles, including seasonal restrictions and a maximum number of nights. We have identified sites in Kairakau Beach, Pouterere, Aramoana Shoal Beach Reserve, Porangahau/Te Paerahi, Whangaehu Beach, Waipukurau, Waipawa, Takapau, Tikokino, Ongaonga and Otāne.
- **Two permitted areas:** Pouterere Beach Road and Te Paerahi Beach (Pōrangahau) Freedom Camping adjacent to Recreation Reserve. The draft bylaw proposes introducing a permit season between 14 December - 29 February. This is currently in place for Pouterere Beach Road but not Te Paerahi. Outside this season the bylaw proposes prohibiting freedom camping for non self-contained vehicles and tents.

Please read the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw Statement of Proposal and/or Proposed Prohibited, Restricted and Permitted Areas for more information.



We want your feedback

We want your views on whether Central Hawke's Bay District Council should introduce a Freedom Camping Bylaw. Council will take this into account when it decides in March 2024.

Please share your views with us by filling out the survey below or online at letstalkchb.nz before 5pm 31 January 2024.

In sharing your feedback, we recommend reading the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw Statement of Proposal and/or Proposed Prohibited, Restricted and Permitted Areas at www.chbdc.govt.nz, Council offices 28-32 Ruataniwha Street, Waipawa or at our hubs and libraries.

Freedom camping: Background to the bylaw

In 2022, Council adopted the **Central Hawke's Bay Camping Strategy 2022** as part of the Thriving Places and Spaces Consultation. The consultation informed the strategy and its overarching strategic goal:

Camping is in our DNA – the Tamatea Way, looking after locals, welcoming visitors, offering mountains to beach opportunities and protecting our natural environments.

This strategic goal underpins the intent of the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.

Through the same 2022 consultation, Council also adopted a **Reserve Management Plan** that covers 80 reserves and the desired future development and investment for each site, including toilets and carparking. The public submission process and Council decisions made during the Thriving Places and Spaces Consultation have informed whether key camping sites are included as prohibited, restricted or permitted camping under this proposed bylaw.

We have met with and sought feedback on the proposed bylaw directly from a number of key partners and stakeholders in our communities:

- **Mana Whenua.** As the kaitiaki of our coastline, the Council is partnering with Mana Whenua to capture their aspirations in the proposed bylaw and ensure whānau can continue to enjoy the tradition of camping. We have had several hui to hear specific feedback on the draft proposal. It is our intention to build on our relationship with these kaitiaki and community groups and, where possible, support the creation of new groups that aim to provide similar kaitiakitanga to our coastal camping community.
- **New Zealand Motorhome Caravan Association (NZMCA).**
- **Community groups and commercial campgrounds.**

Timeline

- PRE-ENGAGEMENT WITH MANA WHENUA
- **19 OCTOBER**
OPEN FOR FEEDBACK
- **31 JANUARY 2024**
FEEDBACK PERIOD CLOSES
- **FEBRUARY 2024**
HEARINGS OF SUBMISSIONS
- **MARCH 2024**
COUNCIL DECISION

Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw for Central Hawke's Bay District Council

Feedback must be received by 5pm on 31 January 2024.

Te Kaunihera a rohe o Tamatea / Central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC) is seeking public feedback on its proposal to make a new bylaw which will help manage the negative impacts of freedom camping whilst ensuring everyone, including visitors to Central Hawke's Bay, can continue to enjoy our public spaces.

We encourage you to give feedback online at letstalkchb.nz or fill out the survey form below:

Privacy Statement

For the purposes of this consultation, your feedback will be collected via the proposed freedom camping bylaw engagement document, you will be asked a number of questions and will be provided an opportunity to provide your feedback. This information will be held in confidence, accessible only by our Council Communications and Executive Leadership Teams. **Your first and last name along with your feedback will be presented to the Central Hawke's Bay District Council Elected members by way of a publicly available report.** All other information requested in the consultation document will not be used in any public domain and will be destroyed no later than 6 weeks after the submission closing date.

Your details

Your name and feedback will be included in public documents. All other personal details will not be made publicly available.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Email address or postal address: _____

Phone number: _____

Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation or business?

(If yes, this confirms you have authority to submit on the organisation's behalf) **Yes / No**

Name of organisation/business: _____

Which ethnic group(s) do you feel you belong to? (Please select as many as apply)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pākehā/NZ European | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other European | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongan | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Māori | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | | |

Specifically, do you think Central Hawke's Bay District Council should introduce the proposed freedom camping bylaw?

- I support council introducing the proposed bylaw I do not support the proposed bylaw Other

Tell us why:



The draft bylaw proposes introducing a permit season between 14 December – 29 February for the two permitted areas. This is currently in place for Pourerere Beach Road but not Te Paerahi. Do you agree?

- Yes I agree there should be a permit season for both Pourerere Beach Road and Te Paerahi
- No I don't think there should be a permit season for Pourerere Beach Road and Te Paerahi
- Other

Comment:

Outside the permit season the bylaw proposes prohibiting freedom camping for non-self-contained vehicles and tents for both permitted areas – Pourerere Beach Road and Te Paerahi. Do you agree?

- Yes I agree that freedom camping should be prohibited outside the permit season for non self-contained vehicles and tents
- No I don't think that freedom camping should be prohibited outside the permit season for non self-contained vehicles and tents
- Other

Comment:

Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Councillors to consider when making this decision?

Would you like to speak for 5 minutes during the public forum session at Council meeting in February 2024?

- Yes (if you have answered yes, we will be in touch to confirm the date and arrange a time for you to speak, please ensure you have completed your contact details)
- No

If you need more room, please attach extra pages.

The personal information that you provide in this form will be held and protected by Central Hawke's Bay District Council in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020.

