



KAWERAU DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau

TAONGA O TE WHENUA - TREASURE OF THE LAND

**The Extraordinary Meeting of the
Kawerau District Council will be
held on Wednesday 13 November 2024
commencing at 11.00am**

A G E N D A

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC FORUM AT MEETINGS

1. A period of thirty minutes is set aside for a public forum at the start of each Ordinary Council or Standing Committee meeting, which is open to the public. This period may be extended on by a vote by members.
2. Speakers may address meetings on any subject. However, issues raised must not include those subject to legal consideration, or be issues, which are confidential, personal, or the subject of a formal hearing.
3. Each speaker during the public forum is permitted to speak for a maximum of three minutes. However, the Chairperson has the discretion to extend the speaking time.
4. Standing Orders are suspended for the duration of the public forum.
5. Council and Committees, at the conclusion of the public forum, may decide to take appropriate action on any of the issues raised.
6. With the permission of the Chairperson, members may ask questions of speakers during the period reserved for public forum. Questions by members are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the speaker.

**The Extraordinary Meeting of the Kawerau District Council
will be held on Wednesday 13 November 2024
commencing at 11.00am**

A G E N D A

1 Karakia Timatanga | Opening Prayer

2 Apologies

3 Leave of Absence

4 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Any member having a “conflict of interest” with an item on the Agenda should declare it, and when that item is being considered, abstain from any discussion or voting. The member may wish to remove themselves from the meeting while the item is being considered.

5 Meeting Notices

6 Nga Mihimihi | Acknowledgements

7 Public Forum

8 Adoption of the Re-assessed Site Assessments, proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal for Public Consultation (Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning) (320400)

Pgs. 1 - 144

Attached is a report from the Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning covering the Adoption of the Re-assessed Site Assessments, proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal for Public Consultation.

Recommendations

1. *That the report “Adoption of the re-assessed site assessments, proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal for Public Consultation” be received.*
2. *That Council agrees that making a new Freedom Camping Bylaw is the most appropriate way to address freedom camping on Council owned land.*
3. *After agreeing to 2. above, that Council*
 - a) *Adopts the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal including the proposed amendments to the Reserves Management Plan as attached for public consultation.*

- b) *Confirms the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw as attached
 - i) *Is in the most appropriate form of the bylaw; and*
 - ii) *Does not give rise to any implications under, and is not inconsistent with, the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.**
- c) *Agrees that a summary of the site assessment be included for public understanding of the proposal.*
- d) *Approves the consultation for the period 18 November 2024 to 20 December 2024.*
- e) *Authorises the Group Manager Regulatory and Planning to make any necessary minor drafting or presentation amendments to the re-assessed site assessments, the Proposed Bylaw or the Statement of Proposal to correct errors or omissions, or to reflect decisions made by council, prior to final printing and publication.*

9 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Prayer

M Godfery

Chief Executive Officer

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Meeting: Extraordinary Council

Meeting Date: 13 November 2024

Subject: Adoption of the Re-assessed Site Assessments, proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal for Public Consultation

File No.: 320400

1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to review the re-assessed Site Assessment, the Proposed Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal and consider the amendments for the Reserves Management Plan for adoption and approval for further public consultation.

2 Background

The Freedom Camping Bylaw was introduced in 2019 as a means to address problems that had arisen with freedom camping in the Kawerau district. The introduction of the bylaw enabled Council to adopt an infringement regime, which was considered to be the best way to protect freedom camping areas in the Kawerau district, and the health and safety of people using those areas.

A new bylaw must be reviewed within five years of implementation and then every 10 years after that. This is the first review of the current bylaw.

In addition to a standard review, the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 received royal assent on 6 June 2023. This Act amends the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006. Where a bylaw is inconsistent with the new legislation, any inconsistencies will have no legal effect.

The amendments to the Freedom Camping Act included amending the definition of freedom camping and self-contained vehicle definition. The full definition can be viewed within the proposed draft Freedom Camping Bylaw. Please note the definition also includes exclusions (who is not a freedom camper).

The Act now provides a presumption that freedom camping on local authority land is a permitted activity, including the use of a tent or temporary structures. While Council can restrict freedom camping to set areas within the district, or set types of freedom camping via a bylaw, Council cannot issue a blanket ban on freedom camping.

Council commenced a review of the Freedom Camping Bylaw due to a number of complaints being received regarding freedom campers overstaying.

3 **Initial Review**

The purpose of the Freedom Camping Bylaw is to manage freedom camping within the Kawerau district through defining areas of Council-owned land that was either restricted or prohibited for freedom camping. In addition to this, the bylaw provides enforcement options that were not otherwise available under the Freedom Camping Act or other legislation.

The bylaw achieves the required outcomes, by limiting the number of reserves available for freedom camping, while still providing the required space to enable freedom campers within our community. Ongoing monitoring enables enforcement where complaints are made or over stayers have been identified.

Enforcement and monitoring has been limited due to staff only being available during working hours, however work is in progress to engage existing contractors to extend their work to include freedom camping. This will also enable better information gathering, so many freedom campers are aware of the working hours for staff and depart before they start and return later in the evening.

The Freedom Camping Bylaw is still required for the following reasons:

- Kawerau receives a consistent number of freedom campers on an ongoing basis (the average would be around five per night – although this is likely low), plus we have a number of groups which attend events within Kawerau. Without a bylaw in place, we may not have sufficient control over the use of Council land (particularly Firmin Lodge and Prideaux Park).
- Enforcement powers, although not often used, helps keep the majority of visitor complaint, and provides staff with a means to address serious non-compliance.
- The bylaw helps inform the community about their rights and obligations.

Overall, the number of complaints received are limited. However, the numbers recorded are not reflective of the work completed in this space. It appears a significant number of incidents have not been entered into our reporting system, making the numbers appear smaller than they are. At the time of writing, the following service requests had been received.

- 2023/24 – one service request
- 2022/23 – four complaints
- 2021/22 – three complaints

Although I am unable to provide exact numbers of complaints, I would estimate the numbers to be more like 30 in a year. This number is still not high, but without a bylaw our complaints are likely to rise, as we may not be able to take enforcement action and we would have no control over where they choose to freedom camp, and this includes tenting.

The key issues identified with the bylaw are outlined below:

- Wording of the bylaw enables a maximum of seven consecutive nights in any calendar month. Unfortunately, having stayed for six consecutive nights, providing they leave, they could return for another set of seven consecutive nights and not technically be in breach of the bylaw.

- The bylaw does not allow exemptions or prior approval. Council is often faced with individuals requesting to stay additional nights; however, the bylaw has no provisions to enable this.
- Site assessments indicate the need to adjust the availability of certain sites.
- The bylaw is currently inconsistent with the Reserves Management Plan which is currently under review.

While the bylaw generally works well, some matters are raised on an ongoing basis, which suggests improvement is required to Council's processes and systems.

4 Current Situation

After the review was undertaken, Council determined that a bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 was the most appropriate way to manage issues relating to freedom camping, and that the proposed bylaw was the most appropriate form of bylaw. The proposed bylaw was assessed as not being inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

On 31 July 2024 the initial proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw was adopted for consultation for the period 5 August 2024 to 6 September 2024. During the consultation period, Council received 21 submissions on the proposed bylaw.

The submissions were received by Council and deliberations were scheduled, however were then placed on hold while awaiting a legal opinion on whether or not the site assessments complied with the provisions under the Freedom camping Act 2011.

Around the same time, the High Court decision for the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Incorporated vs Queenstown Lakes Council [2024] NZHC 2729 was reported finding consideration of amenity and economic factors that were outside the scope of the Freedom Camping Act 2011. As a result, Council made the decision to complete a reassessment of all site assessments, prior to moving forward.

5 Site Assessment

The initial site assessment of all Council owned land was undertaken for the purpose of reviewing the Freedom Camping Bylaw in June 2024. The completed assessments were initially provided to Council for review on 24 July 2024.

As a result of the High Court findings (mentioned above), the site assessments have now been re-assessed, removing consideration of amenity and economic values when considering the protection of the area within the assessment framework.

While the review of the June 2024 site assessments has changed some scoring of the individual criteria for various sites, the site re-assessments have not led to significant changes. No sites have been reclassified to enable freedom camping, that were previously recommended to be prohibited or restricted in the June 2024 site assessments. However, it is recommended that three previously included sites, no

longer included in the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw as freedom camping, be prohibited for other reasons.¹

The re-assessments were completed in October and presented to Council in a workshop while a legal opinion was being sought. The legal opinion was received during the writing of this report and the details have been amended in the site assessment document. The legal opinion findings related to providing further clarification on the reasons for the changes in the assessment to ensure clarity to the community. As a result, reasoning has been added below each assessment that had a change in value.

Every site has been reviewed and reassessed to determine whether the initial assessments had been correct. A copy of the full site assessment has been attached. A summary is being prepared for consultation.

Overall, the re-assessment has resulted in a few minor changes for the Freedom Camping Bylaw. These are identified in red under clause 6 Summary of Changes.

6 **Summary of Changes**

The proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw has been drafted to address the issues raised and to align with the new legislation. An outline of the key changes are included below.

- Key Change 1 – Explanatory Statement Removed
The explanatory statement was removed as this did not add value to the bylaw.
- Key Change 2 – New Bylaw format
Updated the template to reflect a modernised bylaw.
- Key Change 3 - Enabling Enactment Added
This references the legislation that enabled the bylaw.
- Key Change 4 – Incorporation of Explanatory Notes
Incorporation of explanatory notes. Explanatory notes allow relevant additional information to be added to better inform the community, without affecting the content of the bylaw. For example references to key definitions in legislation such as “self-contained” and “freedom camping” are included and can be updated without a review of the bylaw. This enables the bylaw to respond to changes efficiently, provided the actual content of the Bylaw is not altered. **Initial comments have been included within some of the explanatory notes.**
- Key Change 5 – Purpose altered for simplicity
Removal of additional words that were not required.
- Key Change 6 – Definitions Updated
Definitions updated to reflect the changes in legislation and to help people better understand the bylaw. Definitions added for act, infringement offence, prohibited and restricted areas, while the definition for Council and self-contained (through explanatory notes) were amended. The definition for area was changed to local authority area and we removed the definition for authorised officer as this was no longer required.

¹ Section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 prohibits camping where not specifically incorporated in a operative Reserves Management Plan.

- Key Change 7 – Permitted Freedom Camping modified
Changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, which provided for the presumption of freedom camping, required the phrasing to be adjusted within the bylaw. Freedom camping is permitted in self-contained vehicles unless restricted or prohibited. No freedom camping in a tent or temporary structure.
- Key Change 8 - General conditions now sits under Restricted Areas
Restricted areas sets out all general restrictions that apply across the district. A few key changes to the condition include:
 - The maximum nights has been adjusted from seven consecutive nights to a maximum of seven nights in a calendar month and no person can stay for more than seven consecutive nights when crossing over two calendar months. This was introduced to prevent individuals staying for six nights and then return a few days later.
 - Camp site inspections are enabled to ensure freedom campers are complying with requirements.
- Key Change 9 – Prior Approval introduced to enable freedom camping, in circumstances where otherwise it would be prohibited
This provides people with an option to seek prior approval for a special event, where in circumstance it would not otherwise be allowed. This provision includes the process and considerations. A small charge will apply for processing the application.
- Key Change 10 - Additional information provided around Temporary closures
Timeframes for notification adjusted to be reflective of the circumstances. Also included in the explanatory notes is advertising methods may be used for temporary closures.
- Key Change 11 – Changes to the current restricted and prohibited areas
Prideaux Park – extended current restricted area to include grassed area along the northern side of the Bowling Club.

Maurie Kjar Aquatics Centre – reduced the available freedom camping parking area to one section but hours remain unchanged. **The reduction of available freedom camping has been removed.**

Firmin Field – Reduced the parking area available for freedom camping, allowing more parking for hirers of the Firmin Lodge. Reduced access to Firmin Field which was amended to requiring prior approval, with no parking 10m from the riverbank or residential properties. Non-self-contained and tents may be considered in conjunction to hireage of Firmin Lodge due to plumbing capacity.

Stoneham Park – removed as no longer available for freedom camping due to development.

Boyce Park and Waterhouse Street Reserve – although already requiring consent, must now obtain prior approval.

Recreation Centre – Now prohibited due to health and safety concerns.

Council reserves and playgrounds in residential areas are now referred to as neighbourhood reserves.

The following reserves have been removed from the bylaw, however, will remain prohibited for freedom camping under s44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977:

- Waterwheel Heritage Park
- Tamarangi Drive

Circus Paddock has been removed from the bylaw due to a proposed lease which is likely to be in place prior to the adoption of this bylaw.

- Key Change 12 – Maps Updated

This provides better clarity around location of restricted and prohibited sites. Maps have been updated to remove reserves no longer in the bylaw. These will be provided on the day as they were still being completed at the time of writing.

7 **Proposed Reserve Management Plan Amendments**

Alongside the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw, Council also wants to specifically seek feedback on some amendments to the Reserve Management Plan to ensure the rules are consistent within our different documents. To achieve consistency with the proposals within the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw, as set out in the site assessments, we are proposing some amendments to the Reserves Management Plan. The proposed amendments will be made once the final Freedom Camping Bylaw is adopted by Council following public consultation. The KDC Reserve Management Plan can be viewed here: <https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/documents/council-plans-and-strategies/reserves-management-plan>

Boyce Park

Under the Reserve Management Plan, freedom camping is not currently provided for in Boyce Park, so it is prohibited under s44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. However, under the existing bylaw, freedom camping is currently allowed with Council consent although this area has not been used in recent years. It is recommended this reserve is retained for organised groups when capacity of other areas may not be sufficient for demand. Prior consent will be required from Council.

We are proposing to amend Boyce Park in the Reserve Management Plan to allow for self-contained vehicles to freedom camp on the reserve with prior approval from Council by adding the following to page 8 of the Reserves Management Plan. Under policies add a heading - Freedom Camping and the following wording, *“That freedom camping is permitted upon prior approval from Council in self- contained vehicles. The maximum length of stay is set out in the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.”*

Firmin Field

Freedom camping is not currently provided for in Firmin Field, so it is prohibited under s44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Freedom camping is currently enabled at Firmin Lodge for self-contained vehicles, in our existing bylaw. There is some concerns around the number of freedom campers in the carpark, so this area is being limited to the eastern side of the carpark. Currently, freedom camping may also be permitted with prior approval on Firmin Field.

We are proposing to amend Firmin Field in the Reserve Management Plan to allow for self-contained vehicles to freedom camp on the eastern side of the reserve carpark and upon application, Council may consider prior approval for self-contained, non-self-

contained and tents by adding the following to page 10 of the Reserves Management Plan. Under policies add a heading - Freedom Camping and the following wording *“That freedom camping is permitted on the eastern side of the Firmin Lodge carpark. In addition, upon application, Council may consider prior approval for self-contained vehicles, non-self-contained vehicles and tents for organised groups in which capacity of other areas may not be sufficient for demand. The maximum length of stay is set out in the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.”*

Prideaux Park

Freedom camping is currently enabled under the Reserve Management Plan, behind the field pavilion. Freedom camping is not provided for in the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre carpark or alongside the northern edge of the Bowling Club, which both form part of Prideaux Park. However, the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre is currently provided for through our existing bylaw, the extension to the north boundary of the Bowling Club is an area which is commonly used, but not provided for.

We are proposing to amend the wording for Prideaux Park in the Reserve Management Plan. This will allow for self-contained vehicles to freedom camp on the northern edge of the Bowling Club and to enable the use of Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre carpark during the hours of 4pm to 9am. Upon application Council may also consider prior approval for self-contained vehicles of the field by adding the following to page 22 of the Reserves Management Plan. Amend the Heading Self Contained Motor Vehicle Sites to Freedom Camping and amend the wording to state *“Self-contained motor vehicles are permitted to park behind the field pavilion and along the northern boundary of the Bowling Club. In addition, freedom camping is allowed between 4pm and 9am at the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre carpark and upon application, Council may consider prior approval for self-contained vehicles, for organised groups in which capacity of other areas may not be sufficient for demand. The maximum length of stay is set out in the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.”*

Waterhouse Reserve

Under the Reserve Management Plan, freedom camping is not currently provided for in Waterhouse Reserve, so it is prohibited under s44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. However, under the existing bylaw, freedom camping is currently allowed with Council consent, although this area has not been used recently. It is recommended this reserve is retained for organised groups when capacity of other areas may not be sufficient for demand. Prior consent will be required from Council.

We are proposing to amend Waterhouse Reserve in the Reserve Management Plan to allow for self-contained vehicles, non-self-contained vehicles and tents to freedom camp on the reserve with prior approval by adding the following to page 33 of the Reserves Management Plan. Under policies add a heading - Freedom Camping and the following wording *“That freedom camping is permitted upon prior approval from Council in self-contained vehicles, non-self-contained vehicles and tents. The maximum length of stay is set out in the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.”*

8 Statutory Considerations

Prior to approving the Proposed Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal for consultation, Council must consider and approve or agree with the statutory considerations.

8.1 Is the proposed bylaw the most appropriate way of addressing the perceived problem?

Kawerau District receives a large number of freedom campers in comparison to our size. With limited accommodation sites in Kawerau, a lot of visitors need to consider alternative options such as this.

While freedom campers are welcome, they also contribute towards some negative impacts on the environment and the community. These include:

- Pollution of the environment, resulting in health issues such as unsanitary human waste;
- Freedom Campers limiting access to sites for other visitors such as tourist sites like the pools, Firmin Lodge, residential areas.

Since the amendments to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Council has recognised that controlling freedom camping was necessary to protect the district's environment, including the visual amenity, landscapes and waterways.

Complaints and community tensions can occur particularly when rate payers are inconvenienced by Freedom Campers through limited access, damage to infrastructure, and concerns about the mess left behind.

Lastly there is also concerns around the use of non-self-contained vehicles, campers staying too long, failing to pay for powered sites and campers not using on-board facilities.

The bylaw is an appropriate way of monitoring and managing the freedom campers and the site they visit.

8.2 Is the proposed bylaw the most appropriate form of bylaw? s155(2)(a) LGA

Section 155(2)(a) requires Council to determine whether the proposed bylaw is the most appropriate form of bylaw. While finding that the previous bylaw could be improved, it is believed that the proposed amendments will sufficiently address any shortcomings along with ensuring consistency with the Freedom Camping Act 2011 updates.

8.3 Does the proposed bylaw give rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990?

The proposed Bylaw is not considered to be inconsistent with the Bill of Rights Act 1990.

While there may be potential limitations to the freedom of movement due to limited access to Council grounds for the purpose of freedom camping, it is considered these limits are justified for the following reasons:

- Site assessments have been completed which provide an assessment of which sites should be restricted to protect the area, health and safety of visitors or the significance of the site.
- The site is still accessible on foot and visitors are welcome, it is only the vehicle access or the ability to camp that is restricted.
- Many sites do not have access or are fenced off.

- The new bylaw enables prior approval where special circumstances are in play, which does limit any restrictions.

9 **Options**

Option 1: Status Quo

This would have the effect of allowing the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2019 to lapse and then Council would need to rely on the default provisions within legislation in order to enforce Freedom Camping. The legislation associated to Freedom Camping includes the Freedom Camping Act 2011, the Reserves Act 1977 and the Resource Management Act 1991.

This would have the effect of permitting freedom camping on all Council land except reserves, where it is prohibited (unless expressly allowed for under the reserve management plan). Council would also be limited to enforcement powers as set out under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, such as requiring freedom camping to be self-contained.

This option is not recommended.

Option 2: Continue the review and make a new Bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011

This option would require Council to continue with the review and make a new bylaw under section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 to prohibit or restrict freedom camping within the Kawerau district.

This option means that freedom camping is permitted on all Council land except reserves where it is prohibited (under the reserves management plan) and areas that are restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

This option enables Council to establish a bespoke bylaw, which is applied to the local context, with a range of enforcement options to respond to freedom camping issues within the district.

This is the recommended option.

10 **Financial Considerations**

There are no budget considerations associated with the recommendations in this report.

11 **Strategic Alignment**

There are no identified inconsistencies with any of the Council's policies or plans in relation to this report.

12 **Next Steps**

Although Council has already undertaken the special consultative procedure as the statutory process dictates, significant amendments have been made and we wish to seek further community engagement. The special consultative procedure (s83 LGA) is the statutory requirement for engagement and will be followed for the re-assessment of the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw. This includes the preparation and adoption of a Statement of Proposal, and Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw, for public consultation.

The proposed consultation dates are as follows:

Submission period - 18 November 2024 to 20 December 2024

Submission Hearing and/or Adoption - February 2025

Three dates for drop-in centres will be advertised once these have been confirmed.

13 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the report "*Adoption of the re-assessed site assessments, proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal for Public Consultation*" be received.
2. That Council agrees that making a new Freedom Camping Bylaw is the most appropriate way to address freedom camping on Council owned land.
3. After agreeing to 2. above, that Council
 - a) Adopts the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw and Statement of Proposal including the proposed amendments to the Reserves Management Plan as attached for public consultation.
 - b) Confirms the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw as attached
 - i) Is in the most appropriate form of the bylaw; and
 - ii) Does not give rise to any implications under, and is not inconsistent with, the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.
 - c) Agrees that a summary of the site assessment be included for public understanding of the proposal.
 - d) Approves the consultation for the period 18 November 2024 to 20 December 2024.
 - e) Authorises the Group Manager Regulatory and Planning to make any necessary minor drafting or presentation amendments to the re-assessed site assessments, the Proposed Bylaw or the Statement of Proposal to correct errors or omissions, or to reflect decisions made by council, prior to final printing and publication.



Michaela Glaspey

Group Manager, Regulatory & Planning

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Kawerau District Council

Freedom Camping Site Re-Assessments

Kawerau District Council

Site Re-Assessments

Re-Assessment of Site Assessments to inform the Freedom Camping Bylaw Development

About this document

Kawerau District Council completed an initial site assessment in June 2024. After public consultation and the outcome of the Queenstown Lakes District Council vs..... Kawerau District Council has determined that the initial site assessments took into elements such as amenity and economic values into consideration in the site assessment which should not have been included. Re-assessments have been completed and the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw will be reviewed in light of any changes to the site assessments.

This information was initial gathered by internal staff and includes feedback received from the public as a part of the first round of public consultation.

This document sets out local authority areas, controlled by Council and may be used for freedom camping. Each area has been re-assessed against the criteria outlined in section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, and will help inform the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.

Version	Date	Comments
01	June 2024	Site assessments informing draft Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw for consideration by Council
02	November 2024	Re assessment of all site assessments after the initial community consultation

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1 Introduction

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 enables Councils to make bylaws to regulate freedom camping on land that is controlled or managed by Council. Under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, freedom camping is permitted unless it is restricted or prohibited in an area, in accordance with a bylaw or other Act such as the Reserves Act 1977.

Kawerau District Council ('Council') has had a freedom camping bylaw in place since 2019. The bylaw has the purpose to protect the environment in the area, protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area and protect access to the area.

In order to determine whether there is a need to prohibit or restrict access to Council owned or administer land, Council initially undertook site assessment in June 2024. Upon public consultation and a recent High Court Case, Council has confirmed elements were considered in the initial assessment (amenity and economic values), which should not have been considered under s11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011. This re-assessment has been completed removing the amenity and economic considerations and reviewed the suitability of Council land for the use of freedom camping under the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

While the review of the June 2024 site assessments has changed some scoring of the individual criteria for various sites, the site re-assessments have not lead to significant changes. No sites have been reclassified to enable freedom camping, that were previously recommended to be prohibited or restricted in the June 2024 site assessments. However, It is recommended that three previously included sites, are no longer included in the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw as freedom camping be prohibited for other reasons.¹

The aim of the site assessment is to:

- consider all land owned or administered by Council within the Kawerau district, where there is potential to camp in a vehicle;
- provide a clear determination of what a significant site is; and
- provide a consistent and fair approach to classification of Council-owned land in relation to restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping within the Kawerau District against the criteria set down in the Act.

This is to ensure freedom camping can still occur within the district, while enabling Council to place reasonable restrictions on freedom camping in line with s11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 which enables restrictions to:

- protect the environment in the area;
- protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area; and
- protect access to the area.

While comments in the freedom camping assessment table included in this document may remain unchanged from the June 2024 version of the site assessments, Council confirms that it has undertaken a complete and full re-assessment of each criteria for

¹ Section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 prohibits camping where not specifically incorporated in a operative Reserves Management Plan.

[every site. Notes have been added under the assessments, where the scoring value has changed to provide a brief explanation for the change.](#)

2 Assessment Approach

The following methodology has been applied to this assessment:

1. Assess the scope of land to be included and excluded by nature of ownership, administration, legislation or practical limitations of access (see exclusions).
2. Define what is to be protected under the three purposes of the Act (see purpose of protection).
3. Develop an assessment/scoring system to assess the degree to which a site requires protection from the effects of freedom camping.
4. Assess sites using the assessment system.
5. Present the findings of the assessment.

This approach is in accordance with national best practice and is consistent with other councils approach to the assessment of sites under the Act.

3 Scope

Kawerau District Council believes it is important to balance the regulatory aspect of enforcing the bylaw to protect and maintain the natural environment of the district, with promoting and encouraging the tourist opportunity of freedom camping in the district.

The sites included in this assessment fall within Kawerau District Council area, defined in section 6(1) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 as land controlled or managed by or on behalf of Council.

The following land is considered to be out of scope for this assessment and have not been assessed:

Private Land – Under s3(4) of the Freedom Camping Act, the regulation of freedom camping on private land is specifically excluded. (Land owned by private persons/companies)

Crown owned Public Land - (not administered by Council) Land administered by the Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand or Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency or other crown agencies.

Occupied Council Land - Council administered land including reserves which are fully occupied under commercial or community lease or licence or occupied by Council for administration/operational purposes.

Areas where other parking regulations manage vehicles - While freedom camping is permitted on a road (under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, it is subject to the provisions of the Land Transport Act 1998, and any rules or regulations made under that Act. The Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004 restricts places a person can park a vehicle (and therefore freedom camp) as follows:

- Under rule 6.1 a driver must not park a vehicle on a road, without due care or without reasonable consideration for other road users.

- Under rule 6.2(1) vehicles must not be parked on a roadway (portion of the road used for vehicular traffic) if it can be parked on the road margin (adjacent to, but not forming part of, either the roadway or the footpath) without damaging ornamental grass plots, shrubs, or flower beds on the margin.
- Under rule 6.3 there is a prohibition on parking on, or close to, a corner, bend, rise, dip, traffic island, or intersection, if the parking will obstruct (or be likely to obstruct) other traffic or any view of the roadway to the driver of a vehicle approaching that corner, bend, rise, dip, traffic island, or intersection.
- Under rule 6.9 a driver must not park in a way that obstructs entry to, or exit from, any driveway.

In addition, the Council is undertaking a review of our bylaws, which includes the Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2011, which currently manages parking on roads within the District, including restriction of heavy motor vehicles being prohibited from parking for more than 30 minutes within Kawerau District roads. This would apply to some larger freedom camping vehicles.² A person freedom camping within Kawerau District must comply with all Land Transport Act 1998 rules and regulations and any bylaws enforce within Kawerau District Council including but not limited to any Traffic and Parking Bylaw, and any Dog Control or Animal Control Bylaw.

4 Reserves and the Relationship between the Reserves Act 1977 and Freedom Camping Bylaws

The Reserves Act 1977³ prohibits freedom camping on reserves unless approved by the Minister, provided for in a campground, or permitted within a reserves management plan. In contrast, the Freedom Camping Act 2011 permits camping unless restricted or prohibited under a Bylaw made under the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

Council does not have any land set aside or administered as a campground.

Council's Reserve Management Plan has the following policies permitting camping under certain conditions:

- Prideaux Park - freedom camping in fully self-contained motor vehicles is allowed behind the field pavilion.
- Firmin Field – freedom camping in fully self-contained motor vehicles is allowed in the car park adjacent to the sports field when parking in designated parks. Any parking on the grassed area shall be at the northern end of the reserve.

Camping is prohibited on all other reserve land administered by Kawerau District Council under section 44(1)e of the Reserves Act 1977. Freedom camping within a reserve which is not enable under a Reserve Management Plan, is breach of s44(1)e of the Reserves Act 1977, the Freedom Camping Act 2011 or any Bylaw enacted under this Act does not overrule the Reserves Act 1977.

² Waka Kotahi provides guidance on additional requirements for motorhomes which are considered a heavy motor vehicle (a vehicle which has a gross vehicle mass of over 35,000kg) on their website:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/new-motorhomes-information-for-importers-traders-and-privatepurchasers/new-motorhomes.pdf>

³ Reserves Act 1977, s44(1)(e)

5 Purpose of Protection

Freedom camping bylaws manage how and where freedom camping can occur by identifying areas where freedom camping is prohibited, restricted and any additional conditions that may be needed in some areas.

While the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the Act) is permissive by default, it recognises some areas may not be suitable for freedom camping. Any potential areas for prohibition or restriction must be first assessed against the criteria in section 11(2) of the Act. Kawerau District Council may make a bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 only if it is satisfied that:

- (a) *the bylaw is necessary for one or more of the following purposes:*
 - (i) *to protect the area;*
 - (ii) *to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area;*
 - (iii) *to protect access to the area; and*
- (b) *the bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area; and*
- (c) *the bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.⁴*

This assessment considers the need or otherwise to protect specific sites against the three purposes outlined above. These are considered to be the criteria for assessment.

The following section outlines how Council has interpreted the assessment criteria specifically. It also shows how the assessment has been undertaken using the assessment criteria.

5.1 Protection of the area

- Protection of the natural values of an area including ecosystems, biodiversity, plants and wildlife including the risk of damage by fire.
- Protection of the cultural values of an area including historic sites of significance to iwi and early settlement of the area.
- ~~Protection of the amenity values of an area including residential and commercial areas (e.g. protection of views from residential and commercial properties, protection from noise from camping activity and arrival and departure of campers, loss of privacy).~~ **Removed from previous assessment criteria**
- Protection of water quality of an area or catchment where run-off may impact on drinking water quality (e.g. protection of drinking water from contamination from human waste).
- ~~Protection of the economic values of an area including residential and commercial areas (e.g. residential property values and loss of trade in commercial areas through occupation of car parks).~~ **Removed from previous assessment criteria**

⁴ Freedom Camping Act 2011, s11(2)(a)

- Protection of the recreational values of an area including the capacity of a site, visitor experience and setting.

5.2 Protection of the health and safety of people who may visit the area

- Protection of visitors to an area from fire, crime or other direct threats (e.g. in areas in close proximity to high fire risk areas, or areas where there is a higher risk of crime, or direct treats such as flood or landslide risks).
- Protection of visitors to an area from hazards associated with traffic and traffic management including access to and from a site (including emergency vehicles).
- Protection of visitors from hazards associated with the land and topography.
- Protection of those using the area for other activities, such as sports grounds.
- Protection of the area from persistent vandalism and vagrancy.

5.3 Protection of access to the area

- Protection of access to an area for residents and other (non-camping) visitors (e.g. ability to access residential areas, boat ramps, foreshores, car parks, rivers, sports recreation and community facilities including cemeteries).
- Protection of access to an area for emergency services, service vehicles (e.g. rubbish trucks), public transport, school buses and maintenance vehicles.
- Protection of access to prevent unreasonable damage to Council infrastructure or significant flora and fauna.

6 Assessment Criteria under the Freedom Camping Act

The assessment criteria is based on the requirements under s11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011. A scoring method has been assigned to each of the criteria set under s11 of the Freedom camping Act.

The score criteria assigns a score of between 1 (being the lowest) to 5 (being the highest) and will ensure a fair and consistent assessment of each area. The total score of each of the three criteria combined provides the total significance score.

If the significance score for any one of the three criteria (area protection, health and safety of people who may visit, access to the area) is 5, this means the site is deemed to have a “significant issue” and freedom camping may be prohibited or restricted.

Cumulatively over all three criteria, if the significance score is 9 or above, this means the site is determined to be a significant site and freedom camping may be prohibited or restricted. If the significance score is 8 or below, freedom camping may be permitted at the site, but only where enabled under the Reserve Act 1977. A score of 8 or below many have some restrictions specific to the type of camping at the site.

Assessment Scoring Method:

Protection of the Area – Cultural Significance, Historical Significance, Flora or Fauna	
1	No significant area concerns

2	Low concerns about areas that need protecting
3	Contains some areas that should be protected
4	Contains some significant historical, cultural or environmental areas.
5	Has historical, cultural or environmental significance and requires full protection

Protect the Health and Safety of those visiting the area	
1	No health and safety concerns
2	Low health and safety concerns
3	Minimal health and safety concerns (risk for the elderly/vulnerable or children)
4	Significant health and safety concerns
5	Risk to health and safety is too great to allow access to the site

Protection of the Access to the Area	
1	Fully formed access to the site
2	Good access to the site, which would not cause damage
3	Moderate access to the site, and any vehicle access would cause minimal damage
4	Restricted access to the site, and any vehicle access would cause damage
5	No access to the site, and any vehicle access would cause significant damage

During previous consultation, [one persona submitter](#) –raised concerns regarding the assessment being incorrect as where there ~~is no health and safety concerns~~ are no issues this should be 0 not 1. The total scoring system is based on the levels as set out above. Where the 1 is removed, then the significance number would have to be reconsidered to reflect the new score system. Hence we have made no change to the scoring system.

7 Summary of Site Assessments

The following table provides an overview of site assessments undertaken. For more information about each area, review the detailed site assessments in section 8 of this document. Numbers in red are a change from the previous assessment.

Area Name	Assessment				Assessment Outcome
	Protect Area (/5)	Protect H&S (/5)	Protect Access (/5)	Total (/15)	
Boyce Park	4	2	3	9	<p>Restrict freedom camping at the Boyce Park to self-contained vehicles upon gaining prior consent from Council. Prior consent considered where other sites are unavailable.</p> <p><i>Would require an amendment to the Reserve Management Plan to include proposed freedom camping</i></p>

					<i>location for self-contained vehicles only.</i>
Firmin Field	4	3	3	10	<p>Restrict freedom camping at the Firmin Field to self-contained vehicles only along the eastern edge of the carpark. Upon Council prior consent, parking on the field may be enabled for organised groups in self-contained vehicles along the north and eastern boundaries (10m from riverbank). Non-self-contained vehicles and tents may be considered for prior consent.</p> <p><i>Would require an amendment to the Reserve Management Plan to enable self-contained vehicle being used for freedom camping on the reserve.</i></p>
Keith McKenzie Park	4	2	3	9	Prohibit freedom camping at Keith McKenzie Park in the proposed bylaw.
Lyn Hartley Reserve	3	2	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping at Lyn Hartley Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Monika Lanham Reserve	5	4	3	12	Prohibit freedom camping at Monika Lanham Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Pat Baker/Dump Reserve	4	4	5	13	Prohibit freedom camping at Pat Baker Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Prideaux Park	4	4	2	10	<p>Restrict freedom camping at to the south side of the entrance and behind the Sport Field Pavilion. <u>In addition, restrict the use of the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre carpark in self-contained vehicles only, between the hours of 4pm and 9am.</u></p> <p><i>Would require an amendment to the Reserve Management Plan to include different areas for self-contained vehicle being used for freedom camping on the reserve.</i></p>
Roy Weston Walk	4	3	4	11	Prohibit freedom camping at Roy Weston Reserve and the adjacent road (Porritt Drive) in the proposed bylaw.
Ruruanga Reserve	4	1	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Ruruanga Reserve in the proposed bylaw.

Stoneham Walk	5	3	4	12	Prohibit freedom camping from Stoneham Walk and associated car park (Fenton Mill Road) in the proposed bylaw.
Tarawera Park	4	3	3	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Tarawera Park and associated car park in the proposed bylaw.
River Road Reserve	5	4	4	13	Prohibit freedom camping from River Road Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Waterhouse Reserve	5	3	3	11	Restrict freedom camping at the Waterhouse Reserve, to organised groups, upon prior consent, for self-contained vehicles. Non-self-contained vehicles and tents may be considered for prior consent. <i>Would require an amendment to the Reserve Management Plan to include proposed freedom camping location for self-contained vehicles only.</i>
Waterwheel Heritage Park	4	1	3	8	Do not include the area in a proposed bylaw. <i>This will have the effect of freedom camping on the reserve remaining prohibited under section 44 of the Reserves Act 1977.</i>
Stock Pound (Yet to be Named)	3	1	5	9	Prohibit freedom camping from the previous Stock Pound in the proposed bylaw.
Ballance/Seddon Street Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Ballance Street and Seddon Street Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Beattie/Shepherd Road Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Beattie Road and Shepherd Road Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Boss Road Reserve	3	2	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Boss Road Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Cobham Drive Reserve	3	3	4	10	Prohibit freedom camping at Cobham Drive Reserve and the adjacent road (Cobham Drive and Holland Crescent) in the proposed bylaw.

Fraser Street Reserve	3	2	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Fraser Street Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Hadley Street Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Hadley Street Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Hilldale Reserve	3	3	4	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Hilldale Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
MacKenzie Street Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from MacKenzie Street Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Porritt Glade Reserve	3	4	5	12	Prohibit freedom camping from Porritt Glade Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Recreation Centre Reserve	3	4	2	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Recreation Centre Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Robinson Street Reserve	3	3	4	10	Prohibit freedom camping from Robinson Street Reserve and the adjacent road (Robinson Street) in the proposed bylaw.
Tuwharetoa Road Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Tuwharetoa Road Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Valley Road/Ryder Place Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Valley Road and Ryder Place Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Valley Road/Kirk Crescent Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Valley Road and Kirk Crescent Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Valley Road/Delamere Drive Reserve	3	3	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping from Valley Road and Delamere Drive Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Weld Street Reserve	3	4	3	10	Prohibit freedom camping at Weld Street Reserve and the adjacent road (Weld Street) in the proposed bylaw.
Beattie Road Reserve	3	2	4	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Beattie Road Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Fenton Street Reserve	2	1	5	8	Prohibit freedom camping from Fenton Street Reserve in the proposed bylaw. <i>Maximum score of 5 under any one elements indicates a need to protect the area.</i>

Owen/Julian Road Reserve	3	1	5	9	Prohibit freedom camping from Owen Road and Julian Road Reserves in the proposed bylaw.
Reserve near Manukorihi Drive	4	1	5	10	Prohibit freedom camping at the reserve near Manukorihi Drive in the proposed bylaw.
Tamarangi Drive (north and south side of road)	2	2	4	8	Do not include the area in a proposed bylaw. <i>This will have the effect of freedom camping on the reserve remaining prohibited under section 44 of the Reserves Act 1977.</i>
Cemetery	5	4	3	11	Prohibit freedom camping from the cemetery and the road adjacent to the cemetery.
Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve	5	1	5	11	Prohibit freedom camping at the Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve in the proposed bylaw.
Circus Paddock	2	3	3	8	Do not include the area in a proposed bylaw. <i>Proposed lease will exclude from Freedom Camping Act 2011 requirements.</i>

8 Site Assessments

8.1 Recreation Reserves – Important Reserves

Recreation reserves are created "...for the purpose of providing areas for the recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public, and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, with emphasis on the retention of open spaces and on outdoor recreational activities, including recreational tracks in the countryside".⁵

There are fifteen recreation reserves in Kawerau, which because of their size, use, or importance to the Community can be regarded as 'important' reserves. The important reserves are:

Boyce Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 2 DPS 5883	4.0912	Recreation Reserve

⁵ Reserves Act 1977, section 17



Site description

Boyce Park is located along the western edge of the Tarawera River from Paramahana Drive in a southerly direction ending at Tarawera High School. This reserve is bordered by River Road on one side and the Tarawera River on the other.

The reserve is a large grassed reserve with large trees containing two small parking areas. The first is a small paved off street parking area, located adjacent to the Kawerau Judo and Martial Arts Club building. The Kawerau Judo and Martial Arts Club lease this parking area and land containing the building. The second paved parking area is on the southern end at the entrance from Waterhouse Street.

There is pedestrian access to the park from along Tamarangi Drive or River Road. A walking track follows the Tarawera River along a series of river banks and river flats through Boyce Park and extends beyond Boyce Park in both directions.

An important feature of this park is the access to the Tarawera River.

The grassed area of the reserve is fenced off with locked gates to prevent damage and vandalism by vehicles.

The area is a designated dog exercise area.

There are no public facilities available.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, and requires protection of the waterways from contamination.
Protect Health and Safety	2	Low health concerns due to the low use of the area.
Protect access	3	Single lane access is available to a small parking areas. Freedom campers would have an impact on the ability for other users to access the area for recreational purposes.

		All grass areas are fenced with locked gates to protect the fields.
Total Score	9	

Note: Assessment amended to remove the specific consideration of the Judo Club's use of the carpark area, which resulted in a reduced score.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Boyce Park does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is currently prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977.

The current freedom camping bylaw allows restricted freedom camping at Boyce Park by organised groups, where granted approval by Council. Council is supportive of continuing to provide for some overflow, self-contained freedom camping on the reserve for organised groups where sufficient parking is not available at permanent sites within Kawerau District.

Therefore, if this reserve is included within the proposed bylaw as a restricted area, it is also recommended that the bylaw's statement of proposal also proposes an amendment to the Boyce Park reserve management plan as per the Reserves Act 1977, to ensure the bylaw and reserves management plan are consistent. The following restrictions are recommended:

- Council will consider applications for prior consent from organised groups where other permitted freedom camping areas are unlikely to be able to support the number of expected freedom campers.
- Freedom camping is only available to self-contained vehicles.
- All freedom campers must be a minimum of 10 metres from the bank along the eastern edge of the reserve.

Firmin Field

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Lot 1 DPS 5882	3.63	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Firmin Field is located along the southern edge of Waterhouse Street and extends to the houses on Porritt Drive. On the eastern boundary is the Tarawera River and to the west is the Mountain View Resthome. Firmin Field is a large open grassed reserve. Along the edge of the river, trees and natural plants line the river banks. Trees also line the northern boundary of the field.

There is a large paved parking area on the north-eastern end of the reserve. Freedom camping is currently enabled at this location, where 6 powered sites are available (Keys available at the site).

Firmin Lodge (rental accommodation) is also located within the reserve, on the edge of the paved parking area. Too many freedom camping has the ability to negatively impact the capacity of the shared parking facilities and reduce visitor experience.

Toilets are available at this site 24/7, along with a dump station for wastewater.

The reserve field is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area.

This area is a designated dog exercise area.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection of the waterways from contamination. Freedom camping reduces the capacity and restricts access for other users which may reduce visitor experience of the area.
Protect Health and Safety	3	Public toilets are available on site and are open 24/7, however with freedom campers staying on site the public facilities sometimes struggles to meet demand. The parking area can become very busy, large vehicles can reduce visibility of pedestrians walking through the parking area. The area is used for recreational purposes with vehicles coming and going regularly.
Protect access	3	Good access and off street parking is available for vehicles. All grass areas are fenced with locked gates to protect the fields. The fields may be damaged with use in poor ground or weather conditions. Too many freedom campers may restrict access for other users and reduce visitor experience of the area. All grass areas are fenced with locked gates to protect the fields.
Total Score	10	

Note: Assessment included the reduce capacity under the protection of the area but resulted in not change to the score, however while not changing the assessment criteria for protecting access, this was amended to better reflect the scoring system. While access to the carpark is fully formed, the Firmin field is locked and access may damage the field.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Firmin Lodge does not specifically provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is currently prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977.

The current freedom camping bylaw allows freedom camping on the carpark and Council provide 6 powered sites. Where approved by Council, consideration is also given to freedom camping on the grass field (including non-self-contained vehicles).

Based on the previous activity and the assessment undertaken it is recommended to restrict freedom camping at Firmin Field.

With the presence of a 24-hour toilet, the site was also considered as a possible option for vehicles that are not self-contained. The assessment indicates the area requires some protection from the effects of freedom camping, and it is recommended the restricted area remains for self-contained vehicles only as it is not suitable for freedom campers that are not self-contained.

Therefore, if this reserve is included within the proposed bylaw as a restricted area, it is also recommended that the bylaw's statement of proposal also proposes an amendment to the Firmin Field reserve management plan as per the Reserves Act 1977, to ensure the bylaw and reserves management plan are consistent. The following restrictions are recommended:

- Freedom camping is only available to self-contained vehicles, in the marked parking areas (signs to be installed) along the eastern side of the carpark (Maximum of 12 spaces available).
- Council may consider prior approval for self-contained vehicles to use the grassed field for large organised groups, where parking is available along the north and eastern side of the field (10 metres back from the riverbank and residential properties).

Keith McKenzie Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 379 Matata Parish	0.4157	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Keith McKenzie Park provides a rest area for drivers with access off Tamarangi Drive (State Highway 34), opposite Kawerau's tennis and netball courts.

The park is a small grassed reserve with developed trees throughout. The Ruruanga Stream flows through the park, which is designated a Junior Anglers stream, to encourage children to take up trout fishing.

There is a small paved area to the west and the far side can be access by two small footbridges where there is a short scenic walk.

The reserve is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection of the waterways from contamination. Fencing is in place to minimise damage to sensitive areas.
Protect Health and Safety	2	Low health and safety concerns.
Protect access	3	There is good vehicle access to Keith McKenzie Park with an unsealed roundabout and short-term parking area. Parking on the grass may damage the park, particularly when it is wet. The rest of the park has been fenced to avoid vehicle access and prevent damage.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Keith McKenzie Park does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Keith McKenzie Park.

Lyn Hartley Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Lot 1 DPS 5882	2.13	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Lyn Hartley Reserve is located western bank of Tarawera River between Ward Street and Porritt Drive. The main part of the reserve is behind the houses on Porritt Drive and Payne Crescent.

Pedestrian access is available off Ward Street, River Road and through either Tarawera Park or Roy Weston Walk. Vehicle access is available through formed access ways off River Road and Ward Street. Both vehicle access points are via narrow sealed or partly sealed access strips. Once the alleys open up, vehicle access strips end. The vehicle access points are gated and locked, to avoid damage to the reserve by vehicles.

The reserve is a large grassed reserve with an overflow stream boarding the southwest edge of Lyn Hartley Reserve.

The reserve is a designated dog area.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection of the waterways from contamination.
Protect Health and Safety	2	Low health and safety concerns. Area used for exercising dogs.
Protect access	5	Locked gates to avoid damage to the grassed reserve exclude vehicle access. Pedestrian access is available.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

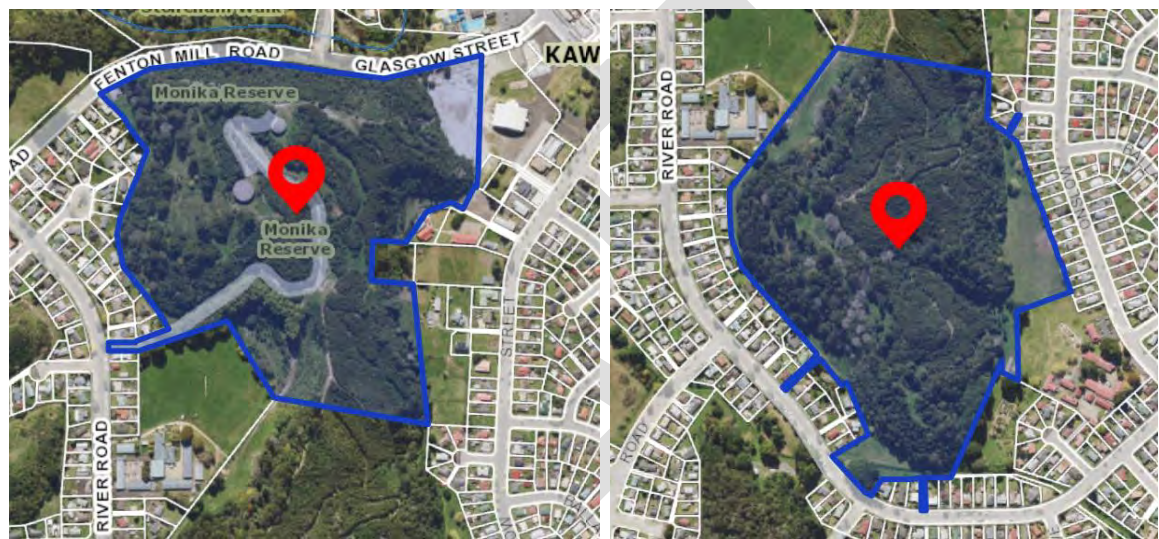
The Reserve Management Plan for Lyn Hartley Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section

44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Lyn Hartley Reserve within a proposed bylaw.

Monika Lanham Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 984 SO 46775 Matata Parish	19.5508 ha	Recreation Reserve
Allot 983 SO 46774 Matata Parish	19.6178 ha	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Monika Lanham Reserve is a dominant feature in Kawerau and is surrounded by residential streets on all sides. The reserve is a hill to the west of the town centre, and is covered in a mixture of native and exotic trees, with some grassed areas around the lower edges. The reserve is home to one threatened native species – a dwarf Mistletoe and a restoration program has been undertaken to reinstate native plants.

Pedestrian access is available from various points from River Road, Onslow Street, Glasgow Street, Fenton Mill Road, Savage Street and Fraser Street. The reserve is fenced off with locked gates.

There two vehicle access points. The first is from Fenton Mill Road, where there is a very small off street parking area for short-term visitors to the site. The area is fenced beyond the small short-term parking area, allowing pedestrian traffic only. The second vehicle access is for maintenance vehicles and access to the water reservoirs only. This access is fenced, gated and locked to prevent vehicle damage to the area.

The reservoirs are located on the northern end of the reserve and store the towns water supply.

There are walking tracks, along with mountain bike tracks throughout the reserve.

The north eastern edge of the reserve there is an area of about 1000m² of geothermally active land. Some steam comes from vents in the ground and sulphur smell is evident, but the surface is not known to be hot. This area is also fenced.

The reserve contains archaeological sites including kumara pits, a sulphur mine and a pa site.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The reserve contains archaeological, culturally significant sites and community significant projects.
Protect Health and Safety	4	The northern edge of the reserve is geothermally active with some steam coming from vents in the ground and Sulphur smell being evident in the area. Entrance to this area is discouraged.
Protect access	3	There is good vehicle access to a small short-term parking area off Fenton Mill Road. Capacity is limited to two to three vehicles and is the well-frequented attraction. The rest of the park has been fence to avoid vehicle access and prevent damage.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Monika Lanham Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Monika Lanham Reserve within a proposed bylaw.

Pat Baker Reserve and Dump Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Allot 499 Matata Parish	59.4888 (total) 0.2550(Pat Baker Reserve)	Utility Reserve



Site description

Pat Baker Reserve is located off River Road at the southern end of Kawerau. The reserve itself is a flat grassed of approximately 2550sm² of the larger utility reserve known as the Dump Reserve.

Pat Baker Reserve lays between River Road on the east and the overflow stream on the west. Residential housing is to the north and the Dump Reserve to the south.

This reserve provides an attractive frontage to the Dump Reserve with mature trees lining the reserve and providing shade for visitors. A footpath runs along the roadside and provides access to the reserve for the community.

This reserve is designated as a dog walking area.

The larger Dump Reserve houses the water supply pump house, which provides the community with fresh water tap. The refuse transfer station and recycling facility are also located within the reserve accessed via the Transfer Station Road.

This reserve is very large and is covered in mature trees creating a natural bush setting.

Access to the Dump Reserve is through locked gates on Transfer Station Road. There is an additional entrance of River Road, providing access to the pump house, where short term parking is available for collecting water. People come and go from here on a regular basis.

The reserve is largely fence off with locked gates, with the exception of Pat Baker Reserve and the pump house.

There are no public facilities on either reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The reserve has a number of trees providing shade and provides an attractive frontage for the Dump Reserve. The Dump reserve has culturally significant areas that require protection. There is limited capacity and freedom camping would limit visitor experience.
Protect Health and Safety	4	A footpath runs along the side of the road providing walkways and access to the reserve for the community. Trees will reduce visibility of vehicles trying to access the reserve and could endanger pedestrian users. Parking availability on the roadside is narrow and the reserve is located partly on the corner of River Road. Parking may create visibility restrictions for those using the roads or footpath around the reserve. This poses safety risk to pedestrians and other road users. There is no public toilets or facilities at this reserve. Enabling freedom camping would pose a health and safety risk due to no available space parking and the level of traffic on the Transfer Station Road.
Protect access	5	There is no vehicle access to this reserve. Driving over the concrete berm and footpath will cause damage over time. The reserve is planted with trees providing shade and reducing the ability for vehicle access. The dump reserve is closed to the public except for opening hours of 12 to 4pm. Short term parking is only available to customers using the reserve.
Total Score	13	

Note: While not changing the assessment criteria for protecting health and safety, this was amended to better reflect the scoring system. There are more than minimum health and safety concerns and significant concerns, better reflect the risks on the site.

Recommendation

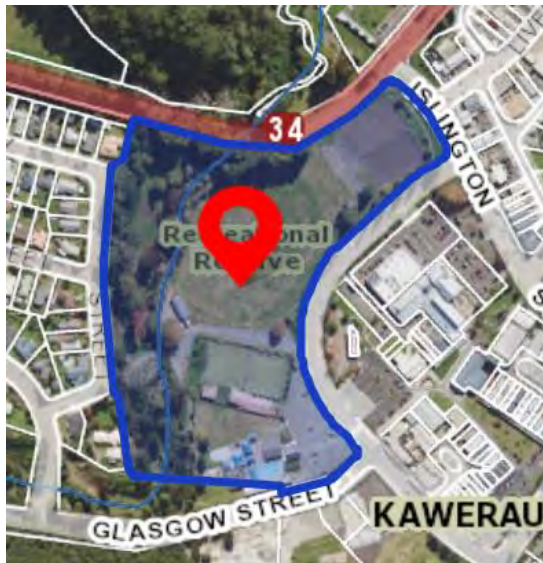
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Pat Baker and Dump Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Pat Baker and Dump Reserve.

Prideaux Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 4 DPS 5882	7.8324	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This reserve is located immediately to the west of the town centre and is bounded by roadways. Tamarangi Drive to the north, Islington and Plunket Street to the east, Glasgow Street to the south and a combination of Massey Street and residential properties to the west.

Prideaux Park incorporates the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre, Kawerau Bowling Club, the sports field and Sports Pavilion, the Rangi Delamere Centre and the netball/tennis courts.

The Ruruanga stream flows through the reserve along the western side with a small bridge that provides a walkway across the stream and up onto Massey Street.

There are five vehicle entrances into Prideaux Park, this includes two accessing the Maurie Kjar Centre carpark, one to the Rangi Delamere Centre carpark, one from Plunket Street to the Prideaux Park Pavilion and the final access is from Tamarangi Drive. The Tamarangi Drive entrance is used for maintenance vehicles and is gated and locked. There is an unformed track running along the flood control embankment alongside the Ruruanga Stream to the Prideaux Park Pavilion.

The Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre car park provides significant car parking which can get very busy with patients to the pools. Some concerns have been raised around the perceived health and safety of people in the carpark with traffic movements.

Pedestrian access is available from all sides. There are two footbridges within Prideaux Park. The first forms part of Hansen Walk which leads from the town centre to Massey Street. The second is further north and crosses the reserve onto the sports field.

A single red oak tree was planted in dedication to the passing of Lady Baden Powell.

The reserve is a largely flat grassed area with a natural embankment from Ruruanga Stream to Massey Street. A flood control embankment on the northern bank of Ruruanga Stream is adjacent to the grassed athletic track, providing a good spectator viewing area.

Ruruanga Stream is planted with a mix of native and exotic trees, providing a semi-wilderness area.

The reserve field is fenced off with locked gates to protect the sports field.

There is a dump station located within the Prideaux Park reserve for the use of self-contained vehicles. This dump station would benefit from an upgrade to reduce blockages.

Freedom campers have taken it upon themselves to extend the area to include the grassed area located directly north of the Bowling Club fence, on both sides of the road.

Prideaux Park is a designated dog exercise area.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. Protection of the sport field is required, so designated parking areas help to minimise damage to the turf.
Protect Health and Safety	4	Prideaux Park has multiple areas and as such the health and safety risk differ across the Park. The Maurie Kaur Aquatic Centre and Bowling Club carpark, although good access is available, this carpark is frequently visited by children and vulnerable members of the community. Freedom camping vehicles can be large and reduce visibility creating a health and safety risk. Prideaux Park can be used for large events reducing the space available for freedom camping and creating a health and safety risk with vehicle movements unable to be managed. There may be times in which Prideaux Park should be closed to enable safer event management.
Protect access	2	Sealed vehicle access is available across the reserve including the Maurie Kaur Aquatic Centre, the Rangi Delamere Centre and the Sport Field Pavilion via a driveway off Plunket Street. There is a large carpark in front of the Maurie Kaur Centre and the Bowling Club providing off street parking. The Sports field is fenced off with a low fence and locked gate to ensure vehicles do not access the field without Council permission.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Prideaux Park allows freedom camping in self-contained vehicle behind Prideaux Park Pavilion; therefore, freedom camping is enabled for this area under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977.

The current freedom camping allows restricted freedom camping in self-contained vehicle only behind the Prideaux Park Pavilion and at the Maurie Kaur Aquatic Centre carpark between 4pm and 9am.

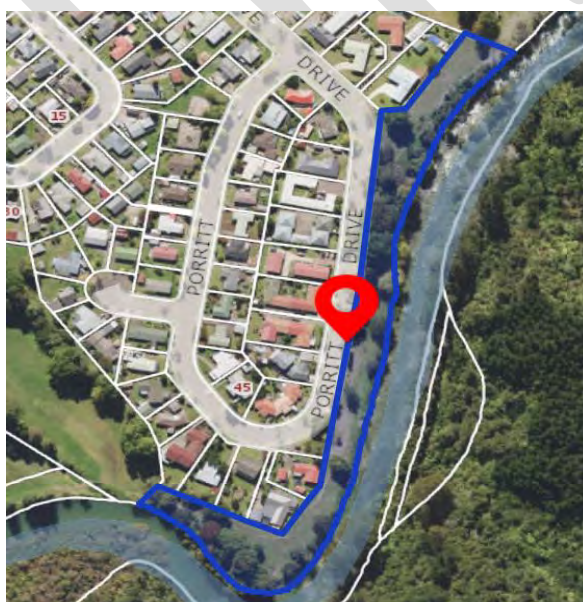
Based on the previous activity and the assessment undertaken it is recommended to restrict freedom camping at Prideaux Park.

Therefore, if the freedom camping area is extended within the proposed bylaw, as a restricted area, it is also recommended that the bylaw's statement of proposal also proposes an amendment to the Firmin Field reserve management plan as per the Reserves Act 1977, to ensure the bylaw and reserves management plan are consistent. The following restrictions are recommended:

- Freedom camping is only available in self-contained vehicles, behind Prideaux Park and the Bowling Club, and along the grassed boundary between the Bowling Club and the Prideaux field.
- Freedom camping is available at the Maurie Kjar [Aquatic Centre](#) carpark in self-contained vehicles only, between the hours of 4pm and 9am.
- Council may consider prior approval for the use of Prideaux Park grassed sports field for organised groups, upon consideration weather and ground condition.

Roy Weston Walk

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 552 Matata Parish	1.3378	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Roy Weston Walk is located along the western edge of the Tarawera River and provides a scenic walk between Firmin Field and Lyn Hartley Reserve.

The walk is a grassed reserve following the edge of the Tarawera River. The edge of the river in some places is lined with trees providing shade. There are a number of park benches for families to picnic.

This area is popular to locals and tourist alike, providing for a scenic view over the river where the white water section commences.

There are a few off street parking spaces along the southeast end of Porritt Drive to enable visitor to park while frequenting the location. There is also a gravel turning area with some parking on the reserve at the southern end of Porritt Drive.

This reserve forms part of a longer scenic walk following the river's edge.

The reserve is not fenced off, however small fences run across the reserve to reduce the ability to drive through the reserve area.

There are no public facilities at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection of the waterways.
Protect Health and Safety	3	This is very popular spot for family and children, particularly in summer. A footpath runs along the side of the road providing walkways and access to the reserve for the community. Trees reduce visibility of vehicles trying to access the reserve and could endanger pedestrian users. Limited off street parking is available for short-term users only. The roadside is narrow so parking and may create visibility restrictions for those using the roads or footpath around the reserve. This poses safety risk to pedestrians and other road users. There is no public toilets or facilities at this reserve.
Protect access	4	Porritt Drive is narrow and provides little room for on street parking or large vehicles. A few off street parks are available for short-term visitors. There is no vehicle access to this reserve. Driving over the concrete berm and footpath may cause damage over time. The reserve is planted with trees providing shade and reducing the ability for vehicle access.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Roy Weston Walk does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Roy Weston Walk and Porritt Drive.

Ruruanga Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 581 Matata Parish	0.7992	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Ruruanga Reserve is located along the northern edge of Glasgow Street, west of the Maurie Kaur Aquatic Centre.

The Ruruanga Stream flows through the reserve from the west before heading north into Prideaux Park. The area is grassed with trees providing a scenic area to visit and walk through.

There is no vehicle access to the Ruruanga Reserve.

No public facilities are available at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns due to limited access to foot traffic only.
Protect access	5	There is no vehicle access to Ruruanga Reserve. Access is likely to cause damage to the kerb and the grounds.

Total Score	10	
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Recommendation

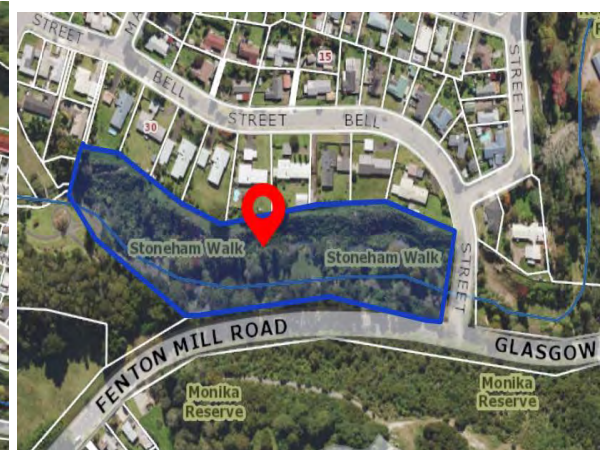
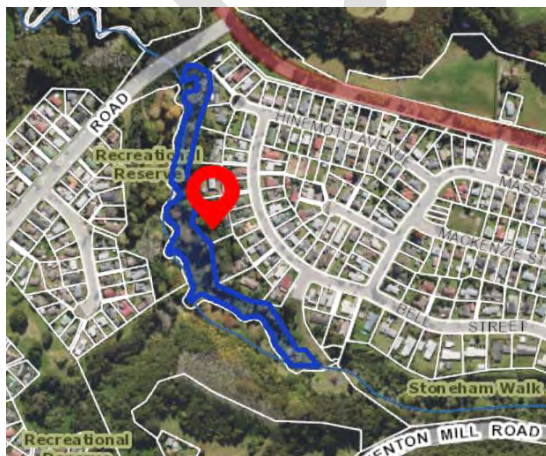
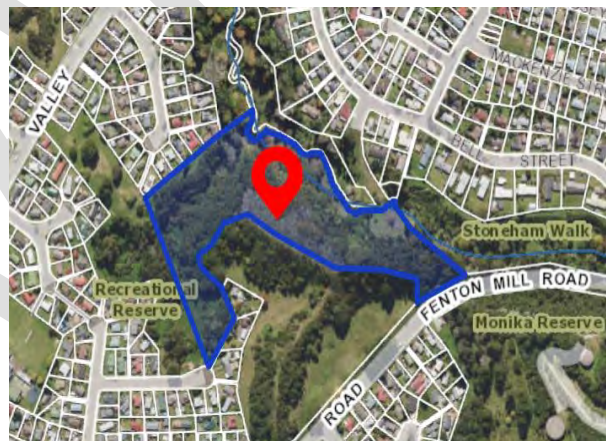
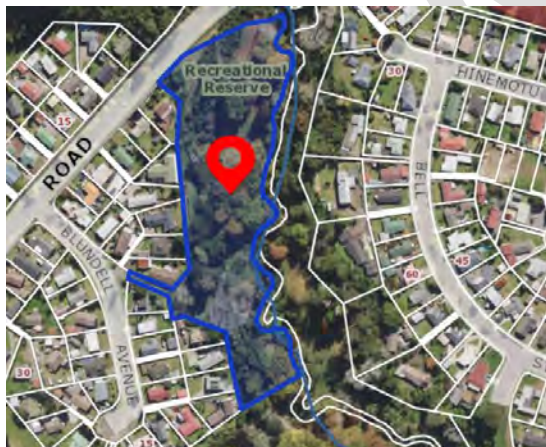
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Ruruanga Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on Ruruanga Reserve.

Stoneham Walk

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Allot 1546 Matata Psh	2.1626	Recreation Reserve
Lot 1 DPS 77805	5.6550	
Pt Lot 85 DPS 9663	1.5715	Esplanade Reserve
Part Allot 580 Matata Psh	2.6240	Recreation Reserve
Lot 86 DPS 9663	0.0501	Esplanade Reserve
Pt Allot 39 Matata Psh	0.007 hectares	Recreation Reserve





Site description

Stoneham Walk Reserve is located off Fenton Mill Road and runs between Bell Street and Valley Road. Stoneham Walk is sited in a shallow gully, through the centre of which flows the Ruruanga Stream. The gully runs roughly east to west.

Pedestrian access to the Walk is from Bell Street, Opunoke Drive, Valley Road, Blundell Avenue and Fenton Mill Road. Vehicle access is via Bell Street, Opunoke Drive and Blundell Avenue. Each of these access points are gated and locked to prevent vehicles access, except for maintenance and emergency services.

There is vehicle access and off street parking available on the south east edge of Stoneham Walk, off Fenton Mill Road, known as the five rocks carpark. The purpose of the carpark is to enable short-term parking for visitor walking through Stoneham Walk.

Stoneham Walk now consists of two areas either side of the Ruruanga Stream. Each side is of almost even proportion. The northern side runs adjacent to a residential housing area. The southern side runs along Fenton Mill Road for a short length, and then is bordered by land owned by Council and residential houses.

The Walk development incorporates a rose garden, stone bridge, sealed walkways, pedestrian bridges across the Rururanga Stream, and raised perennial gardens and a pergola.

The reserve has been extensively planted over the years and maintains a mixture of young and older trees. The reserve is a very scenic reserve popular with the local community and visitors.

Stoneham Walk is fenced with locked gates to prevent vehicle damage and access to the reserve.

The area is a designated dog exercise area.

No public facilities are available at this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and are culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection.
Protect Health and Safety	3	Stoneham walk is a popular spot for walking, picnics, wedding ceremonies and exercising the family dog. The introduction of vehicles would pose a health and safety risk due to the contour of the area and shared use without formed access ways.
Protect access	4	Short-term visitor parking is available off Fenton Mill Road for visitors. Freedom camping will limit capacity for the number regular visitor to Stoneham Walk. Stoneham reserve is fenced off with locked gates to prevent vehicle access.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Stoneham Walk Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Stoneham Walk Reserve and the parking area off Fenton Mill Drive, within a proposed bylaw.

Tarawera Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 505 Matata Psh	15.8077	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Tarawera Park Reserve is located off Cobham Drive to the south-east of Kawerau town centre. The Tarawera Reserve is bordered by residential housing to the west and the Tarawera River to the East. The northern end is bordered by Lyn Hartley Reserve and on the southern edge is the Kawerau Golf Course.

The reserve is a large grassed area with large trees around the boundaries, by the river and lining the tar sealed access way. The reserve includes the main rugby and soccer grounds, providing four full sized fields.

Within the Tarawera Park, there is a group of building providing the changing rooms, Sports Club and Gym. Surrounding the buildings is a large paved car parking around. During 9am – 5pm or organised events, the entrance gates are unlocked for the public which enable vehicles access to the parking area.

Underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

The grassed areas is fenced off to protect the sports ground from vehicle damage.

The area is a designated on dog exercise area.

The toilet block at the reserve is kept locked unless specifically requested by Park users due to vandalism.

The Onepu Sports Club leases the Clubrooms and grounds to the East, West and South of the Club Rooms. This area is excluded from the assessment.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. This area is fenced off from other areas <u>of the park</u> . Designated parking areas are available to ensure damage to the sports field turf is minimised. These areas are fenced off from the car parking and clubrooms. Underground waste water and water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The reserve attracts recreational users and children. Trees will reduce visibility of vehicles trying to access the reserve and could endanger pedestrian users. Large amounts of traffic during events raises health and safety risks to visitors. Tarawera Reserve is fenced off with locked gates to prevent vehicle access outside of these hours as a result of ongoing vandalism to the fields and fences.
Protect access	3	Carpark locked between 5pm and 9am. While there is significant parking available, capacity is limited during sporting or other organised events. Enabling freedom camping on this reserve would create concerns around capacity of parking.

		Designated parking areas are available to ensure damage to the sports field turf is minimised. These areas are fenced off from the car parking and clubrooms.
Total Score	10	

Note: Initial assessment relating to protecting access was not affected by the removal of amenity and economic factors, it was amended to better reflect the scoring system. The initial score did not correctly consider the cultural and natural significance of the river which places the score at 4 under the scoring system. Increased from 2

While not changing the assessment criteria for protecting access, this was amended to better reflect the scoring system. While there is fully formed access to the carpark the fields are fenced off. There is restricted access to the site which would score a 4, however damage to the site would not necessarily occur due the carpark area, so reduced to 3. Reduced from 4.

Recommendation

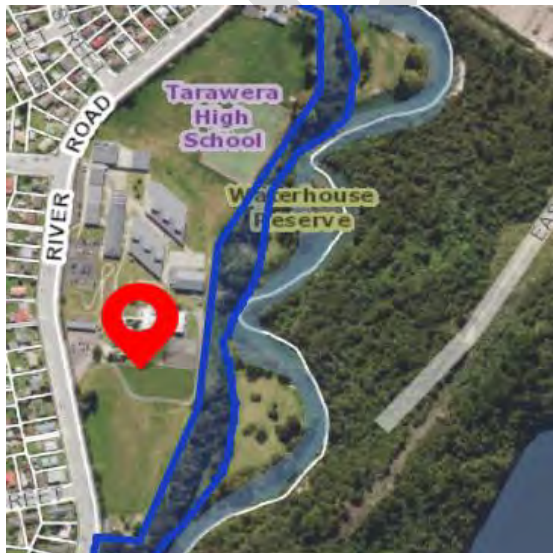
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan for Tarawera Park Reserve does not provide for freedom camping; therefore, freedom camping is already prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Tarawera Reserve (including the car park area), within a proposed bylaw.

River Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Pt Lot 2 DPS 5883	2.2450	Recreation Reserve



Site description

River Road Reserve is a long thin strip of land located between Boyce Park (to the north) and Waterhouse Reserve (to the South). Incorrectly referenced in this map as Waterhouse Street Reserve as the two reserves are linked. It is bordered by the Tarawera River to the east and Tarawera High School to the west.

The reserve is undulating with a combination of river flats and steep banks. The reserve is largely grassed with mature trees.

No public facilities are available.

Underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

The reserve is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The Tarawera River and esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. Underground storm water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	4	This area is used by pedestrians for recreational purposes such as walking their dogs and exercising. The introduction of vehicles would pose a health and safety risk due to the contour of the area, no formed access ways and shared use.
Protect access	4	There is no vehicle access to this reserve and no formed access ways. Each end is fenced to enable foot traffic only.
Total Score	13	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping at River Road Reserve; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Inclusion of the reserve as a prohibited area within the bylaw will enable a consistent approach to freedom camping regulation on the reserve.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the River Road Reserve.

Waterhouse Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Pt Lot 2 DPS 5883	6.1835	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Waterhouse Reserve is located between Tarawera High School and Waterhouse Street. On the eastern edge of the reserve is the Tarawera River and to the west is River Road.

The reserve is a large grassed reserve with large trees providing shade and a scenic atmosphere. While the contour is largely flat, it becomes steep on the river edges. Natural bush has been retained along the river edges, which helps to provide a natural barrier for the steep areas.

There are large established trees throughout the reserve.

There is a small paved parking area on the southern end of the reserve of Waterhouse Street. This parking is available for short-term visitor to the areas utilising the reserve and river tracks for recreational purposes.

This can be a popular area with the development of the kayak course, judging platforms, walkways and spectator viewing areas.

The reserve has an unsealed vehicle access way used for maintenance or event requirements. However, the reserve is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from damage.

A pedestrian track is formed along the riverbank, which forms part of the walkway from Tarawera Park through to the Waterwheel Heritage Park.

There are no public facilities available in this reserve, however the Firmin Field Reserve is directly across the road (Waterhouse Street).

Underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
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Protect the area	5	The Tarawera River and esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection. Underground storm water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	3	This area is used by pedestrians for recreational purposes such as walking their dogs and exercising. The introduction of vehicles would pose a health and safety risk, particularly due to the number of trees established within the reserve making parking and visibility more difficult.
Protect access	3	Sealed vehicle access is available off Waterhouse Street, however this is locked to monitor access and avoid damage. This access also provides for a small number of off street parking for short-term visitors to the reserve.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping for Waterhouse Reserve; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

The current freedom camping bylaw allows restricted freedom camping on the grass field by organised groups, where approved by Council.

Based on the previous bylaw and the assessment undertaken, it is recommended to restrict freedom camping at Waterhouse Reserve.

If this reserve is included within the proposed bylaw as a restricted area, it is also recommended that the bylaw's statement of proposal also proposes an amendment to the Waterhouse Street reserve management plan as per the Reserves Act 1977, to ensure the bylaw and reserves management plan are consistent. The following restrictions are recommended:

- Council will consider prior consent for organised groups where other permitted freedom camping areas are unlikely to be able to support the number of expected freedom campers.
- Freedom camping is only available to self-contained vehicles.
- All freedom campers must be a minimum of 10 metres from the river bank.

Waterwheel Heritage Park

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 1 DP 395904	2.9079	Recreation Purposes - Land Held for Conservation Purposes

Sec 1 SO 406753	2.5957	Recreation Purposes - Land Held for Conservation Purposes
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Site description

Waterwheel Heritage Park is located between Spencer Avenue and the Tarawera River. The reserve is bordered by Tamarangi Drive to the south, runs behind the commercial properties along Spencer Avenue and stops behind the Council Dog Pound. Tarawera River runs along the eastern edge.

The reserve is a large grassed reserve with large trees and some natural bush along the rivers each.

The reserve is fenced off with locked gates.

An underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

Until recently, this reserve was leased to the Waterwheel Historic Trust which installed an operational waterwheel. The site was to be used for restoring historic equipment for tourists and training students.

No public facilities are available.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The Tarawera River and esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection.
Protect Health and Safety	1	Park is low use and is isolated. There is no boundary along the river edge, which has a steep bank to the river.
Protect access	3	The reserve is fenced and has no formed access or formalised parking area.
Total Score	8	

Note: Initial assessment relating to protecting access was not affected by the removal of amenity and economic factors, it was amended to better reflect the scoring system. The initial score was inconsistent with other assessments of the river. Reduced from 5.

Recommendation

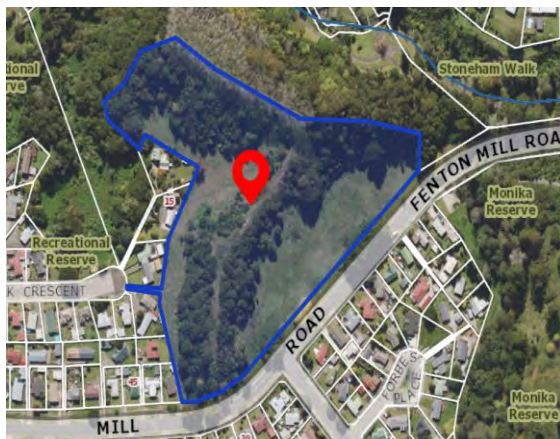
This assessment against the criteria in the Act does not support the restriction or prohibition of this site in the freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on Waterwheel Heritage Park; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council does not include this site in the bylaw and freedom camping on the reserve remains prohibited under s44 of the Reserves Act 1977.

Stock Pound (Yet to be officially named)

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 2 DPS 77805	5.439	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Kawerau District Council recently completed a reserve swap which resulted in the former Stock Pound (yet to be officially named), being newly designated as a recreational reserve. This area sits to the west of Fenton Mill Road and has foot access from Kirk Crescent and Fenton Mill Road.

The previous stock pound, is a large flat grassed area with a ridge running from north to south. The undulating ridge is covered in a mix of exotic and native trees.

This reserve is currently fenced and gated, providing no vehicle access, except for maintenance. There is no off street parking available and the large grass verge running along the front of the reserve is fenced off to prevent vehicle damage.

This reserve will subject of future development as a recreational reserve enabling a community space for all ages.

No public facilities are available.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This reserve has some cultural significance, which would be protected in development. Some native trees are on this reserve, however it is largely exotic trees. This area is set for future development as a community space for families of all ages.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No significant health and safety concerns. No public facilities on site, which may create a health and safety risk, if waste is inappropriately disposed of.
Protect access	5	The reserve is fenced off and gated, providing no direct access. A kerb and concrete footpath runs along the roadside of this reserve and enabling access may damage this infrastructure.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan is being updated to include the former Stock Pound; it is proposed this area will not enable freedom camping as Council wish to develop it into a community friendly outdoor space. Where this is approved, freedom camping will be prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the former Stock Pound Reserve, within a proposed bylaw.

8.2 Recreation Reserves – Neighbourhood Reserves

Neighbourhood reserves are generally smaller and less developed than important reserves. They generally offer informal recreational opportunities and may have playgrounds and other active play areas for children, as well as some trees.

The primary purpose of neighbourhood reserves is to provide a place for casual or passive recreational opportunities for neighbouring residents. Council's objectives are to develop and maintain neighbourhood reserves in a way that will encourage casual and passive recreation and active child's play, and to retain these reserves as an open space for the benefit of all users. Development may include tree planting, playground construction, drainage, contouring and fencing.

Ballance/Seddon Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 118 DPS 4502	0.1329	Recreation Reserve
Lot 122 DPS 4502	0.0800	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is located off Seddon Street to the south of the town centre, but centrally located within Kawerau. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties from Seddon, Ballance and Onslow Streets.

The reserve can be accessed off Seddon Street. It is a small flat grassed reserve with a few small trees and a small playground.

The reserve contains no off street parking and has walking access only from Seddon Street. The reserve is fenced.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is an important recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood. Allowing freedom camping will take away the experience of a nice open green space. Vehicles may damage the grassed area and recreational play space.
Protect Health and Safety	3	Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities will present a health and safety risk to users.
Protect access	5	No vehicle access or parking available. Vehicle would have to cross the kerb which may cause damage. Vehicular access will reduce the suitability of the reserve to be used for neighbourhood kids.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

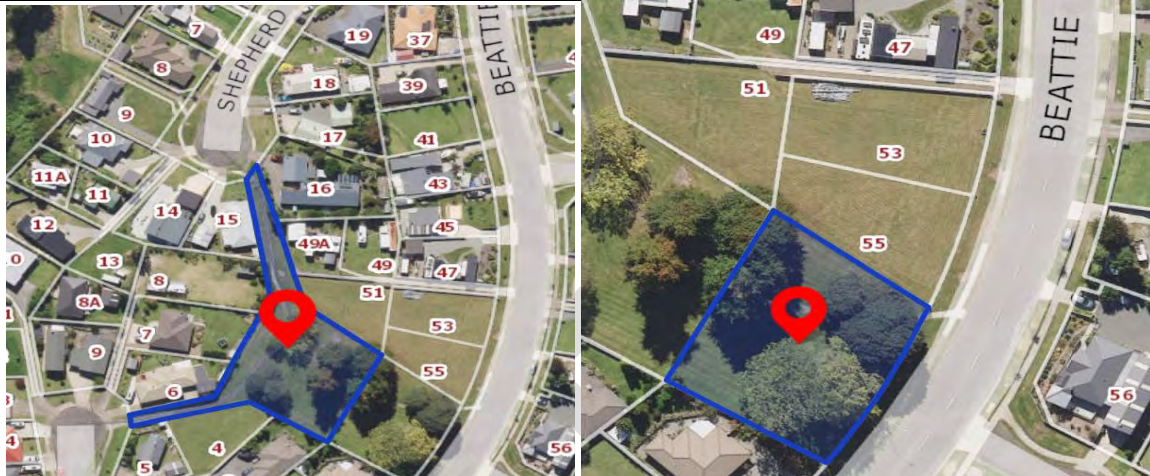
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Balance/Seddon Street Reserve.

Beattie/Shepard Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 239 DPS 35475	0.2593	Recreation Reserve
Lot 1004 DPS 35472	0.1387	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is located off Beattie Avenue to the south west of Kawerau. The reserve is surrounded by residential properties. Currently to the north of the reserve, three sections remain undeveloped.

This neighbourhood reserve has pedestrian access from Beattie Road, Doug Wilson Drive and Shepard Road. The reserve is a small grassed area with well-developed trees providing a shaded pathed walkway to adjoin streets.

There is no off street parking available and there is a small fence restricting access to the grass area to prevent damage.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is an important recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood. Allowing freedom camping will take away the experience of an open green space. Vehicles may damage the grassed area and the roots of the trees.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The reserve is used by the neighbours for walking, dog exercise and as access to nearby streets. Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities will provide a health and safety risk. Navigating the trees will create an extra risk for vehicles and pedestrians.
Protect access	5	No vehicle access or parking available. Vehicle would have to cross the kerb, which may cause damage.

		Vehicular access will reduce the suitability of the reserve to be used for neighbourhood kids.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Beattie/Sheppard Road Reserve.

Boss Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 1318 Matata Psh	0.1643	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbour reserve is located off Boss Road which is to the western edges of Kawerau. The reserve is neighboured by a couple of residential properties and backs onto farmland.

This neighbourhood reserve has pedestrian access only, from Boss Street. The reserve is a very small grassed area with well-developed trees providing a shade. There is open space for playing with a park bench at the rear of the reserve.

There is no off street parking available and there is a small fence with locked gate restricting access to the grass area to prevent damage.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is an important recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood.

		The space is small, there is no capacity to allow freedom camping while maintaining the recreational opportunities and visitor experience of an open green space. Vehicles or camping may damage the grassed area. The reserve is small and slightly sloped.
Protect Health and Safety	2	The reserve has low use. Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities will provide a health and safety risk to other users.
Protect access	5	No vehicle access or parking available. Vehicle would have to cross the kerb, which may cause damage. Vehicular access will reduce the suitability of the reserve to be used for neighbourhood kids.
Total Score	10	

Note: While the initial assessment of Boss Road Reserve did not consider amenity factors, it also did not consider the importance of the recreational space within a built up area which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. Increased from 2.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is still prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Boss Road Reserve.

Cobham Drive Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 156 DPS 9932	0.2712	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is located on Cobham Drive and encircled by Holland Crescent, which is towards the southern end of Kawerau.

This neighbourhood reserve has pedestrian access from Holland Crescent and Cobham Drive. The reserve is a grassed area with a large children's playground and basketball hoop. There are park benches available.

The reserve is fenced off.

There is two off street carparks. These are not sealed and one is grassed.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, other than a rubbish bin.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is an important recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood, providing a playground for local children. Allowing freedom camping will take away from the visitor experience of an open green space. Vehicles or camping may damage the grassed area.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The playground on the reserve attracts recreational users and children. Freedom camping and vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users of the playground and site.
Protect access	4	There is no access to the reserve itself (fenced). There is a formed vehicle access, which only services one of the two parking spots. The second spot would require a vehicle to drive over the concrete kerb and park on the grass, which may cause damage. The road is very narrow. Parking on the roadside may cause blockage of the surround roading network.
Total Score	10	

Note: This assessment of protecting the area, removed the consideration of amenity, however the initial assessment had not considered the importance of the recreational space within a built up area which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. Increased from 2.

While not changing the assessment criteria for protecting health and safety, this was amended, taking into account the fence which does provide some protection to the vulnerable. This was reduced from 4, and removal of the fence would increase the score back to 4.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Cobham Drive Reserve and the adjacent roads (Holland Crescent).

Fraser Street/River Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Pt Lot1 DPS 5882	1.09	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This reserve is located south of Fraser Street, behind Kawerau North School and next to the southern edge of Monika Lanham Reserve.

This neighbourhood reserve is a large grassed reserve used for the Kawerau Urban Food Garden.

There are no off street parking available and no vehicle access to the reserve. The only access is pedestrian access from River Road near the overflow stream, just south of the Fraser Street Entrance.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The reserve is used for the Kawerau Urban Food Garden and backs on to the school grounds.
Protect Health and Safety	2	The reserve has low to medium use, however enabling freedom camping would create health and safety concerns for all uses due to access.
Protect access	5	There is no vehicle access to the Fraser Street Reserve. The only access is by foot from River Road along the side of a small stream or through the rear of the Kawerau North School off Cobham Drive. Any vehicle access would need to be across private land or Public School property, with the risk of damaging private land or school property.
Total Score	10	

Note: The initial assessment did not take into account amenity or economic factors, however while the Urban Food Garden is important to the community, it may not reach the level of significance under the scoring system. Reduced from 4.

While not changing the assessment criteria for protecting health and safety, this was amended, to better reflect the scoring system. Initial assessment failed to take into account what may occur if a vehicle accessed

the site. With no roadway and no expectation of vehicles in the area this would pose a health and safety risk. Increased from 1.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Fraser Street Reserve.

Hadley Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 96 DPS 27245	0.2300	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Hadley Street Reserve is located between Hadley Street and Windley Place. This reserve is bordered by residential properties on all sides.

This reserve is a small grassed reserve with a couple of large trees providing shade in a couple of locations. There is a park bench along the side of the paved walking track between the two streets.

There are no off street parking available and no vehicle access to the reserve. The reserve has been fenced off to enable pedestrian access only.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is an important local recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood.

		The space is small, and surrounded by residential properties. There is no capacity to allow freedom camping while maintaining the recreational opportunities and visitor experience of an open green space, within the current setting. Vehicles or freedom camping may damage the grassed area.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The reserve is used by the neighbours for walking, dog exercise and as access to nearby streets. Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities may provide a health and safety risk.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking or formed vehicle access onto the reserve. Vehicles parked on the narrow cul-de-sac on both ends may block the surrounding roading network and property access. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicle access may result in this being used as a thoroughfare causing damage to the grassed area.
Total Score	11	

Note: This assessment of protecting the area, removed the consideration of amenity, however the initial assessment had not considered the importance of the recreational space within a built up area which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. Increased from 2.

Recommendation

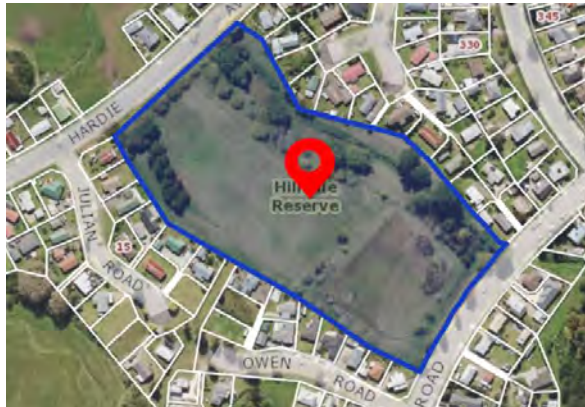
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Fraser Street Reserve.

Hilddale Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 116 DPS 34299	4.2753	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Hilddale Reserve is located between Hardie Avenue and Beattie Avenue and has residential properties extending along the northeast and southwest sides.

This reserve is a passive reserve and is the only authorised reserve in which golf practice is allowed. A children's playground is located in the north-western corner off Hardie Road. This reserve is also a designated dog walking area, excluding the playground area.

This reserve forms part of the storm water system with the overflow drain flowing along the northeast boundary.

Due to high water table in the area, the Hilddale reserve may become water logged during rain events or over winter periods. This poses a health and safety issue to users of the reserve.

Vehicle entrance have been established of both Hardie and Beattie Road, however the reserve is fenced off and have locked gates. Access is restricted to prevent damage to the grassed reserve, particularly in the wetter months.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is an important recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood, providing recreational opportunities locally . The reserve is used by the neighbours for walking, dog exercise and as access to nearby streets. Vehicles may damage the grassed area. Due to the high water table, this area can get wet, which would result in excessive damage.
Protect Health and Safety	3	Introduction of vehicle into a space with no access and parking facilities, may provide a health and safety risk to other users.

		The community are allowed to play golf on this reserve, this places an health and safety risk to freedom campers and their vehicles.
Protect access	4	While access ways have been developed the reserve is fenced and gated to prevent vehicle access. There is no off-street parking or formed vehicle paths within the reserve. Vehicle access may result in this being used as a thoroughfare causing damage to the grassed area.
Total Score	10	

Note: This assessment of protecting the area, removed the consideration of amenity, however the initial assessment had not considered the importance of the recreational space within a built up area which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. Increased from 2.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Hilledale Reserve.

Mackenzie Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 58 DPS 7302	0.2412	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is located on MacKenzie Street and has residential properties on three sides. This reserve has limited trees around the outside of the reserve. The trees along the front are small and still developing.

The reserve is a grassed area with five playground areas dotted across the reserve and a park bench.

Pedestrian access is only available from MacKenzie Street. There is no formed vehicle access to the reserve. No off street parking is available and MacKenzie Street is narrow, making parking on the roadside restrictive.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is an important recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood, providing a playground for local children. The space is small, and surrounded by residential properties. There is no capacity to allow freedom camping while maintaining the recreational opportunities and visitor experience of an open green space and playground. Vehicles may damage the grassed area.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The playground on the reserve is set up to attract families with young children. Camping and vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users of the playground and site.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking or formed access into this reserve. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow road, may block easy access of the surrounding roading network.
Total Score	11	

Note: This assessment of protecting the area, removed the consideration of amenity, however the initial assessment had not considered the importance of the recreational space within a built up area which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. Increased from 2.

Recommendation

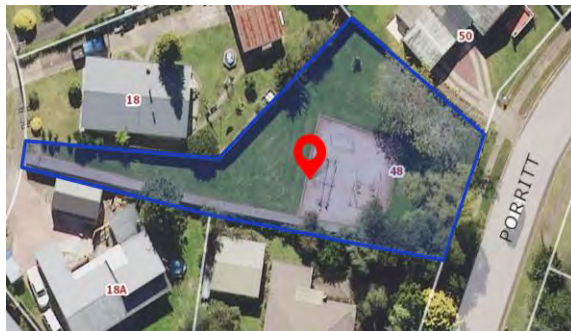
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the MacKenzie Reserve.

Porritt Drive Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 528 Matata Parish	0.1021	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Porritt Reserve is located on the eastern side of Porritt Drive and runs between Porritt Drive and Ward Street. This reserve is surrounded by residential properties.

Porritt Reserve has a playground located largely in the centre of the reserve, with a park bench. There are a few trees in the small reserve which would limit vehicle access as it would risk damaging to the playground or tree roots.

Pedestrian access is available from Porritt Drive and Ward Street with a pathed footpath covering the length of the reserve.

No off street parking is available at this reserve and these roads are narrow making them unsuitable to longer-term parking. There is no vehicle access from either end of the reserve, with Ward Street entrance being too narrow to provide the stand width driveway. Fencing is in place on both ends of the reserve to prevent vehicle access.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is an important recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood, providing a playground for local children. The space is small, and surrounded by residential properties. There is no capacity to allow freedom camping while maintaining the recreational opportunities and visitor experience of an open green space and playground. Vehicles or camping may damage the grassed area.
Protect Health and Safety	4	The playground on the reserve is set up to attract families with young children. Limited space within the reserve to manoeuvre a vehicle will pose a safety risk to other users of the reserve.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking or formed access into this reserve. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would

		require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow road, may block easy access of the surrounding roading network.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

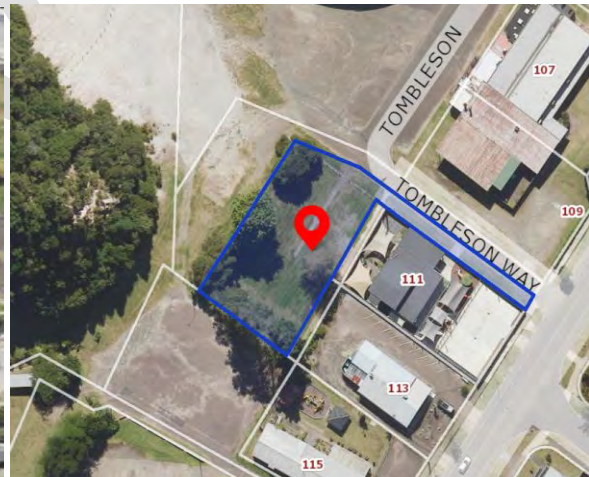
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Porritt Reserve.

Recreation Centre Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Part Lot 3 DPS 5500	1.3441	Recreation Reserve
Part Allot 501 Parish of Matata	0.0080	
Lot 1 DPS 60987	0.1760	Recreation Reserve
Lot 2 DPS 60987	0.1293	Recreation Reserve
Allot 502 Matata Psh	0.1691	Carpark Reserve
Lot 1 DPS 29708	0.1392	Recreation Reserve





Site description

The Recreation Centre Reserve is located between Glasgow Street and Tombleson Way and is home to the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre. This reserve sits to the north-west of the Cosmopolitan Club (Onslow Street) and backs onto Monika Lanham Reserve to the west.

This reserve incorporates a basketball court, playground, the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre and a sealed parking area. A small area of this reserve is grassed.

Directly next to this reserve, is approximately 1000m² of geothermally active land. Some steam comes through vents in the ground and a sulphur smell is evident. While the area is not considered dangerous and is not hot, there is some unpredictability and as a result this area is surrounded by a low fence to discourage entry.

Geothermal gases can be dangerous at high concentrations.

Vehicle access is available from Onslow Street and the reserve has a large paved area with unmarked parking available.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin.

Underground storm water drain runs through this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The Recreation Centre sits within this reserve. This is an important recreational facility available to the community. Freedom camping may reduce the visitor experience due to the limited capacity for parking. Underground storm water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	4	Geothermal gases can be dangerous when found in high concentrations, this makes freedom camping in this area unsuitable for tenting and gas levels should be monitored if allowing self-contained vehicle. Unmarked parking creates a health and safety risk to other users. A playground, basketball court, skate park and bmx track are all within this area. This may create a health and safety risk as vehicle move around in the vicinity of the parks.
Protect access	2	Vehicle access and off-street parking is available, however this is not marked. The grassed area off Thomlinson Way is fenced off and cannot be used for parking.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Although previously enabled with Council consent, this location was very seldom used or requested for freedom camping. There is an unpredictability of geothermal activity and the closeness of this area to active geothermal land, gives rise to some health and safety concerns.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended, that Council prohibit freedom camping at Recreation Centre Reserve.

Robinson Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 106 DPS 3393	0.1110	Recreation Reserve



Site description

This neighbourhood reserve is encircled by Robinson Street. This reserve is a grassed reserve with a central playground with three trees located on in the north and south eastern corners. There is one park bench located under the trees.

This neighbourhood reserve has pedestrian access from Robinson Street.

There is no off street parking at this reserve and the road surrounding the reserve is narrow, with one half being only a single lane. There is no formed access way onto the reserve.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, other than a rubbish bin.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is a local recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood, providing a playground for local children. The space is small, and surrounded by residential properties. There is no capacity to allow freedom camping while maintaining the recreational opportunities and visitor experience of an open green space and playground. Vehicles or freedom camping may damage the grassed area.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The playground on the reserve attracts recreational users and children. Camping and vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users.
Protect access	4	A concrete berm runs along the edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. The road is very narrow. Parking on the roadside may cause blockage of the surrounding road network. Access to the site will impact on families using the playground.

Total Score	10	
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Note: This assessment of protecting the area, removed the consideration of amenity, however the initial assessment had not considered the importance of the recreational space within a built up area which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. Increased from 2.

While not changing the assessment criteria for protecting health and safety, this was amended, taking into account the fence which does provide some protection to the vulnerable. This was reduced from 4, and removal of the fence would increase the score back to 4.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Robinson Street Reserve and Robinson Street.

Tuwharetoa Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 40 DPS 26873	0.1445	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Tuwharetoa Road Reserve is located off the south side of Tuwharetoa Road. The reserve has pedestrian access from both Tuwharetoa Road and Hahuru Road. The reserve has a playground and park bench attracting families. There are a couple of young trees planted to provide shade in the future.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin by the park.

The reserve is fully fenced off, allowing pedestrian access but not vehicles, protecting both users of the reserve and protecting the grass from damage from vehicle.

There is no off street parking.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is a local recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood, providing a playground for local children. The space is small, and surrounded by residential properties. There is no capacity to allow freedom camping while maintaining the recreational opportunities and visitor experience of an open green space and playground.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The playground on the reserve attracts recreational users and children. Vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking and is currently fenced off to protect the area. A concrete kerb and footpath runs along the road edge of the reserve and concrete footpaths are throughout the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and footpaths potentially causing damage.
Total Score	11	

Note: This assessment of protecting the area, removed the consideration of amenity, however the initial assessment had not considered the importance of the recreational space within a built up area which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. Increased from 2.

While not changing the assessment criteria for protecting health and safety, this was amended, taking into account the fence which does provide some protection to the vulnerable. This was reduced from 4, and removal of the fence would increase the score back to 4.

Recommendation

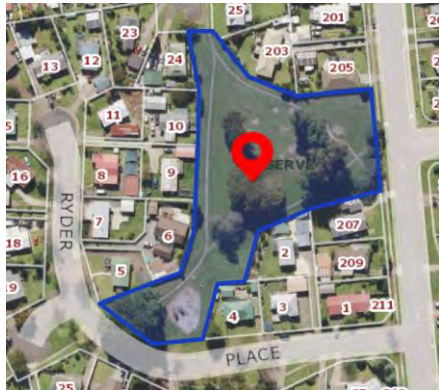
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Tuwharetoa Road Reserve.

Valley Road/Ryder Place Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 85 DPS 30067	0.7924	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Valley Road and Ryder Place reserve is located on the northern side of Ryder Place. This reserve is a grassed reserve with well-developed trees spread throughout the reserve. There are paved walkways throughout the reserve leading to the three access points, being Valley Road, Ryder Place and Syme Crescent.

There is a playground for families directly of the Ryder Place entrance.

There are no public facilities in this reserve, except for a rubbish bin by the park.

The reserve is fully fenced off, allowing pedestrian access, but not vehicles, protecting both users of the reserve and protecting the grass from damage from vehicle.

There is no off street parking.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is a local recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood, providing a playground for local children. There is no capacity to allow freedom camping while maintaining the recreational opportunities and visitor experience of an open green space and playground. Vehicles may damage the grassed area.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The playground on the reserve attracts recreational users and children. Vehicle movements on the reserve are likely to pose a safety risk to other users. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking and is currently fenced off to protect the area. A concrete kerb and footpath runs along the road edge of the reserve and concrete footpaths are throughout the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and footpaths potentially causing damage.

		Vehicles parked on the narrow side roads accessing the reserve, may block access to the surrounding roading network and properties.
Total Score	11	

Note: While not changing the assessment criteria for protecting health and safety, this was amended, taking into account the fence which does provide some protection to the vulnerable. This was reduced from 4, and removal of the fence would increase the score back to 4.

Recommendation

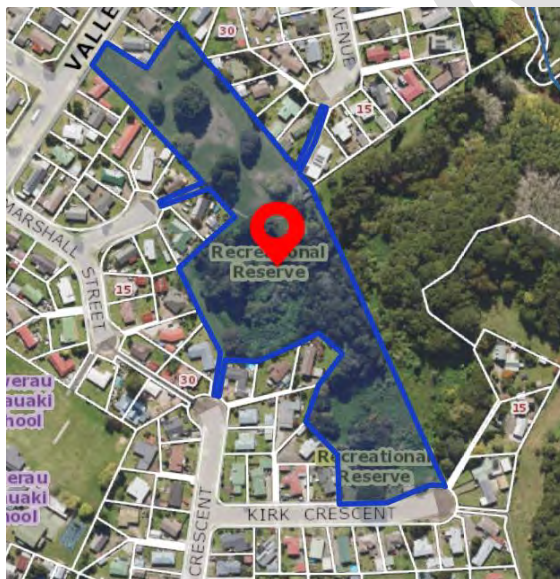
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Valley Road/Ryder Place Reserve.

Valley Road/Kirk Crescent Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Allot 1547 Matata Parish	2.9502	Recreation Reserve



Site description

The Valley Road Kirk Crescent Reserve located between Valley Road and Kirk Crescent. This reserve can be accessed from multiple places including Marshall Street, Blundell Avenue, Valley Road and Kirk Crescent.

The north most area of the reserve is a flat grassed area with well-developed trees, providing a great picnic area for families. This part of the reserve also provides easy access to neighbouring streets and Stoneham Walk. The remaining area is an undulating bush area.

This reserve is a dog friendly reserve.

The reserve is fenced off with locked gates to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This reserve forms part of the well-used Stoneham Walk. is an important recreational space. Allowing freedom camping will take away from the visitor experience of an open green space. Vehicles may damage the grassed area. The bush area needs to be protected in its natural state.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The bush area is very steep in places posing a health and safety risk, for vehicles and users. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking and the reserve is fenced off to protect the area. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the road edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow roads accessing the reserve, may block easy access of the surrounding roading network.
Total Score	11	

Note: While not changing the assessment criteria for protecting health and safety, this was amended, taking into account the fence which does provide some protection to the vulnerable. This was reduced from 4, and removal of the fence would increase the score back to 4.

Recommendation

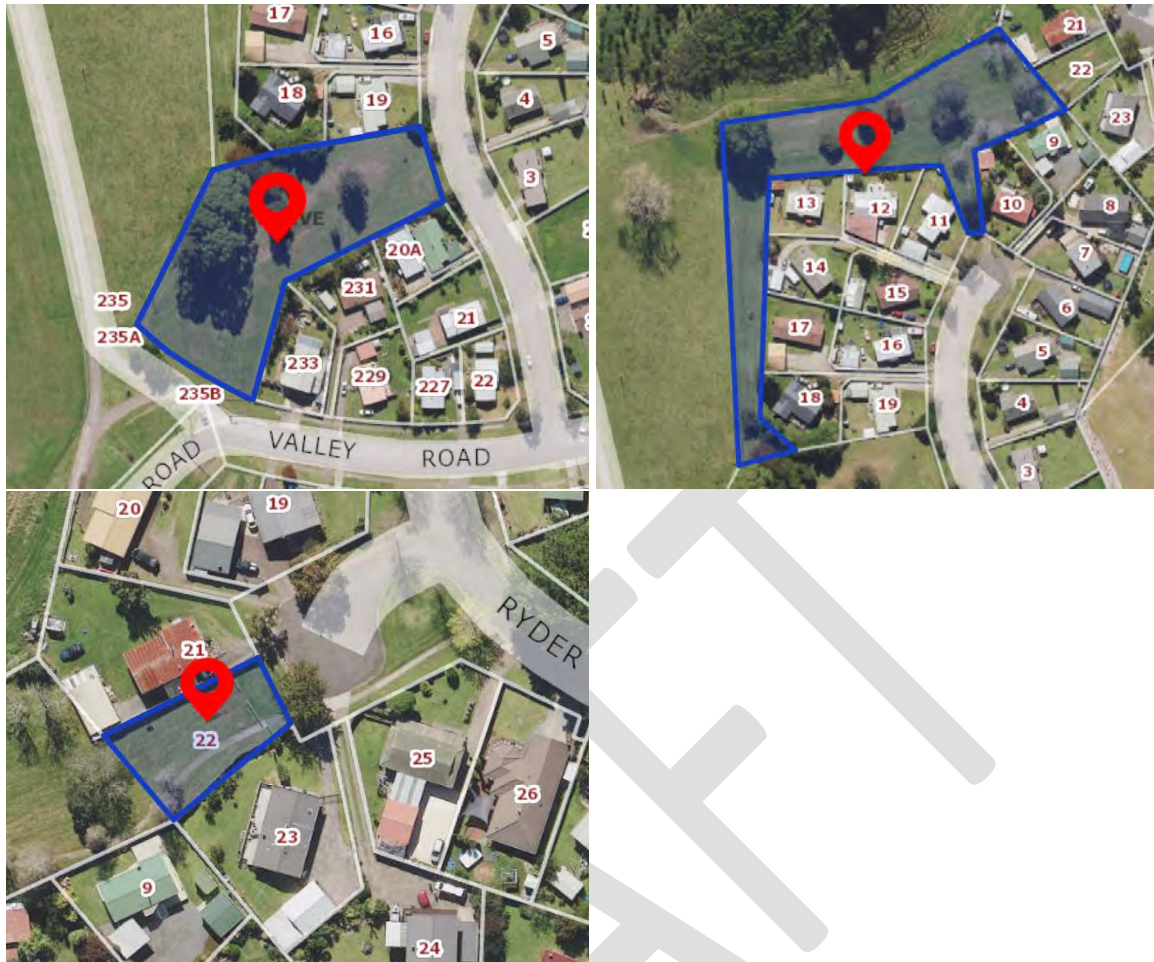
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Valley Road/Kirk Crescent Reserve.

Valley Road/Delamere Drive Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 45 DPS 30483	0.4707	Recreation Reserve
Lot 48 DPS 30482	0.5624	Recreation Reserve
Lot 83 DPS 30068	0.0540	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Valley Road, Delemare Road and Ryder Place Reserves are located to the south west of Kawerau. The reserves lay behind Delemare Road, from the end of Valley Road to Ryder Place. Pedestrian access points include Valley Road, Delemare Road and Ryder Place.

These three reserves form one large, grassed reserve. The reserve is undulating with large trees providing shade for users. This reserve is a designation dog exercise area.

The reserve is fenced off to protect the reserve from vehicles damaging the grassed area and also the safety of users.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is a local recreational space behind a built up neighbourhood. Residents use the area for exercise and dog walking. Allowing freedom camping will take away from the visitor experience of an open green space. Vehicles may damage the grassed area.
Protect Health and Safety	3	The reserve is available for all pedestrians to share including dog owners exercising their family pets. Enabling access to vehicles would pose a health and safety risk to other users of the reserve.

		No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	5	There is no off-street parking or formed access into this reserve. A concrete berm and footpaths runs along the road edge of the grassed area by the road and vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, potentially causing damage. Vehicles parked on the narrow roads accessing the reserve, may block easy access of the surrounding roading network.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

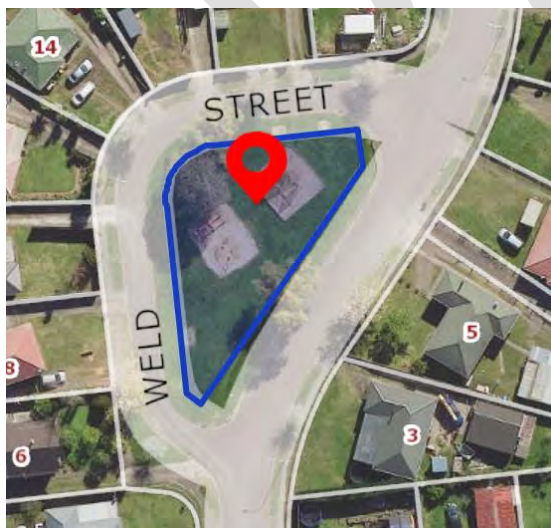
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Valley Road/Delamare Drive Reserve.

Weld Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 52 DPS 4603	0.0840	Recreation Reserve



Site description

Weld Street Reserve is located in the middle of Weld Street. Weld Street splits around both sides of the reserve, creating an island in the middle of the roadway.

Weld Street Reserve consists of a flat grassed area with a playground and swings at the northern end of the reserve. The reserve has one large tree providing some shade to the playground area and amenity value. The park is used by the local community.

There is no parking area available. Weld Street is narrow, so freedom campers parked on the road may cause access issues.

Fencing is in place providing some protection along the eastern edge.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	This is a local recreational space (open green space) within a built up neighbourhood, providing a playground for local children. The space is small, and surrounded by a roadway. There is no capacity to allow freedom camping while maintaining the recreational opportunities and visitor experience of an open green space and playground.
Protect Health and Safety	4	Families use the reserve and playground which can create a hazards with children coming and going across the road. Enabling access to vehicles would pose a health and safety risk to other users of the reserve. No public facilities may create additional health and safety issues.
Protect access	3	There is no parking available and a concrete berm surrounding the reserve. Driving over the berm and grass may cause unnecessary damage.
Total Score	10	

Note: While the initial assessment of protecting the area, did not consider amenity, it also had not considered the importance of the recreational space within a built up area which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. Increased from 2.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Weld Street Reserve and the adjacent road (Weld Street).

8.3 Local Purpose Reserves - Amenity Reserves

Local purpose reserves were created by the Reserves Act "... for the purpose of providing and retaining areas for such local purpose or purposes as are specified in any classification of the reserve" (S.23 Reserves Act 1977). Local purpose reserves cater for uses such as esplanade, utility, roads, streets and service lanes. An important local purpose reserve in Kawerau is the Kawerau Cemetery.

A number of amenity reserves and strips have been set aside in Kawerau to improve the visual appearance of the town. The two bigger reserves are at Beattie Road and

Owen/Julian Road. A series of small amenity strips beautify the roadside along Fenton Street and Tamarangi Drive.

8.3.1 Local Purpose Reserves – General

Beattie Road Local Purpose Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 44 DPS 34292	0.0774	Recreation Reserve
Pt Allot 499 Matata Parish	59.4888	Utility Reserve



Site description

Beattie Road Reserve is located off the northeast end Beattie Road. This reserve lays between Beattie Road and the Dump Reserve. Dump Reserve is a very large reserve which incorporates the water supply pump house, the refuse transfer station and the recycling collection facility.

Beattie Road Reserve is a small undulating grassed reserve with the overflow stream running through from the middle in an easterly direction.

Access to the Beattie Road Reserve is predominately on foot. There is a gate preventing vehicle access from Beattie Road.

There is no parking area available and no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	Protection of the overflow drain is required to ensure it remains fit for the purpose of drainage.
Protect Health and Safety	2	This reserve is essentially an overflow drain and as such presents a health and safety risk as the area is not suitable for vehicles or camping in any form. There is no public toilets or facilities at this reserve.
Protect access	4	There is formed access to the reserve, however there is no developed roadway or parking area. Access is only for maintenance purposes. Access needs to be protected to ensure the overflow drain is not compromised.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

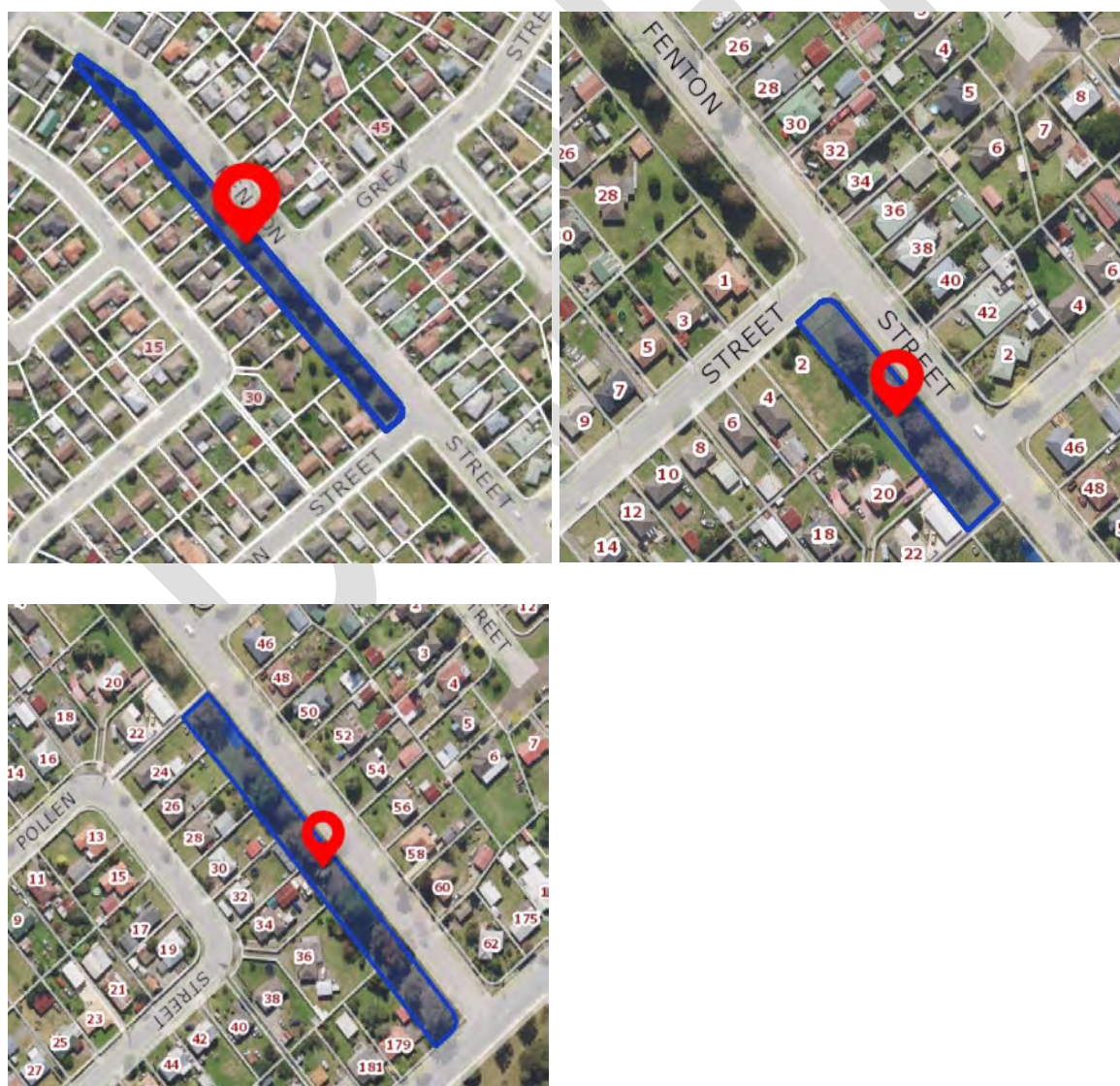
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Beattie Road Local Purpose Reserve.

Fenton Street Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 128 DPS 4503	0.4156	Local Purpose/Amenity Reserve
Lot 127 DPS 4503	0.1486	Local Purpose/Amenity Reserve
Lot 157 DPS 4502	0.2777	Local Purpose/Amenity Reserve



Site description

Fenton Street Reserve is located along the western edge of Fenton Road.

The reserve is a small grassed reserve with large trees contributing to the pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. There are residential properties surrounding the reserve.

The reserve is fenced off and there is no off street parking available.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	The purpose of this reserve is to contribute to the environmental pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. This is a local open green space within a built up neighbourhood and provides recreational opportunities.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	This reserve is fenced off and there is no off street parking available. A concrete kerb runs along the road edge of the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and potentially damaging the kerb and fencing.
Total Score	8	

Note: This assessment of protecting the area, removed the consideration of amenity, however the initial assessment had not considered the importance of the recreational space within a built up area, which provides recreational opportunities and open green space locally. While other similar assessments scored 3, the purpose of this reserve is local purpose/amenity and not recreational. Reduced from 3.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw based on the assessment of one element scoring 5.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Fenton Street Reserve.

Owen/ Julian Road Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 117 DPS 34294	0.1631	Recreation/Local Purpose/Amenity Reserve



Site description

Owen/Julian Road Reserve is located in between Owen Road and Julian Road. On the north-east boundary the reserve meets Hilldale Reserve and towards the south west corner is farmland.

The reserve is a small grassed amenity strip which contributes to the environmental pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. There are residential properties along both sides of the reserve. Three of the bordering sections are currently undeveloped.

The reserve is fenced and has no off street parking available.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	3	The purpose of this reserve is to contribute to the environmental pleasantness and attractiveness of the area. This also provides This is a local open green space and provides recreational opportunities for visitors. Underground water waster, storm water and water assets require protection from vehicles driving on the reserve.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	This reserve is fenced off and there is no off street parking available. A concrete kerb runs along the road edge of the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and potentially damaging the kerb and fencing.
Total Score	9	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Owen/Julian Road Reserve.

Reserve near Manukorihi Drive

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 8 DPS 40871	1.4727	Local Purpose Reserve (Esplanade)



Site description

This reserve is located off Manukorihi Drive and runs along the eastern edge of the Tarawera River. On the opposite side the reserve meets the rear of the industrial area.

The reserve is a combination of a small grassed area and trees and scrubs which form a natural barrier along the river banks.

There is not vehicle access or off street parking.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	4	The Tarawera River and esplanade along the river embankment has high value to the community, and is both culturally and naturally significant, requiring protection.

Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	There is no vehicle access to this reserve and no formed access ways.
Total Score	10	

Recommendation

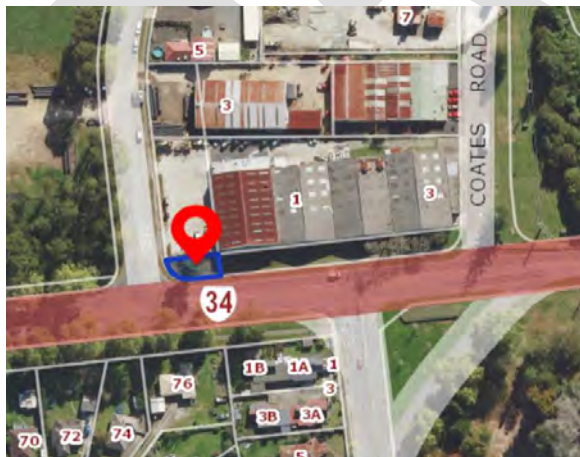
This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

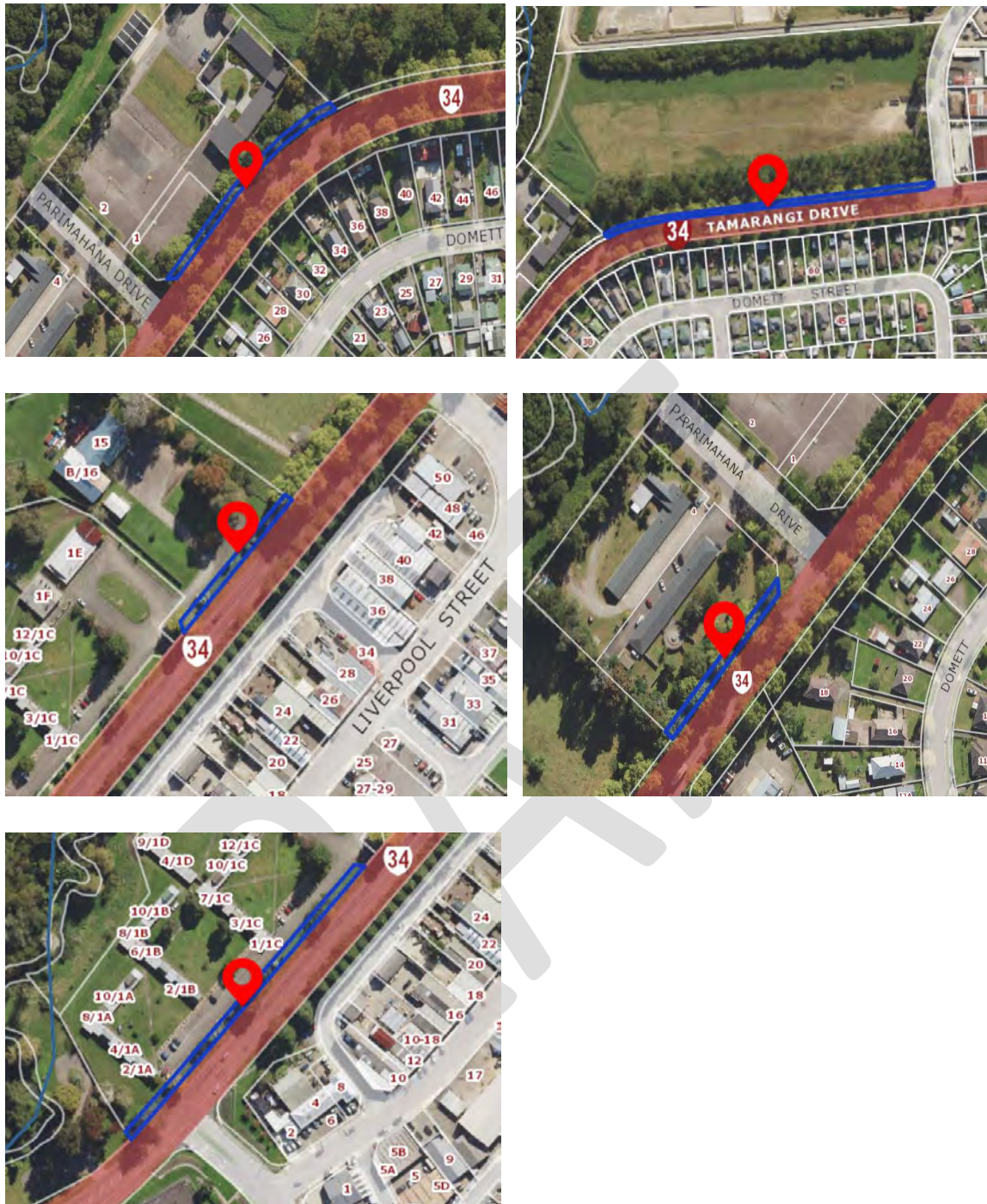
The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on neighbourhood reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping on the Reserve near Manukorihi Drive.

Tamarangi Drive (North Side of Road)

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 1 DPS 7688	0.0876	Local Purpose - Plantation Reserve
Allot 1211 Matata Psh	0.0173	Local Purpose - Plantation Reserve
Allot 1212 Matata Psh	0.1520	Local Purpose - Plantation Reserve
Allot 1522 Matata Psh	0.0606	Local Purpose - Plantation Reserve
Allot 823 Matata Psh	0.0378	Plantation Reserve
Allot 354 Matata Psh	0.0366	Plantation Reserve
Allot 353 Matata Psh	0.0823	Plantation Reserve

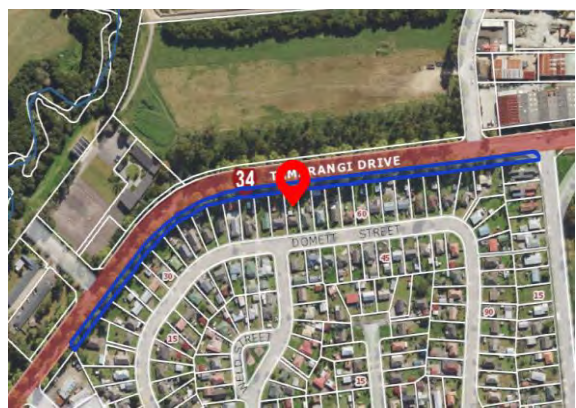
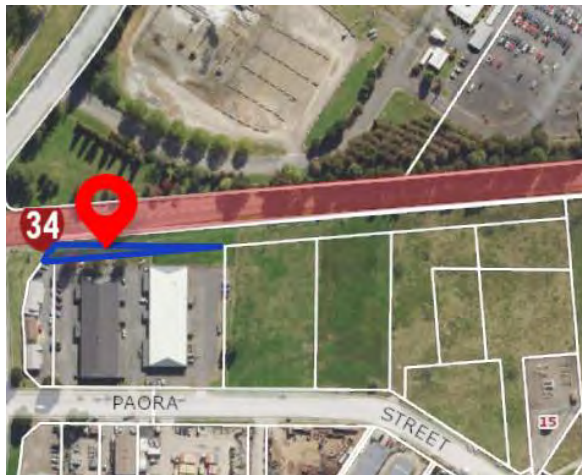


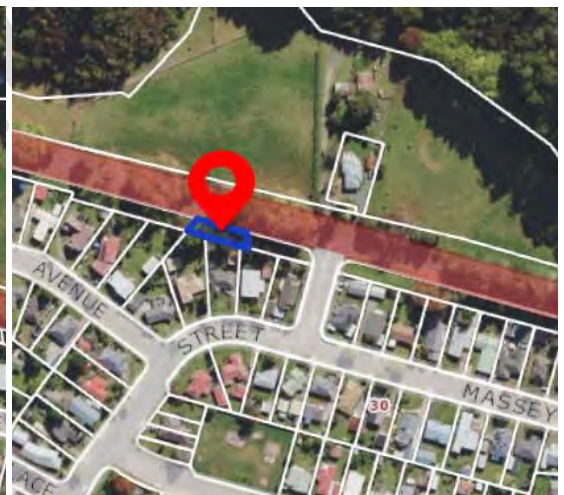
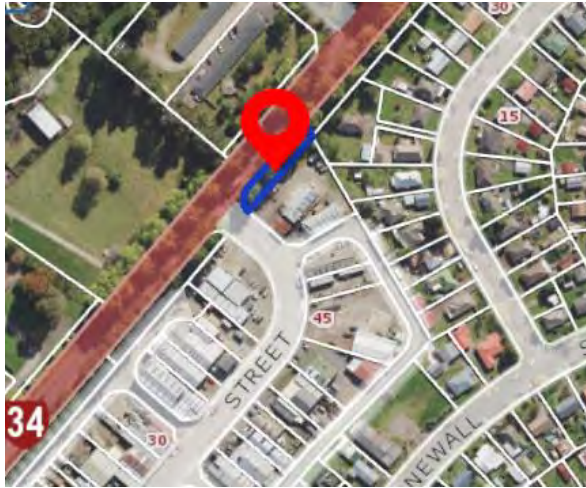


Tamarangi Drive (South Side of Road)

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 1 DP 377787	0.0804	Freehold
Lot 1 DP 387886	0.3806	
Lot 4 DP 387886	0.0580	Local Purpose Reserve (Service and Amenity)
Lot 6 DPS 40869	0.0467	Local Purpose Reserve (Service and Amenity)
Lot 4 DPS 40871	0.3405	Local Purpose Reserve (Service and Amenity)
Lot 179 DPS 4603	0.5371	Plantation Reserve

Lot 6 DPS 11678	0.0491	Plantation Reserve
Lot 1 DPS 11678	0.0844	Local Purpose Reserve
Lot 3 DPS 5727	0.2518	Local Purpose Reserve
Lot 84 DPS 9663	0.2117	Plantation Reserve
Lot 59 DPS 7302	0.0318	Plantation Reserve
Lot 35 DPS 5013	0.0367	Local Purpose Reserve
Lot 12 DPS 5013	0.1867	Local Purpose Reserve







Site description

Tamarangi Driver Reserve (North side and South side) are located along the edges of Tamarangi Drive providing a scenic boundary to the state highway.

The reserves are grassed reserves with large trees lining the edge of the roadside.

There is a footpath that runs along the southern side, providing a walking track which is used for walkers and for exercising dogs.

There are no constructed entrances to the reserves and the reserves are bordered by a concrete kerb.

There is no vehicle access or off street parking.

There are no public facilities in this reserve.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	The purpose of this reserve is to contribute to the environmental pleasantness and attractiveness of the area.
Protect Health and Safety	2	Low health and safety concerns, however if freedom camping was allowed there would be an increased risk with shared footpaths.
Protect access	4	These reserves have no off street parking available. A concrete kerb runs along the road edge of the reserve. Vehicle access would require driving over the kerb, and potentially damaging the kerb.
Total Score	8	

Note: This assessment of protecting the area, removed the consideration of amenity. Reduced from 3. While no changing the assessment criteria for protecting access, this was amended to better reflect the scoring system. The initial assessment had incorrectly included the fence in the assessment, however only a portion of this area is fence off. Reduced from 5.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act does not support the restriction or prohibition of this site in the freedom camping bylaw.

The Reserve Management Plan does not provide for freedom camping on this local purpose reserves; therefore, freedom camping is prohibited on the reserve under section 44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that Council does not include this site in the bylaw and freedom camping on the reserve remains prohibited under s44 of the Reserves Act 1977.

8.3.2 Local Purpose Reserves - Esplanade Reserves

Esplanade reserves are associated with coastal, lakesides and riverside reserves. Kawerau District Council has a number of reserves which include sections along Tarawera River and Ruruanga Stream.

Kawerau District Council have two lots specifically identified as Esplanade Reserves, these are:

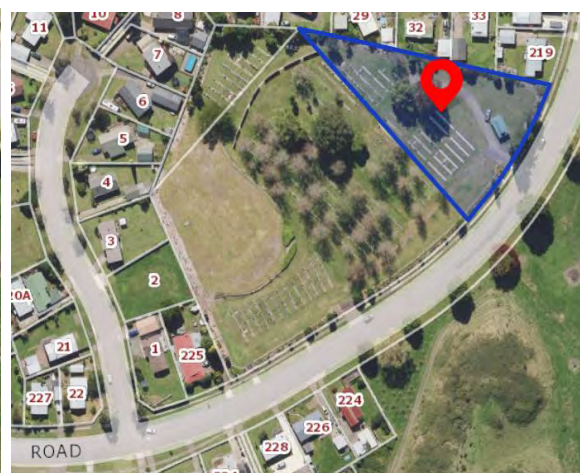
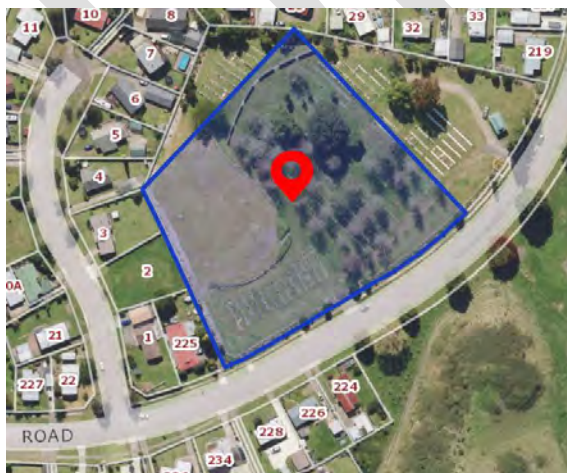
Stoneham Walk – Pt Lot 85 DPS 9663 and Lot 86 DPS 9663

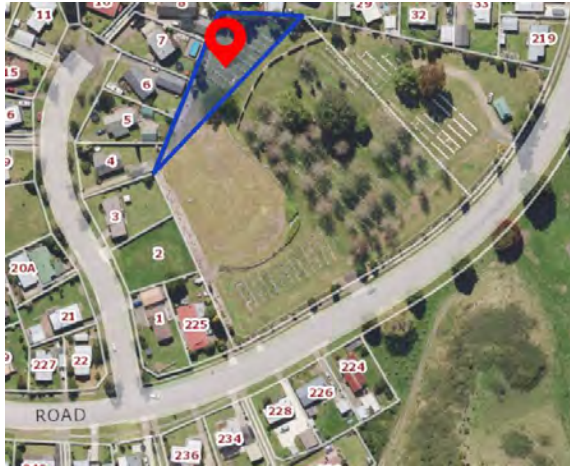
This reserve has been assessed under Recreation Reserves with all other legal titles combined to make up Stoneham Walk.

8.3.3 Local Purpose Reserves – Cemetery

Cemetery

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Pt Allot 329 Matata Psh	1.3000	Local Purpose Reserve
Lot 84 DPS 30068	0.4428	Local Purpose Reserve
Allot 849 Matata Psh	0.1606	Local Purpose Reserve





Site description

The Kawerau District Cemetery has one cemetery which is open for burials. The Cemetery is located off Valley Road.

Cemeteries are sensitive places which support our sense of community and reflect the history of our local people and cultures which have founded and influenced the district. They provide a place where family and friends can come to care for and mourn the loss of their loved ones, consistent with their culture and beliefs.

The cemetery has three established vehicle access ways. Each access way has a gate with is locked unless open for funeral requirements. Although the reserve is not fences, there are established gardens between each of the gates providing a scenic boundary fronting the cemetery.

Public facilities are available with toilets being open to the public.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	The cemetery is a sensitive area with high value to the community, being both culturally and historically significant. It is important that the area be protected.
Protect Health and Safety	4	Cemeteries are used frequently by pedestrians including elderly people and children. Freedom camping does pose a health and safety risk to cemetery visitors, through a reduction of visibility and limited space. There is also health and safety concerns due to the likelihood of open ground (plots), use of digging equipment and burial services taking place.
Protect access	3	The cemetery has limited accessibility for vehicles to protect the grounds. Pedestrian access to the cemetery is available of Valley Road. Freedom camping vehicles, even parked on the road side, would impede on the access to others and the visibility of those visiting their loved ones.
Total Score	12	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Kawerau Cemetery.

8.3.4 Local Purpose Reserves – Utility Reserves

Local purpose utility reserves are used for the purpose of providing utilities or drainage with Kawerau. Kawerau District Council have two utility reserves being the Dump Reserve (includes Pat Baker Reserve) and the Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve.

Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Reserve Category
Lot 1 DPS 43063	7.3796	Utility Reserve



Site description

The Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve is located off Beattie Road to the south west. The reserve is land locked by private land.

The reserve is a large lot that is covered in established native trees.

There is no public access to this reserve.

Public facilities are not available.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	5	This reserve is cover in native trees and should be protected.
Protect Health and Safety	1	No health and safety concerns.
Protect access	5	There is no road access to this reserve.
Total Score	11	

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act provides grounds for this site to be restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

Based on this assessment, it is recommended Council propose to prohibit freedom camping at the Beattie Road Reservoir Reserve.

8.4 Council Owned Land

Circus Paddock

Legal Description	Area (ha)	Land Category
Part Lot 1 DPS 5500	1.1400	Freehold Commercial



Site description

Circus paddock is located on the corner of Plunket and Onslow Street. The area known as Circus paddock is council owned freehold land.

The land area includes two paved carparks. Kawerau Cosmopolitan Club uses one carpark and the other paved car parking area is associated with the recreational space including the basketball court, skate park and recreational space.

Near the circus paddock, is approximately 1000m² of geothermally active land. Some steam comes through vents in the ground and a sulphur smell is evident. While the area is not considered dangerous and is not hot, there is some unpredictability area geothermal activity.

Geothermal gases can be dangerous at high concentrations and levels are monitored at the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre which borders the Circus paddock.

Circus paddock is used for local events, including currently being home to the local markets.

There are no public facilities at Circus paddock.

Council is considering a lease of this land in which case the land would be outside the scope of the Freedom Camping Bylaw as it will no longer be controlled or managed by Council.

Freedom Camping Act Assessment

Assessment	Score	Comments
Protect the area	2	Circus paddock is used for local events. The capacity and availability of the area may be reduced where large numbers of freedom campers are parking in this area. This would reduce the recreational value of the current space.
Protect Health and Safety	3	This area may be affected by geothermal gases, however dangerous level are not expected at Circus paddock. Vehicle access near the skate parks and adjoining basketball court raises health and safety concerns due to the unpredictability of children and their social activities.
Protect access	3	Vehicle access and off-street parking is available, however the parking area is used by the Cosmopolitan Club. To access the grassed area, vehicle must drive over the kerb or remove a wooden post protecting the reserve from vehicle. This may cause damage to the area, although the market accesses with vehicles on a regular basis.
Total Score	8	

Note: While no changing the assessment criteria for protecting access, this was amended to better reflect the scoring system. The initial assessment placed higher emphasis on the use of the carpark by an existing commercial business. Reduced from 4.

Recommendation

This assessment against the criteria in the Act does not support the restriction or prohibition of this site in a freedom camping bylaw.

As freehold land, the Circus Paddock does not come under the reserves management plan. This means Circus Paddock should be available for Freedom Camping.

In saying this, Council is currently negotiating a proposed lease of the Circus Paddock. Where the land is leased, the land will no longer be available for freedom camping and is excluded from the Freedom Camping Act requirements.

Based on this assessment, and the proposed lease, it is recommended, that Council excludes Circus Paddock from the Bylaw.



**KAWERAU
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau



Proposed **Freedom Camping** **Bylaw 2024**

Kawerau District Council

Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

Date First Adopted:	
Last Reviewed :	July 2024
Next Review Date:	July 2034
Engagement Required:	Special Consultative Procedure (s83 LGA)
Document Number:	BYL 001
Responsibility:	Group Manager, Regulatory and Planning
Associated Documents:	Freedom Camping Act 2011, Kawerau District Council Reserve Management Plan



Kawerau,
Taonga o te whenua,
Treasure of the land.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Title

This bylaw shall be known as the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2019.

1.2. Commencement

This bylaw came into force on 1 October 2019. Amendments to this bylaw come into force on _____ 2024, in accordance with a resolution of Council made on _____ 2024.

1.3. Enabling enactment

This bylaw is made in accordance with section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 ('Act'). This bylaw should be read alongside the Act.

1.4. Purpose

The purpose of this bylaw is to control freedom camping in the Kawerau District in order to:

- a) Protect local authority areas;
- b) Protect the health and safety of people who may visit local authority areas; and
- c) Protect access to local authority areas.

Explanatory Notes

The provisions of this bylaw only apply to land owned and controlled by Council. It does not apply to private land or land owned by the Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand or the New Zealand Transport Agency.

1.5. Explanatory notes

This bylaw contains explanatory notes, which do not form part of this bylaw. The Council may add, amend or delete explanatory notes at any time without amending the bylaw.

2. Definitions

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

Act	means the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (“Act”).
Chief Executive	means the person appointed by Council under section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002.
Council	means Kawerau District Council.
District	means Kawerau District.
Enforcement Officer	means a person appointed as an enforcement officer under section 32 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
Freedom camp	has the meaning set out in section 5 of the Act.

Explanatory notes

As at 7 June 2023, section 5 of the Act, defines freedom camp as:

- (1) In this Act, freedom camp means to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200 m of an area accessible by motor vehicle or within 200 m of the mean low-water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200 m of a formed road or a Great Walks Track, using either or both of the following:
 - (a) a tent or other temporary structure:
 - (b) a motor vehicle.
- (2) In this Act, freedom camping does not include the following activities:
 - (a) temporary and short-term parking of a motor vehicle:
 - (b) recreational activities commonly known as day-trip excursions:
 - (c) resting or sleeping at the roadside in a motor vehicle to avoid driver fatigue.
- (2A) In this Act, a person is not freedom camping if the person—
 - (a) is a person other than a person who is in New Zealand on the basis of a visitor visa (within the meaning of the immigration instructions); and
 - (b) is unable to live in appropriate residential accommodation; and
 - (c) as a consequence of that inability, is living in either or both of the following:
 - (i) a tent or other temporary structure:
 - (ii) a motor vehicle.

For the avoidance of doubt, as at 7 June 2023, section 5(3) of the Act defines camping ground as:

- (a) a camping ground that is the subject of a current certificate of registration under the Camping-Grounds Regulations 1985; or
- (b) any site at which a fee is payable for camping at the site.

Freedom camping	has the equivalent meaning of Freedom camp.
Infringement offence	means an offence specified in section 20 of the Act.

Explanatory notes

Sections 20 of the Act, sets out the infringement offences which include the following:

- freedom camps or makes preparation to freedom camp in breach of any prohibition or restriction specified in a bylaw.
- freedom camps, in a vehicle that is not self-contained, in breach of a bylaw.
- fails to display a warrant card for the vehicle being used to freedom camp.
- freedom camps or makes preparation to freedom camp in a self-contained vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for.
- while freedom camping in a local authority area, interferes with or damages the area, its flora or fauna, or any structure in the area.
- deposits waste in or on the area (other than into an appropriate waste receptacle)
- fails or refuses to leave a local authority area when required to do so by an enforcement officer acting under section 36.

For clarification to **make preparations** means to do either or both of the following:

- (a) erect a tent to use it for freedom camping:
- (b) park a motor vehicle to use it for freedom camping.

Local authority area	has the meaning as in section 6 of the Act.
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Explanatory Notes

As at 7 June 2023, section 6(1) of the Act, where Local Authority Area is defined, states:

(1) In this Act, local authority area—

(a) means an area of land—

(i) that is within the district or region of a local authority; and

(ii) that is—

(A) controlled or managed by or on behalf of the local authority under any enactment...

Prohibited area	means an area identified in Schedule 2: Prohibited Areas, in which freedom camping is prohibited.
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Restricted area	means an area identified in Schedule 1: Restricted Areas, in which freedom camping is permitted subject to restrictions.
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Reserve means any land classified as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977 or its amendments.

Self-Contained has the meaning given in section 4 of the Act.

Explanatory Notes

As at 7 June 2023, section 4 of the Act, defines self-contained as:

(4) In relation to a motor vehicle, means that the vehicle has a valid certificate of self-containment issued in accordance with section 87U(3)(d) of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Act 2006.

The new legislation enables a transition period to enable compliance with the new self-contained requirements. ~~(but see subpart 1 of~~ Part 1 of Schedule 1AA for the meaning of self-contained during the transitional period, being 7 June 2023 to 7 June 2025)

If you have a blue warrant on your personal self-contained vehicle, this is valid until its expiry or 7 June 2025, whichever is sooner.

A green warrant is valid for four years from the date you receive the warrant. From 7 June 2025, all vehicles will need to be certified with a green warrant, to be certified self-contained under the new requirements.

For further information check out the MBIE website <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/immigration-and-tourism/tourism/tourism-projects/supporting-sustainable-freedom-camping-in-aotearoa-new-zealand/freedom-camping-changes>

Government is currently considering an extension of time to obtain a green warrant. Where Government extend the transitional period, this explanatory note will be updated.

Explanatory Notes

To be certified Self-contained, the motor vehicle must achieve compliance with NZ Standard 5465:2001. The standard can be viewed or printed once for free at this link: <https://www.standards.govt.nz/shop/nzs-54652001>.

For the avoidance of doubt, the standard requires that a Self-contained motor vehicle be equipped with a toilet that is permanently fixed to the vehicle in order to be certified.

Vehicle has the meaning given in section 2(1) of the Land Transport Act 1998.

Waste means any kind of waste, including human waste.

3. Freedom Camping Areas

3.1. Freedom Camping

- 3.1.1. Freedom camping is permitted in any local authority area within the District, in a self-contained vehicle, unless it is restricted or prohibited by this bylaw or under any associated enactment, bylaw, or reserve management plan.
- 3.1.2. For clarification, freedom camping in any tent or temporary structure in any local authority area is prohibited.

3.2. Freedom camping - Restricted Areas

- 3.2.1. A person may freedom camp in any area identified in Schedule 1: Restricted Areas for Freedom Camping, are marked yellow on the maps in Schedule 3. Freedom Campers must comply with the restrictions listed below:
- a) No person may freedom camp except in a self-contained vehicle.
 - b) No person may freedom camp for more than 7 nights in any one calendar month.
 - c) No person may freedom camp for more than 7 consecutive nights when crossing over two months.
 - d) All waste must be either removed or disposed of in the bins provided.
 - e) All wastewater (including human waste) must be disposed of in the dump sites provided at Prideaux Park and Firmin Field.
 - f) Campsites must be kept clean and tidy.
 - g) Freedom campers must not prevent others from undertaking legitimate activities in the area or restrict access to any public area or private land.
 - h) No person may light any fires.
 - i) All persons are subject to all other requirements that apply generally to the area where they are camped, including dog, alcohol and noise control.
 - j) No person may interfere with or damage any freedom camping area, flora, fauna or structure.
 - k) Enforcement officers must be able to inspect any campsite and freedom campers must comply with any reasonable direction.
- 3.2.2. Despite sub clause, 3.2.1 some restricted areas require prior consent as identified in Schedule 1. Restricted Areas requiring prior consent are for large organised groups or events, which cannot be accommodated within existing Restricted Sites. Restricted Areas requiring prior consent are marked blue on the maps in Schedule 3.

- 3.2.3. Despite sub clause, 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 a person may freedom camp in any restricted area, if they have obtained the prior written consent of the Council, granted under clause 4 of this bylaw, and complies with any conditions of the consent. The written consent must be produced on request of an enforcement officer.

3.3. Freedom camping - Prohibited Areas

- 3.3.1. No person may freedom camp in any local authority area in the District described in Schedule 2: Prohibited Areas, and mark red on the maps in Schedule 3.

- 3.3.2. Despite sub clause, 3.3.1 a person may freedom camp in a prohibited area if they have obtained the prior written consent of the Council, granted under clause 4 of this bylaw, and complies with any conditions of the consent. The written consent must be produced on request of an enforcement officer.

Explanatory notes

The Reserves Act 1977 prohibits camping on all reserves unless it is specifically provided for in the operative reserve management plan. As a result Council cannot permit freedom camping under 3.2.3 or 3.3.2 on a reserve, unless permitted under an operative Reserve Management Plan.

Refer to clause 4 for details on the application process.

4. Prior Consent from Council

4.1. Application for Consent

- 4.1.1. The Council may grant written consent to a person, to freedom camp, contrary to any prohibition or restrictions that apply under this bylaw.
- 4.1.2. An application for consent must be made in writing, to the Chief Executive Officer, at least 10 working days prior to the date on which freedom camping is planned to occur.
- 4.1.3. The application must be accompanied by the application fee, set in Council's schedule of fees and charges.
- 4.1.4. Completed applications will be considered by Council and may be granted at Council's sole discretion.

Explanatory Note:

Council anticipates the following reasons may be grounds for an application:

- Where associated with a special event or occasion occurring in the area and an exemption is required for the duration of the event or occasion.
- Where the anticipated availability of freedom camping sites will not meet the expected needs.
- Complying with the restrictions ~~or prohibition~~ in the bylaw is not reasonable in the circumstances.

4.1.4.4.1.5. The Council may impose any conditions to any consent granted, that Council considers appropriate and are consistent with the purpose of this Bylaw, as set out in clause 1.4.

4.1.5.4.1.6. The consent is not transferable to another person or event.

4.1.6.4.1.7. An enforcement officer may revoke a consent given under clause 4.1.1 if any person breaches the conditions specified in the consent or the freedom camping covered by the consent, breaches this bylaw or the Act.

5. Temporary Closure or Restriction of Freedom Camping

5.1. Temporary Closure or Restriction

Council may temporary close or restrict freedom camping in any local authority area or part of any area, where the closure or restriction is considered necessary to:

- a) Allow maintenance of the area or facilities in the area;
- b) Prevent damage to the area or facilities;
- c) Protect the safety of persons or property; or
- d) Provide better public access to facilities, including access to local events held in the area.

5.2. Notice

Council will give notice of a closure or restriction of this bylaw, as soon as reasonability practicable, taking into the circumstances of such closure or restriction.

Explanatory Notes

Notice given by Council may include any of the following:

- A sign erected in the area
- Advertising on Council website and/or Council facebook page
- Advertising on the radio
- Public notice in a paper

6. Offences

6.1. Offences

Every person who freedom camps, or makes preparation to freedom camp, in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction imposed in this bylaw commits an infringement offence under section 20(1) of the Act. This includes a breach of any condition of an approved prior consent.

6.2. Exceptions

Every person who has obtained a written consent from Council, granted under clause 4.1.1 of this bylaw, and who complies with all conditions of that consent, is not acting in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw as set out under section 20(1)(a) and (f) of the Act.

Explanatory notes

Every person who commits an offence under the Act is liable for a penalty for any amount prescribed under s20E of the Act or in any regulations made under s43 of the Act. Penalties for infringement offences under the Act are specified in the Freedom Camping (Penalties for Infringement Offences) Regulations 2023 and can be viewed here:

Freedom Camping (Penalties for Infringement Offences) Regulations 2023 (SL 2023/136) Schedule 2 Penalties for infringement offences under Freedom Camping Act 2011 – New Zealand Legislation

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2023/0136/latest/LMS853101.htm>
↓

Where no regulations are made, the infringement fee is \$400 (s20E of the Act)

Infringements may be issued to:

- person who committed the offence;
- the registered owner of the vehicle used to freedom camp
- the person lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle used to freedom camp. (s26 of the Act)

Enforcement officers may require a person to leave an area if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the person is committing or has committed an offence. (s36 of the Act)

SCHEDULE ONE

Freedom Camping Restricted Areas

Freedom Camping in areas described below is subject to restrictions specified in clause 3.2 of this bylaw.

All restrictions must be complied with unless prior written consent of the Council is obtained under clause 4 of this bylaw.

Explanatory Notes

Restricted Areas included some locations which require prior consent to be accessed. These have been included as restricted due to the public interest in these areas for large events. These sites are shown as blue below and on the maps.

Map	Area and Description	Restrictions
01	<p>Prideaux Park</p> <p>Prideaux Park is located on the corner of Islington Street and Plunket Street and extends all the way to Glasgow Street.</p> <p>Access off Plunket Street, Kawerau.</p> <p>Three areas are available for freedom camping at Prideaux Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream side area located behind the Prideaux Park Pavilion. Four power sites available – contact Kawerau iSite for details. • Grassed area behind Kawerau Bowling Club. • Grassed area in front of Kawerau Bowling Club. <p>Dump station available on site.</p>	<p>Restricted to self-contained vehicles.</p> <p>Grassed area in front of Kawerau Bowling Club is only available where no events are being held at Prideaux Park. Vehicle and all camping equipment must not encroach on the access way.</p> <p>Prior Consent required if requesting to use the sports field.</p>
01	<p>Maurie Kjar Aquatics Centre Carpark</p>	<p>Restricted to self-contained vehicles.</p> <p>Freedom camping only available between 4pm and 9am.</p>

	<p>Maurie Kjar Aquatics Centre is located on the corner of Plunket Street and Glasgow Street and is accessible from either street.</p> <p>One area is available for freedom camping.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealed carpark on eastern edge. 	<p>Freedom camping is only available along the eastern edge of carpark from the corner of Glasgow and Plunket Street to about half way along the carpark on Plunket Street (excludes parking in front of the Bowling Club) — as marked in the map.</p>
02	<p>Firmin Field</p> <p>Firmin Field is located between Waterhouse Street and Porritt Drive and runs along the side of Tarawera River.</p> <p>Access is off Waterhouse Street.</p> <p>One area is available for freedom camping.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealed carpark along eastern edge. Six powered sites available - contact Kawerau isite for details. <p>Access off Waterhouse Street, Kawerau.</p> <p>Dump station available on site.</p>	<p>Restricted to self-contained vehicles</p> <p>Restricted to the eastern edge of the carpark closest to Tarawera River.</p> <p>Prior Consent required if requesting to use the field as part of an organised group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No freedom camping within 10 metres of the riverbank or the residential properties. <p>Prior consent is also required for the use of non-self-contained vehicles or tents, and must be in association with the hireage of Firmin Lodge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No freedom camping within 10 metres of the riverbank or the residential properties.

No Map	Roads with a speed limit of 50km/hr or less Freedom camping is available on local roads with a speed limit under 50km/s.	Restricted to self-contained vehicles. Campers must not be parked directly outside any residence, commercial or industrial premises on the same side of the road as that premises. <u>No freedom camping is allowed on Exclusions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valley Road outside of Cemetery • Weld Street around <u>the</u> reserve. • Robinson Street around <u>the</u> reserve. • Holland Crescent around <u>the</u> Cobham Drive Reserve.
Map	Area and Description	Restrictions
03	Boyce Park Boyce Park is located on the corner of Tamarangi Drive and River Road. Access is of River Road. All freedom camping must seek prior approval	Prior Consent required if requesting to use the field as part of an organised group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted to self-contained vehicles. • No freedom camping within 10 metres of the riverbank.
04	Waterhouse Street Reserve Waterhouse Street Reserve is located between Waterhouse Street and Tarawera High School and runs along the side of Tarawera River. All freedom camping must seek prior approval	Prior Consent required if requesting to use this reserve as part of an organised group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted to self-contained vehicles. • No freedom camping within 10 metres of the riverbank. Prior consent is also required for the use of non-self-contained vehicles or tents, and must be in association with the hireage of Firmin Lodge.

05	<p>Circus Paddock</p> <p>Circus Paddock is located on the corner of Plunket Street and Onslow Street. Access is off either Street.</p> <p>All freedom camping must seek prior approval.</p>	<p>Prior Consent required if requesting to use this site as part of an organised group.</p> <p>Restricted to self-contained vehicles.</p>
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SCHEDULE TWO

Freedom Camping Prohibited Areas

Freedom Camping in areas described below is prohibited as specified in clause 3.3 of this bylaw.

Explanatory Notes

Freedom camping on reserves is prohibited under section 44 of the Reserves Act 1977 and therefore prohibited under section 10(2)(b) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, except where it is permitted in the designated places on reserves specified in Schedule 1, which are subject to the restrictions in this Bylaw.

Map	Area and Description
06 & 01	<p>Stoneham Walk, Ruruanga Reserve and the Valley Road/Kirk Crescent Reserve</p> <p>Freedom camping is prohibited within Stoneham Walk which incorporates Ruruanga Reserve and Valley Road/Kirk Crescent Reserve.</p> <p>This area is bounded by Valley Road (northwest) and Fenton Mill Road (southeast). Around the edges the reserve backs onto residential properties off Blundell Avenue, Marshall Street, Kirk Crescent and Bell Street. The previous stock pound also backs onto the reserve to the south.</p>
07	<p>Recreation Centre Reserve</p> <p>Freedom camping is prohibited from the recreation centre reserve located on Tombleson Way (off Onslow street). This encompasses the parking area in front of the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre, the geothermal area behind the Ron Hardie Recreation Centre, the bmx track, basketball court, skate park and play ground.</p>
08	<p>Keith McKenzie Park</p> <p>Freedom camping is prohibited from Keith MacKenzie Park located off Tamarangi Drive on the north side just west of the entrance into Kawerau town centre.</p>
09	<p>Tarawera Park, Lyn Hartley Reserve and Roy Weston Park</p>

	<p>Tarawera Park. Lyn Hartley and Roy Weston Park all link together running along the edge of Tarawera River. The main entrances is from either Porritt Drive entering Roy Weston Reserves or off Cobham drive. The three reserves extends from the Golf Club to the south and Firmin Field to the North. On the western side they are border by residential properties off Cobham Drive, Holland Crescent, Ward Street and Porritt Drive.</p>
10	<p>Monika Lanham Reserve and Fraser Street Reserve</p> <p>Freedom Camping is prohibited on Monika Lanham. Monika Lanham encompasses the hill to the southwest of the town centre. This reserve is surrounded by Fenton Mill Road, River Road and Onslow Street and the Fraser Street Reserve to the south.</p>
11	<p>River Road Reserve</p> <p>Freedom camping is prohibited from the River Road reserve which is largely inaccessible. This reserve sits in between the Tarawera High School, and the Tarawera River</p>
12	<p>Waterwheel Heritage Park</p> <p>Waterwheel Heritage Park is located off Spencer Avenue on the right hand side. It sits between the commercial businesses and the Council Pound.</p>
13	<p>Previous Stock Pound Area (yet to be renamed)</p> <p>Freedom Camping is prohibited from the previous stock pound area located off Fenton Mill Road. This reserve is bordered by Fenton Mill Road, Kirk Crescent and Stoneham Walk.</p>
14	<p>Neighbourhood Reserves (in Residential Areas)</p> <p>Freedom camping is prohibited on all neighbourhood reserves as listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance/Seddon Street Reserve • Boss Road Reserve • Fraser Street Reserve • Hilldale Reserve – Beattie Road and Hardie Avenue • Porritt Glade Reserve • Tuwharetoa Road Reserve • Valley Road/Delamere Drive Reserve • Beattie/Shepherd Street Reserve • Cobham Drive Reserve • Hadley Street Reserve • MacKenzie Street Reserve • Robinson Street Reserve • Valley Road/Ryder Place Reserve • Weld Street Reserve

	Each of the reserves above are small reserves located on the roads as set out in the reserves name.
15	Kawerau Cemetery Kawerau Cemetery is located off Valley Road and is surrounded by residential houses from Delamere Drive and Ryder Place.
16 & 17	Kawerau Town Centre Freedom camping is prohibited in the Kawerau Town Centre being the inner area bounded by Islington Street, Onslow Street and Plunket Street. This area also includes all of Islington Street and Liverpool Street. (See restrictions under Road lower than 50km.)
18	Council Owned Carparks Freedom camping is prohibited in the following Council owned carparks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porritt Drive long side the river) • Corner Plunket and Glasgow Street (Parking area around Skate Park) • Plunket Street carpark opposite the Maurie Kaur Aquatics Centre (Customer Parking) • Islington Street carpark behind 23 to 33 Islington Street (Customer Parking for Local Businesses) • Fenton Mill Road (located at the entrance to Stoneham Walk) • Corner Onslow and Plunket Street (Customer Parking) • Islington Street main carpark located on the northern side of Council Offices (Customer Parking) • Keith Mackenzie Park carpark off Tamarangi Drive (Park Access)
19 & 20 & 21	All Kawerau Local Purpose/Amenity Reserves These include the following reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenton Road Reserve – This is the large open grassed berm on the western side of Fenton Road. • Tamarangi Drive Reserve – This is the large grassed berms from the start of Tamarangi Drive from the east to Valley Road in the west. • Pat Baker Reserve, Beattie Road Reserve and Dump Reserve – These three reserves form one larger reserve. They are located off River Road

	<p>or Beattie Road and apart from Pat Baker Reserve which is a scenic reserve at the northern edge, the rest of the reserve travels in a southerly direction out towards farmland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Owen/Julian Road Reserve – This reserve is located between the ends of both Owen and Julian Road and spread out with farmland on one end and Hilldale reserve on the other.• Reserve near Manukorihi Drive - This reserve is located to the east of Tarawera River off Tamarangi Drive directly east of the bridge crossing the river. The reserve sits between the Tarawera River and the Industrial area.
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SCHEDULE THREE - MAPS

PRIDEAUX PARK - Map 1



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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FIRMIN FIELD - Map 2



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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BOYCE PARK - Map 3



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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WATERHOUSE STREET RESERVE - Map 4



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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CIRCUS PADDOCK - Map 5



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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STONEHOME WALK, VALLEY ROAD/KIRK CRESCENT RESERVE - Map 6



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Kawerau

TAONGA O TE WHENUA - TREASURE OF THE LAND

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RECREATION RESERVE - Map 7



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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KEITH MCKENZIE RESERVE - Map 8



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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TARAWERA PARK, LYN HARTLEY RESERVE, ROY WESTON PARK - Map 9



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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MONIKA LANHAM RESERVE, FRASER STREET RESERVE - Map 10



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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RIVER ROAD RESERVE - Map 11



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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WATERWHEEL HERITAGE PARK - Map 12



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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PREVIOUS STOCK POUND AREA-Map 13



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

Restricted



Restricted with Prior Consent



Prohibited



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NEIGHBOURHOOD RESERVES - Map 14



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

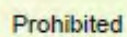
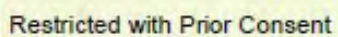
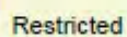
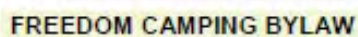
- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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KAWERAU TOWN CENTRE - Map 16



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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KAWERAU TOWN CENTRE, LIVERPOOL STREET - Map 17



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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COUNCIL OWNED CARPARKS - Map 18



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

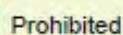
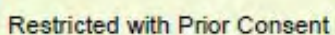
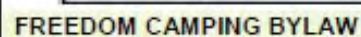
- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



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**KAWERAU
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

This data is provided as at July 2024. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the data, KDC cannot guarantee the accuracy or suitability for any specific purpose. KDC is not responsible for the misuse or misinterpretation of the data supplied. Under no circumstances shall KDC be liable for any actions taken or omissions made from reliance on any information contained herein from whatever source nor shall the KDC be liable for any other consequences from any reliance.

KAWERAU LOCAL PURPOSE/AMENITY RESERVES - Map 21



FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

- Restricted
- Restricted with Prior Consent
- Prohibited



TAONGA O TE WHENUA - TREASURE OF THE LAND

DISCLAIMER

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STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

Re-Assessment of the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw & Amendments to the Reserve Management Plan

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

1. Introduction

Kawerau District Council ('the Council') first adopted a Freedom Camping Bylaw in 2019. Bylaws must be reviewed every five years and having now been five years, and in light of the amendments to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Council has undertaken a review of the bylaw.

The review process has highlighted that while the previous Freedom camping Bylaw was generally working well, there are some changes that Council wish to make, and Council are proposing to make a new Bylaw.

The Council must follow the special consultative procedure in amending an existing bylaw. This Statement of Proposal been prepared for that purpose, under Section 11B of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 ('FCA'), and sections 83, 83AA and 86 of the Local Government Act 2002.

This statement or proposal includes:

- Background to the proposal
- Reasons for the proposal
- Key changes
- 'Have your say' details

2. Background

Freedom Camping is enabled through the Freedom Camping Act 2011, which essentially allows for any freedom camping in public areas where not restricted under a Bylaw or Reserve Management Plan. Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw controls freedom camping by designating certain areas for freedom camping purposes, and prohibiting other areas. Most of the designated areas are limit the use to self-contained vehicles only.

The Self-contained Motor Vehicle Legislation Act 2023 is now law and has been incorporated into the Freedom Camping Act 2011¹. As a result this means there are some nation-wide changes to where you can freedom camp, the meaning of self-contained vehicle and changes to the infringement fees and charges.

The recent changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, have been reflected in the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw and ensures alignment with the new legislation.

While Council determine a Bylaw as the most appropriate means of control freedom camping, they remain committed to encouraging tourism and the benefits it brings to the community. Council does expect freedom campers, like the community, to respect the area by helping to ensure the areas are protected under the bylaw for all to enjoy.

Council initially sought feedback on the proposed Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw from 5 August 2024 to 6 September 2024. As a result of public feedback and a recent High Court Case, Council has confirmed elements were considered in the initial assessment (amenity and economic values), which should not have been considered under s11 of the Freedom Camping

¹ A full explanation of the legislation changes is available on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website [here](#)

Act 2011. A re-assessment of the site assessments and bylaw have now been completed. Council is seeking further feedback on the re-assessed proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.

Consultation allows the community to have a say on the content of, and changes to, the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw. Feedback is welcome during the consultation period of 18 November 2024 to 20 December 2024.

3. Reasons for the Proposal

In undertaking a review of the Freedom Camping Bylaw, alongside the recent changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Council considered two options before deciding to make a new bylaw to regulate freedom camping.

The options considered are as follows:

Option 1: Status Quo

This would have the effect of allowing the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2019 to lapse and then Council would need to rely on the default provisions within legislation in order to enforce Freedom Camping. The legislation associated to Freedom Camping includes the Freedom Camping Act 2011, the Reserves Act 1977 and the Resource Management Act 1991.

This would mean permitting freedom camping on all Council land except reserves, where it is prohibited (unless expressly allowed for under the reserve management plan). Council would also be limited to enforcement powers as set out under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, such as requiring freedom camping to be self-contained.

This option was not approved by Council

Option 2: Continue the review and make a new Bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011

This option would require Council to review and make a new bylaw under section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 to prohibit or restrict freedom camping within Kawerau District.

This option means that freedom camping is permitted on all Council land except reserves where it is prohibited (unless expressly provided for under the reserves management plan) and areas that are restricted or prohibited in a freedom camping bylaw.

This option enables Council to establish a bespoke bylaw, which is applied to the local context, with a range of enforcement options to respond to freedom camping issues within the district. Council approved the option to make a bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 due to this being the most reasonably practical option for addressing freedom camping related concerns and complaints.

4. Key Changes

Council continues to believe that, on the whole, the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2019 has been working well. However, following a review of how it has been operating, and the recent amendments to the Freedom Camping Act, some improvements have been identified.

The initial key changes consulted on in August 2024 have been set out below. As a result of the re-assessment of the site assessments further changes have been made and are set out in red below. A copy of the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw is attached to this Statement

of Proposal and sets out all of the changes.

- **Key Change 1 – Explanatory Statement Removed**
The explanatory statement was removed as this did not add value to the bylaw.
- **Key Change 2 – New Bylaw format**
Updated the template to reflect a modernised bylaw.
- **Key Change 3 - Enabling Enactment Added**
This references the legislation in that enabled the bylaw.
- **Key Change 4 – Incorporation of Explanatory Notes**
Incorporation of explanatory notes. Explanatory notes allows relevant additional information to be added to better inform the community, without affecting the content of the bylaw. For example references to key definitions in legislation such as “self-contained” and “freedom camp” are included and can be updated without a review of the bylaw. This enables the bylaw to respond to changes efficiently, providing the actual content of the Bylaw is not altered. **Initial comments have been included within some of the explanatory notes.**
- **Key Change 5 – Purpose altered for simplicity**
Removal of additional words that were not required.
- **Key Change 6 – Definitions Updated**
Definitions updated to reflect the changes in legislation and to help people better understand the bylaw. Definitions added for act, infringement offence, prohibited and restricted areas, while the definition for council and self-contained (through explanatory note) were amended. The definition for area was changed to local authority area and we removed the definition for authorised officer as this was no longer required.
- **Key Change 7 – Permitted Freedom Camping modified**
Changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, which provided for the presumption of freedom camping, required the phrasing to be adjust within the Bylaw. Freedom camping is permitted in self-contained vehicles unless restricted or prohibited. No freedom camping in a tent or temporary structure.
- **Key Change 8 - General conditions now sits under Restricted Areas**
Restricted areas sets out all general restrictions that apply across the district. A few key changes to the condition include:
 - The maximum nights has been adjusted from 7 consecutive nights to a maximum of 7 nights in a calendar month and no person can stay for more than 7 consecutive nights when crossing over two calendar months. This was introduce to prevent individuals staying for six nights and then return a few days later.
 - Camp site inspections are enabled to ensure freedom campers are complying with requirements.
- **Key Change 9 – Prior Approval introduced to enable freedom camping, in circumstances where otherwise it would be prohibited.**
This provides people with an option to seek prior approval for a special event, where in circumstance it would not otherwise be allowed. This provision includes the process and considerations. A small charge will apply for processing the application.

- **Key Change 10 - Additional information provided around Temporary closures**
Time frames for notification adjusted to be reflective of the circumstances. Also included in the explanatory notes it is advertising methods to may be used for temporary closures.
- **Key Change 11 – Changes to the current restricted and prohibited areas**

Prideaux Park – extended current restricted area to include grassed area along the northern side of the Bowling Club.

Maurie Kjar Aquatics Centre – reduced the available freedom camping parking area to one section but hours remain unchanged. **The reduction of available freedom camping has been removed.**

Firmin Field – Reduced the parking area available for freedom camping, allowing more parking for hirer's of the Firmin Lodge. Reduced access to Firmin Field which was amended to requiring prior approval, with no parking 10m from the river bank or residential properties. Non-self-contained and tents may be considered ~~in conjunction to hireage of Firmin Lodge due to plumbing capacity.~~

Stoneham Park – removed as no longer available for freedom camping due to development.

Boyce Park and Waterhouse Street Reserve, although already requiring consent must now obtain prior approval.

Recreation Centre – Now prohibited due to health and safety concerns.

Council reserves and playgrounds in residential areas are now referred to as neighbourhood reserves.

The following reserves have been removed from the bylaw, however will remain prohibited for freedom camping under s44(1) of the Reserve Act 1977:

- Waterwheel Heritage Park
- Tamarangi Drive

Circus Paddock has been removed from the Bylaw due to a proposed lease which is likely to be in place prior to the adoption of this bylaw.

Key Change 12 – Maps Updated

This provides better clarity around location of restricted and prohibited sites. **Maps have been updated to remove reserves no longer in the Bylaw.**

5. Reserve Management Plan Amendments

Alongside the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw, Council also want to specifically seek feedback on some amendments to the Reserve Management Plan to ensure the rules are consistent within our different documents. To achieve consistency with the proposals within the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw, we are proposing some amendments to the Reserves Management Plan. The proposed amendments will be made once the final Freedom Camping Bylaw is adopted by Council following public consultation. The KDC Reserve Management Plan can be viewed here: <https://www.kaweraudc.govt.nz/documents/council-plans-and-strategies/reserves-management-plan>

Boyce Park

Under the Reserve Management Plan, freedom camping is not currently provided for in Boyce Park, so is prohibited under s44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. However, under the existing bylaw, freedom camping is currently allowed with Council consent although this area has not been used in recent years. It is recommended this reserve is retained for organised groups when capacity of other areas may not be sufficient for demand. Prior consent will be required from Council.

We are proposing to amend Boyce Park in the Reserve Management Plan to allow for self-contained vehicles to freedom camp on the reserve with prior approval from Council by adding the following to page 8 of the Reserves Management Plan. Under policies add a heading - Freedom Camping and the following wording *“That freedom camping is permitted upon prior approval from Council in self-contained vehicles. The maximum length of stay is set out in the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.”*

Firmin Field

Freedom camping is not currently provided for in Firmin Field, so is prohibited under s44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Freedom camping is currently enabled at Firmin Lodge for self-contained vehicles, in our existing bylaw. There is some concerns around the number of freedom campers in the car park, so this area is being limited to the eastern side of the carpark. Currently, freedom camping may also be permitted with prior approval on Firmin Field.

We are proposing to amend Firmin Field in the Reserve Management Plan to allow for self-contained vehicles to freedom camp on the eastern side of the reserve carpark and upon application Council may consider prior approval for self-contained, non-self-contained and tents by adding the following to page 10 of the Reserves Management Plan. Under policies add a heading - Freedom Camping and the following wording *“That freedom camping is permitted on the eastern side of the Firmin Lodge carpark. In addition, upon application Council may consider prior approval for self-contained vehicles, non-self-contained vehicles and tents for organised groups in which capacity of other areas may not be sufficient for demand. The maximum length of stay is set out in the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.”*

Prideaux Park

Freedom camping is currently enabled under the Reserve Management Plan, behind the field pavilion. Freedom camping is not provided for in the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre carpark or alongside the northern edge of the Bowling Club, which both form part of Prideaux Park. However, the Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre is currently provided for through our existing bylaw, the extension to the north boundary of the Bowling Club is an area which is commonly used, but not provided for.

We are proposing to amend the wording for Prideaux Park in the Reserve Management Plan. This will allow for self-contained vehicles to freedom camp on the northern edge of the Bowling Club and to enable the use of Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre carpark during the hours of 4pm to 9am. Upon application Council may also consider prior approval for self-contained vehicles of the field by adding the following by adding the following to page 22 of the Reserves Management Plan. Amend the Heading Self Contained Motor Vehicle Sites to Freedom Camping and amend the wording to state *“Self-contained motor vehicles are permitted to park behind the field pavilion and along the northern boundary of the Bowling Club. In addition, freedom camping is allowed between 4pm and 9am at Maurie Kjar Aquatic Centre carpark and upon application, Council may consider prior approval for self-contained vehicles, for organised groups in which capacity of other areas may not be sufficient for demand.. The maximum length of stay is set out in the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.”*

Waterhouse Reserve

Under the Reserve Management Plan, freedom camping is not currently provided for in Waterhouse Reserve, so is prohibited under s44(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. However, under the existing bylaw, freedom camping is currently allowed with Council consent, although this area has not been used in recently. It is recommended this reserve is retained for organised groups when capacity of other areas may not be sufficient for demand. Prior consent will be required from Council.

We are proposing to amend Waterhouse Reserve in the Reserve Management Plan to allow for self-contained vehicles, non-self-contained vehicles and tents to freedom camp on the reserve with prior approval by adding the following to page 33 of the Reserves Management Plan. Under policies add a heading - Freedom Camping and the following wording *“That freedom camping is permitted upon prior approval from Council in self-contained vehicles, non-self-contained vehicles and tents. The maximum length of stay is set out in the Kawerau District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw.”*

6. Determination

In reviewing this bylaw Council determined that having a bylaw made under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, is still the most appropriate way to manage issues relating to freedom camping.

Council also considers this to be the most appropriate form of bylaw.

The proposed Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights 1990. Any implications on the rights under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 will be reassessed before a final bylaw is made.

7. Have Your Say On This Policy

Council is seeking your opinion on the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024 and the proposed changes to the Reserve Management Plan. Any person or organisation is welcome to make a submission on this policy.

The consultation period for the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024 will begin on 18 November 2024 and conclude on 20 December 2024.

The Council will take all submissions into account when it decides on the final content of the policy.

Submission forms and copies of the Statement of Proposal are available:

- Online at the Council's website: www.kaweraudc.govt.nz
- At the Council Offices and Libraries
- By phoning (07) 306 9009 and requesting a copy.

There are many different ways you can tell us what you think.

Submissions can be made:

Visit our website - www.kaweraudc.govt.nz and use our online submission form.

Emailed to: submissions@kaweraudc.govt.nz
Please use subject heading – *Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw – Submission*

Posted to: Kawerau District Council
Attn: Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw – Submission
Private Bag 1004
Kawerau 3169

Dropped in to: Kawerau District Council
2 Ranfurly Court
Kawerau

Key Dates:

Submissions Open	18 November 2024
Submissions Close	20 December 2024
Proposed Submissions Hearing	February 2024
Council Deliberates and adopt (or not) Proposed Policy	March 2024

Please note Kawerau District Council must receive written submissions by **5.00pm on Friday 20 December 2024**.

As part of the consultation process your submissions will be copied and made available to the public after the submission period closes.

You will have an opportunity to have your submission heard in person, during the hearing of submissions scheduled to be held in February 2024. When you complete the submission form, please tell us if you would like to be heard.

Council will contact all submitters who wish to be heard, to confirmed time, date and venue of the hearing.

Council will then deliberate on any changes required and choose whether or not to adopt the final Naming Policy during a Council meeting in March 2024.

If you have any further queries or would like more copies of the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024, please contact Council on 07 306 9009.

Submission Form (please provide feedback by 20 December 2024)

Name/Organisation _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

Email _____

A hearing is proposed for the February 2024. Would you like to present your submissions in person to Council at the hearing?

Yes ☐

No ☐

The proposed bylaw sets out:

- the purpose for the Freedom Camping Bylaw;
- the definition of freedom camping and self-contained vehicle;
- the Council owned land that is either restricted or prohibited;
- the process for applying for a prior approval;
- the offences and penalties
- the location of reserves as marked on the maps.

1. What we'd like to know

Council is proposing the reviewed Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw as a means to manage freedom camping within the Kawerau District, while protecting the areas that are significance or raises concerns around health and safety.

Do you support the introduction of the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw and the proposed changes to the Reserve Management Plan?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Yes – but with specific additions or amendments (as outlined below) ☐

I do not have a response for this section ☐

What are your reasons for your support or opposition of the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw and the proposed changes to the Reserve Management Plan?

Do you support or oppose the introduction of a limit of a total of seven (7) nights of freedom camping in one calendar month?

Yes - seven nights in one calendar month is about right ☐

I do not have a response for this section ☐

My preference is for this number of nights (please specify)

What are your reasons for your support or opposition of the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw?

Do you support the new proposed restricted and prohibited sites? This would means:

1. Prideaux Park - extend current restricted area to include the grassed area along the northern side of the Kawerau Bowling Club;
2. Firmin Field - reducing the area for freedom camping to provide better parking for hirers of Firmin Lodge.
3. Ron Hardie Recreation Centre - now prohibited due to health and safety concerns with Sulphur levels;

Yes ☐

No ☐

Yes – support in part (please outline below) ☐

I do not have a response for this section ☐

The reasons for your support or opposition of the proposed restricted and prohibited sites as outline above?

Do you agree with enabling Boyce Park, Waterhouse Street Reserve and Firmin Field along the eastern edge of the carpark, as sites for freedom camp in self-contained vehicles only with prior approval? (Access needs to be provided by Council as reserves do not have vehicle access)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Yes – support in part (please outline below) ☐

I do not have a response for this section ☐

The reasons for your support or opposition of the proposed prior approval for self- contained vehicles (as above) sites as outline above?

Do you agree with introduction of obtaining prior approval to freedom camp in non-self-contained vehicles and tents, within the restricted area/s:

1. Waterhouse Street Reserve
2. Firmin Field (on the field itself)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Yes – support in part (please outline below) ☐

I do not have a response for this section ☐

Please outline any changes you would like made to the prior approval for non-self-contained vehicles and tents (as above)?

Please provide any further comments you have on the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw.

2. Need more information

Please visit our website www.kaweraudc.govt.nz

3. Terms and Conditions

Submissions are public documents. While personal contact details may be removed from any publicly available copy, the submitter's name will be published unless you specify otherwise.

4. Privacy Statement

- 4.1 The contents of your submission (not including your address and contact details) will be made public through Council agendas and as a result will be published on our website.

If you would like your name also kept confidential, please tick this box ☐