# Summary of site assessments for informing proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw

Summary of site assessments against the criteria within the Freedom Camping Act 2011 to inform a proposed Westland District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw

#### Introduction

As part of the development of a Freedom Camping Bylaw, Westland District Council (WDC) has collated information on areas relevant to the proposed bylaw to inform where it may be appropriate to prohibit, restrict, or permit freedom camping. This document provides a summary of the full site assessment document developed for this purpose.

Freedom camping is currently permitted by the national legislation, the Freedom Camping Act 2011, using an assessment matric considered best practice by the Local Government sector. The assessment matric is used to inform where it may be necessary and appropriate to prohibit or restrict freedom camping according to the following criteria:

- 1. <u>Protect the area</u> Consider cultural and historical significance and the natural environment;
- 2. <u>Protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area</u> Consider levels of vehicular traffic (car parks/lookout points), use for other activities (like sports grounds), and issues of persistent vandalism; and
- 3. <u>Protect access to the area</u> Consider damage caused by vehicular access to flora and fauna and the impact that people accessing the site will have on other users of the area.

The sites included in this assessment are Local Authority Areas identified as where there is specific interest in managing freedom camping.

In completing the reviews, Council also considered sites where it may be suitable for freedom camping vehicles which are not self-contained or in tents. All sites included within the assessment fall within local authority areas, which is defined in section 6 (1) of the Act, and is land controlled or managed by or on behalf of Council.

Certain areas have been excluded from this assessment, such as:

- Private land;
- Crown land including conservation land, land managed by Waka Kotahi, and LINZ Land; and
- Inaccessible land.

### **Assessment of Sites**

In total, 17 sites across the District were assessed. Table 1 outlines the freedom camping assessment matrix and Table 2 outlines the assessment of freedom camping sites.

# Table 1. Freedom Camping Area Assessment Matrix

Protect the area		Protect the health and safety of	f	Protect access to the area Consider		
Consider cultural and		people who may visit the area		damage caused by vehicular access to		
historical significance and		Consider levels of vehicular traff	c	flora and fauna and the impact that		
the natural environment		(car parks/lookout points), use fo	or	people accessing the site will have on		
		other activities (like sports groun	ds),	other users of the area		
		and issues of persistent vandalism				
Has historical,	5	Risk to health and safety is too	5	No access to the site and any	5	
cultural, or		great to allow access to the		vehicle access would cause		
environmental		site, including no vehicle		significant damage		
significance and		access to, or car parking on,				
requires full protection		the site				
Contains some	4	Significant health and safety	4	Restricted access to the site and	4	
significant historical,		concerns		any vehicle access would cause		
cultural or				damage		
environmental areas						
Contains some areas	3	Minimal health and safety	3	Moderate access to the site and	3	
that should be		concerns (risk for the elderly or		any vehicle access would cause		
protected		children)		minimal damage		
Low concerns about	2	Low concerns regarding health	2	Good access to the site, which	2	
areas that need		and safety		would not cause damage		
protecting						
No significant area	1	No health and safety concerns	1	Fully formed access to the site	1	
concerns						

### Applying the assessment matrix

- Each area is given a score of 1-5 for each of the three criteria.
- If the total score of all three criteria is **9 or more**, restricting or prohibiting freedom camping in the area may be necessary. If the score **for any one of the three criteria is 5**, this also indicates a need to protect the area by prohibiting or restricting freedom camping.
- If the total score of all three criteria is **8 or less** the area is a reserve, and there is an indication that freedom camping may be permitted on the reserve. For the area that have a score of **8 or less**, the tool indicates that it is appropriate for freedom camping to remain permitted.

# Table 2. Assessment of Sites

Area Assessed	Current Status	Score		Summary of assessment	Recommendation
Kumara Domain,	Public Carpark. No	Total:	3	The Kumara Domain is a	It is recommended that the
Kumara	freedom camping	Protect area:	1	suitable site for freedom	Kumara Domain be a registered
	restriction in	Protect H&S:	1	camping with facilities such	freedom camping site in the
	place.	Protect access:	1	as waste bins, public toilets,	Kumara township. It should be
				and seating available.	noted that the Domain is currently
					used by the local community as
					a campsite where donations are
					required.
Arahura Historic	Public carpark, No	Total:	8	The Arahura Historic Bridge	It is recommended that the
Bridge Reserve,	freedom camping	Protect area:	5	Reserve is not a suitable site	Arahura Historic Bridge Reserve
Arahura	restrictions in	Protect H&S:	2	for freedom camping. The	area is not allocated as a freedom
	place	Protect access:	1	carpark is located off State	camping site due to the cultural
				Highway 6.	significance of the area.
Gibson Quay,	Public Carpark. No	Total:	9	The Gibson Quay Western	It is recommended that the Gibson
Hokitika	freedom camping	Protect area:	4	Carpark is not a suitable site	Quay area is not allocated as a
	restriction in	Protect H&S:	2	for freedom camping.	freedom camping site due to the
	place.	Protect access:	3		cultural significance of the area.
Cass Square,	Public Carpark. No	Total:	9	The Cass Square South	It is recommended that Cass
Hokitika	freedom camping	Protect area:	4	facing carpark is not a	Square is not allocated as a
	restriction in	Protect H&S:	4	suitable site for freedom	freedom camping site due to the
	place.	Protect access:	1	camping facilities although it	residential nature of the area.
				has waste bins, public toilets	
				and seating available.	
Sunset Point,	Public Carpark. No	Total:	7	The Sunset Point Northern	It is recommended that the parking
Hokitika	freedom camping	Protect area:	2	carpark is a suitable site for	area north of the Sunset Point
	restriction in	Protect H&S:	3	freedom camping with	public toilets be a freedom
	place.	Protect access:	2	facilities such as waste bins,	camping site, approx. 12 parks. We
				public toilets and seating	recommend that freedom camping
				available.	be restricted to the hours of 8pm –
11-1-22	Dublic Osmosule Nic	Tatal			7am.
Hokitika Beeshfront	Public Carpark. No	Total:	3	The Hokitika Beachfront	It is recommended that the
Beachfront,	freedom camping	Protect area:	1	Southern car park is a	Hokitika Beachfront Southern car
Hokitika	restriction in	Protect H&S:	1 1	suitable site for freedom camping with facilities such	park be an allocated site for freedom camping, approx. 12
	place.	Protect access:	1		parks. We recommend that
				as waste bins, public toilets and seating nearby.	freedom camping be restricted to
				and seating nearby.	the hours of 8pm – 7am.

Area Assessed	<b>Current Status</b>	Score		Summary of assessment	Recommendation
Rimu Lookout,	Public carpark for	Total:	9	The Rimu Lookout was	It is recommended that the Rimu
Rimu	lookout, No		2	highlighted as not being a	Lookout be included in the
	freedom camping	Protect H&S:	4	suitable freedom camping	restricted zone due to its small
	restrictions in	Protect access:	3	site due to the small parking	parking area and access to
	place			area and the dangerous	Woodstock Rimu Road.
				vision entering and existing	
				the lookout.	
Woodstock	Carpark for	Total:	3	The Woodstock Domain is a	It is recommended that the
Domain,	Woodstock	Protect area:	1	suitable site for freedom	Woodstock Domain be a registered
Woodstock	Domain.	Protect H&S:	1	camping. It is currently a	freedom camping site. It should be
	Maintained and	Protect access:	1	campground managed by the	noted that the Domain is currently
	operated camping			local community.	used by the local community as
	site by local				campsite where visitors are
	community.				charged.
Kaniere Domain,	Public carpark	Total:	9	The Kaniere Domain carpark	It is recommended that the Kaniere
Kaniere	located along	Protect area:	2	was highlighted as not being	Domain be included in the
	Kaniere road on	Protect H&S:	5	a suitable freedom camping	prohibited zone due to its location
	edge on Domain.	Protect access:	2	site due to the level of traffic	in proximity to Kaniere Road.
				along Kaniere Road. No	
				facilities such as toilets or	
				waste bins are available.	
Miltown Shelter,	Public carpark	Total:	8	The Miltown shelter carpark	It is recommended that the
Miltown	located on West	Protect area:	5	is not a suitable site for	Miltown shelter carpark not be
	Coast Wilderness	Protect H&S:	3	freedom camping although it	allocated as a freedom camping
	Trail	Protect access:	1	has public toilets and	area due to the cultural
				covered seating. It is located	significance of the site.
				off Miltown Road.	
Ross Hall, Ross	Public carpark, No	Total:	9	The Ross Hall carpark is not a	It is recommended that the Ross
	freedom camping	Protect area:	2	suitable site for freedom	Hall carpark not be allocated as a
	restrictions	Protect H&S:	3	camping. It is located off	freedom camping site due to the
	currently in place.	Protect access:	4	State Highway 6 and is close	small carparking area and the hall
				to facilities such as waste	is used for various activities.
				bins and public toilets.	
Harihari Hall,	Public carpark	Total:	9	The Harihari hall carpark	It is recommended that the
Harihari	next to domain. No	Protect area:	2	between the garden and	Harihari Hall carpark not be
	freedom camping	Protect H&S:	3	State Highway 6 provides a	allocated as a freedom camping
	restrictions	Protect access:	4	small carparking area. This	area due to the small carparking
	currently in place.			location is within close	area and the hall is used for
				proximity to the public toilets	various activities.

Area Assessed	Current Status	Score		Summary of assessment	Recommendation
				and waste bins. This is not a	
				suitable freedom camping	
				site.	
Kakapotahi Beach,	Public carpark,	Total:	7	The Kakapotahi Beach	It is recommended that the
Kakapotahi	Currently a	Protect area:	2	carpark is a suitable site for	Kakapotahi Beach carpark be a
	popular freedom	Protect H&S:	3	freedom camping. It is	registered freedom camping site.
	camping site. No	Protect access:	2	located off the highway and	We recommend that freedom
	restrictions in			provides a safe location for	camping be restricted to the hours
	place.			campers to park.	of 8pm – 7am.
Franz Josef Heli	Public paid	Total:	3	The Franz Josef Heli carpark	It is recommended that the Franz
Carpark, Franz	carpark. No	Protect area:	1	located off State Highway 6	Josef Heli carpark be a registered
Josef	freedom camping	Protect H&S:	1	provides a safe area for	freedom camping site. We
	restriction in	Protect access:	1	freedom campers to park.	recommend that freedom camping
	place.			This location is within close	be restricted to the hours of 8pm –
				proximity to the public toilets	7am.
				and waste bins.	
Paringa Salmon	Public carpark.	Total:	3	The Paringa Salmon Farm	It is recommended that the Paringa
Farm, Paringa	Currently popular	Protect area:	1	carpark located off State	Salmon Farm carpark be a
	freedom camping	Protect H&S:	1	Highway 6 provides a safe	registered freedom camping site.
	site. No	Protect access:	1	area for freedom campers to	We recommend that freedom
	restrictions in			park. This location includes	camping be restricted to the hours
	place.			public toilets.	of 8pm – 7am.
Bruce Bay Beach,	Road reserve, no	Total:	8	The Bruce Bay carpark at the	It is recommended that the Bruce
Bruce Bay	freedom camping	Protect area:	5	northern end of Bruce Bay is	Bay car park area towards the
	restriction in	Protect H&S:	3	not suitable for freedom	northern end is not allocated as a
	place.	Protect access:	1	camping. The carpark is	freedom camping site due to the
				located off State Highway 6.	cultural significance of the area.
Haast Playground,	Public carpark, No	Total:	5	The Haast playground	It is recommended that the Haast
Haast	freedom camping	Protect area:	1	carpark is a suitable site for	playground carpark have ten
	restriction in	Protect H&S:	3	freedom camping with	allocated carparks to be a
	place.	Protect access:	1	facilities such as waste bins,	registered freedom camping site.
				public toilets and seating	We recommend that freedom
				available.	camping be restricted to the hours
					of 8pm – 7am.