



FREEDOM CAMPING ACT 2011 UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

December 2012

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 came into force on 30 August 2011. This statute provides local authorities with access to stronger regulatory measures to better manage the nuisance created by errant freedom campers. A copy of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 can be accessed [here](#).

An original guidance note was prepared in conjunction with the Department of Internal Affairs (September 2011) to assist councils in implementing the enforcement regime enabled by the new legislation. It has been updated following legal advice.

The Freedom Camping Act 2011

Freedom camping presumed to be allowed unless explicitly prohibited

Under the Act, freedom camping is considered to be a permitted activity everywhere in a local authority (or DOC) area, except at those sites where it is specifically prohibited or restricted. This reverses the approach taken by some current by-laws which designate places where freedom camping *is allowed*, and generally prohibits it everywhere else. In order to gain access to infringement offences under the new Act, by-laws will now need to designate the places where freedom camping is *not allowed*, or where it is restricted in some way (for example for a limited duration, or only in self contained vehicles). These changes are summarised by the following table:

Regime	Management approach
No by-law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom camping is considered to be a permitted activity in all parts of a district (but does not trump reserve management plans or district plan rules).
District plan rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some councils will control freedom camping via district plan rules.
Reserves Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom camping is effectively prohibited under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 in reserves unless any of the statutory exceptions apply. - Note the council will need to consider what practical enforcement options apply if it relies on this prohibition. - Where a council makes a freedom camping by-law, any relevant reserves management plans should be consistent with the bylaw.
Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bylaw making powers under sections 145 and/or 146 of the Local Government Act 2002 but need to be exercised carefully.

Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By-law able to regulate or prohibit freedom camping in the district but must not be repugnant to the general laws of New Zealand. (This would include section 12 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011). - By-law must be reasonable. - No access to instant fines for by-law breaches. The council will need to consider what practical enforcement options apply.
Freedom Camping Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freedom camping is considered to be a permitted activity but some parts of a district can be designated as prohibited for freedom camping or where restrictions apply. - Access to instant fines for by-law breaches. - Consider consistency issues as between by-laws made under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and any reserves management plans. - Look at issue of restrictions and prohibitions in total.

Relationship between the Freedom Camping Act and other statutes

The relationship between the Freedom Camping Act (FCA) and other statutes is not particularly clear. Section 10 provides that freedom camping is permitted in any local authority area unless it is restricted or prohibited in an area:

- a) in accordance with a bylaw made under section 11; or
- b) under any other enactment.

Section 42 of the Freedom Camping Act also provides that "this Act does not limit or affect the powers of a local authority under the Local Government Act 2002 or any other enactment that confers powers on a local authority."

Other statutes also deal with "camping" expressly (for example section 44 of the Reserves Act 1977) or contain powers that would enable a local authority to regulate freedom camping (for example, the by-law making powers in section 145 and 146 of the Local Government Act 2002).

Section 10(b) of the Freedom Camping Act appears to be an example of a statutory provision that deals with the possibility of inconsistency between statutes.¹ In other words, while the section permits freedom camping unless it is restricted or prohibited in an area in accordance with a section 11 by-law, it also acknowledges that other "enactments" might provide for prohibitions or restrictions and these other prohibitions or restrictions are not to be limited or read down.

¹ See **Statute Law in New Zealand**, JF Burrows and RI Carter, 4th Edition, p470.

With respect to the Reserves Act 1977, this means that the prohibition in section 44(1) (ie prohibiting the use of a reserve, or any building, vehicle, boat, caravan, tent, or structure situate thereon, for purposes of permanent or temporary personal accommodation) continues in force unless any of the statutory exceptions apply. (One of the statutory exceptions is that the use is permitted in areas defined on management plans prepared under section 41 and for the time being in force).

Councils will need to determine whether the prohibition in the Reserves Act 1977 meets current needs (taking into account the enforcement provisions in that Act). Where Councils decide to make a freedom camping by-law under section 11 in relation to any reserves they will need to assess how the by-laws and the reserves management plans are going to operate consistently together.

With respect to other legislation such as the Local Government Act 2002, applying section 42(1) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, the by-law making powers of a territorial authority under the LGA 02 are not limited or affected by the Freedom Camping Act. Territorial authorities would appear to be able to use these powers to make by-laws that may in some way regulate or prohibit freedom camping. However, a Council would need to **carefully consider** the following matters before making such a bylaw:

- a) reasonableness and repugnancy considerations
- b) exercising powers under one statute in order to defeat the purpose of another statute (ie improper purposes).

Finally, if a Council does make a freedom camping by-law under the Freedom Camping Act, it needs to take into account any other measures that may already apply (for example the prohibition under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 or by-laws made under other statutes) which could potentially have the effect of creating a **virtual prohibition** on freedom camping in all local authority areas in the district. This would raise questions as to reasonableness and repugnancy of the freedom camping by-law.

Freedom Camping Act 2011 – content analysis

The following assessment relates to the sections of most relevance for local authorities as outlined by the Act.

By-laws must be ‘proportionate’ to the nuisance created by freedom campers

The Act requires that by-laws must be ‘proportionate’ to ensure any restrictions on freedom camping are justifiable in relation to the nature and scope of the problems being experienced.

While the by-law making power in the Act is closely modelled on the by-law making power in the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02), the inclusion of the term ‘proportionate’ (in section 11) is a departure from the criteria for determining whether a by-law is appropriate as set out in section 155 of the LGA02.

Status of existing camping related by-laws

The Act also includes several additional current camping related by-law provisions in either Schedule 3 or Schedule 4. Local authorities should check to see where their by-law provisions are placed.

Breaches of by-laws listed in Schedule 3 are infringement offences immediately following commencement of the Act.

However, the by-laws listed in Schedule 4 must be amended (by including either a map or description of the relevant areas) before infringement notices can be issued for breaches. Such amendments can be made by way of council resolution as long as they merely describe or illustrate the scope of the by-law and do not alter it in any way.

Infringement notices may only be issued for breaches of the listed by-law provisions (once amendments have been made if required) for one year from the date of commencement. This means that if local authorities wish to continue to use an infringement regime to manage freedom camping beyond 1 September 2012, they will need to make new freedom camping bylaws under the Act before that date.

Section 3 – Outline of Act

Section 3 provides an overview of the structure, purpose and scope of the Act but does not limit or affect its interpretation.

There are two provisions within the Act intended to avoid doubt. The first states that the powers of authorities acting under the Act do not extend to prohibiting freedom camping on all land controlled by the authority (i.e. 'blanket bans' are not permitted under the Act). Second, it is emphasised at the outset of the Act, that freedom camping is permitted everywhere in a local authority (or DOC controlled) area unless restricted or prohibited in accordance with the Act.

Section 5 – Meaning of freedom camp

This section defines the meaning of 'freedom camp' by specifying what activity is included, where that activity takes place, and what structures are involved in the activity.

Section 6 - Meaning of local authority area

Section 6 defines a local authority area as any area within the district or region of a local authority that is controlled or managed by the local authority but excludes an area of land permanently covered by water. The exclusion is intended to avoid capturing marinas or any other places boats may moor. The Government views freedom camping as a land-based activity with land-based problems. The Bill is not intended to apply to people living, staying or travelling in boats. The area between high and low tides, and riverbanks that may occasionally flood, are defined as part of a local authority area under the Act.

Section 9 - Repeal of transitional infringement offence provisions for local authority camping related by-laws

This section repeals sections 46 to 50 (making breaches of by-law provisions listed in the Schedules as infringement offences) and Schedules 3 and 4 after one year from the date of commencement.

The policy intention underpinning the Act is to allow local land managers (local authorities and DOC) to decide the areas where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted, and any conditions that should apply. In order to do this, and take advantage of the infringement regime, local authorities will need to make new freedom camping by-laws under the Freedom Camping Act.

Many of the current camping related by-law provisions are subparts of broader by-laws (traffic or public places) and may not be exclusively related to freedom camping. Schedules 3 and 4 differentiate by-law provisions that, as drafted, can be used to issue infringement notices for one year from commencement of the Act (Schedule 3), and the ones where the relevant areas or conditions need to be further defined (Schedule 4).

The Government's intention is that in time, those local authorities that consider they have a problem with freedom camping will make freedom camping specific by-laws under the new Act replacing camping related provisions in other by-laws.

Section 10 - Where freedom camping is permitted

This section affirms that freedom camping is permitted everywhere in a local authority area unless it is prohibited or restricted in accordance with a by-law.

This approach retains the onus on local authorities, and not the Government, to determine how freedom camping should be most appropriately managed within each territory, region or district.

Section 11 – Freedom camping by-laws

Section 11 empowers local authorities to make by-laws under the Act, and sets out the criteria which must be satisfied before making a by-law.

The expectation is that local authorities will make new freedom camping-specific by-laws to replace the camping related provisions in current by-laws. The ability for freedom campers to clearly understand the areas in a district where they can and cannot camp is seen to be an essential part of by-laws made under the Act. The local authority must also determine whether the bylaw is necessary 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
- to protect access to the area.

In addition, the local authority must be able to:

- show that the by-law is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area;
- show that the by-law is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ('NZBORA')

- include either a map and/or description of the areas to which the by-law applies.

The local authority will need to have a clear picture of the area concerned, including how it has defined the area and whether or not it has any special characteristics. For example:

- Who, as a general rule, uses the area and is the area used for any specific purpose (for example, is it a sports park)?
- Where is the area situated? Is it urban or rural?
- Is the area ecologically or physically sensitive?
- What is the nature of the vegetation in the area?
- Is there any indigenous fauna that live in the area?
- Does it contain any historic sites?
- What is the nature of the structures situated in the area (if any)? For example, are there any public facilities in the area, such as public toilets, cooking facilities, children's playgrounds etc?
- What is the relationship of Maori with the area?
- What amenity values does the area have?

Does the local authority have some **clear** evidence about the types of problems that are occurring in the area?

For example, evidence a local authority may have collected in relation to protecting an area may include the number of complaints that have been made about:

- vandalism to the area
- damage to the area
- injury to indigenous fauna
- littering of the area
- amenity values not being sufficiently protected.

With respect to protecting the health and safety of people who may visit the area, the local authority may have evidence such as:

- any offences committed in the area, (including offences against the person or property offences)
- health issues, such as unsanitary conditions due to waste
- safety issues, such as traffic hazards in the area.

With respect to protecting access to the area, the local authority may have evidence such as:

- the use of the area by the general public (other than freedom campers);

- complaints about access to the area being compromised because of the presence of freedom campers; and/or
- Council officers observing any issues associated with access.

In addition to the above assessment, a local authority will also need to be satisfied that the by-law is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area. One way to do this could be to complete an options analysis similar to one that might be completed for section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002. This will involve identifying and assessing all reasonably practicable options. By way of example, the types of options might include the following:

- make a by-law restricting freedom camping in a local authority area
- make a by-law prohibiting freedom camping in a local authority area
- make a by-law under the Local Government Act 2002 or the Reserves Act 1977 instead
- have no freedom camping bylaw for the local authority area but introduce other non-regulatory measures to mitigate the effects of freedom camping or control freedom camping (for example, more public toilets, more rubbish bins etc)
- do nothing.

The next step would be for a local authority to assess the options by looking at:

- costs and benefits
- the extent to which community outcomes will be promoted or achieved in an integrated and efficient manner
- the impact of each option on the local authority's capacity to meet its needs in relation to statutory responsibilities now and in the future
- other matters the local authority considers relevant.

The local authority should also consider whether any of the options identified involve a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water. If they do, then the local authority must take into account the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, waahi tape, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.

Finally, this will then lead the local authority into the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 ("NZBORA") assessment under section 11(2)(c) of the Freedom Camping Act. The local authority must be satisfied that its freedom camping by-law is not inconsistent with the NZBORA. The first step in making this assessment is determining whether or not the by-law limits any of the rights contained in the NZBORA. The next step is to determine whether those limits are demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

Recent case law outlines the approach to take in determining whether or not a restriction or prohibition in a by-law is a justified limitation. Local authorities should consider *Schubert v Wanganui District Council* [2011] NZAR 233 (the case relating to the by-law made under the Wanganui District Council (Prohibition of Gang

Insignia) Act 2009 and R v Hansen [2007] 3 NZLR 1. A recent example where the District Court was asked to consider whether or not the Auckland Council's by-law governing the use of public places was inconsistent with the NZBORA is Auckland Council v The Occupiers of Aotea Square Auckland Central being the Occupy Auckland Group, Unreported, 21 December 2011, District Court, Auckland, CIV-2011-404-002492. In determining whether or not the by-law was a justified limitation of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and movement, the Judge asked the following questions:

- Is the objective of the perceived problem that the by-law seeks to address important and significant?
- Is the by-law proportionate to that objective? (This is to be gauged by answering the question whether the measure had a rational relationship with the objective).
- To achieve that objective, did the measure interfere as little as possible with the rights and freedoms affected?

In that case, Judge M Wilson QC found that the limits in the by-law on the use of a public space was a justified limitation in a free and democratic society.

Section 12 – By-laws must not absolutely prohibit freedom camping

This section is intended to put the question of whether a local authority could ban freedom camping across an entire district beyond doubt.

Section 13 – Review of by-laws

Section 13 requires local authorities to review a by-law made under the Act no later than five years after the by-law was made, and no later than ten years after it was last reviewed. If a by-law is not reviewed, it is revoked two years after the last date on which it should have been reviewed. By-laws must also be reviewed by making the determinations required by section 12, and use of the special consultative process as set out in section 83 of the LGA02.

The intention behind this section is to create more consistency between the by-law review process and the by-law making power in the Act.

Section 14 – Application of Local Government Act 2002 to by-laws

Section 14 clarifies that, to the extent that the LGA02 applies to by-laws made under other enactments, it applies to by-laws made under the Freedom Camping Act.

This section was added to preserve elements of the Bill's clause 12 – "Bylaws treated for some purposes as made under Local Government Act 2002, which were deleted."

Section 20 Offences

The Act provides that offences are separated into infringement only (section 20(1)) and summary only (sections 20(2) and 20(3)) offences to reflect the nature and scale of the relative offences. The penalty for an infringement offence is \$200. The penalties for the two summary offences are:

1. Section 20(2) - discharging noxious, dangerous or offences substance onto a local authority area (e.g. emptying a self-contained waste tank) – summary conviction and a fine not exceeding \$10,000
2. Section 20(3) - obstruction of an enforcement officer - summary conviction and a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

Local authorities that do not have relevant by-laws will be able to issue infringement notices for the following offences as they are not dependent on a breach of a by-law:

- Section 20(1)(b)(i) - relating to damage to a site.
- Section 20(1)(b)(ii) and 20(1)(d) - depositing waste.
- Section 20(1)(e) - fails or refuses to leave an area when required to do so by enforcement officer.

Section 22 – Defences to offences

The Act provides that the defence that an act was necessary to protect life or health, prevent injury or serious damage to property, should be available for all offences (previously, it did not apply to the waste offences).

Section 24 - Offenders liable for cost of damage

This clause is similar to section 176 of the LGA02, but does not require a conviction. Therefore, costs may be sought in addition to any infringement fee or a fine that applies. The costs must still be first assessed by a District Court Judge.

Section 29 – Rental service agreement may provide for payment of infringement fee, and Section 30 – Charging hirer for infringement fee

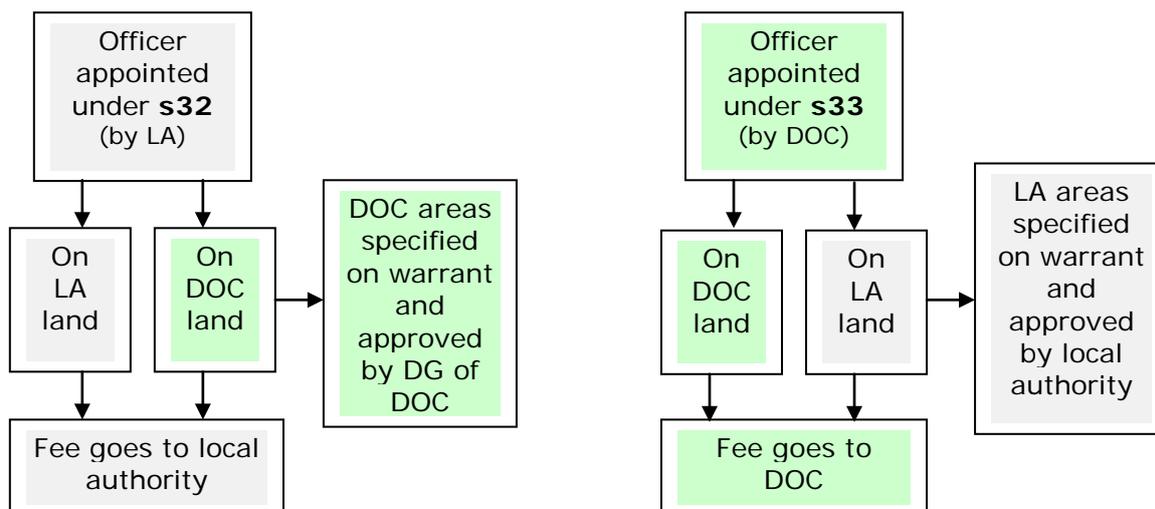
These sections enable vehicle rental companies to recover infringement fees for freedom camping offences from hirers' credit cards.

These additional sections align freedom camping offences with the status quo for other vehicle-related infringement offences. They provide vehicle rental companies the ability to on-charge infringement fees and associated costs, but do not make on-charging mandatory.

Section 31 - Entitlement to infringement fees

Local authorities are generally able to retain any fees or fines they receive. However, as a department of the Crown, any payments made to DOC must be paid to the Crown bank account.

Because local authorities and DOC may appoint enforcement officers to issue infringement notices on land administered by the other agency (under sections 32 and 33) clarification is required as to where the fees received in relation to those notices should be deposited. Subsection (3) clarifies that it is the issuing officer and the conditions of their warrant, not the land on which the notice was issued, that determines where the fee should be deposited, as depicted in the following diagram:



Section 32 - Appointment of enforcement officers by local authorities

Under this section, and section 33, local authorities and DOC may appoint officers to issue infringement notices on land administered by the other agency. The sections stipulate the conditions that must be included in an officer’s written warrant. If areas administered by the other agency are include in the officer’s warrant, the local authority or DOC’s Director-General must first provide consent.

The conditions that must be included on an officer’s warrant are:

- 32(2)(a) the responsibilities and powers (under the Freedom Camping Act).
- 32(2)(b) the offences in relation to which they are appointed (i.e. under section 20).
- 32(2)(c) the local authority areas (see sections 5 and 6 and any relevant by-laws).
- 32(2)(d) the conservation areas (see sections 5 and 7 and any areas indicated by the local DOC conservancy and approved by the Director-General of DOC).

Section 34 – Enforcement officers must produce evidence of appointment

Enforcement officers are required to produce “evidence of appointment,” rather than a “written warrant” (as provided for under sections 32 and 33). This means that enforcement officers will not be required to carry the full warrant around.

Section 35 – Enforcement officers may require certain information

This section empowers enforcement officers to require people they suspect on reasonable grounds of committing, or having committed, an offence under the Act, to supply identifying information, and that of anyone else connected with the offence.

The ability to withhold information is only available in circumstances where the information may incriminate other people and raise issues of legal privilege.

Information that may be required also includes full address (not only residential address), telephone number and occupation.

Section 36 - Enforcement officers may require certain persons to leave local authority area or conservation land

An enforcement officer may only require people to leave an area if they believe, on reasonable grounds, that they have committed or are committing an offence under the Freedom Camping Act (see section 20). It is an offence (see section 20(1)(e) and (k)) to refuse to leave an area if required to do so by an enforcement officer.

Section 38 – Requirements relating to seizure and impoundment of boats, caravans, and motor vehicles

This section establishes a higher test to be satisfied before an enforcement officer may seize a boat, caravan or motor vehicle, than the test of “reasonable in the circumstances” applied to the seizure of other property under section 37.

Section 40 - Disposal of property seized and impounded

This section is based on section 168 of the LGA02 (Power to dispose of property seized and impounded). However, subsections (4), (5) and (6) are additional to those in section 168.

Subsections (4) and (5) provide for surpluses where the owner or person the property was seized from cannot be located. A local authority (or DOC) may retain any surplus from the disposal of the property, and pay into the general revenues (in the case of a local authority) or the Crown bank account (in the case of DOC). Subsection (6) defines working days as having the meaning set out in section 5(1) of the LGA02.

Section 41 - Protection against claims resulting from seizing or impounding of property under section 37

This section provides enforcement officers protection from liability for any damage incurred to property when impounding it under section 37.

The protection is not absolute; any actions that were not in good faith, or were a major departure from expected standards of care are not excused by this section. There are no similar protections for enforcement officers under the LGA02.

Section 42 - Relationship of this Act with other enactments

Section 42 clarifies that the Act does not limit or affect the powers of a local authority under the LGA02 or any other enactment that confers powers on a local authority (or on DOC under the conservation Acts).

Section 47 – Infringement offences for camping related local authority by-law provisions specified in Schedule 3, and Section 48 – Infringement offences for camping related local authority by-law provisions specified in Schedule 4

These sections establish breaches of the by-law provisions listed in Schedule 3 (and Schedule 4 with amendment) as infringement offences.

The fee is set at \$200 and overrides any other penalty set out in the by-law. This was necessary because some by-law provisions include an infringement fee, even though they are unable to be enforced as infringement offences unless the necessary regulations were made under section 159 of the LGA02.

The bylaw provisions continue to be treated as made under the LGA02, and are not deemed to have been made under the Freedom Camping Act. Summary conviction, and the maximum penalty of \$20,000, is still available under the LGA02 for breaches of the by-law provisions. It was necessary to establish that breaches of current by-law provisions are separate from section 20 offences because such breaches are already summary offences under section 239 of the LGA02, and to highlight their time limited nature as infringement offences under the Freedom Camping Act.

These sections were also amended to allow for the infringement notice and reminder notice forms set out in Schedule 2 to be modified to reflect the provisions of the by-laws concerned.

Section 49 – Empowering legislation otherwise applies to by-law provisions

Section 49 clarifies that the by-law provisions listed in Schedules 3 and 4 remain made under the LGA02, and therefore all relevant sections of the LGA02 continue to apply (other than in relation to issuing infringement notices). This section also clarifies that a by-law's inclusion in one of the Acts' Schedules does not prevent the validity of the by-law being challenged under any enactment.

Schedule 3 and Schedule 4

Only breaches of the by-law provisions which are specifically listed in the Schedules are infringement offences. Local authorities should review the Schedules to determine which particular by-law provisions are listed before issuing infringement notices. In addition, the descriptions of the by-law provisions are included as a guide only and do not have legal standing in and of themselves (see section 50).

The local authorities that may issue infringement notices for breaches of their by-law provisions immediately following commencement (those listed in Schedule 3) are:

Buller District Council, Clutha District Council, Dunedin City Council, Far North District Council, Gisborne District Council, Hurunui District Council, Kapiti Coast District Council, Kawerau District Council; Marlborough District Council, Nelson City Council; Queenstown Lakes District Council, Rangitikei District Council, South Waikato District Council, Tasman District Council, Taupo District Council, Waimakariri District Council and Westland District Council.

The local authorities that must amend their by-law before being able to issue infringement notices for breaches of their bylaw provisions (those listed in Schedule 4) are:

Auckland Council, Central Hawkes Bay District Council, Central Otago District Council, Christchurch City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Hastings City Council, Hauraki District Council, Hutt City Council, Invercargill City Council, Kaipara District Council, Mackenzie District Council, Manawatu District Council, Masterton District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Napier City Council, New

Plymouth District Council, Opotiki District Council, Rotorua District Council, Ruapehu District Council, Selwyn District Council, South Taranaki District Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Southland District Council, Stratford District Council, Tararua District Council, Tauranga City Council, Thames-Coromandel District Council, Timaru District Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Waikato District Council, Wairoa District Council, Waitomo District Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Wanganui District Council, Whakatane District Council and Whangarei District Council.

Freedom Camping Act 2011 – next steps

The Act provided that local authorities with by-laws identified in Schedule 3 could start issuing infringement fines for freedom camping related offences immediately. However, those councils listed above in Schedule 4 needed to amend their by-laws (by including either a map or description of relevant areas) before infringement notices could be issued for breaches.

In either case councils should endeavour to make information on freedom camping readily available for visitors. This may include leveraging off existing council website and i-sites where appropriate.

It is also recommended that councils work with DOC to establish a consistent and co-ordinated approach to enforcement across New Zealand.

In addition, *Local Government New Zealand* is part-funding a review of NZS 8603:2005 and NZ 5464:2001 to provide common signage that can assist local authority enforcement officers in identifying areas where freedom camping is prohibited, as well as differentiating vehicles that are compliant with self-containment certification where applicable. More information will be made available as the review process develops.

Department of Conservation

Parallel powers for the Department of Conservation (DOC) to issue infringement notices under the Act are not discussed in detail in this guidance. However, it is understood that DOC plans to work with relevant local authorities to develop a co-ordinated approach to freedom camping in areas where DOC and local authority lands adjoin. For more information on the role of DOC in implementing the Freedom Camping Act, please contact your local conservancy office in the first instance.

Infringements only one tool for managing freedom camping

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is designed as a tool to help local authorities (and DOC) manage problems associated with freedom camping. It is just one of many ways to manage this activity and will work most effectively when accompanied by a range of other approaches. For example, signage and publicity about any camping restrictions, education for the camping public and visitors and, where appropriate, the provision of facilities such as toilets, rubbish bins and waste disposal stations will all help to ensure freedom campers respect the environment while they enjoy freedom camping in your district.

Contact information

For more information on any matter relating to the Freedom Camping Act, please contact Clare Wooding at LGNZ (clare.wooding@lgnz.co.nz, DDI: 04 924 1220).

Other resources

- Simpson Grierson Legal Review of [“A Guide to Freedom Camping Bylaws under the Freedom Camping Act 2011.”](#)

This guide was commissioned by the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc and has been provided to councils by the Association. Councils using this guide should do so in conjunction with our legal review.

- Simpson Grierson [“Further Freedom Camping Issues”](#)

This opinion considers specifically the relationship between a by-law made under the Local Government Act 2002 and the intent of the Freedom Camping Act .