



**KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL
Freedom Camping Bylaw (2019)**

Kawerau District Council

Freedom Camping Bylaw (2019)

Explanatory Statement

For a number of years the Kawerau District Council (Council) had a policy which allowed freedom camping in certain Council-owned reserves. Council's welcoming stance toward freedom camping was recognised in 2010 when the District was awarded motorhome friendly status by the NZ Motorhomes Association. When the Freedom Camping Act 2011 first came into force, Council elected to retain a freedom camping policy rather than make a bylaw under that legislation. The Act authorises councils to make bylaws to define the areas of council-owned land in which freedom camping are prohibited or restricted and to make restrictions for freedom camping. In 2019 Council decided that it was necessary to make a freedom camping bylaw.

Contents	Page
.....	1
1 Title and Commencement	1
2 Repeal	1
3 Scope and Purpose	1
4 Definitions.....	1
5 Freedom Camping Permitted	2
6 General Conditions	2
7 Freedom Camping Restricted Areas	2
8 Freedom Camping Prohibited Areas	2
10 Council May Temporarily Prohibit Freedom Camping	3
12 Offences and Penalties	3
13 Commencement	3
Revocations and Changes	4
SCHEDULE ONE – Freedom Camping Restricted Areas	5
SCHEDULE TWO – Freedom Camping Prohibited Areas	7

Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw (2019)

1 Title and Commencement

This Bylaw shall be known as the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw (2019). It comes into force on 1 October 2019.

2 Repeal

The Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Policy (2014) and clause 8 of the Kawerau District Council General Bylaw Part 2: Public Places (2013) are hereby repealed.

3 Scope and Purpose

3.1 This Bylaw is made under section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

3.2 The purpose of this Bylaw is to define the Council-owned areas in the Kawerau District where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted, to set out any restrictions that apply to those areas and to ensure that:

- a. the areas are protected;
- b. the health and safety of people who may visit those areas is protected; and that
- c. access to those areas is protected.

4 Definitions

For the purpose of this Bylaw, the following definitions apply:

Area means an area of land that is within the Kawerau District and that is controlled or managed by the Council under any enactment.

Authorised Officer means any person whose authorisation by Council or another statutory authority accords that person the status of an Authorised Officer with powers under this Bylaw.

Council means the Kawerau District Council or any Authorised Officer with powers to exercise the authority of the Kawerau District Council.

District means the Kawerau District.

Freedom Camp has the meaning set out in clause 5 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and its amendments.

Reserve means any land classified as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 or its amendments.

Self-Contained Vehicle means a caravan, motor home or other vehicle which is certified as self-contained as evidenced by the display of a current self-containment warrant issued under New Zealand Standard NZS 5465:2001 or any subsequent iteration of that standard.

Waste means any kind of Waste, including human Waste.

5 Freedom Camping Permitted

Freedom Camping is generally allowed in the District subject to the provisions of this Bylaw.

6 General Conditions

6.1 Freedom Camping in the District is subject to the following conditions:

- a. All litter and household Waste must either be removed from the area or disposed of in the bins provided.
- b. Wastewater (including human Waste) should be disposed of in the dump sites provided at Prideaux Park and Firmin Field.
- c. Campers must allow an Authorised Officer to inspect their campsite and must comply with any reasonable direction from an Authorised Officer.
- d. Campers must not camp in such a way as to restrict access to any public area or private land.
- e. Campers must not light any fires.
- f. Campers are subject to all other requirements that apply generally to the area where they are camped, including dog control, liquor control and noise.
- g. Campers must not interfere with or damage any campsite, Freedom Camping area, flora, fauna or structure.
- h. The maximum stay for Freedom Camping in the District is a total of seven (7) consecutive nights in any one (1) calendar month.

7 Freedom Camping Restricted Areas

The Areas in which Freedom Camping is restricted, and the restrictions that apply, are set out in Schedule One of this Bylaw.

8 Freedom Camping Prohibited Areas

Freedom Camping is prohibited in the Areas identified in Schedule Two of this Bylaw.

9 Amendments to Restricted or Prohibited Areas

9.1 Council may by resolution, publicly notified, add to, amend or alter Schedule One and Schedule Two of this Bylaw to include additional areas as restricted or prohibited for Freedom Camping, or to exclude any such areas where it is satisfied

that the additions, amendments or alterations meet the requirements of s11(2)(a)-(c) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

10 Council May Temporarily Prohibit Freedom Camping

Council may, by providing 24 hours' public notice, impose temporary prohibitions on Freedom Camping in any area due to the following:

- a. Maintenance of the Area or facilities in the area;
- b. Prevention of damage to the area or facilities in the area;
- c. Local events being held at the area; or
- d. Health and safety issues or emergency situations.

11 Council May Revoke Freedom Camping

11.1 The Council may direct any person Freedom Camping to leave the site at which they are Freedom Camping if the Authorised Officer believes on reasonable grounds that the person has:

- a. Acted in a manner likely to endanger the health and safety of other people; and/or
- b. Damaged or is likely to cause damage to the site; and/or
- c. Breached any of the conditions or restrictions outlined in this Bylaw.

12 Offences and Penalties

12.1 Every person who commits an offence set out in clause 20(1) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 commits an infringement offence and is liable to a fine of \$200 and/or cost of damage.

12.2 Every person who commits an offence set out in clause 20(2)-(3) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 is liable to a fine and/or cost of damage and/or prosecution.

13 Commencement

This Bylaw comes into force on 1 October 2019.

Revocations and Changes

The Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw (2019) was duly made by a resolution passed at a meeting of the Kawerau District Council held on (Date) 2019, in accordance with the procedure required by the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

The Common Seal of the
Kawerau District Council
was affixed hereto in the presence of:

.....
Mayor

.....
Chief Executive Officer

.....
Date

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SCHEDULE ONE – Freedom Camping Restricted Areas

Freedom Camping is permitted in the areas listed below and identified in Freedom Camping Maps [X] – [Y] subject to the following specific restrictions:

1. Prideaux Park

Prideaux Park is the primary Freedom Camping area in the District. Council provides four areas for Freedom Camping:

- 1.1 The streamside area behind the Prideaux Park Pavilion.
This Area has four powered sites. Campers can access the power supply on payment of a \$25 bond at the Kawerau *i*-Site. Power usage is free for the first three nights and charged at \$10 per night thereafter.
- 1.2 The grassed area behind the Kawerau Bowling Club.
- 1.3 The sealed carpark in front of the Maurie Kjar Swimming Pools.

Freedom Camping in Prideaux Park is restricted because it is a geothermal area. Overnight sleeping must be in fully Self-Contained Vehicles with above-ground floors.

Council provides a dump station behind the Kawerau Bowling Club that must be used to dispose of wastewater.

2. Firmin Field

- 2.1 Firmin Lodge Carpark
This area has six powered sites. Campers can access the power supply on payment of a \$25 bond at the Kawerau *i*-Site. Power usage is free for the first three nights and charged at \$10 per night thereafter. Freedom Camping in this area is restricted to fully Self-Contained Vehicles only.
- 2.2 Firmin Field
Groups can request approval from Council to Freedom Camp at Firmin Field, and Council can exercise its discretion to grant approval to Freedom Camp on the grassed field. If approval is granted, Council will open the gates when campers arrive and lock them again when they leave. To allow arrangements to be made, Council will only consider requests made at least 48 hours prior to arrival. Campers must give the Council 48 hours' notice before arrival and departure. Consideration will be given to requests to Freedom Camp in tents or non-Self-Contained Vehicles.

3. Boyce Park, Stoneham Park and Waterhouse Street Reserve

Council may grant approval for organised groups to Freedom Camp in these three reserves. Council will open the gates when campers arrive and lock them again when they leave. To allow arrangements to be made, campers must provide Council with 48 hours' notice of the date and time of their expected arrival and departure, and of when they leave the reserve.

4. The Ron Hardie Recreation Centre Carpark

Council may grant approval for organised groups to Freedom Camp on the sealed carpark area of the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre. Freedom Camping must be in a Self-Contained Vehicles because of its proximity to an active geothermal area.

5. Roads with a speed limit of 50km/hr or less

Campers must be parked in a Self-Contained Vehicle within the confines of a formed and marked parking space. Campers must not be parked directly outside a residence, commercial or industrial premises on the same side of the road as that premises.

SCHEDULE TWO – Freedom Camping Prohibited Areas

Freedom camping is prohibited in the following areas and identified in Freedom Camping Maps [Z] – [A]:

1. The site of the former Opunoke Sulphur Mine, behind the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre.
2. Tarawera Park, which is the primary sports ground in Kawerau.
3. Children's playgrounds.
4. Council reserves in residential areas.
5. Council-owned carparking lots not listed in Schedule One.
6. All roads with a speed limit over 50km/hr.
7. The Kawerau Town Centre, being the inner carriageway of the area bounded by Islington Street, Onslow Street and Plunket Street and all of Islington Street.

P r i d e a u x P a r k

Streamside
area behind
pavillion.

Grassed
area behind
bowling club

Sealed carpark in
front of the Maurie
Kjar Swimming Pools

Plunket Street

Glasgow Street

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-  Freedom Camping Restricted
-  Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 1: Prideaux Park

0 5 10 20 30 40
m





-  Freedom Camping Restricted
-  Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 2: Firmin Field

0 5 10 20 30 40 m





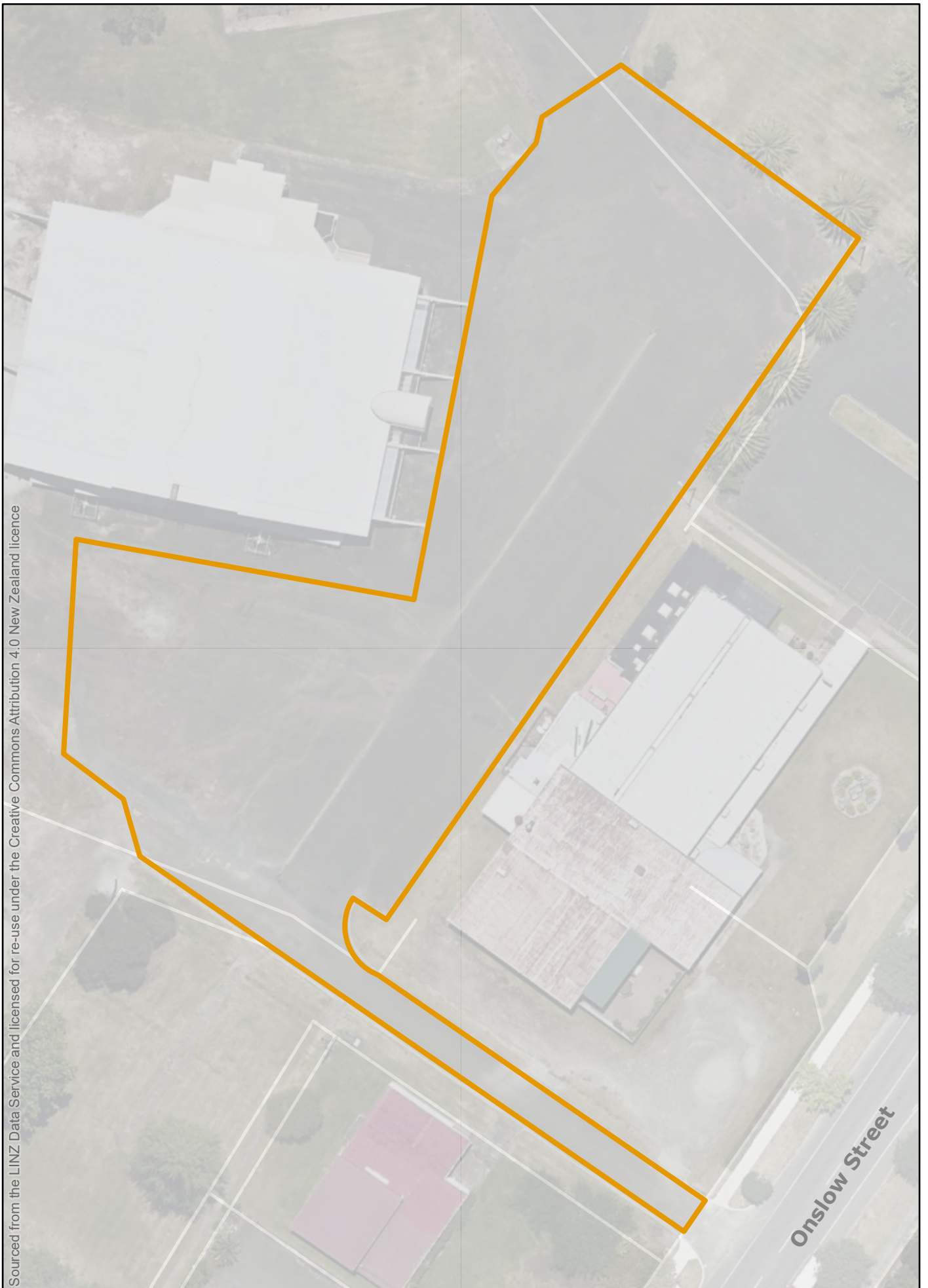
Land Information New Zealand, Eagle Technology

- Freedom Camping Restricted
- Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 3: Boyce, Stoneham, and Waterhouse Street



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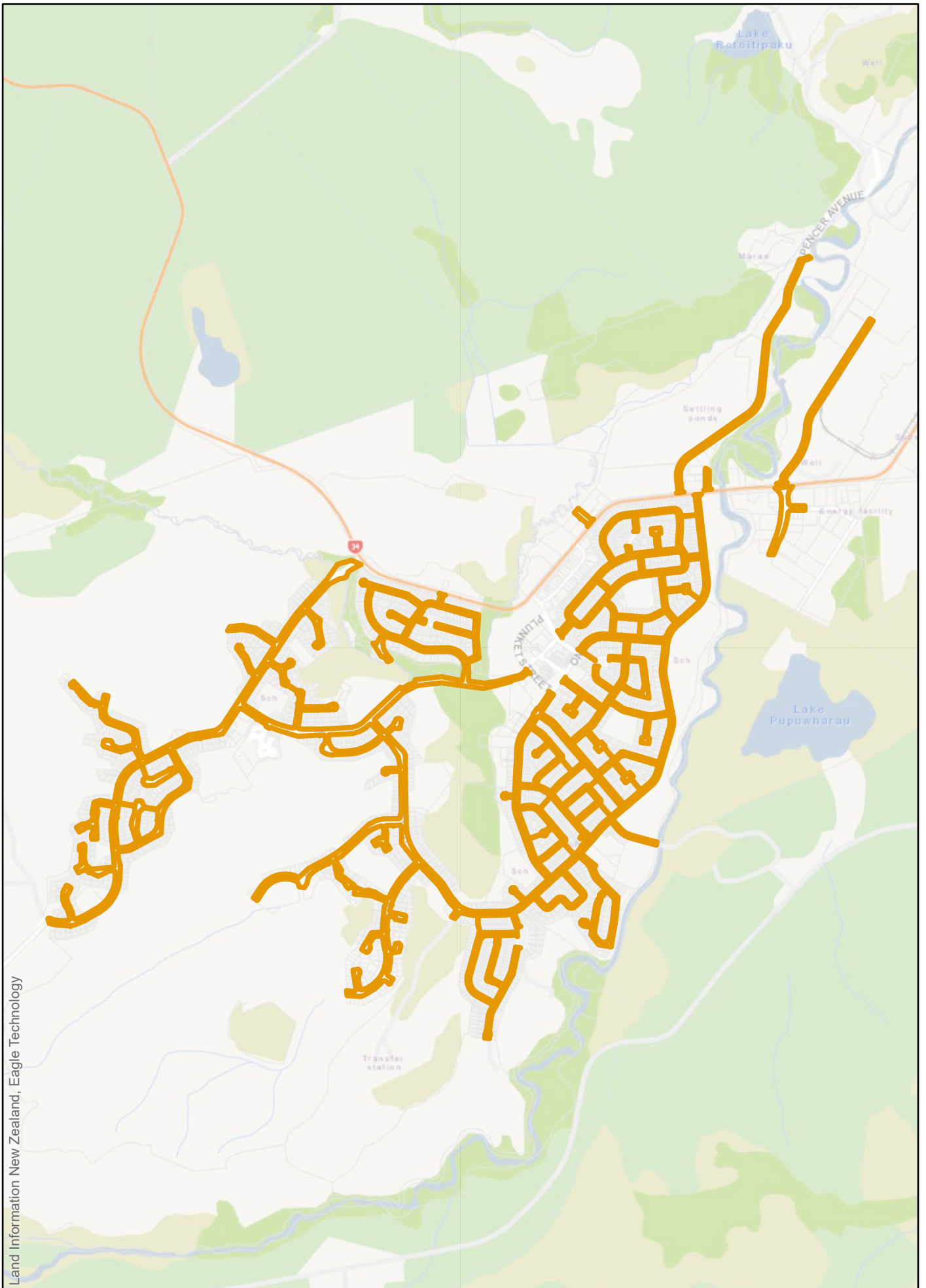


-  Freedom Camping Restricted
-  Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 4: The Ron Hardie Recreation Centre

0 5 10 20 30 40 m





Land Information New Zealand, Eagle Technology

- ▭ Freedom Camping Restricted
- ▭ Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 5: Roads with a speed limit of 50km/hr or less



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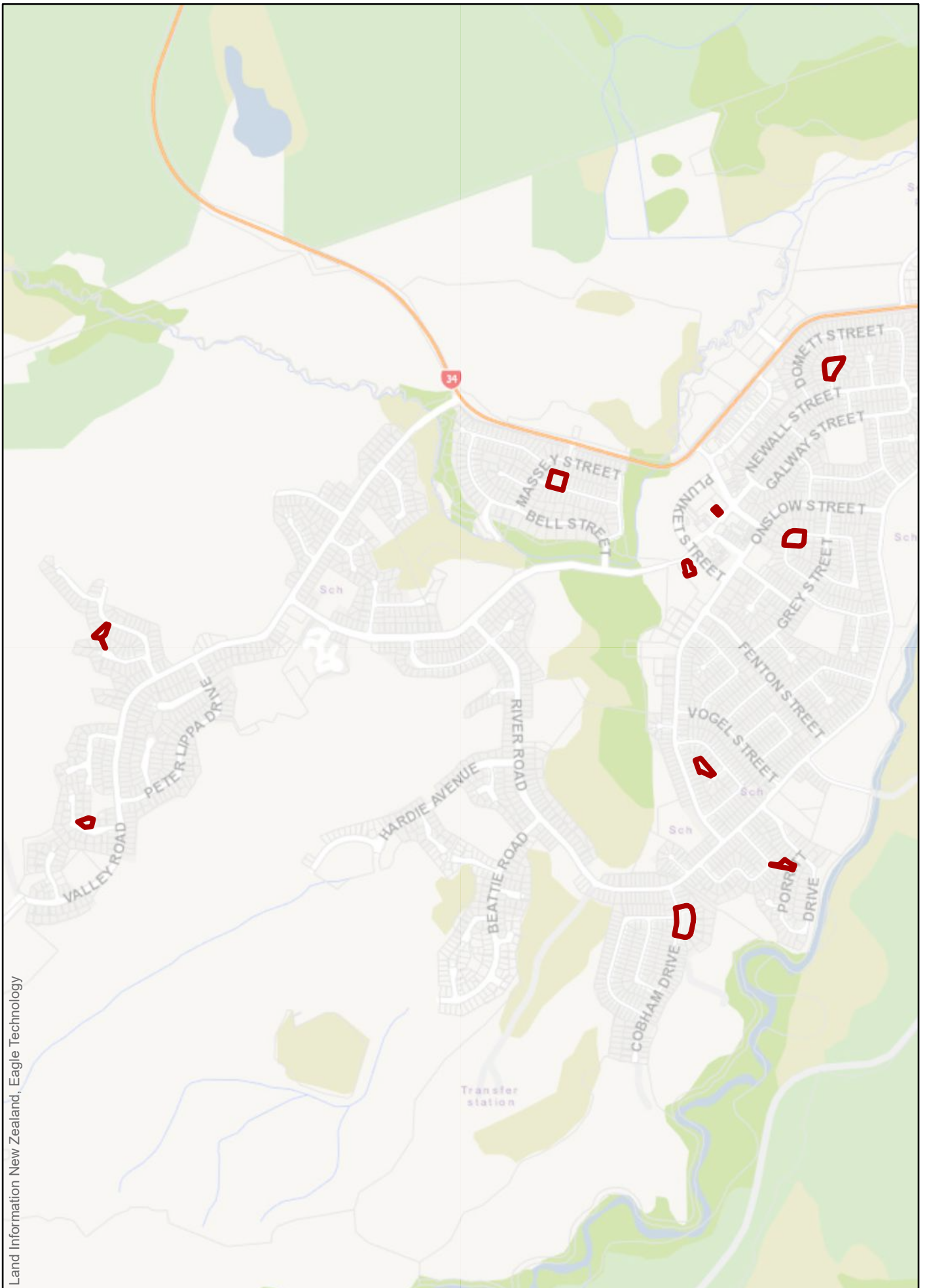
-  Freedom Camping Restricted
-  Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 6: Opunoke Sulphur Mine

0 5 10 20 30 40 m





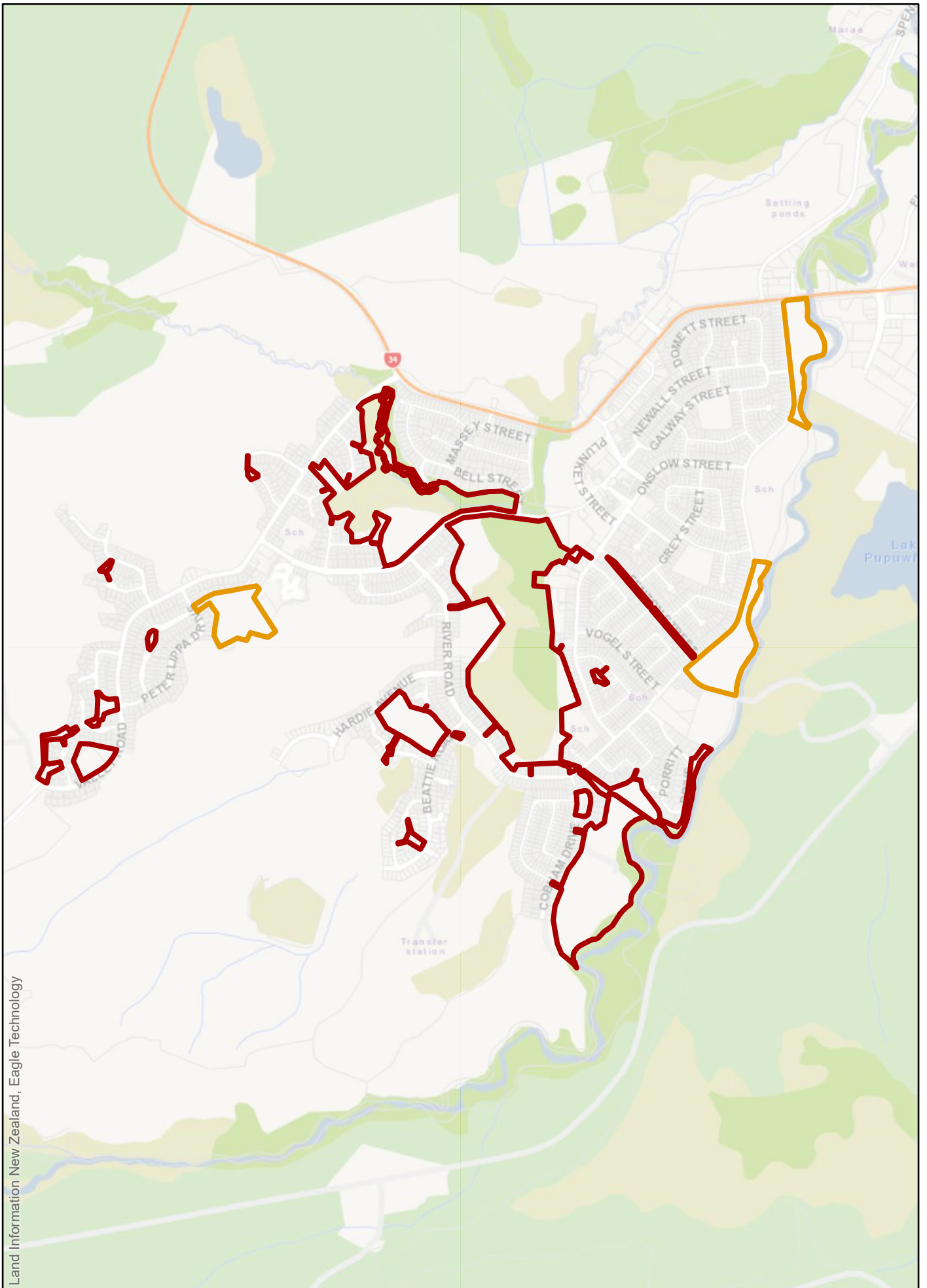


- ▭ Freedom Camping Restricted
- ▭ Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 8: Playgrounds

0 50 100 200 300 400 500
m





Land Information New Zealand, Eagle Technology

- ▭ Freedom Camping Restricted
- ▭ Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 9: Council Reserves in Residential Areas

0 100 200 400 600 800 1,000 m



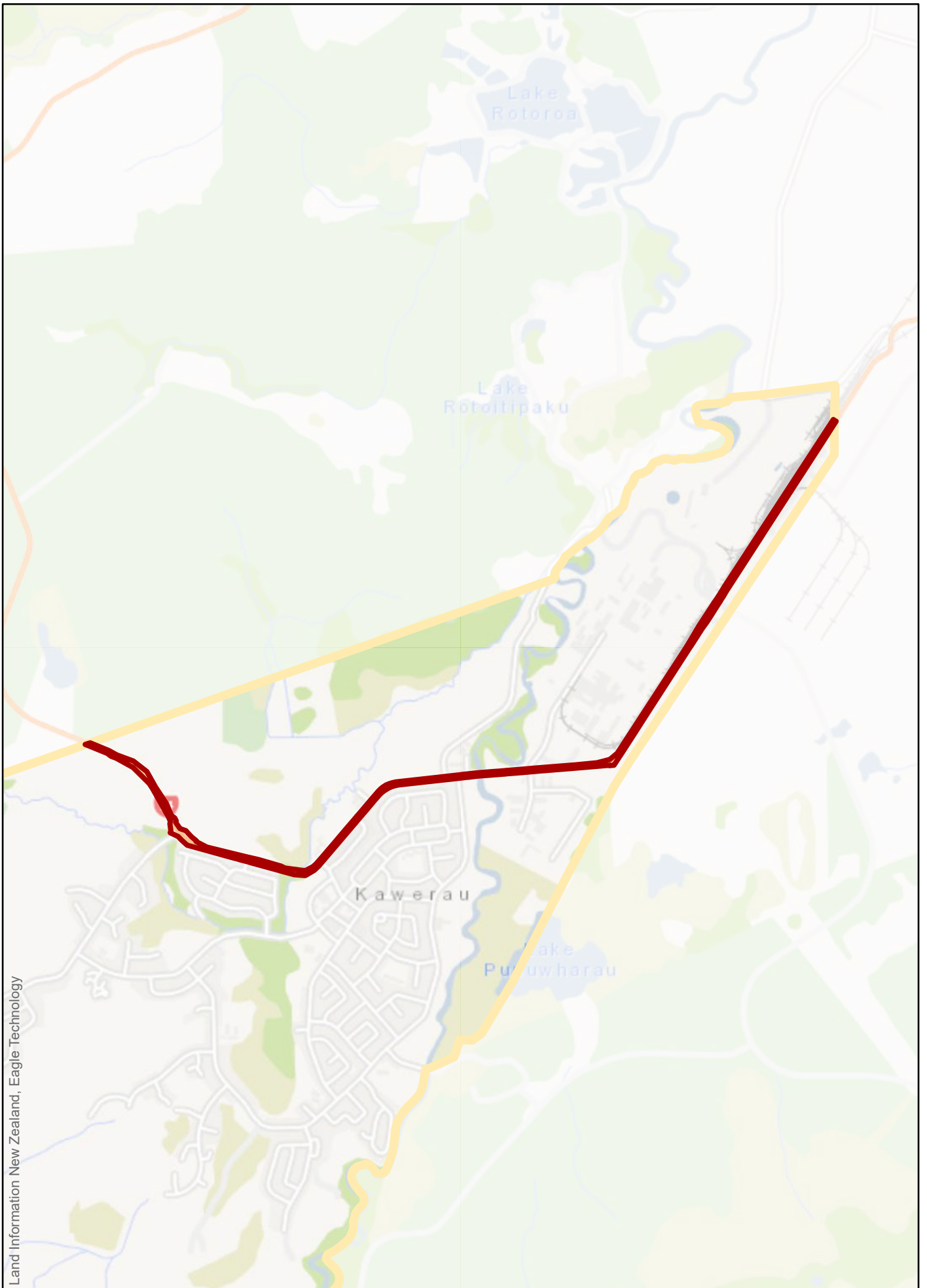


Land Information New Zealand, Eagle Technology

-  Freedom Camping Restricted
-  Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 10: Council-owned Carparking Lots





-  Freedom Camping Restricted
-  Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 11: Roads with a speed limit over 50 km/hr





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-  Freedom Camping Restricted
-  Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 12: Kawerau Town Centre



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-  Freedom Camping Restricted
-  Freedom Camping Prohibited

Map 13: Liverpool Street

