

# AGENDA

## RĀRANGI TAKE

NOTICE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF

# COUNCIL

to be held on **Monday, 9 December 2024** commencing at **9 am** in the Council Chambers,  
36 Weld Street, Hokitika and via Zoom

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Chairperson	Her Worship the Mayor
Deputy and Southern Ward Member:	Cr Cassin
Northern Ward Members:	Cr Neale, Cr Burden, Cr Phelps
Hokitika Ward Members:	Cr Baird, Cr Davidson, Cr Gillett
Southern Ward Members:	Cr Manera
Iwi Representatives:	Kw Madgwick, Kw Tumahai

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In accordance with clause 25B of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, members may attend the meeting by audio or audio-visual link.

## Council Vision

*By investing in our people, caring for the environment, respecting the Mana Whenua Cultural heritage, and enabling investment, growth, and development we will enrich our district and the people that reside here.*

# Purpose

The Council is required to give effect to the purpose of local government as prescribed by section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002. That purpose is:

- a) To enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- b) To promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

## 1. KARAKIA TĪMATANGA OPENING KARAKIA

<i>Kia hora te marino Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana Hei hurahai mā tātou I te rangi nei Aroha atu, aroha mai Tātou i a tātou katoa Hui e! Tāiki e!</i>	<i>May peace be widespread May the sea be like greenstone A pathway for us all this day Give love, received love Let us show respect for each other Bind us all together!</i>
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## 2. NGĀ WHAKAPAAHA APOLOGIES

## 3. WHAKAPUAKITANGA WHAIPĀNGA DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to review the matters on the agenda and assess and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be a perception of a conflict of interest.

If a member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the meeting or of the relevant item of business and refrain from participating in the discussion or voting on that item. If a member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the Chief Executive or the Group Manager Corporate Services Risk and Assurance (preferably before the meeting). It is noted that while members can seek advice the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

## 4. PŪRONGO KAIMAHI STAFF REPORTS

- **Proposed Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024 – Hearing, Deliberations and Decisions Report**  
Alicia Paulsen, Asset Strategy and Development Manager

## 5. SUBMISSION HEARINGS

- Hearing Submissions
- Deliberations
- Decisions

**DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 DECEMBER 2024  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 36 WELD STREET, HOKITIKA AND VIA ZOOM**

# Report to Council



**DATE:** 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
**TO:** Mayor and Councillors  
**FROM:** Asset Strategy and Development Manager

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## **PROPOSED DRAFT RESPONSIBLE FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW 2024 – HEARING, DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS**

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to hear submissions from the community on the Statement of Proposal and Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024, deliberate on the submissions and instruct staff to amend the bylaw if necessary.
- 1.2. This issue arises from the requirements of s86 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) which requires a special consultative procedure must be used in forming a bylaw.
- 1.3. Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and the achievement of the District Vision adopted by the Council in June 2024, which are set out in the Enhanced Annual Plan 2024/2025. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that Council hear submissions on the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024, consider the written and verbal submissions, make decisions on any changes to the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw and direct the CE to make those changes for the final bylaw.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1. Council agreed to conduct public consultation under s86 of the LGA on the Statement of Proposal and Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024 at the Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- 2.2. The Statement of Proposal proposed a Bylaw which includes rules for Freedom Camping across the district including identification of prohibited and restricted areas. The Proposed Bylaw seeks to protect areas, the health and safety of people using areas, and protecting access to areas, from negative impacts caused by freedom camping.
- 2.3. Public consultation commenced on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October and closed 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (32 days).
- 2.4. Council has an obligation to hear and consider submissions. To do nothing would breach Council's obligations under the LGA. Any bylaw that was adopted without a hearing and considering the submissions could be subject to a judicial review.

### **3. Current Situation**

- 3.1. Council received 79 submissions, see attached in **Appendix 3**. Seventeen of the submitters requested to speak in the hearing, see attached in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2. Submissions were received from both residents and business owners.
- 3.3. The township of Whataroa was inadvertently missed in the Statement of Proposal and Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024. Upon recognising this Council staff agreed to attend a meeting in Whataroa at 6.30pm on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- 3.4. A full analysis of the submissions, including staff comments is attached in **Appendix 2**. The table below provides a summary of the responses to the three submission questions in the submission form:

Submission Form Questions	For	Against	Other	(blank)	Total
Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?	35	30	9	5	79
The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non self-contained vehicles, do you agree?	51	21		7	79
The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?	17	55		7	79

- 3.5. Numerous common themes were identified in the submissions. These are outlined below alongside staff comments.

Point Raised	Staff Response
<i>Westland District is a popular tourist destination, and the township bans are too severe.</i>	In proposing townships, the Council is taking into account that Westland District is a very popular tourist destination, especially in summer, and overcrowding in the township areas occurs, particularly in commercial centres. This causes issues with the carparks being full and people parking in undesignated or no-parking areas. The state highway runs through the centre of most Westland towns and safe parking is therefore paramount. The public have also witnessed people not using toilets, washing clothes, dishes, and other personal hygiene activities in public areas and Council facilities. There is a risk to the health and safety of other people which includes transmission of diseases through these activities. Use of bathroom facilities by freedom campers also puts pressure on the available of these facilities for other visitors. The prohibitions in townships was proposed as necessary to help protect the environment, access to these areas and the health and safety of other people using these areas. It is considered that the blanket prohibitions on all township areas may not be proportionate to address the issues that have occurred.
<i>The time restrictions imposed on the sites were too harsh.</i>	More lenient time restrictions could be applied to sites where the carpark is not used during the day for another purpose.
<i>That residents want to keep the status quo.</i>	The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. There is no current bylaw so people can freedom camp with limited restrictions currently.

<i>That Council has not considered the impact on local businesses.</i>	Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.
<i>That the bylaw will regulate all land within the District.</i>	The proposed bylaw only relates to Council owned or managed land. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted inline with the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
<i>That the bylaw outlines the enforcement approach.</i>	Council is currently considering enforcement options across the District. Development of a clear and effective enforcement plan is not part of a bylaw.
<i>Public Consultation was not undertaken.</i>	The one month submission process gives the Community the ability to engage on the proposed bylaw. Further community consultation can be undertaken if required.
<i>The site assessments were unreasonable.</i>	Council staff visited each site to determine what facilities were available and undertake the site assessments. Site assessments were undertaken for all Council-owned reserves, hall and public toilets.
<i>Freedom camping is allowed in cemeteries.</i>	The Freedom Camping Act 2011 does not apply to reserves. Section 10 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 allows freedom camping "in any local authority area unless a. it is restricted or prohibited in accordance with the a bylaw made under section 11; or b. under any other enactment". Section 10(b) of the Freedom Camping Act applies to reserves as their use is regulated by another enactment, namely the Reserves Act 1977. Section 44 of the Reserves Act prohibits camping at reserves except in designated camping grounds and areas that provided for by a reserve management plans. Cemeteries are classified as reserves.
<i>Self-contained vehicles are currently not actually self-contained.</i>	There is currently a transition period for certified self-contained vehicles. By June 2025 vehicles will need a green sticker and there is a mandatory requirement for a fixed toilet.
<i>Council should charge for freedom camping.</i>	Council is not legally allowed to charge for Freedom Camping under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 but could look to implement a charge for use of facilities such as toilets or implement a community donation scheme.
<i>Non self-contained vehicles should not be allowed where there are no facilities.</i>	In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.
<i>Council should not fund freedom camping.</i>	In the past Council has received funding from MBIE to monitor and maintain freedom camping areas, this funding is no longer available.
<i>Council should fine freedom campers.</i>	Through enforcement Council can fine freedom campers for offences. The penalties for infringement offences are stated in the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Council does not have the ability change these charges.
<i>Council should ban freedom camping.</i>	The Council is bound by the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and cannot legally ban freedom camping across the entirety of the Westland District.
<i>The bylaw is confusing.</i>	The bylaw was written following the LGNZ guidance.
<i>The old bylaw was better.</i>	The expiring bylaw is no longer valid, and the Act has been changed since the previous bylaw was put in place.

<i>Please ban 'x' area.</i>	Any restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping must be consistent with the Act. Therefore, areas can only be prohibited or restricted to protect the area, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or to protect access to the area.
<b>There were several matters outside the scope of the bylaw such as totara bridge or usage of drones.</b>	

#### 4. Options

##### 4.1. Option 1:

- 4.1.1. Hear the verbal submissions and review the written submissions on the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024.
- 4.1.2. Consider and deliberate on the written and verbal submissions in the open part of the meeting.
- 4.1.3. Make decisions on any changes to the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024 and instruct the CE to make the necessary amendments.

##### 4.2. Option 2:

- 4.2.1. Hear the verbal submissions and review the written submissions on the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024.
- 4.2.2. Consider and deliberate on the written and verbal submissions in the open part of the meeting.
- 4.2.3. If further clarification is identified, Council will instruct the CE to provide the clarification, returning to Council in early 2025 for final approval.

##### 4.3. Option 3:

- 4.3.1. Hear the verbal submissions and review the written submissions on the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024.
- 4.3.2. Consider and deliberate on the written and verbal submissions in the open part of the meeting.
- 4.3.3. Decide not to proceed with the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024.

#### 5. Risk Analysis

##### 5.1. Risk has been considered, and the following risks have been identified;

- Reputational – If the Council does not hold the hearing there is a risk of damage to its reputation as the public will perceive that Council does not take their views into account in making decisions.
- Legislative – Proceeding with an inappropriate bylaw puts Council at risk at being non-compliant with legislation.
- Financial – Proceeding with an inappropriate bylaw puts Council at risk at being taken to the high court.
- Threats to staff / councillors / members of the public – Anyone considered to exhibit threatening behaviour will be asked to leave.

#### 6. Health and Safety

##### 6.1. Health and Safety has been considered, and the following items have been identified;

- These are the same as the threat risks identified above.

#### 7. Significance and Engagement

7.1. The level of significance has been assessed as being medium under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The bylaw deals with a significant regulatory issue throughout the district which has potential to impact on the district's visitors and residents.

7.2. Public consultation was undertaken under s86 of the LGA from 25<sup>th</sup> October and closed 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This was advertised on Council's website, in the Hokitika Guardian, on the Council notice board and at the Customer Service desk and a Community meeting at Whataroa.

#### 8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

- 8.1. Option 1: Hearings are an important part of community consultation and engagement. Council needs to understand the community's view on the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw. Elected members should listen to the community's views and deliberate on the submissions received. Any decisions to change aspects in the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw should be communicated to the CE to make the changes for the final Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024.
- 8.2. Option 2: Hearings are an important part of community consultation and engagement. Council needs to understand the community's view on Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw. Elected members should listen to the community's views and deliberate on the submissions received. If a consensus cannot be reached and further specific clarification is identified the bylaw should not be progressed for adoption at the next Council meeting, the Council should instruct the CE to provide the clarification, returning to Council in early 2025 for final approval.
- 8.3. Option 3: Hearings are an important part of community consultation and engagement. Council needs to understand the community's view on Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw. Elected members should listen to the community's views and deliberate on the submissions received. If a consensus cannot be reached and further clarification is identified the bylaw should not be progress for adoption at the next Council meeting.
- 8.4. There are no financial implications to carrying out a hearing.

## **9. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons**

- 9.1. The preferred option is Option 1.
  - 9.1.1. Holding an open hearing process allows each elected member to consider the public submissions. Elected members can ask questions of the verbal submitters and consider the impact of any changes proposed by the submissions.
  - 9.1.2. Elected members provide direction to the Chief Executive for any changes to the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024, which allows staff to make the changes prior to the adoption of the bylaw, at the next Council meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## **10. Recommendation(s)**

- 10.1. That Council receive the report.
- 10.2. That Council hear and receive the written and verbal submissions.
- 10.3. That Council deliberates on the submissions on the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024 in the open part of the meeting.
- 10.4. That the CE be instructed to make the necessary amendments to the Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024.
- 10.5. If specific clarifications are required, Council instruct the CE to provide the clarifications, returning to Council in early 2025 for final approval.

**Alicia Paulsen**  
**Asset Strategy and Development Manager**

- Appendix 1:** Table of Submitters  
**Appendix 2:** Submission analysis  
**Appendix 3:** Submissions

No.	Name	Township	Speaking	Pages
1	Samuel Cooper	Hokitika	No	32
2	Barry Hughes	Okarito	Yes	34
3	Kathy	Hari Hari	No	36
4	Judy Cardno	Hari Hari	No	37
5	Laurens	Hari Hari	No	40
6	Dee	Franz Josef	No	41
7	Cecileah Inns	Christchurch	No	42
8	Gerard Oudemans	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	43
9	Nicola Johnston	Haast	No	45
10	Ben Monk - South Westland Salmon	Paringa	Yes	47
11	Brenda Monk	Paringa	Yes	49
12	Kent Jacobsen	Kumara	No	50
13	Te Runanga o Makaawhio		Yes	52
14	Kathryn Bennie	Jackson Bay	No	54
15	Paul & Olivia Sutton	Jackson Bay	No	55
16	Rebecca	Westcoast	No	56
17	The Helicopter Line	Franz Josef Glacier Waiau	No	57
18	Robyn Jebson - Ōkārito Community Association (OCA)	Ōkārito	No	58
19	Fiona Blair	Okarito	No	60
20	Alice Bellio	Franz Josef	No	61
21	Sabine Grift	Franz Josef	No	63
22	Megan McCarthy	Franz Josef	No	65
23	Whataroa Community Association	Whataroa	Yes	67
24	Dean Sauer	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	68
25	Sonia Pettigrew - Matainui Creek Ltd	Whataroa	Yes	69
26	Sandra Lang	Ross	No	71
27	Allan John Davidson	Ross	No	73
28	Graham Berry - Perival Farm	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	Yes	75
29	Rick Fennell	Ross	Yes	77
30	Dakaya Brown	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	79
31	O Vincent	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	81
32	Brianna Clarke	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	82
33	Janelle Shaw - Ngai Tahu Tourism / Westland Tourism	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	84
34	Allan Glen	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	86
35	Tanja Bartsch	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	88
36	Jim Xiao - Bella Vista Franz Josef Glacier	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	89
37	Fiona	1 - S	No	90
38	Abby Clement	Hokitika	No	92
39	Dale Burrows - Franz Josef Wilderness Tours	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	94
40	Tracy Harris - Franz Josef TOP 10	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	96
41	Francois Tumahai - Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae (verbal)	Arahura	Yes	Nil
42	Stephen Harris	Waikuku Beach	No	97
43	Lez Morgan	Hokitika	Yes	98
44	Louise Morgan	Hokitika	No	105
45	Sharon	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	107
46	Elin Gatica	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	108



47	Aarron Gilbert	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	110
48	Tracy McFarlane	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	112
49	Jose Timmerman	Hokitika	No	113
50	John Cordell	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	114
51	Sara	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	115
52	Yanyu Zou	Fox Glacier	No	116
53	Adrian Waters	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	118
54	Greg Maitland	Hokitika	No	120
55	Nathan Healy	Fox Glacier	No	124
56	Michael Rooke - Franz Josef Glacier Guides	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	126
57	Kim Waters	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	128
58	Ron Heward		No	130
59	Rex and Anthea Keenan		No	136
60	Richard Molloy / Lorraine Molloy	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	Yes	137
61	Carey Lister - Franz Josef Community Council	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	Yes	139
62	Elliot Hendry - Orange Sheep Campervan Park	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	Yes	141
63	Josh Flavell - Four Square Franz Josef	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	144
64	Karen James	Bruce Bay	No	145
65	Hannah	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	147
66	Bette Cosgrove	Wellington	No	148
67	Claire Hunt - Glacier Country Tourism Group	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	150
68	James Imlach - NZ Motor Caravan Assn.		Yes	152
69	Lachlan Mackie - Franz Alipine Mechanical and Engineering	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	161
70	Kirsty White	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	162
71	Logan Skinner	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	Yes	164
72	Rosemary Skinner	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	166
73	Tom Skinner	Franz Josef Glacier/Waiau	No	167
74	Grant White - Fox Franz heliservices Ltd	West Coast Towns	No	168
75	Bruce Watson, Claudia Landis	Hokitika 7883	Yes	170
76	Melanie Anderson	Hokitika	Yes	182
77	Anna Leary	Okarito	No	187
78	Biddy Manera	Ross	No	189
79	Pixie Manera-Maguire	Ross	No	191

No.	Name	For Against	Staff Comments
1	Samuel Cooper	Against	<p>1. In proposing townships, the Council is taking into account that Westland District is a very popular tourist destination, especially in summer, and overcrowding in the township areas occurs, particularly in commercial centres. This causes issues with the carparks being full and people parking in undesignated or no-parking areas. The state highway runs through the centre of most Westland towns and safe parking is therefore paramount. The public have also witnessed people not using toilets, washing clothes, dishes, and their teeth in public areas and Council facilities. The risk to the health and safety of other people includes transmission of diseases through saliva. Use of bathroom facilities by freedom campers also puts pressure on the available of these facilities for other visitors. The prohibitions in townships were proposed as necessary to protect the environment, access to these areas and the health and safety of other people using these areas. Revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. The number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>3. It is considered that the blanket prohibitions on all township areas may not be proportionate to address the issues that have occurred. It is recommended that Council discuss removing all township bans except: Okarito (including the road), Bruce Bay, Jackson Bay, Hokitika CBD, Fox Glacier and Franz Josef.</p> <p>4. Based on the submitters feedback a review of the restricted areas is recommended.</p>
2	Barry Hughes	For	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. Recommend that the Okarito road be included in the banned Okarito area due to the noted reasons by the submitter.</p> <p>4. The number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p>
3	Kathy	For	<p>1. Revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. The proposed bylaw offers options for both certified self-contained and non self-contained.</p> <p>3. N/A</p>

4	Judy Cardno	Against	<p>1. All Council owned or managed land was considered and assessed as part of the freedom camping proposal. More lenient time restrictions could be applied to sites where the carpark is not used during the day for another purpose. Development of a clear and effective enforcement plan is not part of a bylaw. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011. The one month submission process gives the Community the ability to engage on the proposed bylaw. Further Community consultation can be undertaken if required.</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. See above</p>
5	Laurens	Against	<p>1. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping.</p> <p>2. Council staff visited each site and determined what facilities were available and undertake the assessment.</p> <p>3. It has been confirmed by staff that there are no rubbish bins available at this site.</p> <p>4. Council is obligated to investigate the option of implementing a Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw.</p>
6	Dee	For	<p>1. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p>
7	Cecileah Inns	Against	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping.</p> <p>3. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 does not apply to reserves. Section 10 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 allows freedom camping "in any local authority area unless a. it is restricted or prohibited in accordance with a bylaw made under section 11; or b. under any other enactment". Section 10(b) of the Freedom Camping Act applies to reserves as their use is regulated by another enactment, namely the Reserves Act 1977. Section 44 of the Reserves Act prohibits camping at reserves except in designated camping grounds and areas that provided for by a reserve management plan. Cemeteries are classified as reserves.</p>

8	Gerard Oiidemans	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. There is currently a transition period for certified self-contained vehicles. By June 2025 vehicles will need a green sticker and there is a mandatory requirement for a fixed toilet.</li> <li>3. Council is looking at allocating a limited number of freedom camping sites at the Heliport. This will alleviate the pressure of people parking within residential areas.</li> <li>4. Council is not legally allowed to charge for Freedom Camping but could look to implement a charge for use of facilities such as toilets or implement a community donation scheme. Council is limited by the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</li> </ol>
9	Nicola Johnston	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introducing a bylaw gives Council the tools to regulate freedom camping across the District.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. A site assessment of Haast Beach would need to undertake if this area was banned, it is staff understanding that the area being referred to is not owned by Council.</li> <li>4. Council is currently considering enforcement options across the District. Council could consider this area if it is owned by Council.</li> </ol>
10	Ben Monk - South Westland Salmon	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposed bylaw allows for both certified self-contained and non self-contained vehicles as per Schedule 2: Restricted Areas.</li> <li>2. Toilets were installed as part of a Council project.</li> <li>3. No alterations needed to this proposed site.</li> <li>4. See above</li> </ol>
11	Brenda Monk	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk. In the past Council has received funding from MBIE to monitor and maintain freedom camping areas, this funding is no longer available.</li> <li>3. The one month submission process gives the Community the ability to engage on the proposed bylaw. Further Community consultation can be undertaken if required.</li> <li>4. See above.</li> </ol>
12	Kent Jacobsen	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council is currently considering enforcement options across the District.</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> <li>4. Through enforcement Council can fine freedom campers for offences. The penalties for infringement offences are stated in the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Council does not have the ability change these charges.</li> </ol>

13	Te Runanga o Makaawhio	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. The Council is bound by the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and cannot legally ban freedom camping across the entirety of the Westland District. Within the proposed bylaw there is provision for no freedom camping within 20 meters of a lake or seashore or beach frontage, if evidence is provided this could be extended to include rivers. Docherty Creek and Acre Creek are no longer freedom camping sites. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. The proposed bylaw only controls Council owned and managed land, if any Council owned or managed land is of cultural significance to Iwi this information needs to be provided to Council staff alongside some evidence. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> </ol>
14	Kathryn Bennie	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> <li>4. There is no Council owned or managed land in Jacksons Bay that is suitable for freedom camping. The sensitive environment, marine life, and narrow road score highly in the assessment matrix. The road also suffers from a number of natural hazards and is often closed due to storm damage. This makes it unsafe for visitors in poor weather. It is recommended that Jacksons Bay continues to be a protected area and freedom camping is prohibited.</li> </ol>
15	Paul & Olivia Sutton	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is no Council owned or managed land in Jacksons Bay that is suitable for freedom camping. The sensitive environment, marine life, and narrow road score highly in the assessment matrix. The road also suffers from a number of natural hazards and is often closed due to storm damage. This makes it unsafe for visitors in poor weather. It is recommended that Jacksons Bay continues to be a protected area and freedom camping is prohibited.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. The proposed bylaw only relates to Council owned or managed land. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</li> <li>4. This matter is outside the scope of the bylaw.</li> </ol>

16	Rebecca	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> <li>2. See above</li> <li>3. See above</li> <li>4. Council has considered the flow on effects of the bylaw.</li> </ol>
17	The Helicopter Line	Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. The proposed bylaw only relates to Council owned and managed land. The proposed areas are not owned by Council.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. N/A</li> <li>4. The proposed sites are not Council owned or managed land and therefore out the scope of the bylaw.</li> </ol>
18	Robyn Jebson - Ōkārīto Community Association (OCA)	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The maps provided in the proposed bylaw are indicative only, it was intended that freedom camping was not permitted in the township of Okarito. It is recommend that the Okarito road be included in the banned Okarito area due to the noted reasons by the submitter.</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>
19	Fiona Blair	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The introduction of a bylaw will enable Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however whether there is an available campground is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>

20	Alice Bellio	Against	<p>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. Freedom campers parking up to visit an area during the day are no different from other visitors and can use public facilities.</p>
21	Sabine Grift	Against	<p>1. Council owned land across South Westland is limited. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins. Council is happy to work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations.</p> <p>2. See above</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted inline with the Freedom Camping Act 2011. The one month submission process gives the Community the ability to engage on the proposed bylaw. Further Community consultation can be undertaken if required.</p>
22	Megan McCarthy	Other	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p>
23	Whataroa Community Association	For	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. It was intended that Whataroa was to be included in the bylaw. Council staff met with the community on Thursday 28th November regarding this matter. Council staff agreed with the community on a number of issues not limited to: including Whataroa in the bylaw however not to ban the township, consider that the domain is currently being used for NZMCA members, update the details on Campermate and Rankers to ensure they are correct and to erect signage informing visitors of the natural hazards.</p>

24	Dean Sauer	Against	<p>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. Drafting bylaws is part of Councils role to protect the community.</p>
25	Sonia Pettigrew - Matainui Creek Ltd	For	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. It was intended that Whataroa was to be included in the bylaw. Council staff met with the community on Thursday 28th November regarding this matter. Council staff agreed with the community on a number of issues not limited to: including Whataroa in the bylaw however not to ban the township, consider that the domain is currently being used for NZMCA members, update the details on Campermate and Rankers to ensure they are correct and to erect signage informing visitors of the natural hazards.</p> <p>4. Options for enforcement of the bylaw is included in the statement of proposal, it is not part the bylaw itself.</p>
26	Sandra Lang	For	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. Certified self-contained and non self-contained is defined in the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</p> <p>3. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw."</p> <p>4. Freedom camping is defined in the Freedom Camping Act 2011 as "to camp (other than at a campground)" where a camping ground is any site at which a fee is payable for camping at the site. Essentially freedom camping is free.</p>
27	Allan John Davidson	Against	<p>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p>



28	Graham Berry - Perival Farm	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The bylaw was written following the LGNZ guidance. The Council is bound by the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and cannot legally ban freedom camping across the entirety of the Westland District.</li> <li>2. Docherty Creek is no longer a freedom camping site.</li> <li>3. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</li> <li>4. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> </ol>
29	Rick Fennell	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. Council is currently considering enforcement options across the District.</li> <li>4. A review of the township restriction can be lifted however it is recommended that the township description be lifted in Ross due to lack of evidence under the three criteria in the Act.</li> </ol>
30	Dakaya Brown	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. The one month submission process gives the Community the ability to engage on the proposed bylaw. Further Community consultation can be undertaken if required. Council is considering enforcement options. The other comments relate to matters not addressed in the proposed bylaw.</li> <li>2. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping.</li> <li>3. See above.</li> <li>4. See above.</li> </ol>

31	O Vincent	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the past Council has received funding from MBIE to monitor and maintain freedom camping areas, this funding is no longer available. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. If there is no bylaw the cost still remains on the community.</li> <li>2. Freedom campers that park up to visit an area during the day are no different from other visitors and can use public facilities - they don't have to use their own facilities.</li> <li>3. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</li> <li>4. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> </ol>
32	Brianna Clarke	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council owned land across South Westland is limited. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins. Council is happy to work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. The two other proposed sites are not Council owned land.</li> <li>2. Council has recently installed 7 new kea proof waste bins in Franz Josef.</li> <li>3. If the current intersection is unsafe then this needs to be addressed outside of this bylaw.</li> </ol>
33	Janelle Shaw - Ngai Tahu Tourism / Westland Tourism	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. The Council is bound by the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and cannot legally ban freedom camping across the entirety of the Westland District. Within the proposed bylaw there is provision for no freedom camping within 20 meters of a lake or seashore or beach frontage, if evidence is provided this could be extended to include rivers. Docherty Creek and Acre Creek are no longer freedom camping sites. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. The proposed bylaw only controls Council owned and managed land, if any Council owned or managed land is of cultural significance to Iwi this information needs to be provided to Council staff alongside some evidence. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> </ol>

34	Allan Glen	Against	<p>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. Council is considering enforcement options. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations.</p> <p>3. See above</p> <p>4. See above</p>
35	Tanja Bartsch	Against	<p>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. N/A</p>
36	Jim Xiao - Bella Vista Franz Josef Glacier	Other	<p>1. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping and specifies rules. Council is currently considering enforcement options.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. The proposed freedom camping sites have been assessed following the Freedom Camping Act 2011. The majority of sites have waste bins.</p>
37	Fiona	Against	<p>1. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. Without a bylaw Council enforcement officers cannot move people on from areas or issue infringements.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. This bylaw adheres to national legislation, the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Council has no legislative powers to modify the Act. Council is not legally allowed to charge for Freedom Camping but could look to implement a charge for use of facilities such as toilets or implement a community donation scheme.</p>

38	Abby Clement	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. The carpark at sunset point is used by other visitors and residents for various activities. Limiting the number of freedom campers will ensure access to provide for everyone else. More lenient time restrictions could be applied to sites where the carpark is not used during the day for another purpose.</li> <li>4. Within the proposed bylaw there is provision for no freedom camping within 20 meters of a lake or seashore or beach frontage. This should cover the issues on 'Six Mile Road'.</li> </ol>
39	Dale Burrows - Franz Josef Wilderness Tours	Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. The freedom camping bylaw relates to Council owned and managed land, Council must adhere to the legislation.</li> <li>4. The one month submission process gives the Community the ability to engage on the proposed bylaw. Further Community consultation can be undertaken if required.</li> </ol>
40	Tracy Harris - Franz Josef TOP 10	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw."</li> <li>2. See above</li> <li>3. Council cannot legally ban freedom camping under the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</li> <li>4. See above</li> </ol>
41	Francois Tumahai - Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. Iwi need to provide further evidence to ban these specific areas under the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>
42	Stephen Harris	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>

43	Lez Morgan	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. There is provision in the Act for Council to regulate freedom camping via a bylaw. In the making of a bylaw Council must assess all Council owned land and managed land to see if it is suitable for freedom camping. Council has therefore followed the legislative requirements and the LGNZ bylaw guidance in creation of the bylaw. This submission makes reference to matters outside the scope of the bylaw.</li> <li>4. Most of these matters are not within a scope of a bylaw.</li> </ol>
44	Louise Morgan	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. Council is currently considering enforcement options for the bylaw.</li> <li>2. There is currently a transition period for certified self-contained vehicles. By June 2025 vehicles will need a green sticker and there is a mandatory requirement for a fixed toilet.</li> <li>3. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> <li>4. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 does not apply to reserves. Section 10 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 allows freedom camping "in any local authority area unless a. it is restricted or prohibited in accordance with a bylaw made under section 11; or b. under any other enactment". Section 10(b) of the Freedom Camping Act applies to reserves as their use is regulated by another enactment, namely the Reserves Act 1977. Section 44 of the Reserves Act prohibits camping at reserves except in designated camping grounds and areas that provided for by a reserve management plan. Cemeteries are classified as reserves.</li> </ol>
45	Sharon	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>
46	Elin Gatica	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. These matters are outside the scope of the bylaw.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>

47	Aarron Gilbert	Against	<p>1. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Any restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping must be consistent with the Act. Therefore, areas can only be prohibited or restricted to protect the area, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or to protect access to the area. Evidence must be provided for specific sites. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. Council is currently considering enforcement options. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. See above</p> <p>3. See above</p>
48	Tracy McFarlane	For	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. This matter is outside the scope of the bylaw but could be considered for freedom camping areas if external funding became available.</p>
49	Jose Timmerman	Other	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. The bylaw only relates to Council controlled or managed land. Council is unlikely to own land as suggested. Council is currently considering enforcement options.</p> <p>4. Council is not legally allowed to charge for Freedom Camping but could look to implement a charge for use of facilities such as toilets or implement a community donation scheme.</p>

50	John Cordell	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. Hence Council is considering adopting a bylaw.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</li> <li>4. This comment relates to matters outside the scope of this bylaw.</li> </ol>
51	Sara	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation.</li> <li>4. Council has no current bylaw which means freedom camping is permitted across the District under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 unless prohibited by other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas (Council controlled or managed land) that may not be suitable for freedom camping.</li> </ol>
52	Yanyu Zou	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011. This considered 'protecting access to the area' and 'protecting the area'. The number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw. Council is currently considering enforcement options for the bylaw; this is outside the scope of a bylaw. The one month submission process gives the Community the ability to engage on the proposed bylaw. Further Community consultation can be undertaken if required.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. The heliport site is limited to the number of carparks available in the carpark.</li> <li>4. The bylaw is written inline with national legislation and site assessment consider three aspects: to protect the area, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or to protect access to the area.</li> </ol>

53	Adrian Waters	Against	<p>1. Council owned land across South Westland is limited. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. The toilets are less than 100m away.</p> <p>3. See above.</p> <p>4. Council has no current bylaw which means freedom camping is permitted across the District under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 unless prohibited by other legislation. Freedom campers can legally park there at the moment.</p>
54	Greg Maitland	Against	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. The Self-contained Motor Vehicles Act 2023 was introduced by central government in 2023. There is currently a transition period for certified self-contained vehicles. By June 2025 vehicles will need a green sticker and there is a mandatory requirement for a fixed toilet. The freedom camping legislation applies to everyone within New Zealand, Council has no ability to modify this legislation. Council is not legally allowed to charge for Freedom Camping but could look to implement a charge for use of facilities such as toilets or implement a community donation scheme. Through enforcement Council can fine freedom campers for offences. The penalties for infringement offences are stated in the Freedom Camping Act 2011, Council does not have the ability change these charges.</p>



55	Nathan Healy	Other	<p>1. The Council is bound by the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and cannot legally ban freedom camping across the entirety of the Westland District. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk. There is currently a transition period for certified self-contained vehicles. By June 2025 vehicles will need a green sticker and there is a mandatory requirement for a fixed toilet.</p> <p>3. Any restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping must be consistent with the Act. Therefore, areas can only be prohibited or restricted to protect the area, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or to protect access to the area. It is considered that the blanket prohibitions on all township areas may not be proportionate to address the issues that have occurred. It is recommended that Council further discuss this.</p> <p>4. Council is not legally allowed to charge for Freedom Camping but could look to implement a charge for use of facilities such as toilets or implement a community donation scheme.</p>
56	Michael Rooke - Franz Josef Glacier Guides	For	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. N/A</p>
57	Kim Waters		<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p> <p>4. Council owned land across South Westland is limited. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins, these are less than 100m away. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw. Freedom campers that park up to visit an area during the day are no different from other visitors and can use public facilities - they don't have to use their own facilities.</p>

58	Ron Heward		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> <li>4. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping. Council is not legally allowed to charge for freedom camping.</li> </ol>
59	Rex and Anthea Keenan		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> <li>4. These comments relate to matters outside of the scope of the bylaw.</li> </ol>
60	Richard Molloy / Lorraine Molloy	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council has followed the relevant legislation in the creation of the bylaw.</li> <li>2. This comment relates to matters outside of the scope of the bylaw.</li> <li>3. Council is currently considering enforcement options across the District. Development of a clear and effective enforcement plan is not part of a bylaw. This comment relates to matters outside of the scope of the bylaw.</li> <li>4. See above</li> </ol>
61	Carey Lister - Franz Josef Community Council	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council is currently considering enforcement options across the District. Development of a clear and effective enforcement plan is not part of a bylaw.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations.</li> <li>4. See above. Drones are not included in the scope of the bylaw.</li> </ol>

62	Elliot Hendry - Orange Sheep Campervan Park	Against	<p>1. Council has no current bylaw which means freedom camping is permitted across the District under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 unless prohibited by other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas (Council controlled or managed land) that may not be suitable for freedom camping. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Council is currently considering enforcement options across the District. Development of a clear and effective enforcement plan is not part of a bylaw. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>4. See above</p>
63	Josh Flavell - Four Square Franz Josef	Against	<p>1. Council manages the public toilets based on the number of visitors, if necessary, the number of cleans per day can be increased.</p> <p>2. See above</p> <p>3. N/A</p>
64	Karen James	Other	<p>1. In the proposed bylaw no freedom camping is permitted at Bruce Bay due to the cultural significance of the area. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw. Council is currently considering enforcement options.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. N/A</p>
65	Hannah	For	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</p> <p>3. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw. The bylaw only relates to Council owned or managed land.</p>

66	Bette Cosgrove	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Site assessments of Council owned and managed land was conducted in line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Considering these sites are carparks there is no opportunities for tents.</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. N/A</li> <li>4. The bylaw was written following the LGNZ guidance. This guidance was updated following the passing of the new Self-contained Motor Vehicles Act 2023.</li> </ol>
67	Claire Hunt - Glacier Country Tourism Group	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. N/A</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. Council owned land across South Westland is limited. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins, these are less than 100m away. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however the number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> </ol>
68	James Imlach - NZ Motor Caravan Assn.		<p>Council Staff recommend further discussions with the NZMCA.</p> <p>In addressing prohibiting freedom camping within 20m of a lake, seashore of beachfront further definitions and evidence can be provided.</p> <p>Is it recommend that the temporary closure clause is updated.</p> <p>It is considered that the blanket prohibitions on all township areas may not be proportionate to address the issues that have occurred. It is recommended that Council discuss removing all township bans except: Okarito (including the road), Bruce Bay, Jackson Bay, Hokitika CBD, Fox Glacier and Franz Josef.</p> <p>It is recommended that Council reconsider their decisions in the Council workshops with regard to the site assessments.</p>
69	Lachlan Mackie - Franz Alpine Mechanical and Engineering	Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council is not legally allowed to charge for Freedom Camping but could look to implement a charge for use of facilities such as toilets or implement a community donation scheme.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. See above.</li> </ol>

70	Kirsty White	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council is currently considering enforcement options across the District.</li> <li>2. In the proposed bylaw non self-contained vehicles are only allowed at sites that have appropriate facilities, this is to mitigate the health and safety risk.</li> <li>3. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations.</li> <li>4. The bylaw relates to Council owned and managed land. Council has considered sites across Westland District.</li> </ol>
71	Logan Skinner	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw. In the past Council has received funding from MBIE to monitor and maintain freedom camping areas, this funding is no longer available. The other comments relate to matters outside the scope of this bylaw.</li> <li>2. There is currently a transition period for certified self-contained vehicles. By June 2025 vehicles will need a green sticker and there is a mandatory requirement for a fixed toilet.</li> <li>3. See above. There is no 6 limit vehicle proposed within the proposed bylaw.</li> <li>4. See above.</li> </ol>
72	Rosemary Skinner	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw. In the past Council has received funding from MBIE to monitor and maintain freedom camping areas, this funding is no longer available.</li> <li>2. The Council is bound by the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and cannot legally ban freedom camping across the entirety of the Westland District.</li> <li>3. N/A</li> </ol>
73	Tom Skinner	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Council is bound by the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and cannot legally ban freedom camping across the entirety of the Westland District. Revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> <li>2. In the past Council has received funding from MBIE to monitor and maintain freedom camping areas, this funding is no longer available.</li> <li>3. See above</li> </ol>

74	Grant White - Fox Franz Heliservices Ltd	Against	<p>1. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation however this is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. Council owned land across South Westland is limited. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins. Council will work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations. The toilets are less than 100m away.</p> <p>4. Revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</p>
75	Bruce Watson, Claudia Landis	For	<p>1. N/A</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. Any restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping must be consistent with the Act. Therefore, areas can only be prohibited or restricted to protect the area, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or to protect access to the area. Therefore, Council cannot legally ban all freedom camping in Hokitika.</p> <p>4. The expiring bylaw is no longer valid, and the Act has been changed since the previous bylaw was put in place. The bylaw was written following the LGNZ guidance. Council Staff will review the clauses once the deliberations are complete.</p> <p>The distance of 20m could be extended to 50m if sufficient evidence is provided to staff. The maps are indicative only and the intention was that South Spit area is prohibited due to the sensitive nature of the environment. Clause 10.1 can be updated to reflect the submitters suggestion.</p>
76	Melanie Anderson	Other	<p>1. A bylaw is an option to give Council tools to manage freedom camping across the District.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. Council owned land across South Westland is limited. The heliport carpark in Franz Josef provides an opportunity for freedom campers to park safely off the state highway. The carpark was extended through TIF to accommodate more vehicles due to high tourist numbers visiting Franz Josef. A pathway was also built to the nearby toilets and rubbish bins. Council is happy to work with Destination Westland to manage the site and reduce the risks to the heliport operations.</p> <p>4. See above</p>

77	Anna Leary	Against	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council has no current bylaw which means freedom camping is permitted across the District under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 unless prohibited by other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas (Council controlled or managed land) that may not be suitable for freedom camping.</li> <li>2. There is currently a transition period for certified self-contained vehicles. By June 2025 vehicles will need a green sticker and there is a mandatory requirement for a fixed toilet.</li> <li>3. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation. The maps provided in the proposed bylaw are indicative only, it was intended that freedom camping was not permitted in the township of Okarito.</li> <li>4. See above</li> </ol>
78	Biddy Manera	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping.</li> <li>2. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation.</li> <li>3. Any restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping must be consistent with the Act. Therefore, areas can only be prohibited or restricted to protect the area, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or to protect access to the area.</li> <li>4. This comment relates to matters outside the scope of the bylaw. The number of people or revenue that freedom campers do or do not bring into local business is not relevant to the matters the Council must be satisfied of under s11(2) when making a bylaw.</li> </ol>
79	Pixie Manera-Maguire	For	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is permissible by default, which means it allows freedom camping on all Council controlled or managed land, unless prohibited under other legislation. A bylaw enables Council to protect some areas that may not be suitable for freedom camping.</li> <li>2. Council acknowledges there are campgrounds throughout the District who are impacted by the Freedom Camping legislation.</li> <li>3. Any restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping must be consistent with the Act. Therefore, areas can only be prohibited or restricted to protect the area, to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or to protect access to the area.</li> <li>4. This comment relates to matters outside the scope of the bylaw.</li> </ol>

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 October 2024 10:32 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Samuel Cooper

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

181 Weld street  
 Hokitika

**Township**

Hokitika

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Freedom camping is a large number of the tourists who visit the coast, they buy our groceries, pay for attractions and make a significant contribution to our economy. Restrictions of any kind will reduce these numbers and for what point? They don't provide any problems for us, in fact you could argue they even stop mindless vandalism while they're quietly camping around the coast.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

As per previous answer, any law will reduce the numbers of people prepared to come here, no law is required or wanted.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

The proposal blocks off the majority of the coast, if there is a specific area that freedom camping has been proven to be a a problem, we should focus on that area alone, backed by evidence.



**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

We survive on tourism, let's encourage anyone to visit our paradise regardless of their budget. They quietly go about their business not harming anyone.

# Share your Feedback – Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

**Submissions close at 5pm Monday 25 November 2024**

**Submissions hearing: 5 December 2024**

Westland District Council is seeking public feedback on its proposal to make a new bylaw which will manage the negative impacts of freedom camping whilst ensuring everyone, including visitors to the Westland region, can continue to enjoy our open spaces.

Full details of the proposed changes are set out in the Statement of Proposal, which can be read alongside the Proposed bylaw and other information on our website: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/responsible-camping-bylaw/>

Please **scan and email** this form to the Council. **Email:** [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 901

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name\* Barry Hughes Organisation (if applicable) Okarito Kayaks  
 Email\* [REDACTED] Address 1 The Strand, Ōkārito, Whataroa 7886  
 Telephone [REDACTED] Township\* Ōkārito

I would like to speak to Council about my submission  At the meeting in the Council Chambers

Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

I do not wish to speak to my submission

*\*Required*

## Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  I do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why:

Considered and careful management of impacts of Freedom Camping in accordance with legislation

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree     No, I do not agree

Tell us why:

Some degree of freedom should be maintained in some places to camp peacefully and respectfully, whilst tightly managed in others.

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

**Text**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with     No, the proposed sites are acceptable

Tell us why:

Freedom Camping should be prohibited, in all vehicles, from Ōkārito township extending all the way to the State Highway 6. Regardless of self-containment status, lived experience over the last decade shows human excrement is frequently found at sites where vehicles freedom camp along the roadside between the township and highway, adjacent and close to tributaries of Ōkārito Lagoon. This constitutes a risk to the health of the natural environment, and a health and safety risk to local residents and visitors using Ōkārito Lagoon to swim or gather food. On the Assessment Matrix these sites should score 8 or higher; downstream effects of impacts must also be considered.

Given the intent of the legislation is to allow for activity that has local economic benefit, it should be also be noted there are multiple low cost camping sites available within a short drive that provide infrastructure and ablution facilities for campers, and that economically support local communities.

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Please note we submit as both residents, and local business owners. We prioritise the health and quiet enjoyment of our environment and waters by our local community and ourselves, over the limited economic benefits any liberalisation of freedom camping regulations might bring, if any.

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 October 2024 2:06 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Kathy

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

**Township**

HariHari

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Brings revenue into the town and offers freedom campers a spot to stay with a diverse range of activities - particularly fishing.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Generally people traveling in self contained vehicles are motivated and whilst not certified they will have the appropriate set up that they manage. Offering toilets is attractive to freedom campers both certified and non certified.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 October 2024 2:35 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Judy Cardno

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

102 main road Hari Hari.

**Township**

Hari Hari

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Submission Regarding Proposed Freedom Camping in Hari Hari

This submission expresses strong opposition to the proposed freedom camping initiative in Hari Hari. While the concept of freedom camping can be appealing, the proposed implementation in this specific location raises serious concerns regarding its feasibility and potential negative impacts.

**Insufficient Space and Lack of Amenities**

The proposed freedom camping area lacks adequate space to accommodate the anticipated influx of campers. This overcrowding would lead to a negative experience for campers, with limited parking, inadequate access to amenities, and potential conflicts between campers. Furthermore, the lack of available rubbish bins, as stated in the proposal, raises significant concerns about waste management and environmental impact. The absence of proper waste disposal facilities would inevitably result in littering, harming the natural beauty of the area and posing a risk to wildlife.

**Unsuitable Time Restrictions and Enforcement Concerns**

The proposed time restrictions of 8pm to 7am are impractical and potentially problematic. These hours would significantly limit the enjoyment of the area for campers who might prefer to stay later in the evening or wake up earlier in the morning. Additionally, the lack of clear enforcement mechanisms raises concerns about the potential for disruptive behavior and disregard for the rules. It is unclear how the proposed restrictions would be monitored and enforced, leaving the local community and environment vulnerable to negative consequences.

### Impact on Local Community and Environment

The proposed freedom camping initiative would place a significant burden on the local community and environment. The influx of campers could lead to increased traffic congestion, noise pollution, and strain on local resources. The potential for environmental damage through littering, wastewater disposal, and disturbance of wildlife is a significant concern.

### Recommendations

To address these concerns, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Re-evaluate the proposed location and ensure adequate space and amenities are available. This includes providing sufficient parking, designated camping areas, and readily accessible rubbish bins.
- Consider alternative time restrictions that are more flexible and cater to a wider range of camping preferences.
- Develop a clear and effective enforcement plan. This should include designated personnel responsible for monitoring compliance with rules and regulations, as well as appropriate penalties for violations.
- Conduct thorough environmental impact assessments. This will help to identify potential risks and mitigate potential damage to the local ecosystem.
- Engage with the local community to address concerns and ensure their voices are heard.

By addressing these concerns and implementing appropriate safeguards, the proposed freedom camping initiative can be made more sustainable and beneficial for both campers and the local community.

### **The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

#### **Tell us why**

This submission expresses strong disagreement with the proposed bylaw that permits freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles. While the concept of freedom camping can be appealing, allowing non-self-contained vehicles raises significant concerns regarding environmental impact, community well-being, and the potential for irresponsible behavior.

### Environmental Concerns

Non-self-contained vehicles lack onboard sanitation facilities, posing a significant risk to the environment. The absence of toilets and wastewater disposal systems increases the likelihood of improper waste disposal, leading to pollution of waterways, soil contamination, and potential health hazards. This is particularly concerning in sensitive ecosystems where even minimal environmental disturbance can have detrimental consequences.

## Impact on Local Communities

Allowing non-self-contained vehicles to freedom camp can place an undue burden on local communities. The lack of sanitation facilities necessitates reliance on public amenities, potentially overwhelming existing infrastructure and creating inconvenience for residents. This can lead to increased traffic congestion, noise pollution, and strain on local resources, negatively impacting the quality of life for those living in the area.

## Potential for Irresponsible Behavior

The absence of self-containment requirements can encourage irresponsible behavior among campers. Without the need for proper sanitation facilities, there is a higher risk of littering, noise disturbances, and disregard for local regulations. This can create a negative experience for other campers, damage the natural environment, and undermine the overall enjoyment of the freedom camping experience.

## Recommendations

To address these concerns, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Restrict freedom camping to certified self-contained vehicles only. This would ensure that campers have adequate sanitation facilities, minimizing environmental impact and promoting responsible behavior.
- Implement robust enforcement mechanisms. This includes clearly defined regulations, designated enforcement personnel, and appropriate penalties for violations.
- Provide alternative options for non-self-contained campers. This could include designated camping grounds or designated areas with access to sanitation facilities.
- Engage with local communities to address concerns and ensure their voices are heard. This is crucial to ensure that freedom camping initiatives are implemented in a way that benefits both campers and local residents.

By prioritizing environmental protection, community well-being, and responsible camping practices, the proposed bylaw can be amended to create a more sustainable and enjoyable experience for all.

### **The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

### **Tell us why**

As stated in Hari Hari

### **Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 October 2024 7:47 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Laurens

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

4082 harihari

**Township**

Harihari

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

What is the need there are campings in town they can go to. That have proper facility's including rubbish bins

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Most of the proposed place don't have rubbish bins and are next to play grounds for children.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Harihari no rubbish bins available next to play ground

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Stop the waste full spending of rates money. On these little do good projects. Get the basics right. For example place rubbish bin so rubbish doesn't end up in our cows. And water ways.



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Saturday, 26 October 2024 6:47 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Dee

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

**Township**

Franz josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Less destruction to area

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Alicia Paulsen

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Saturday, 26 October 2024 8:50 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Cecileah Inns

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

12 van Dieman Close, Templeton

**Township**

Christchurch

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Those in non self contained vehicles abuse the areas, leave mess and defecate in the area. It is damaging to the environment, pollution and a health risk.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Ross Cemetery

My whanau are buried there as will I eventually.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 November 2024 11:31 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Gerard Oiudemans

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

2900 Franz Josef Highway

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

Holly Homestead

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

It is my firm belief that ALL camper vans/motorhomes/sleeper vans should only be certified if they have fixed (plumbed in) toilets. Any that have porta-pottys SHOULD NOT be certified, therefore shouldn't be able to used proposed areas. Those that break the rules should be discouraged from continuing the practice by being hit with a hefty fine ..... let's say \$500.00!

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Franz Josef township. Apart from the council owned car park at the Heliport I can't think of any other council land in the township and I'm damn certain that the good citizens of Franz don't want camper vans parked up outside their homes. The streets should definitely be a "no-go" area!

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

I find it hard to swallow that people who spend thousands of dollars to FLY to NZ and drive around in a camper van think that they shouldn't have to pay to stay in campgrounds etc. and that ALL facilities should be provided free of charge. Any facilities that are provided, i.e toilets etc. should be coin operated, it shouldn't be up to the rate payers to fund their holiday. What happened to "user pays" or have we become so PC that we don't want to offend them? I remember going overseas a number of times and having to pay to use the public toilets, even in Paris! I would hazard a guess that most of the countries these people come from DO NOT allow freedom camping in their country and they would have to stay in proper campgrounds.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 November 2024 6:27 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Nicola Johnston

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

425 Haast-Jackson Bay Rd  
 Haast

**Township**

Haast

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I believe that freedom camping needs to be strongly regulated in South Westland. It results in rubbish and human waste and isn't necessary.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Freedom camping without FIXED toilet facilities is an appalling idea in an area of such internationally recognised natural beauty. Will the council install public toilets in all these spots for campers that are not self-contained?

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

I don't have issue with proposed sites but think the Haast Beach area should be added to the list. I realise that most roads between Haast Beach and Okuru are banned areas but there is no signage to indicate the same at the northern end of Haast Beach and it is a significant problem.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

1. Brings back enforcement officers- they did an amazing job.
2. I believe the old gravel pit area at north end of Haast Beach should be developed a little in order to provide visitors and locals a flat, open area at which to enjoy the beach. There is no distinct place for people to visit the beach Ship Creek and Jackson Bay and that location is a natural spot. It was a MOW gravel pit and the ground is very compacted and largely clear and flat. Clearing the scrub at the front and flattening out some of the area would be a huge asset to the area and the community. Also opening it up on the road side would make it less feasible for people to illegally freedom camp as it would be too visible.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 November 2024 10:29 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Ben Monk

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

6463 Haast Highway  
 Paringa

**Township**

Paringa

**Organisation**

South Westland Salmon

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I think the freedom camp site at Paringa is working very well , vehicles don't need to be self contained there so that is one point that may need altered

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Toilets are at the camp site here so no issues

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

Works well in my opinion

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

We have been monitoring the camp site at Paringa and it adds to the attraction of people visiting our area. We have had no issues with the current format and it works very well.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Thursday, 7 November 2024 11:09 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Brenda Monk

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

6501 Haast Highway  
 Paringa, Haast, 7886

**Township**

Paringa

**Organisation**

Individual

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Non-certified vehicles should be restricted to and contained within monitored areas with toilets.

Council should obtain government funding to pay local people to monitor the restricted sites. (saving on unnecessary travel costs)

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

The proposed sites seem acceptable but people within each area need to be consulted other than the submission process to ensure that they are not adversely affected

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**



I support the bylaw because it is absolutely essential that freedom campers who do not have legitimate self-containment be discouraged/prevented from pulling up in roadside byways etc and camping, defecating wherever they wish. This was a huge problem in rural areas in the past, with human waste found in farm gateways, behind any building or shelter, on or beside tracks, etc.

The proliferation of small vans, vehicles travelling our roads continues (with a pretence of self-containment) continues and we need to make provision for them.

Funding should come from central government, not ratepayers, but through the Westland District Council.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2024 4:28 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Kent Jacobsen

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

111 First St, Kumara

**Township**

Kumara

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Needs to be regulated so consistent and measurable outcomes can be achieved, which then can inform future management discussions.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Its the attitude of the freedom camper, not the certification. Often those non-certified care about respecting the area, while those that are certified feel they have some privilege and with this can come less respect for the area.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

Its about how the area is treated. With respect anything can be achieved.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Heavy fines for littering or shitting/pissing. District council to have powers to do any surveillance necessary to unsure littering or shitting/pissing doesn't cause unmanageable adverse effects. A system that requires a freedom camper to take a photo before and after

using a freedom camping site is suggested. This would also help understand longer-term changes or local effects that will need managing. Need to ensure road safety is upheld.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2024 6:58 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Te Runanga o Makaawhio

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

125 Revell Street  
Hokitika

**Township**

Hokitika

**Organisation**

Te Runanga o Makaawhio

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission in the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Te Runanga o Makaawhio is the legal representative of the Ngai Tahu hapu of Ngati Mahaki, as defined in Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu Act and Order in Council. Te Runanga o Makaawhio rohe (traditional boundaries and area of influence) extends from the Poerua River to Piopiotahi (Milford Sound), and from the Poerua River to the Hokitika River, jointly with Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae.

Our Runanga is deeply concerned at the lack of meaningful controls in the Westland District Council's proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024, which essentially grants freedom campers open reign to overnight wherever they like throughout Westland district, except for a small number of restricted areas.

This is unacceptable and ignores the disgraceful disregard for the environment that we experienced with the last big wave of freedom camping just prior to Covid, overnight camps set up with impunity alongside creeks and rivers, which were daily used for toileting and/or washing. Have you already forgotten the filth of Docherty Creek and Acre Creek, to name just two? To be clear, our concern is not with the self-policing NZMCA members, but with the unregulated, or at best poorly regulated, travellers in non-equipped vans and cars.

We recognise there must be a bylaw in order to effect some measure of control, but without external resourcing there is no ability to enforce, which makes it all an exercise in futility. Nonetheless, as a minimum we request that the bylaw prohibits freedom camping at the following sites:

- \* Within 100m of any Site and Area of Significance to Maori (SASM) as defined in the draft Te Tai o Poutini Plan. Council is required to give immediate effect to the provisions of the TTPP.
- \* Within 1km of our wahi taonga, specifically Hunts Beach, Makaawhio, Mahitahi, Douglas Creek (Haast Pass Highway) and Jackson River. We request that this is applied consistent with the fossicking provisions of Te Runanga o Makaawhio Pounamu Management Plan, which prohibits all public fossicking within our wahi taonga. For avoidance of doubt, pounamu fossicking is only allowed on beaches south of Tahutahi/Cascade River.
- \* Within 1km of our urupa at Mahitahi.
- \* Within 500m of the Tohu Whenua, Te Kopikopiko o te Waka, at Cook Flat, Fox Glacier.
- \* Within 500m of any waterway, i.e. stream, river, lagoon or lake within Ngati Mahaki rohe.
- \* Within the confines of Okahu/Jackson Bay.
- \* Anywhere within the confines of the Manakaiaua River to 1km south of the Mahitahi River.
- \* Within 5km of all commercial campgrounds.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2024 1:03 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Kathryn Bennie

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

Pier St

**Township**

Jackson Bay

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Council needs the support of a bylaw so it can act in the interests of the environment and the safety of campers

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Jackson Bay is my interest. There has always been people freedom camping in Jackson Bay. Some have absolutely no respect for the area while others are very responsible. I am talking dumping rubbish, letting dogs freely run where penguins traverse etc. I feel for the genuine responsible campers but there is a bigger issue with the volatile nature of the elements that can and does cause land slides on the only road in and out. There has to be a happy balance and it unfortunately won't suit everyone.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2024 8:42 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Paul & Olivia Sutton

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

Corner High Street & The Esplanade, Jackson Bay

**Township**

Jackson Bay

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

We have witnessed from time to time campers have left rubbish including human faeces in bags, meters from the forshore and neighbouring businesses which is a huge health risk. Many children and adults visit the area on a daily basis, therefore, minimising the traffic parked along the forshore would make a huge difference to the ecology of the locale.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Provided there are reasonable facilities nearby for the use of toilet and rubbish disposal.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

They seem to be closer to townships able to cater with more facilities

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Parking places for all vehicles along the forshore at Jackson Bay township needs to be formalised to ensure adequate recreation areas for people visiting and to minimise wear and tear and erosion of the foreshore.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2024 11:07 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

rebecca

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

**Township**

westcoast

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I feel allowing freedom camping in the westland district of franz josef will have a huge affect on the 2 campgrounds there which will have a knock on affect to the businesses they purchase from to keep there parks going this isnt fair to the little man who is trying to run a business!!! Freedom campers usually just go to the supermaket and wont support local resturants/ food outlets as they usually cook for themselves

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

I feel they should have to pay their way like the rest of us '

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Theres enough campgrounds in the westland area without more areas for freedom camping why should it have to cost us rate payers for the council to maintain freedom camp areas

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Think about everyone how many people it will affect



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2024 8:54 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

The Helicopter Line

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

20 Main Road

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

The Helicopter Line

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

Other

**Tell us why**

I support that freedom campers need to be restricted to certain areas and outside of the, if caught, they face consequences. We do not support the placement of the zone in Franz Josef. This is a busy space and a space where a lot of paying customers will be accessing the Heliport. There will be mess left behind no matter how many signs are put up and this will reflect very poorly on Glacier Country.

There are much better areas for this such as the old Scenic Hotel site, The old DOC building Site or perhaps the pull in area on Dochertys Creek

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

It should be Self contained only!

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Franz Josef. Reasons as above

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Alternate sites, as above

**To:** Westland District Council

**Date:** 14 November 2024

**Submission:** Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw

**From:**

**Name?** Robyn Jebson

**Association?** Ōkārito Community Association (OCA)

**Email?** [REDACTED]

**Tel?** [REDACTED]

**Address?** 82 The Strand Ōkārito South Westland 7886

**Township?** Ōkārito

**Do you wish to speak to submission?** No

**Do you think WDC should introduce bylaw?**

Yes, with modifications

While OCA does not support freedom camping, it recognises with this proposed freedom camping bylaw the Westland District Council (WDC) is attempting to manage the impacts of freedom camping in accordance with Government legislation.

Regarding the actual proposed freedom camping bylaw provisions, OCA strongly supports prohibition of freedom camping in Ōkārito.

Ōkārito community opposes freedom camping around the village, immediately adjacent on the beach and along the access road between the village and SH6. It is important to us as a community that the beach car park and sheltered grassed area located next to the village (south-west side) also are included within the prohibited freedom camping zone depicted in the bylaw Ōkārito map. The sheltered grassed area (locally known as 'memorial park') is kept mown and maintained by the community. It includes memorial plaques and special tree plantings commemorating those who have died. It is located immediately in front of /adjacent to residents' homes and a popular area for picnics and children playing.

OCA also submits that freedom camping should be prohibited along the access road between the village and SH6 (includes Forks settlement). OCA does not want human waste/toilet paper and other rubbish left by the side of the road as used to happen prior to the existing freedom camping bylaw. Such waste potentially contaminating the Ōkārito river and other tributaries flowing into the lagoon where we gather food and swim. In addition, there have been fires previously along Ōkārito access road endangering the forests of Westland Tai Poutini National Park and Ōkārito Rowi sanctuary.

Ōkārito has for a long time been a popular camping destination and in the early days campers free camped around the village causing community and environmental issues. Consequently, Ōkārito community proactively established a campground. This was set up on a pay to stay basis to cover costs incurred from providing needed facilities and services, such as compacted parking areas, cleaning, mowing, sewerage, drinking water and rubbish collection etc. Under the OCA's campground concession agreement any profit generated is spent on meeting community and

visitors' needs (e.g., upgrading campground facilities, community water scheme, heritage asset management, predator control, esplanade mowing, civil defence etc). It is important to the community that the campground operation continues and is not undermined by nearby freedom camping.

To conclude, OCA submits that freedom camping should be prohibited in the entire Ōkārito village (including the beach car park and 'memorial park') and along the Ōkārito access road from SH6.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2024 9:24 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

fiona blair

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

12 the strand Okarito

**Township**

Okarito

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

In okarito we have a lovely community run campsite, however presently people often stop their camper vans right by a 'no camping or overnight stopping sign', and we have no power to stop this in a very sensitive area ecologically.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Non certified vehicles should only be allowed where there are toilets and washing facilities plus recycling and rubbish.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 17 November 2024 7:20 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Alice Bellio

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

20c ferguson place

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Although in theory it is a lovely idea, from experience freedom campers do not support local economies and put pressure on local infrastructures. For a small country like New Zealand it has a massive impact financially and environmentally, this to me overshadows the benefits of allowing the proposed bylaw.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

I think it should only be for self-co trained vehicles. If not self contained, those vehicles should park in a campground with toilet facilities.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

The site offered for Franz Josef is the Heliport right in the middle of town. It is near multiple businesses that are operating under strick health and safety rules. We are also living in a no drone zone and despite all the sings we have caught multiple drones causing disruptions to the helicopter flights. This is adding a risk by allowing campers to park in the heliport. The town would not benefit economically from those campers because if people travel that way it's

because they are on a tight budget already. But they would put pressure on our toilet facilities which are cleaned daily and for the use of the tourists, not campers.

Finally, Franz Josef already has a range of very affordable options such as the NZMCA, and the orange sheep camper park.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 10:33 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Sabine Grift

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

10 Ferguson Place

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Too be honest, when I learned about the proposed site for the Freedom camping area in Franz Josef, through a concerned community member, I first thought it was a bad joke! To propose a freedom campsite right next to one of the, if not THE busiest heliport in the southern hemisphere is absolutely ludicrous!! This site should NEVER have been even considered for all the H&S issues you could possibly think off, the list would be too large to list here, but I'll list the main things that popped into my head straight away: Debris (eventhough you try to market this group as 'responsible freedom campers' we all see the horrendous amount of rubbish that get left when the campers parked up randomly in town leave the following morning, so lets not pretend by giving them a more appealing name that they wont litter!!) getting sucked into rotor blades and causing helicopters to cash, having a freedom camp (that is unsupervised) right next to large fuel tanks is a recipe for disaster by itself and having witnessed the total disregard over and over again in town of the drone ban within 4 kilometres of the heliport and to thought of having this particular layer of tourists who tend to travel with drones and let them up wherever they feel like right next to such a busy heliport absolutely blows my mind! As a wife of a local helicopter pilot, who flies daily, if weather permits, from the helipads in town, this causes me grave concerns for not only my husband, but for all the other local pilots who fly from these helipads, passengers and ground crew if this goes ahead!! We have a 12 and a 10 year old son and they would like to grow up with their dad around. I reached out to our heliport management when this proposal reached me and again, I was

gobsmacked to learn that they had not been consulted regarding this location!  
Did someone throw a dart at the town map with their eyes closed and wet with where it happened to land?

I have nothing against freedom camping, in fact, its great to have proper allocated sites in certain areas, but NOT right next to an extremely busy heliport. Would you consider a freedom camp at the end of the runway at the Hokitika Airport? Can't imagine that. So this is a big fat NO from us for all the H&S reasons listed above.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

This site should have never been considered for the H&S reasons listed above! But to answer this question: There are no facilities for non-self contained vehicles, no water, no toilets, no showers, no bins, no waste water dumpsite.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

I strongly DISAGREE with the entire proposed restricted area in Franz Josef!

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Did someone throw a dart at the FJ town map with their eyes closed and simply went with the location of where it happened to land?

This entire consultation process has been very poorly handled and communicated. If the concerned community member had not emailed us, we would not have been aware of this and would not have been able to give our community a heads up of the proposed location. To learn the heliport management had not even been consulted really blows my mind. Some of you might know me as the always helpful, supportive and smiling community member, but in this case I personally feel WDC really dropped the ball on both the location and the lack of communication around this topic.



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 1:47 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Megan McCarthy

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

2 Pioneer Drive

**Township**

Franz JOsef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

Other

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

I don't support the Franz Josef township area. I'm supportive of freedom camping but I do not think it should be in the middle of the town in CBDs, especially in popular towns but on the outskirts. People wanting central facilities in town should be paying for them. There is not a lot of space in the area proposed for parking anyway let alone camping. Reefton put a freedom camping site in the centre of town and quite frankly I don't believe it has gone well when I've visited and by talking to friends and family there (some who own their own motorhomes), meanwhile they have a good campground and also the racecourse available for camping that would be much better being utilized.

I would be more supportive if it was located in the Glacier Valley Walk carpark but not in the central township. Although again toilets would need to be cleaned if available but designated free camping areas without them don't seem to go well, costs covered and monitored. Parking in that whole car park really should be charged during the day just like Haast Blue Pools & Hokitika Gorge. These hot spots need to cover some of their costs. Everywhere I went overseas I paid a couple of dollars parking and had no complaints.

I'm not familiar with a lot of the other locations to comment. Places that are quieter like the Hari Hari Domain and Whataroa Domain could take advantage of their toilets and space at both locations like the Reefton racecourse does charging a few dollars a night to cover costs. Similar to Rimu & Kumara. Keeping facilities and toilets clean is a big issue though. The river camping at the bottom of Whataroa Flat Road was a disaster, I was a neighbour and it was disgusting. Toilets unusable, people needing to be towed out all the time etc.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

**Rachel Evans**

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 9:04 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Whataroa Community Association

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone****Address****Township**

Whataroa

**Organisation**

Whataroa Community Association

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission in the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

We need a bylaw to support enforcement.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

We only support fully certified self-contained vehicles.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Whataroa Township and valley were completely left off the entire freedom camping bylaw proposal.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

In reference to Summary of site assessments for informing proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw matrix, the Whataroa Township and valley was omitted completely. Therefore, we were unable to submit on the same basis as other townships in the Westland District.

We request a special consultation meeting with the WDC planners regarding this matter as soon possible or we be given more time at the oral submission stage.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 8:45 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Dean Sauer

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

16 Waiho Flat Road  
 Franz Josef Glacier

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Adequate camping facilities are provided by the businesses who have built up their businesses over years in the town who pay the council plenty in fees for the privilege.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Franz Josef

You cant pretend that our main tourist parking facility in town wont deteriorate under the burden of people eating sleeping and pissing all around it.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

The council should stick to doing council stuff, and leave providing clean and well appointed camping facilities to those who have invested their time and dollars into building the infrastructure that supports their service.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 10:19 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Sonia Pettigrew

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

2947 Whataroa Highway  
 RD 1

**Township**

Whataroa

**Organisation**

Matainui Creek Ltd

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission in the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Freedom camping has increased for years, especially with the apps now available to tourists. So it's imperative to have a legal freedom camping framework to apply to our region.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Any tourist with a non self contained vehicle should go to a paying campground. How this is enforced is the real issue.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Whataroa does not have any maps or information to submit to... and it is unbelievable that no one at the council who either wrote the proposal, or read the proposed consultation and even had a district council meeting regarding this in September 2024, did not see this. However I do want to talk about the area at the Whataroa river that is being used by freedom campers. In heavy rain this can become a very dangerous place to be sleeping. So if the council decides

this is a restricted rather than prohibited area and then someone unfortunately drowns in their vehicle, does the council take some responsibility for this?

Or for this specific area is it in the best interests of the council to put up a notice that outlines the dangers.

Is there any other site on the west coast with the same very high hazard level?

Will there be a sign which prohibits vehicles past a certain point?

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

The real issue is enforcement of the bylaw.

How will the prohibited township areas, let alone our remote rural roads and areas be supervised and managed?

# Share your Feedback – Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

Feedback must be received by 5pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Westland District Council is seeking public feedback on its proposal to make a new bylaw which will manage the negative impacts of freedom camping whilst ensuring everyone, including visitors to the Westland region, can continue to enjoy our open spaces.

Please read our information sheet and FAQs.

Full details of the proposed changes are set out in the Statement of Proposal.

We encourage you to give your feedback online or fill out the survey form below:



### Your details

Your name and feedback will be included in public details. All other personal details will be made publicly available.

First Name: Sandra Lang Last Name: Lang

Email or Postal Address: [Redacted] /20 Gay St Ross 7812

### Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation or business?

(If yes, this confirms you have the authority to submit on the organisations behalf)

Yes/No  No

Name of organisation/business: \_\_\_\_\_

### Would you like to speak for 5 minutes during the hearing on 14th November 2024?

Yes (if you have answered yes, please ensure your contact details are filled out)

If yes, please choose:  In the Council Chambers  Through a remote option (Zoom link or phone)

No

### Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  I do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why:

I support the bylaw to ensure people are safe from busy highways and the environment is not damaged by inappropriate use.

The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non self-contained vehicles, do you agree?

Yes, I agree  No, I do not agree

Tell us why: a vehicle may be certified self-contained but users may not use the facilities whereas a non-self contained vehicle may have adequate means to be self contained and use their facilities without a "Sticker".

The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Is there any sites that you oppose?

Yes, there are sites I disagree with  No, the proposed sites are acceptable

Tell us why: I oppose the ROSS Hall being allocated Freedom camping spots. The small town of ROSS already has three campgrounds, ① ROSS Lake front operated by the Historic Ross Hotel - \$10 night, ② ROSS TOP 10 Campground a beach front camp where you can park up facing the Ocean \$60/night ③ Motorhome ASS. POP camp \$5 night  
ROSS is already well appointed with camping opportunities for a range of budgets.

Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Councillors to consider?

Freedom camping does not mean "Free" camping  
Freedom camping in my view is the ability to stop/camp in an area of beauty not accessed by a town or other camp grounds. In N.Z. many of these places are already DOC campgrounds

Please scan and email this form to the Council - Email: [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

Or drop in to Westland District Council, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika 7811



# Share your Feedback – Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

Feedback must be received by 5pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Westland District Council is seeking public feedback on its proposal to make a new bylaw which will manage the negative impacts of freedom camping whilst ensuring everyone, including visitors to the Westland region, can continue to enjoy our open spaces.

Please read our information sheet and FAQs.

Full details of the proposed changes are set out in the Statement of Proposal.

We encourage you to give your feedback online or fill out the survey form below:



### Your details

Your name and feedback will be included in public details. All other personal details will be made publicly available.

First Name: ALLAN JOHN Last Name: DAVIDSON

Email or Postal Address: 21 STEWART ST, ROSS

### Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation or business?

(If yes, this confirms you have the authority to submit on the organisations behalf)

~~Yes~~/No

Name of organisation/business: \_\_\_\_\_

### Would you like to speak for 5 minutes during the hearing on 14th November 2024?

Yes (if you have answered yes, please ensure your contact details are filled out)

If yes, please choose:  In the Council Chambers  Through a remote option (Zoom link or phone)

No

Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  I do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why:

WE HAVE A PARKING/CAMPING GROUND AT THE ROSS BEACH

CAMPING & PARKING AT THE EMPIRE HOTEL

ALSO CAMPING AREA FOR SELF CONTAINED VEHICLES IN ROSS

The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non self-contained vehicles, do you agree?

Yes, I agree     No, I do not agree

Tell us why:



The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Is there any sites that you oppose?

Yes, there are sites I disagree with     No, the proposed sites are acceptable

Tell us why:

Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Councillors to consider?

Please scan and email this form to the Council - Email: [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

Or drop in to Westland District Council, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika 7811

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 8:21 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Graham Berry

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

Fox Glacier Highway, Franz Josef / Waiiau, New Zealand  
 307/ Fox Glacier Highway

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

Perivale Farm Ltd

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Very confusing for tourists and locals to understand what areas can be used or cant be and with previous experience with such tourists say we can park where we like and/or we cant understand it.

I would like to see all Westland to not have any freedom camping sites... if locals want to do it on there land let them

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

This was a case we had when i was community chairperson in 2017 at our FJCC meeting , Our community council has had numerous complaints about the freedom camping that is going on down at Docherty's Creek.

I have been in contact with the Westland District Council and met up with one of their staff this morning to have a look at this situation.

This morning there were 64 vehicles camped up or parked up when we got there and of that only 18 were self contained.

The main issues with this site is IT IS NOT A CAMPING GROUND and has no toilets - a lot of toilet paper and what you use toilet paper for, in piles around the edge and along Docherty's Creek. Also it is a gravel pit used by roading companies for storing road chip and gravel for when it is required.

They have been reports of these people cleaning themselves in the creek with soaps and shampoos.

The Gravel Pit will be CLOSED OFF from anyone being able to get into it asap and gates will be installed at a later date.

We are trying to keep our region a beautiful tidy area.

Another thing is the aggressive nature they are when the camp is full - they have money they flew to NZ the majority do skydives, guiding trips and jetboat rides and bungees so they can fork out \$40 to stay at an establishment that pay rates and taxes to get NZ rolling over.

The idiots that drive up private roads/farm lands that think they can park there is annoying also

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

All of them

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

They arent looking after the establishments that pay rates and tax to keep NZ rolling over so you would think that this would be the first thing you want to do to keep businesses afloat and happy

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 10:19 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Rick Fennell

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

150 Ross Beach Road,

**Township**

Ross

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission in the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I agree with the bylaw prohibiting freedom camping within the town boundaries of Ross as we already have a NZMCA POP (park over property), camping facilities at the Empire Hotel, Top 10 motor camp and Ross is only a 15 minute drive from DOC camps at Lake Mahinapua and Lake lanthe.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

I agree as long as it can be controlled so that no non-self-contained vehicles are camping where there is no facilities, and I have no idea on how this can be achieved given the length of the coast.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

As long as they can be monitored

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

I would also like council to consider extending the Ross boundary to include the Ross Cemetery (no brainer), Ross Beach Road from Woolhouse Road to the beach and Station road

from the Totara River to Ross Beach Road (this area was in the previous bylaw and the sign is still there). The carpark at the end of Ross Beach Road has just about been eroded away to nothing and is also on the boundary of the Top 10 Motor Camp. In the past this has been a popular spot for campers who think they can still get the view and save a buck. There are no toilet facilities here and human faeces along the beach track is a common thing and now with the reduced size it is not feasible.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 12:46 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Dakaya Brown

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

11 Cron Street

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Massive safety concerns being placed so close to the helipads and Wilderness Tours equipment. Additionally having difficulty seeing the point in having “Kea Proof Bins” put in recently to stop Kea from getting into the bins and eating rubbish, then to go and allow freedom camping (which will definitely bring about trash strewn all along the helicopter area and wider Franz.

I personally have found freedom campers here in the process of dumping all their trash on my property or others bins, or just dumping where they’re parked and running off.

Additionally they don’t stick to “areas” outlined, once you allow some then they all come. We currently from what I find don’t have the backup or structure in the town to be able to introduce a new element to the town.

Instead of trying to bring in MORE people into the community, why is there no focus on the scrub and brush along the highways and roads? Why is there no focus on the roads or breaking footpaths?

Why is there no support to build something to benefit the community eg; the children that live down here? The young teens that live down here? The elderly that live down here? Currently you can only do many of the things in Franz if you are a spry youngster that is capable of doing

the walking tracks and hikes, if not you've got no options.

I personally would like to see the Westland Council make an effort to integrate with the community and LISTEN to what we need rather than make a proposal and hide all the information and make it difficult for us to say no.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Stated Above, doesn't matter if self contained or non-self contained, we've already seen the results of freedom camping down here.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Essentially opening expansion of opportunity for people that will briefly be here to ruin the landscape and area while the people that live here are left to deal with the pickup and cleanup.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Safety Concerns

Cleanliness Concerns (Litter)

Hygiene Concerns (Crapping in the nearby area to their camper)

Community Concerns (Takes away business from already struggling businesses down here.)



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 6:10 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

O Vincent

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

16 Waiho Flat Rd

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Because I don't believe the cost of freedom camping should be imposed on the local community.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Because non-self-contained vehicles put greater pressure on rate-payer funded facilities.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

I believe the heliport in Franz Josef is not an appropriate location for freedom camping.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Franz Josef has enough low-cost camping available, negating the need for freedom camping in this location.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 12:47 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Brianna Clarke

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

Pyke Farm, Gibb Road, Waiho Flat Road

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I think putting this freedom camping park in the middle of town will create more carnage for the helicopter companies and The wilderness tours trying to get their customers in and out of this parking bay.

It will create more disruption than anything. Freedom camping spot should be put on the outskirts of town like McDonalds or even the Glacier Viewpoint carpark so it is out of the way.

There will be more problems having everyone there fighting over parks or complaints about the helicopters being noisy.

I do not think this should be put here.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

There are not enough rubbish bins in town to support this project, it is creating more problems and will attract the Kea's in summer more as they will be able to get more food out of tourists.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

It will create too much havoc in town and likely increase crashes on the intersection there.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Alicia Paulsen

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 12:55 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Janelle Shaw

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

63 Cron St

**Township**

Franz Josef / Waiau

**Organisation**

Ngai Tahu Tourism - Westland Tourism

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

We do not support

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

We do not support

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Yes there are sites we disagree with

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

We request that the bylaw prohibits freedom camping at the following sites:

\* Within 100m of any Site and Area of Significance to Maori (SASM) as defined in the draft Te Tai o Poutini Plan. Council is required to give immediate effect to the provisions of the TTPP.

\* Within 1km of wahi taonga, specifically Hunts Beach, Makaawhio, Mahitahi, Douglas Creek (Haast Pass Highway) and Jackson River. We request that this is applied consistent with the fossicking provisions of Te Runanga o Makaawhio Pounamu Management Plan, which prohibits all public fossicking within our wahi taonga.

\* Within 1km of urupa at Mahitahi.

\* Within 500m of the Tohu Whenua, Te Kopikopiko o te Waka, at Cook Flat, Fox Glacier.

\* Within 500m of any waterway, i.e. stream, river, lagoon or lake within Ngati Mahaki rohe.

\* Within the confines of Okahu/Jackson Bay.

\* Anywhere within the confines of the Manakaiaua River to 1km south of the Mahitahi River.

\* Within 5km of all commercial campgrounds.

Additionally, the Franz Josef Heliport car park should not be designated as a restricted freedom camping area due to significant health, safety, and access concerns. Freedom camping at this site would hinder operations, cause congestion, and potentially impact emergency services. Additionally, the car park's proximity to business operational areas and infrastructure makes it unsuitable for overnight camping, even with restrictions. Maintaining the heliport for its intended use is crucial for the safety and functionality of this critical area.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 1:02 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Allan Glen

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

15Cowan Street

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

There is 4 Campervan Parks in the Franz Josef township 2 are privately owned.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

I have seen where freedom campers stay and the area is not very clean lots of rubbish left lying around even on the road sides.

Is the cancel going to reimburse the Campervan Owners for loss of trade / turnover.

They have out layed a lot of money to set up there sites / businesses.

They will be a Health and Safety risk to the Helicopter companies which are in the designated areas.

Why do the ratepayers need to pay for this in there rates when we are already being charged for. If the cancel wants to approve this by law then they should fund this not the local ratepayers, we are paying enough now for not much in return.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

The area of South Westland is very tidy now give it time and it will become a rubbish dump if this goes ahead.

Even now in the local campervan sites the visitors cannot put the rubbish and recycling in the right bins, we need to go in and check and separate the items to the right bins they do not care. They bring rubbish from the area they last visited and fill up all our bins then we get charged by the local council for dumping fees.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Think of the people / ratepayers in your electorate they are paying enough now don't burden them with more costs there is 4 Campervan parks in the Franz Josef township that should be enough for the campervan parks to manage the visitors.

The Freedom campers just want to pay nothing or next to nothing for their trip if they are not happy to pay a bit more they can travel on to Hokitika and dump their rubbish there.

## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 1:10 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Tanja Bartsch

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Ruining the orange sheep and doc campsite which are already reasonable priced

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Non self contained will trash the place - who's cleaning after them

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 1:28 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Jim Xiao

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

34 Cron Street

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

Bella Vista Franz Josef Glacier

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

Other

**Tell us why**

I would only support when there is a strict rules and practical practice to restrict the behaviors of freedom campers making environmental pollutions or pressures to the local residence. They are known throwing rubbishes in the bush, in the residents' or business' private rubbish or recycle bins.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

West coast has some extreme weathers and it changes quickly, it is not safe to camp off road. Waste management is also a challenge.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 6:16 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Fiona

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

30 Aylmer street, Ross

**Township**

Ross

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I do not agree with this by law.

I own my home, which is situated and backs on to the Ross lake.

Many freedom campers take advantage of this beautiful area, often leaving rubbish which I personally clean up. The concerns is those freedom campers, do void in this area through the night. They do have a sticker on the van, to indicate they have a portable toilet. However the reality is they do void through the night where they stay. My family do alot of activities in this area as we have children.

The concerns are healthy and safety with there excreta. We have quite a few options in Ross , for tourists to stay at more so keeping the unwanted rubbish and human waste manged for my family and others using the area. For our own well-being of health and safety. We can have up to 5 plus cars/Van's a night in summer time. I can support this with photos if required.

Kind regards Regards Fiona

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

## Tell us why

### **Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

These bylaws do not support small community's. This needs to be taken consideration as these freedom campers in our town sleep, leave rubbish and excreta and move on. I'm currently in Europe and there is no free toilet system it's pay as you go, no freedom camping. Only free free thing is the underground water that comes from the fountains.

NZ, needs to be more proactive in looking after what we have in our beautiful NZ 🇳🇿

## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 8:42 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Abby Clement

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

759 Kumara Junction Highway

**Township**

Hokitika

**Organisation**

AC/PC Farming Ltd

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Freedom camping tourism has a significant contribution to local economy

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Hokitika Sunset point restrictions seem a bit severe - if limiting to 8pm-7am why not allow the whole carpark to be used by campers.

These restricted areas are located around urban townships but please consider adding additional prohibited areas in the bylaw as below.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Please consider adding "Six mile road" to prohibited area list (and would support other similar "paper" roads or narrow beach access roads having protections). This road is a public access way through our farm and both reason 2 & 3 are applicable to prohibit stays (health and safety - there are livestock often transiting the area; high risk of blocking access with freedom

camping - this is a small access road to beach, campers would easily block others from accessing that beach as is a narrow area and is also sandy so we have had to occasionally had to tow them out). Thanks for considering.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 9:40 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Dale Burrows

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

2328B Franz Josef highway,  
 Franz Josef,  
 7886

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

Franz Josef Wilderness Tours

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

Other

**Tell us why**

As long as the sites are outside of the town areas and the site is monitored as well as any other surrounding areas which are prone to freedom campers

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Human waste in a public areas id not acceptable and this has proven to be an issue in the past so I can't see why it would change now

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

The site proposed in Franz Josef is not suitable and I have concerns around the risk to my business and property located next to this site. We are operating Quad bikes and ATVs in close proximity to the proposed sight and have concerns of people entering into our area of operation both inside and outside of our operating hours.

I am also concerned about the levels of pollution in this area that will occur due to freedom campers in the area.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

If you are going to move forward with the freedom camping bylaws then you should consult with communities to come up with an area that everyone (or most) can agree on

## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 November 2024 1:07 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Tracy Harris

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

2902 Franz Josef Highway  
 Franz Josef

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

Franz Josef TOP 10

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Franz Josef has had a tough time with road closures and weather events that have significantly impacted our business with cancellation etc. Letting campers freedom camp right in town is taking our protentional income. A lot of the tourist that stay don't respect the facilities they pay for let alone being able to camp for free.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

As above. Our overheads to run our business are relying on the tourists to come and stay with us.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Any freedom camp from Hari Hari down to Haast. Especially Franz Josef area.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Consider people livelihoods and how much they have invested in there businesses.



**Rachel Evans**

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Saturday, 23 November 2024 4:44 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Stephen Harris

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

29 Cross Street Waikuku Beach

**Township**

Waikuku Beach

**Organisation****Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why****The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why****The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why****Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

**Rachel Evans**

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 3:00 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Lez Morgan

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

239E Keogans Rd  
RD 2

**Township**

Hokitika

**Organisation****Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission in the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

See submission document attached.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

See attached submission document further down in link.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Submission on Freedom Camping 2024  
Lez Morgan

Freedom Camping – there is nothing ‘free’ about it. Ratepayers and holiday park business’s fund it through their rates and councils must monitor and clean up afterwards. I do not see the ‘free’ in that.

Is there an actual requirement for Freedom Camping in Westland? Whether we like it or not the Freedom Camping Act 2011 ensures that all councils cannot outlaw Freedom Camping

within their regulatory area. (Although there is no provision within the Act to provide a minimum or maximum number of locations.)

Upon reading the FC Act 2011 it has certain laws and sub laws that work in any council's favour along with past historical knowledge and our remote location I fully believe Westland District Council can limit its exposure to Freedom Camping.

Our historical knowledge from the issues in late 2018 and early 2019 would enable council to fully make use of section 10 A (2) (b) and section 11 (2) (b)

: Appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the PERCIEVED problem in that area.

That surely stops Freedom Camping at Kakapotahi at a stroke; I doubt council wants the adverse media attention and ratepayer ire again, does it?

Yet the proposed bylaw allows completely unrestricted Freedom Camping with no limitation on vehicle numbers allowing a complete free for all.

Having visited the proposed site on Saturday 16 November 2024 I found the far top left corner proposed nothing more than a swamp of standing water in churned up mud. Yet we are supposed to believe campers will self-regulate their own numbers.

Again, on reading a review of the proposed site I came across this statement: "Large enough area for a dozen large vehicles". (Beach Road Freedom Camping review by 'Steve E' Local Guide.)

Yet this site is down an extended single dirt track with no passing or turn-a-rounds and accessed by a restricted bridge. Has WDC not considered the size of today's modern camper vans and leisure vehicles within its own bylaw?

Caravans mostly twin axled are now reaching lengths of 12.5 meters and weighing 6,000kgs being towed by 4 x4 recreational vehicles of 6.5m average length and weighing in at 3,000kgs. So that is 19.5m vehicle weighing over 9,000kgs (which coincidentally is a Class 2 licence requirement in New Zealand.) We also have motor homes which are twin axled at 9 meters length and these types of vehicles are frequently on our roads. So, with limited space available imagine a 19.5m vehicle trying to turn around or a 9m campervan trying to turn around in this space. These twin axled vehicles will just drag themselves around ripping up the ground as they rotate tyres.

These campervans also have huge awnings often extending 5m out from a caravan. Therefore, parked up could be a 6.5 m long x 2.5 m wide 4x4. Then a 12.5m x 2.85m wide caravan with an awning of 5m making it a 12.5m x 8m space equalling 116.25 square metres for just one vehicle and a caravan on a site with no restrictions on the number of vehicles, type, size or weight. (Examples: [www.sunmarketing.co.nz](http://www.sunmarketing.co.nz) and [www.deluxgroup.co.nz](http://www.deluxgroup.co.nz) )

Why is the bylaw not having height restrictions on sites? Should be simple enough to create a restricted entrance of 3m wide by 3m high to stop these behemoths entering and causing damage to any site whilst allowing access to some.

That along with Acre Creek became the Freedom Camping nightmare for council in 2016 – 2019 with council misguided interference and enablement of Freedom Campers making matters worse for residents.

As then, Councilor Lash said, "New sites were set up with good intentions but had turned into something that was causing a problem for locals. I think that an understatement. Although another councilor was more honest, "The council had made a mistake and should have spoken to tourism operators before setting up the sites."

As Mayor Lash related in the council workshop in October 24 referencing Acre Creek, "We gave them toilets and they still used the undergrowth as a toilet." Think that proved the point that some of these Freedom Campers are beyond help.

The National Government is all about localism with the Prime Minister stating "Centralism over localism doesn't work", describing centralism as, "a robbery of power and control from local communities." This he further iterated at his Waitangi speech in 2024 stating, "We, like you, believe in localism and devolution not centralism and control."

So, Westland Council should be able to use this devolution to its advantage as localism is about harnessing the power, knowledge, skills and views of local people to strengthen decision making. So again, when Mayor Lash in the Freedom and Camping workshop suggested, “We can’t just not have it (meaning Freedom Camping) because the ratepayers don’t want it” isn’t correct. Her statement is erroneous and goes against the Government’s localism statement.

The local ratepayers do not want it because they have lived experience of it with knowledge of the damage it causes.

Local holiday park businesses should be supported by council and not have their income destroyed by a bylaw that pillages their income stream.

We now find the High Courts are also protecting not only Freedom Campers but the NZMCA with its rulings. In a recent case taken against Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) by the NZCMA when QLDC allowed the ruling the council was given ten days to present more evidence, but the NZMCA was given twenty days. The outcome was QLDC cited “irrelevant matters” such as effects of economic impact upon commercial campgrounds and effects on private property values and amenities. Seemingly local ratepayers and businesses are expected to bear the full cost of a minority group’s desire to Freedom Camp anywhere they want.

Every ratepayer in New Zealand is now behold to the NZCMA and its members? That seems extremely iniquitous to me as a ratepayer.

<https://wanakaapp.nz/NewsStory/council-stops-enforcing-freedom-camping-legal-costs-mount/672aff74760b9d05640a0074>

Is it not time ALL councils banded together and as one riled up against the NZMCA and its aggressive stance towards council bylaws? One organisation of limited membership should not have the power to influence council policies in contradiction to local ratepayer and business sentiment.

To further make council decisions more difficult is the new Campervan Self Contained Regulations which should make all campervans fully compliant by December 7, 2024. Yet in a news article by RNZ 20 Oct 24 the Rental Vehicle Association Chief Executive Ben Mc Faden paints a very different picture. A picture of less than half the seven thousand strong rental fleet being fitted, corners being cut in fitment standards, with “shoddy” being his term used – the certification process having “varying degrees of quality” and then to compound matters traded vehicles online; “You look on Facebook, I am seeing two or three vehicles a day being sold that are supposedly green warranted but when you look at the photos it’s really shoddy ...I mean who on earth certified them? So, we are going to get flooded with a whole heap of s\*\*\*campers out there”.

Then, Mad Campers manager Andy Haslett bemoaning the date of compliance also, “I think the new regulations have completely missed the mark. They have effectively taken the industry backwards in terms of standards.” (Although his costs estimated at one thousand dollars per van might be his real issue.)

Yet we read that due to lack of compliance by motorhome owners around getting certified the Government is considering relaxing the 2025 date to be complied by as only an estimated 1,500 of the 68,000 privately owned motor homes are compliant in NZ.

<https://nzmc.co.nz/stories/guides/practical-advice-self-contained-certification-rule-changes/>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/531350/campervan-firms-object-to-high-cost-december-deadline-for-vehicle-changes>

Clearly there is a pattern appearing of a government trying to implement change without proper oversight, a campervan rental industry at odds with compliance and costs with councils being asked to enforce Freedom Camping bylaws with no support from any party.

Aside from the larger issues I found the councils workshop on Freedom Camping very narrow

in its scope aside from the consultant's presentation most of the time was spent in discussion as to what possible sites were "in" or "out".

In this two-hour meeting nobody raised any thoughts as to Civil Defence and the real possibility of the Alpine Fault rupturing and the consequences for not only ratepayers but tourists Freedom Camping. We know we are on borrowed time with this. I would have thought council requirement under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 section 10A (2) (a) (ii) and section 11 (2) (a) (ii)

: Protect the Health and Safety of People who may visit

So, what does the Council's Civil Defence manager have to say about having Freedom Campers parked up in random isolated locations because that is what Freedom Campers do. Rules do not apply to these campers – they will put themselves in danger for a free night of camping.

I am sure under Te Arohanui Cook when she was Civil Defence Group Controller council would have been advised of the numerous Civil Defence issues caused by rogue Freedom Campers and the strain placed on Civil Defence trying to locate people whose location is vague, contact ability would be negligible after an earthquake of the magnitude predicted by AF8. Civil Defence staff would be placed in danger to rescue those whose sole aim is to avoid compliance to the rules and payment to holiday parks.

Along with current weather events as like 8-9th November 2024 with multiple closures of State Highway 6 from Ross to Makaroa as highlighted on social media how can WDC ensure the safety of Freedom Campers in adverse weather conditions when these tourists appear to actively avoid engagement with safe and compliant camping sites thus placing themselves and others at risk. As the mayor declared a Civil Defence Emergency on the 9th of November 2024 was there any warning to tourists Freedom Camping and was there any stoppage of tourists accessing Freedom Camping in this declared emergency – and if not, will there be in the future for Freedom Camping tourists? How will WDC support Health and Safety for Freedom Camping tourists in our region in the future? What will this look like and how much will it cost the ratepayer?

Highlighted also this weekend whereby campgrounds in Haast being evacuated in darkness and one tourist location having tourists be evacuated by helicopter when the weather cleared. Does Westland need to have yet another tourist tragedy as befell a couple some years ago at the Gates of Haast before the message about extreme climactic weather events finally sinks in and that camping is limited to safe, monitored holiday park locations where every soul can be accounted for. [https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/young-lives-swept-away/CPTHFECPS4MH4BWXDYC2DBI2IY/#google\\_vignetteWek](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/young-lives-swept-away/CPTHFECPS4MH4BWXDYC2DBI2IY/#google_vignetteWek)

We read on WDC and the Deputy mayor's social media of continued road closures yet irate tourists unaware and certainly unwilling to accept these roads are at the mercy of mother nature because it is affecting their holiday.

Need council be reminded that Southern Westland falls within the UNESCO World Heritage sites and is described as outstanding universal value – the value of this area not only to New Zealand but the world is beyond measure due to it being mostly untouched and unspoiled by mankind. Yet our council would see fit to allow Freedom Campers to desecrate this UNESCO area at will by enabling Freedom Campers to camp within it.

The very thought is shameful.

Freedom Camping should be banned in its entirety from Whataroa south.

WDC only needs to look at another UNESCO park, Yosemite in California. Camping is allowed within this UNESCO park yet under strict guidelines ( [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)) some of which are:

- Only at authorised campgrounds
- Must be pre booked
- Camping only at these sites
- No camping on the roadside

- No sleeping in car or recreational vehicle unless within an authorized camping ground
- Ninety three percent of respondents did not want camping on Oregon beaches see link below:
- <https://www.oregonlive.com/travel/2024/11/beach-camping-is-banned-in-another-oregon-coast-town.html>

Yet WDC will allow anyone the opportunity to just park up and desecrate a World Heritage Site without question. Just shameful and shows how out of touch with reality the author of the bylaw is. Just shows a complete acquiescence to the NZMCA Members and not to nature and heritage.

Freedom Camping is not just an issue here in New Zealand as other countries struggle also with the consequences of allowing this to occur.

Here are some headlines from Australia:

Tour guide calls out Aussie caravan boom after shameful find at outback camping sites.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/tour-guide-calls-out-aussie-caravan-boom-after-shameful-find-at-outback-camping-sites>

Illegal camping spirals as council takes compassionate approach to growing problem.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/sad-truth-behind-illegal-camping-crackdown-across-australia-getting-worse-063524023.html>

Rows of campervans by waterfront draw ire from locals at Noosa Heads.

<https://www.sunshinecoastnews.com.au/2024/10/11/rows-of-campervans-by-waterfront-draw-ire-from-locals/>

New restrictions target illegal campers. <https://www.thegreynomads.com.au/stealth-7/>

Waterfront camping issue stirs debate.

<https://www.sunshinecoastnews.com.au/2024/10/16/your-say-waterfront-camping-issue-stirs-debate/>

Growing backlash against lazy campers. <https://au.news.yahoo.com/campers-bitter-rant-highlights-growing-tourist-problem-along-aussie-coast-060652910.html>

Campers banned from another NSW spot. <https://au.news.yahoo.com/campers-bitter-rant-highlights-growing-tourist-problem-along-aussie-coast-060652910.html>

From England:

Fury as campervans that enraged locals in seaside town set up in a GRAVEYARD causing parking chaos for heartbroken mourners. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13971107/campervans-seaside-town-GRAVEYARD-parking.html>

Charges considered to stop seafront campervan encampment.

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/sheerness/news/charges-considered-to-stop-seafront-campervan-encampment-313881/>

Residents call for campervan parking restrictions.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c255q9w8z75o>

Motorhomes slapped with 18-month parking bans.

<https://www.gbnews.com/lifestyle/cars/motorhome-parking-ban-seafront-yorkshire>

Promenade plagued with motor homes and vans – residents.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c511xl227yyo>

The sea front is not a camp site. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/uknews/29746748/white-wall-caravans-beaches-locals-moan-seafront-campsite/>

New rules to stop motorhomes from parking overnight along St. Annes (Blackpool).

[https://www.google.com/search?q=New+rules+to+stop+motorhomes+from+parking+overnight+along+St.+Annes+\(Blackpool\).&rlz](https://www.google.com/search?q=New+rules+to+stop+motorhomes+from+parking+overnight+along+St.+Annes+(Blackpool).&rlz)

Coastal beauty spot is plunged into furious motorhomes row as locals accuse tourists of turning roads into campsites and dumping grounds.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13723569/Coastal-beauty-spot-plunged-furious-motorhomes-row-locals-accuse-tourists-turning>

From Wales:

Llanberis lagoons 'free-for-all' exposes harsh truths about campervan invasion.

<https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/llanberis-lagoons-free-all-exposes-29272859>

Popular Welsh beach erects barriers to stop motorhomes.

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/popular-welsh-beach-erects-barriers-28610536>

From Scotland:

Scottish beauty spot risks being destroyed by wild camping – Glencoe

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/24617681.glencoe-scottish-beauty-spot-risks-destroyed-wild-camping/>

Then finally from the UK Climbing website the Scottish Highlands bare the brunt of –

“Rubbish, human waste, drink and drug fuelled anti-social behaviour, abandoned tents, felled trees and a proliferation of fire pits.”

[https://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/opinions/free\\_access\\_versus\\_conservation\\_-\\_a\\_delicate\\_balance-12984](https://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/opinions/free_access_versus_conservation_-_a_delicate_balance-12984)

Is this what we can look forward to under a new Freedom Camping bylaw? Mayor Lash is correct in the statement, “Once this gets a foothold back in, we are going to have a hard job stopping it”.

If WDC provides Freedom Camping sites does this bring council under Camping Grounds Regulations 1985 (SR 1985/261) If so, how will council comply with:

Section 6 (2)

Section 9 (1) (a-f)

Section 9 (1) (c) (d) (f) – how will council enforce and comply with these especially?

What of the costs of the enforcements? There is no mention of costs to the ratepayers of enforcement. How could a bylaw be put out for submission with so little information about enforcement or costs there of? Even the vague statement by the mayor of “could be thousands on rates” doesn’t inspire much faith that WDC had a full understanding of the projected yearly costs. Yet again more scope to limit the access to as few sites as necessary. Ratepayers should not be funding holidays for the NZMCA membership or whomever wants to park on a layby on a whim.

What can we also expect when our cemeteries have been included as places where Freedom Campers can park up without consequence? Has this council learnt nothing from the issues at Warrington Domain in Dunedin in 2016? Freedom Campers engaged in unsavoury practices on and around the urupa. [https://www.nzherald.co.nz/kahu/outrage-over-human-waste-dumped-on-maori-burial-ground-at-dunedins-warrington-domain/X3YE6QRLXDPTHWVLIHW4VR4RIE/#google\\_vignette](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/kahu/outrage-over-human-waste-dumped-on-maori-burial-ground-at-dunedins-warrington-domain/X3YE6QRLXDPTHWVLIHW4VR4RIE/#google_vignette)

Also, the same issues arising more recently in England with campers setting up in a cemetery. <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/council-start-legal-action-over-9698977> (See England references also in this submission.)

BBC News highlighted Freedom Camping in the Western Isles was banned from 29 November 2022 Camping in Western Isles cemeteries to be banned yet a year later loved ones still could not access the deceased due to Freedom Campers. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-63795034>

[www.pressandjournal.co.uk](http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk) 18 September 2023 quote, “a raucous crowd sitting partying feet away from the cemetery”. Is this what we can expect at Ross Cemetery and other rural cemeteries due to WDC’s inability to write a comprehensive bylaw banning Freedom Camping from all but the most limited of sites?

I believe that with the right balance using the Freedom Camping Act, historical knowledge lack of Government support and finally localism by listening to ratepayers and holiday park businesses and their concerns council can produce a bylaw that reflects all the issues raised and provide only three Freedom Camping areas. Two in the local community that were raised

at the council workshop as being of value and Woodstock Domain which Councillor Burden spoke of in glowing terms.

Why have so many Freedom Camping sites appeared in the bylaw when the council workshop only suggested three? The discussion around the table seemed in agreement and yet this proposed bylaw has multitudinous sites. Has the author of the WDC bylaw been overly influenced by the council's ideology driven consultants – Thrive Spaces and Places? Those same consultants who are heavily linked to the NZMCA? Has this bylaw been written to support them rather than our region with its rich heritage and natural beauty?

Why also had WDC allowed the previous bylaw to lapse? I believe it can be reviewed at any time yet WDC is again chasing its tail and allowing Freedom Campers the upper hand and unfair opportunities by not having a current bylaw.

After that there is no requirement. Hokitika has SIX holiday parks and a Kiwicamp within a 4.8kms radius of Weld Street. All other small townships and communities heading south have holiday parks and locally run camping. Then there is the consideration of us being UNESCO world heritage site and I would assume that almost sacrilegious to enable Freedom Camping within that area.

I appeal to council to put Westland, and its people first and not repeat the tragic failure of 2019 when Westland was the wild west of Freedom Camping. The bylaw as currently written is nothing more than a free pass to the NZMCA and its members to desecrate Westland without consequence affecting our land, our waterways, our parks and our UNESCO World Heritage Site.

WDC and the author of this bylaw should hang their collective heads in shame.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Lez Morgan

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Refer to uploaded document in this submission.



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 3:26 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Louise Morgan

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

239E Keogans Road, RD 2, Hokitika  
 RD 2

**Township**

Hokitika

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

This will cause more issues than it will solve. No mention of cost to ratepayer mentioned. Who will clean up rubbish and police this? Inference of volunteers to do this is laughable. Even more comical is inference that camping fraternity will police themselves and leave only footprints. These freedom campers are selfish users who spend very little in the townships where they squat for free on land they dump their vans or cars on in order to eat pot noodles and be annoying to local residents and leave poo in bushes with toilet paper trails.

This is a UNESCO world heritage site - we should not involve Freedom Campers.

I fully endorse the submission document as written by Lez Morgan and sent to the council in his submission on Freedom Camping Bylaw.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Very few of the freedom camping hired vans or privately owned vans are self contained ready for the new laws in 2025. They will not all magically be ready by June 2025 either. They will start breaking the rules from now on as they do not care about local residents who live in the towns and communities where they are simply squatting with their filthy little beds on wheels in local beauty spots so they can avoid spending any money on official campsites. These sort of

tourists are not what Westlanders need. We need high end tourists who spend in shops and local businesses, dine in restaurants and pubs locally and more to the point pay to stay in our accommodation residencies and verified camp sites. If they can afford to come to this country from overseas places like UK and Europe and America they can jolly well pay to live nicely in proper camp site environments or hotels instead of acting like filthy, unwashed, noodle eating, bush-shitting vulgar nerds they mostly are.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

We have plenty of fee paying commercial camp site businesses in this region. We do not require freedom campsites.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

If the bylaw is supported and i ever encounter any freedom camping happening in any of our Westland cemeteries i will personally hold Mayor Lash responsible.

Our dead are sacred in all cemeteries in Westland.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 6:11 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Sharon

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 6:29 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Elin Gatica

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Having extensive experience in both tourism and hospitality, I am confident that offering a free campsite for customers will significantly benefit our town. Initially, campsite owners might find this challenging, but the long-term advantages are substantial.

1. **\*\*Extended Stays\*\***: Providing a free campsite will encourage tourists to stay longer in town, knowing they have a guaranteed place to stay without the hassle of booking elsewhere. This will increase their overall spending in local businesses.
2. **\*\*Winter Tourism Boost\*\***: My partner, who works in hospitality, often finds it difficult to attract customers during the winter season. By offering free campsites, we can entice tourists to visit even in the off-season, ensuring a steady flow of visitors year-round.
3. **\*\*Economic Growth\*\***: Increased tourist stays will lead to more spending in local shops, restaurants, and attractions, boosting the town's economy. This initiative can transform our town from a transient stop to a sought-after destination.
4. **\*\*Community Engagement\*\***: This initiative will foster a sense of community and collaboration among local businesses, as they work together to enhance the tourist experience.

5. **\*\*Positive Publicity\*\***: Offering free campsites can generate positive publicity and word-of-mouth recommendations, attracting even more visitors in the long run.

By implementing this strategy, we can ensure that our town thrives throughout the year, making it a vibrant and welcoming destination for all.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

No, I do not agree with the Proposed Bylaw allowing freedom camping for both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles. This type of freedom camping should be restricted to only certified self-contained campervans.

**\*\*Reasons:\*\***

1. **\*\*Maintaining Cleanliness\*\***: Limiting freedom camping to certified self-contained vehicles will help keep our town clean and free from waste, as these vehicles are equipped with proper waste disposal systems.

2. **\*\*Supporting Campsite Owners\*\***: By restricting freedom camping to certified self-contained campervans, we can ensure that campsite owners receive the necessary support and business, as non-self-contained campers would need to use designated campsites with appropriate facilities.

3. **\*\*Environmental Protection\*\***: This restriction will help protect our natural environment from the potential negative impacts of non-self-contained camping, such as littering and improper waste disposal.

4. **\*\*Enhanced Visitor Experience\*\***: Ensuring that only certified self-contained vehicles are allowed will provide a better experience for all visitors, as they will have access to clean and well-maintained camping areas.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

no more comments

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 6:40 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Aarron Gilbert

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

7 Ferguson Place,  
 Franz Josef

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

My wife and I have been members of the NZ Motorhome and Caravan Association and in our years of travel around NZ in our motorhome we have found countless issues with freedom camping areas.

I believe having freedom campers in Franz Josef will greatly degrade the cleanliness of our town. The proposed area is a walk to far from toilets for those whom often decide to use their surroundings wherever they are as an outdoor toilet.

Waste and rubbish is of concern as there is often a lot of wet wipes and other rubbish left in these freedom camping locations. While in Motueka 4yrs ago a German freedom camper was dealt with by police after using a neighbouring property as his toilet even after being warned twice to cease this behaviour.

The maintaining of the cleanliness of the freedom camping area coupled with the hassles of trying to police the by-law rules is something I believe would be too much for our town let alone the significant impact this freedom camping would have on local accommodation providers.

There are already several low cost accommodation providers here so why impact businesses that provide such fantastic facilities for those on a tight budget!

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

As stated above we have accommodation providers here in Franz Josef that already cater for both self contained and non self contained vehicles so let's not impact our local businesses.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

The proposed site in the car park beside the Franz Josef helipad is ridiculous. This is too close to a very restricted area and an area which should never have freedom camping any where near it, let alone have the rubbish left by freedom campers left near such a crucial tourism departure point for our town.

I work within the aviation tourism industry here in Franz Josef and it shocks me that the council would even consider having a freedom camping spot in this location. Who would want to go on a flight of a lifetime where the walk to the helicopter would or could have our key visitors walking past areas dedicated by those trying to skimp on paying a mere \$50 per night for a site's with all key facilities.

These facilities are here, they are as affordable as you can get in a tourist town and they bring in revenue. Don't fold to those trying to see NZ on a budget far too low. Choosing to do so will significantly affect our fantastic accommodation providers.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 7:41 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Tracy McFarlane

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

70 scully road whataroa

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Yes I believe this is a great idea as we have a lot of tourists and I believe there is room for this too

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

I think they need to have their own toilet shower unless one is provided in the area if camping

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

I believe gas BBQ with a 2 dollar coin to work them around the area is a great idea like they have in central otago



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 7:44 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Jose Timmerman

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

254 Sewell Street

**Township**

Hokitika

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

Other

**Tell us why**

I do support, however there are things that need to be considered carefully.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

If not self contained, there need to be toilet facilities that people can use.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

I would like to see that the sites are situated next to facilities, such as a local shop, hotel, cafe, petrol station. This way there is a level of oversight, facilities that can be used, and it benefits the local business and communities.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Consideration needs to be given to tourists contributions such as voluntary donations being received.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 8:27 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

John cordell

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

**Township**

Franz josef glacier

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

They are plenty of well managed cheap DOC camp grounds on the coast. Dont under cut local buisness and dont undercut doc. We need to extract wealth from travelers and letting them stay in the middle of town for free is absurd. I think the fact that this is even a discussion is a disappointing waste of my rates! Its just not in anyones best interest.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Non-selfcontained vehicles should always use a paid camp site.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Franz josef carpark? What are you thinking? Why shoot yourself in the foot like that?

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

If you are getting paid to go through this proposal process you should be ashamed of yourself. We are not a wealthy region and every moment of your time is valuable. We need drinkable water and function sewer systems more than we need freedom campers at the moment!

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 8:27 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Sara

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Enough camp grounds in Franz Josef, affordable doc camp grounds and lots of others

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

It's not needed and doesn't do any good for the community.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 10:02 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Yanyu Zou

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

41 Sullivan Road

**Township**

Fox Glacier

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

- 1, Limiting Access to Public Spaces
- 2, Economic Impact on Local Business
- 3, Environmental Concerns
- 4, Enforcement and Resource Allocation
- 5, Lack of Consultation

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Non-self-contained vehicles typically do not have the necessary facilities (like toilets or wastewater storage) to manage waste properly. This can result in improper disposal of human waste, litter, and pollution, which can have a significant negative impact on natural environments, public health, and water sources.

Without the proper sanitation facilities, non-self-contained vehicles might encourage unsafe practices such as using public spaces for toileting or disposing of waste improperly. This can create health risks for local communities, especially in high-traffic camping areas.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

It should be fine if there is 6 parkings in Heliport carpark, but it might out of control if there is more.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

It's crucial to think about the long-term sustainability of these policies. While the initial intentions may be to offer greater freedom for campers, the long-term environmental and social impacts of non-self-contained vehicles should be carefully considered to ensure that any gains made in tourism or local revenue do not come at the cost of degrading natural resources or community wellbeing.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 6:34 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Adrian Waters

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

The proposed site is essentially in the middle of our town which is not a good location for this. These site generally end up with rubbish being left by users along with toilet waste. The site will compete with local businesses which should nor have to compete with the proposed site. The site is currently a great asset to the town, there are few locations where public can easily view helicopter operations and this needs to be maintained in a tidy fashion. We currently have three good quality sites that users can pay to use as well as DOC sites which gives us the capacity for these guests to the area without the addition of freedom camping in the middle of town.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Although there are public Toilets close by, it cannot be expected that users of tye site will walk up to the public Toilets in poor weather and at night. This will lead to human waste being left onsite which is unacceptable for a site in the middle of our town.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Rubbish and human waste

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

My main concerns are rubbish and human waste but there is also the business element, South Westland business needs to do well through the summer period to survive, the recent road closure to the south has highlighted how important the tourist dollar is to the region again and this proposal does not help with this. Please do not go ahead with this proposal

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** Emma Rae  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 8:06 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Cc:** Council  
**Subject:** FW: Submission / Freedom camping

Hi Rachel,

Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw submission below.

Kind regards,  
 Emma

**Emma Rae** | Strategy and Communications Advisor  
**Te Kahui o Poutini | Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 +64 3 756 9082 |  +64 27 235 8917 |  emma.rae@westlanddc.govt.nz

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**From:** Better Planet [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 10:56 pm  
**To:** Council <Council.Inbox@westlanddc.govt.nz>; Emma Rae <emma.rae@westlanddc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Submission / Freedom camping

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

Greg Maitland  
 89 Cement Lead rd  
 Blue Spur  
 Hokitika  
 24/11/2024

Submission to Westland District Council  
 I do not object to my submission being freely available to the public.



## Freedom Camping.

I would like to see Cassette portable toilets being acceptable for use by campers in the Westland District. There is no evidence that cassette toilets are less likely to be used as opposed to “Plumbed in toilets” as demanded in order to achieve compliance. However I would also suggest that campers / cyclists be required to carry a small folding shovel and only be allowed to defecate 200 meters from a waterway or established camp site and for any human waste to be responsibly buried

Also for Westland residents to be able to apply for a camping card from WDC ,on completion of an educational assessment on camping in the public estate. With the card to show the registration number of the card holders vehicle.

The registered card holder can then also become an “ Honorary camping ranger that can help with compliance at camping sites and notify a Council compliance officer should the need arise to investigate non compliant campers.

I would encourage WDC to contact the Gisborne District Council in regards to their FC policy . Where campers pay \$10 per night to stay at selected council sites , campers are also issued with a rubbish bag that can be left at a rubbish holding facility at the campsites.

The main objective of my submission is to plead the case for Resident New Zealand Low Income Earners , in that their access to the environment is not eroded by further costs or legislation.

Firstly I would like to point out that the problems arising from freedom camping have largely been caused by unbridled promotion of NZ tourism to the global community without firstly setting in place systems that protect the rights and freedoms of New Zealanders and ensuring the burdens of financial and ecological costs of having excessive numbers of tourist, do not fall on ratepayers and communities .

In the year ended June 2018 3,786,927 tourists visited NZ

Most tourists to NZ , follow a circuit and in the case of the WestCoast of the south island the tourist numbers place a great burden on our ratepayer owned infrastructure, with some centres ,the population is more than doubled. leading to having to employ more Council Compliance officers and the building of extra public facilities, along with costs associated with the disposal of waste.

Our Westland District Council recently reported the cost of servicing a single Female /Male toilet was in the vicinity of \$40,000 per annum.

In 2012 the rates for our dwelling was \$760.00 In 2024 they have increased to \$3849 . This increase in rates also emulates the increase of tourists into NZ up to the covid era

It may be argued by some that the income generated from tourists balances the cost to communities . However that is simply not the case It creates profit for some but for many Westland rate payers it does not

However above all else, the flood of tourism and it's effect on the environment has led not only to an erosion of f an historic freedom to camp by New Zealanders but also a belief by many New Zealanders that anyone travelling in a van with a blue sticker on the rear is a free loader and someone who defecates in the environment

Govt Statistics favourably show that domestic campers are 96% most likely to use an onboard facility. whereas budget international Freedom Campers were less likely to use onboard toilet facilities

The recent proposed increase in a tourist levy gives strong argument for the reinstatement of govt assistance to Councils. With funds distributed to local councils that experience "Hot Spots" areas of significance that are distantly removed from towns for the building of sustainable toilet facilities for camping.

Improve signage indicating the whereabouts of toilet facilities.

Along state highway 73 between Christchurch and Hokitika a 3 hour journey by car there are 13 public toilets not including fuel stations. However 6 of those toilets are DOC toilets that are just off the main highway and are not signposted as such. Could I suggest that all toilets are better signposted on state highways.

Benefits of Freedom camping in NZ.

I was extremely disturbed that in one of the previous Govt discussion documents on FC that the benefits of FC was only described in monetary terms.

It clearly shows a predominance of thinking by successive governments and Councils that policy is governed in monetary evaluations

It is imperative that any legislation surrounding the issue of freedom camping take into account the mental wellbeing of people and families that participate in the activity.

Mental health in NZ is in crisis

For myself and many other campers I know, getting out into the environment away from the stresses of daily life is an immense safety valve for sanity.

For families it helps to create a positive bond between parents and children, (except where the wife is directing the husband where and how to park the van when arriving at a camp spot)

There is a saying that "Kids in Sport Stay out of Court". The same can be said for kids that go camping with their families.

Many family's simply can not afford to stay in camp grounds

To exclude low income families from freedom camping by legislative rules and penalties would be discriminatory and have far reaching effects.

In the Govt general policy statement on Freedom Camping, it stated freedom camping was steadily increasing. This is misinformation. Prior to Covid there were up to 3,786,927 tourists entering NZ per year, the numbers have more than plummeted and will remain so for many many years, due to global monetary crisis and monetary restraints through climate change legislation.

It seems that the horse has bolted and the ones left to suffer the consequences of hindered access to the environment will be everyday New Zealanders

I see many problems with it becoming a minefield of legislation and enforcement. For example a hunter who arrives at his destination in a vehicle maybe up a riverbed or some high country gully then has to pitch a tent 200 metres from the vehicle. Doing so could increase risks to hunters and also leave the vehicle vulnerable to vandalism or theft especially if having to leave it parked on the Highway in remote areas and then there is the problem for enforcement officers. Do they know if someone is actually sleeping in the vehicle? remembering also that if the vehicle is registered and warranted it is legally able to be on the road. I have witnessed a premium camper in a legitimate car park as opposed to one of the 5 designated Freedom camping parks being slapped with a \$200. fine in Napier in the very early hours of the morning when the travellers were actually staying in a 5\* hotel down the road. This was done by a security company making revenue on behalf of themselves and the council and expecting the Van hirers to prove they weren't in the vehicle at the time of the supposed offence. It certainly made for the particular couple a distressing situation.

The bylaw must consider tired drivers who have stopped on their journey for a rest stop. The decision not to stop for fear of an infringement must not be eroded. The burden of proof must lie with the compliance officer. not the driver. Innocent till proven guilty.

The main issue of public concern regarding freedom camping is of people defecating in the environment. An issue both environmental and emotive.

I understand it is very difficult to stop this practice, therefore it appears these proposed new laws are being aimed, not so much as to prosecute for the offence of doing so, but rather prosecute for being in a location during a particular time period on the premise that it could be possible that a person may defecate in the environment, based on the fact that they are parked in a certain location over night.

Essentially criminalising one by default.

I understand, there is no evidence to show campers are more likely to use the natural environment for a toilet during the night than during the daylight hours. However I do understand that legislation could possibly half the incidences with people on site having toilet facilities

Solutions.

At present there is not, to my knowledge (and I have freedom camped extensively with my family) any signage at freedom camping sites as to penalties for inappropriately defecating in the environment.

If there were highly visible signs stating the possibility of a \$1,000 fine, I am sure it would make many travellers think twice and would be a far better option / deterrent than the suggestion that campers may face a large fine just for being in the vicinity

I have previously presented to Westland District Council an idea that a reward of \$500 be offered leading to a conviction of anyone found fly tipping. If the same was offered leading to a conviction for inappropriately defecating in the environment, I'm sure it would go a long way to solving the problem.

Under the bill of Rights All citizens stand as equal. However there are aspects of the Freedom Camping act that are discriminatory There are now many sites throughout the south island on Crown land designated as Nohoanga sites for those of NgaiTahu descent who can camp and live there un-hindered Which I think is a great Idea.

However There are no such places available for others not of Ngai Tahu decent. Council or DOC could designate land for Non maori. Why Not !!

Another point that must be considered in the By-Law is that under the ACT A homeless person can also freedom camp un-hindered which when one considers that most of the young tourist travellers touring NZ don't own a home and are therefore essentially homeless. Should Council attempt to prosecute in a court of Law, Council would lose. Whereas for many of those New Zealanders who have a home yet on a low income and cannot afford the type of Plumbed in toilet facility as stated in the ACT. The Act essentially becomes an ACT of discrimination.

The ACT as it is written will create a legislative nightmare for Councils creating further bureaucracy and agencies would in my mind be typical of the quagmire such regimes promote and is the last thing the stressed out NZ public and ratepayers need.

The environment of NewZealand must never become the privilege of the wealthy such a regime would go against everything of what it means to be a New Zealander  
Education is the best way forward

With Kind Regards

Greg Maitland

## Rachel Evans

---


**From:** Emma Rae  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 8:08 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Cc:** Lesley Crichton  
**Subject:** FW: Responsible camping submission

Hello,

This submission form was picked up by the moderation tool. I have removed and highlighted the moderated word.

Kind regards,  
 Emma

**Emma Rae** | Strategy and Communications Advisor  
**Te Kahui o Poutini | Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |     
 ☎ +64 3 756 9082 | 📞 +64 27 235 8917 | ✉ emma.rae@westlanddc.govt.nz

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz <noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 8:17 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure <infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

**\*\*CONTENT WARNING\*\*** This message may contain offensive content.

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Nathan Healy

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

██████████

**Address**

3 pekanga drive

**Township**

Fox Glacier

**Organisation**

Farmer/pilot

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

Other

**Tell us why**

There should be no freedom camping there is camping grounds in our towns tourists should be made to use, we all pay rates and they camp for free it's not on

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

All should be self contained we are sick of █████ around our gate ways and entrances.  
A Mini van with a sticker doesn't count for self contained!!

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

It not ok for them to not be in town, but ok to pull up beside a farmers house or a stock paddock and disturb them while they poke around. We pay rates we don't want them there

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

The rate payers we pay for these sites and the freedom campers do not contribute it is not fair they need to be paying like in most other countries user pays

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 8:19 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Michael Rooke

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

7 kamahi cres

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

FJGG

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Kia ora

This is a long response so I hope it is read.

If I've understood it correct I think there should be an allowed freedom camping zone in Franz Josef. As tourism activities increase in price (us at the Glacier Guides for instance) there's potentially a roll on effect where people stop visiting all together As the town is seen as too expensive and "you can't see the glacier anyway"

Having a "cheap" way to travel, encourages people to give us a go without fear of losing money, freedom camping for 2 nights in Franz might mean that The Landing gets a couple extra beers, Snake bite gets a lunch or 2, full of beans gets a few coffees. People who freedom camp are (usually) not just "cheapos" looking to "feed off the rest of us". They are young people looking for the freedom to make their own adventures without having to pay a premium. To put it another way, you have to have money to be a freedom camper, it's not this cheap and easy way of doing things, it's a way of controlling your priorities and how you spend the money. The van, kitting it out with living supplies and resupplying often as cold storage is hard to do. Freedom campers are often outdoorsy types. Hiking pack, \$300, boots \$400, outdoor clothing could be \$1000, camping gear a few hundred, if they are a rock climber or kayaker you are talking multiple \$1000s. Theses aren't cheap people, they are people that choose to spend money differently.

However, with all that said I do agree that without controls the bad ones spoil it for the good. It

would need to be looked after, with an acknowledgement that there will be some mess, some times.

My suggestion would be to work with the campers rather than against them, instead of signs saying "do not leave rubbish" have signs that point to the public toilets or nearest rubbish bins.

Nga mihi

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Its a bit crud but to be frank, I believe that people in self contained vehicles would do anything to avoid going to the toilet in their vehicle. It's your bedroom/kitchen/hangout space...you don't want that smelling!

So even with self container vehicles, many will behave like regular campers and so I think that rule doesn't actually reduce the impact as much as desired, so for a controlled space I see it as a save option, to let both vehicle types camp. Signs to public toilets or a night limit may help with that, to encourage campers to move on (and find a toilet!)

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Just again, I'm not a freedom camper, but I have been one when I was younger, in a few countries. I wasn't trying to cheap my way through life, When done responsibly, the freedom to make your own adventures and sort of "gamble" on things. Such as visit a small west coast town without having to pay to stop over for a single night, might add to the reason why people come here in the first place.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 8:19 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Kim Waters

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

20 Kamahi Crescent  
 Franz Josef Glacier

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

I disagree with the proposed site for the Franz Josef township.

This is an area used by local families taking their children to visit the helicopters and tourists to park when in the town. Freedom campers will bring rubbish, human waste and antisocial behaviour, as has been proven by other attempts to set up freedom camping sites. They will not walk the distance required to use the town rubbish bins and public toilets. The proposed site is in the centre of the village, which will take income away from low cost accommodation providers. There are suitable low cost campsites in the village already for visitors to contribute to the local economy (holiday parks, backpackers, doc site, nzmca site).



**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

To Whom it may concern my name is Ron Heward. I write this submission having had 29 years experience in the camping industry in Hokitika and 9 years experience in the B&B industry in Hokitika.

### **Freedom camping submission**

The freedom camping industry is made up of two parts

Part 1 is the right to choose where to park up whether on the town streets along state highways, beside country roads, at beach access roads, river banks etc.

Part 2 the right to obtain free of charge or at the same subsidy as rate payers the town and community services, These include the right to have sewage disposal, water supply, rubbish, use of library, free internet. Swimming pool, cheap showers, use of public toilets that become their own kitchen, bathroom laundry the private use of these facilities for extended periods has an adverse and at times embarrassing effect for other uses.

My assessment on part 1

Council seems to wait till serious problems occur with this part and then install no camping signs all this has ever done in the past is shift the problem onto other areas and continue to create the same problems.

If council is to allow freedom camping in vehicles the council should supply specific areas well away from residents and areas that tourists use for van park ups. These areas need to have showers, toilets and rubbish facilities they should also have water supply and a dump station for waste tanks. These areas are called camping grounds and should come up to all legal requirements.

Many campervans and caravans can not carry full water and waste tanks along with their own possessions without being outside their legal weight limit for the road.

By filling tanks at the end of the day and travel short distances to park up allows full use of water for evening, night and morning use on departing the site in the morning they simply turn the waste drain tap part on and the grey water is discharged down the road. During summer months the clear evidence of this is at the roundabout going into town. By this time the waste tank is basically

empty. However, the last bit below the outlet valve with food scraps gets pushed out as the vehicle rounds the roundabout this leaves a dirty water mark round the roundabout. Prior to covid this dirty water mark could be seen for the whole of summer. This is well outside what you could state as a few bad campers.

The New Zealand motor caravan association claims to have over 100,000 members they carry out surveys on spending patterns to prove to councils that the expenditure for their members within the communities makes good sense for councils to invest in limited infrastructure for the freedom camping movement. Surveys are a great way to get an understanding on spending. Depending on who fills out these surveys can distort how spending falls and how averages can be altered. Those who have a large spend are encouraged to fill out the survey. This includes vehicle breakdowns, even selling and buying new vans. These are of course part of the tourist spend, however if you have say 5% of people make these big spends and fill out the survey forms projecting this spend to the other 95% of members seriously distorts the figures.

Prior to covid our local newspaper asked a number of freedom campers what their budget was to travel around New Zealand the sum of \$50 a day including fuel seemed to be the target that some interviewed wanted to achieve. The standard for self containment on vans is also very suspect. As I have already stated the emptying of grey water tanks down the road can hardly be classed as self contained. Most black water tanks are cartage type. Once full they are simply slid out from under the toilet, emptied and replaced back under the toilet. Some vans do carry a spare cartage so at a camp site a full cartage can easily be replaced with an empty one and the full one held in the van to empty at a dump station. However, most vans do not carry or are required to carry a spare cartridge so it is necessary for them to empty at the camp site and return the same cartridge back to the toilet. I question how this can possibly be called self contained. Soiled nappies and sanitation pads are also not catered for by van manufacturers to be carried for any length of time.

Part 2 the council currently charges B&B's and home stays commercial rates. This is to ensure that tourists pay their way as they travel through our region. I would suggest that any independent survey would show that the total spend from our guests is much higher than that of any freedom campers.

If these vehicles are self contained let them cart into and out all that they require.

That is what self contained means. Council should not supply water, surage, rubbish or parking. These vehicles should drive into and out of our region and not be any burden on anyone. Self contained means drive in, drive out and leave nothing behind.

Laws generated from central government are suppose to be laws of natural justice.

In other words fair and reasonable, this cureent law has no respect to any reate payer in westland it does not respect any land owners in westland. Any law that makes the poor pay for the holiday or the rich needs to be binned.

I have the following suggestions to add to this.

- Camervans over 5.5 meter long should not be allowed to use any angle parking in any area of westland
- No area designated for freedom camping should be near any lake or natural waterway, they should also be well away from existing tourist areas

Lastly i also suggest that council charge all owners of motor homes the same commercial rate that the council charges B&B. Motor homes from outside our

district could then park up their driveway and freedom camp at the expense and inconvenience of their own members.

Many Thanks Ron Heward



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** Council  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 8:40 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** FW: Council bylaw Freedom Camping closing 25th November.

**Chrissy Miller** | Team Leader Customer Service  
**Te Kahui o Poutini | Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 03 756 9010 |  Chrissy.Miller@westlanddc.govt.nz

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**From:** Rex and Anthea Keenan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 November 2024 7:50 pm  
**To:** Council <Council.Inbox@westlanddc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Council bylaw Freedom Camping closing 25th November.

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

List Freedom Camp sites WDC put in which had to be pulled out 2019 ish (overloaded), using Tourism Infrastructure Funding., the toilet facilities that pulled out sitting in storage, the losses caused by WDC on the ratepaying accommodation providers., also that there are approx 12 DOC campsites on the West Coast. cheap enough for freedom campers to pay their way. Council toilet pan rates for are \$530!, so why should cheapskates go free. DOC / IWI etc and Four Council/s CCOs, are overlapping in administrative costs... the overloaded costs caused by Council/s (four) & DOC then not charging for tracks/cycle trails/freedom camping 🙄 the extra costs loading sewerage ponds & rubbish costs, West Coast Councils EXPENDITURE budget is... ! borrowings are near \$130 mil !. then what is DOC's West Coast budget... ! THEN also there could be more charged in tourism entry tax to New Zealand = uneconomic New Zealand DEBT loadings! caused nonsensicle economics, costs to taxpayers via triplicated policies/by laws improper planning or wasted spending.



## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 9:52 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Richard Molloy / Lorraine Molloy

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

419 Waiho Flat Road

**Township**

Franz Josef/waiiau

**Organisation**

Private individuals with no vested interests.

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I am not sure that the council understands the subject well enough to make an informed decision. Too much reliance on "experts " and no consultation with people with local knowledge. The previously prohibited areas ,as in State highway 6, Fox Hills to McDonalds Creek ,Dochertys Creek road and Waiho Flat road , are they still in the mix. Much is said about the economic benefit of freedom campers but sadly the reality is that generally they are a scourge on our community.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

The non self contained vans are mostly used by people who are travelling as cheaply as possible and do not want to pay for anything . To encourage these people to park anywhere near our town is aiding and abetting criminal activity .as significant numbers of them help themselves to showers and other facilities at local holiday parks. The sight of semi naked people performing their ablutions in the streets of Franz Josef or any other town is not a good look for tourism .

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Any proposal to allow even a few vans at the Helipads is a shocking thought. In the past there have been some very unpleasant situations with freedom campers behaviour in this area and it will not work to say that numbers will be restricted. Campermate and other apps spread the word like wildfire and you will finish up with a disaster. Also bear in mind that helipad is the busiest in New Zealand, operators paying substantial landing fees and the passengers paying big money for their flights. They deserve better than the sights that will be created by you.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

The above is written by two locals who have not only owned a holiday park in town but have also been involved policing of the freedom camping bylaws for the WDC. Also Lorraine was born here and I have been here for 50 odd years so we have a lot of knowledge which could help you to make informed decisions on what can be an emotive subject. Also we would urge extreme caution with using volunteers to police the bylaws. We have been involved in some very nasty situations , some of which have needed Police help which is not always available in a small town.

# Share your Feedback – Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

**Submissions close at 5pm Monday 25 November 2024**

**Submissions hearing: 5 December 2024**

Westland District Council is seeking public feedback on its proposal to make a new bylaw which will manage the negative impacts of freedom camping whilst ensuring everyone, including visitors to the Westland region, can continue to enjoy our open spaces.

Full details of the proposed changes are set out in the Statement of Proposal, which can be read alongside the Proposed bylaw and other information on our website: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/responsible-camping-bylaw/>

Please **scan and email** this form to the Council. **Email:** [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 901

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name\* Carey Lister Organisation (if applicable) Franz Josef Community Council  
 Email\* [REDACTED] Address 6 Main Road, Franz Josef / Waiiau 7886  
 Telephone [REDACTED] Township\* Franz Josef

I would like to speak to Council about my submission  At the meeting in the Council Chambers

Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

I do not wish to speak to my submission

*\*Required*

## Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why:

The community agrees a bylaw is needed to enable enforcement action and control measures to be implemented, but strongly disagrees with the proposed location in Franz Josef

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree  No, I do not agree

Tell us why:

Non self contained vehicles should be prohibited from overnight stays where there are no toilet facilities. Lack of access to such, simply encourages users to discard human waste nearby.

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with  No, the proposed sites are acceptable

Tell us why:

The proposed Franz Josef site borders what is arguably the busiest heliport in New Zealand. As we have seen in recent years, where ever freedom camping sites exist, there is an increase in litter. This would have catastrophic consequences should loose objects be blown into the rotors or turbines of the helicopters undertaking commercial flights. Whilst most campers are courteous and considerate of the environment, it is the actions of the few and the consequences of such that must be considered. With fuel also stored on site, This location is simply too high risk for the proposed use.

It is worth noting, commercial sites such as the Orange sheep Campervan park on Cron street, and the NZMCA park on Douglas drive are near this proposed location. In addition, the popular DOC camping site at Otto/Mcdonalds creek ensures there are multiple options to this type of traveller

Some additional comments from members of the community are attached

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

With the advancement of technology, an increase in personal drone use is also a concern at the proposed Franz Josef site. We recently noted an incident in late October/early November where travellers in a campervan were found to be flying a drone up the glacier valley. This resulted in all helicopter activity being ground to a halt for safety reasons. Most (if not all) modern drones will advise you when launched that you are operating in a no fly zone, however individuals still proceed to ignore these warnings along with the notable signage placed around the area. It only takes one of these rogue individuals to cause a catastrophic incident with a helicopter, which is something that must be considered by our elected members. The majority of campers will follow the rules, although its the ones who don't that we all must consider

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 11:06 am  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Elliot Hendry

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

64 Cron st

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

Orange sheep campervan park

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission in the meeting in the Council Chambers

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I do believe that a Bylaw is necessary to provide a mechanism for Council to address issues caused by freedom camping, but I do not support the bylaw in its proposed form for the following reasons:

- There is no demand not already being by existing facilities
- Health and safety concerns
- Enforcement concerns
- The impact on local businesses has not been adequately considered

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Freedom camping should require self-sufficiency. Allowing the use of non-self contained vehicles inadvertently endorses freedom camping with less responsibility on the individual and more reliance on the community.

These problems are not confined to non-self-contained camping, as it is clear that many so-called self-contained campers do not use their on-board facilities and prefer to camp where there are public toilets. This may be due to privacy or 'yuk' factors. Freedom camping should therefore only be allowed (if at all) in self-contained vehicles.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Franz Josef

-Health and safety

The restriction of Franz Josef car park demonstrates that Council acknowledges it's an area that needs some regulatory controls and enforcement. I disagree however on the classification as 'restricted' as there will be impacts on the health and safety of those in the area. The statement of proposal outlines the aim of the bylaw as "formalising areas which are currently understood to be camping areas within the district." The Franz Josef Heli port car park is not a known camping area and it is an entirely inappropriate location for this activity, particularly due to it being within very easy walking distance of several Franz Josef campgrounds including my own. If this bylaw is approved as written, I have serious concerns that it will encourage the very disruptive and quite frankly criminal behaviour I already contend with from freedom campers currently. On a regular basis, I am forced to ask freedom campers to leave my property and cease using my facilities without payment. The worst incident last season involved a group of 9 who became verbally abusive when confronted and asked to leave. Allowing more freedom campers in this area will only escalate these issues and make it even more difficult to distinguish between legitimate guests and trespassers. The law must take into account the health and safety of my guests and myself. An increase in freedom camping directly places me in an untenable position, forcing me to manage the security of my site and address situations where freedom campers are using my showers without paying. I have limited resources to monitor and enforce this, and the added pressure is untenable.

-There is no demand not already being by existing facilities

Demand for legal camping areas exceeding supply at periods of high demand is listed as an issue for Westland and one reason for implementing this bylaw. However, I can attest to the fact there is no unmet need for camping in Franz Josef, as my camping ground has never been at full capacity even during the peak periods. Franz Josef has several low cost campgrounds from as little as \$5 a night.

To effectively support the local camping grounds the Council should prohibit freedom camping within a defined distance of existing campgrounds. The District endured significant economic setbacks during the COVID-19 period, but as we now return to normal, it is imperative that the Council prioritizes the well-being of local businesses rather than allowing visitors to exploit ratepayer-funded resources. The bylaw should only permit freedom camping when local businesses and other regulated facilities, such as those managed by the Department of Conservation, are unable to meet existing demand.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

-The impact on local businesses has not been adequately considered

The current bylaw fails to adequately address the significant economic and social challenges posed by freedom camping, including the pressure it places on local businesses. Campgrounds are vital to the community, providing local employment, fostering positive connections between residents and visitors, and ensuring that environmental standards are upheld. In contrast, freedom campers offer minimal additional benefit to the area—benefits that are already fulfilled by day visitors or those staying in regulated campgrounds. It is unfair

and misleading for the council to expect campgrounds to adhere to strict standards, invest in their operations, and pay fees for the privilege, while at the same time allowing freedom camping in areas that are not held to the same standards.

#### -Enforcement concerns

The statement of proposal asserts that “regulations must be balanced with the corresponding expectation of enforcement from the community,” which is a sound principle. However, without effective enforcement, regulation becomes meaningless. The proposal outlines various options for enforcement, but it is clear that the only practical solution would be to hire additional Council staff dedicated to this task. For fines to be both effective and cost-recoverable, they must be issued consistently and within a short timeframe each day at each site. For example, an enforcement officer would need to be present at all, or most, restricted sites as early as 7am and as late as 12am to ensure freedom campers are compliant, maximum numbers aren't exceeded and that they vacate the area. Any approach that relies on sporadic enforcement, with the aim of ‘catching people out’, will only produce inconsistent results and fail to address the underlying issues. Inconsistent enforcement undermines the very integrity of the bylaw, rendering it ineffective.

To ensure a more practical and cost-effective solution it would be better if the restricted sites were confined to a smaller, more concentrated area, such as Hokitika. This would allow for more targeted enforcement, improving both the consistency of enforcement and the overall cost-benefit outcome for ratepayers. By focusing enforcement efforts in a specific area, the Council can ensure that the bylaw is actively enforced, rather than allowing it to become a symbolic exercise with no real impact. If the bylaw is to succeed, it must be backed by a robust, consistent enforcement strategy—anything less will undermine the entire purpose of the regulation and be a waste of public resources.

## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 12:10 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Josh Flavell

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

11 Middleton place Franz Josef

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

Four Square Franz Josef

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

the public toilets would not handle the extra usage over the peak season, we (the Four Square) look after these facilities and clean them twice a day

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

the concern is where they shower and the use of the public toilets, they get messy enough over summer

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

the new site in the helicopter carpark will not work

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**



## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 12:18 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

karen james

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

Bruce Bay

**Township**

Bruce Bay

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

Other

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

I have lived at Bruce bay for 30 years right on the beach where people park up at the rest area, there is no where to dispose of rubbish so alot of this get dumped i have caught people shitting on the beach and right in the creek we have to get out water out of when water gets low in the summer months. we have to help people alot eg; stuck in deep gravel jump starts locked keys in vehicles even searching for people that have wandered off up the beach and not come back, it should at least be restricted to self contained vans but how do you do that when every juicy van has a sticker and no one polices it.

It also takes business of people as there is a campervan park 5 mins up the road at pinegrove. If camping was restricted to the toilet park at the bruce bay beach it would be alot better as at least then they would hopefully use the toilets.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

as above bruce bay beach because of the reasons mentioned above .

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 12:19 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Hannah

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

I only agree if toilets are available at freedom camping sites

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Franz Josef Car Park is not the right area for freedom camping. Its unfair on the campgrounds in town. I believe it should be out of town

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 1:42 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Bette Cosgrove

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

20 Amapur Drive  
 Khandallah

**Township**

Wellington

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I understand that the Bylaw will allow Council to manage any overcrowding or environmental issues which may result from tracers freedom camping. But I would prefer that the Council fully follow the permissible nature of the Law and enable some sites for the multiple modes of camping including tents. Cycle, motorcycle and vehicle campers would also love to have at least 1 or 2 sites considered safe for overnight tent camping. It encourages visitors to stay longer and enjoy Westland hospitality.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Thank you for considering non self contained campers where there are public facilities

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

No, the proposed sites are acceptable

**Tell us why**

I've reviewed your site surveys which seem to legitimately if not conservatively follow the law Be very careful about counting the impact on local public utility or blocking 'views' as was

mentioned in your proposal statement. This CANNOT be considered under the law as a reason to restrict sites. Beware and check QLDC Vs NZMCA high court ruling very carefully

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Please DO NOT MENTION or include the old NZS5465:2001 in ANY DEFINITION in your Bylaw for certified self-contained vehicles

This voluntary Standard has been completely superseded by current law.

Enabling NZS5465 CSC alone is NOT a sensible or legal definition of a certified camper. Blue Warrants will soon be out of date.

The amendment to the Freedom Camping Act passed in 2023 and covers all requirements.

NZS5465 must be removed as a definition added to any Bylaws currently in place and the amended FC Act requirements and new PGDB standards are ALL you should refer to.

It's unlawful to enforce NZS5465 standards alone for CSC vehicles when freedom camping.

The current law must be followed. Do NOT confuse your officials or enforcement officers by including it in the Bylaw please.

NZS5465 also allows portable toilets ..which will be outdated and superseded by Green Warrant Standards by June next year.

You don't want another Bylaw review to remove mention of this Standard.

You do not have to include the NZS5465 in your Bylaw for the transition period to new Standards.

It's all covered in current legislation as a definition.

Please just stick to current laws. Thanks

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 1:46 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Claire Hunt

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

**Address**

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

Glacier Country Tourism Group

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Glacier Country Tourism Group requests that the Bylaw prohibit freedom camping at the proposed Franz Josef Heliport Carpark site due to significant access and health and safety concerns.

The proposed site is in close proximity to the CAA operational space, helipad fuel bowsers, and RDP fuel tank and generator. This poses not only health and safety risks but also serious security concerns. Any campfires near the fuel bowsers and RDP fuel tank present a fire hazard. Additionally, rubbish, clothing, or other debris could blow onto the helipads, creating a significant safety risk for aircraft and passengers.

As well as the helicopter operations, the quad bike business also operates in this area. With client benches located outside, campers could be attracted over to their area posing a security risk to equipment stored onsite.

The nearest public toilets are too far from the site to be a practical solution, particularly during bad weather, increasing the likelihood of visitors toileting in surrounding bushes, including on private land. The group is also concerned about the management of rubbish—who will collect and dispose of it—and how the proposed restricted hours will be enforced. Operators in the area are concerned that visible rubbish could negatively impact the town’s reputation as guests pass by.

The group believes there should be no freedom camping within 5 km of commercial campgrounds. Freedom campers within walking distance of campgrounds often create security issues. Some of our accommodation members have already had to confront individuals attempting to use showers without paying, leading to stressful situations and abuse directed at staff.

Freedom camping at the heliport carpark would jeopardize health and safety, it would disrupt nearby operators and compromise the security of surrounding businesses. For these reasons the group oppose the Franz Josef heliport carpark being a designated freedom camping site.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**



# New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.

"Because you'll never be alone on the road again..."

22 November 2024

Westland District Council  
36 Weld Street  
Hokitika 7811

Emailed to: [infrastructure@westland.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westland.govt.nz)

## Westland District Council's Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

### Summary

- 1 The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc. (NZMCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft bylaw, which follows our preliminary thoughts on the draft statement of proposal (see **Appendix 1**).
- 2 We support the need for a bylaw in Westland, however we oppose the following provisions:
  - a) Clause 6.3 which prohibits freedom camping within 20 meters of any lake, seashore, or beach frontage (unless permitted in Schedule 2: Restricted Areas);
  - b) Clause 10 which enables the Chief Executive to temporarily close or restrict access to freedom camping sites; and
  - c) Many of the prohibited areas for the reasons outlined in the Council's site assessments and rationale for prohibiting freedom camping in townships and settlement areas.
- 3 In 2013, the NZMCA sought a judicial review of the Council's decision to adopt its Freedom Camping Control Bylaw 2012. The review followed the Council's decision to reject its Strategy Committee's recommendations and conclusion that the proposed 2012 bylaw was too restrictive and exposed the Council to a review. In support of our claim, the NZMCA raised concerns about the Council's decision not to undertake site assessments as required by the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the FCA) instead opting to rely on the personal views and observations of elected representatives; and the Council's decision to prohibit freedom camping in township and settlement areas, noting many of our members prefer the convenience and relative security of camping within proximity to town services and amenities.
- 4 After reviewing this proposal, we are concerned the Council is at risk of making similar errors. It also appears the overall objective is to confine freedom camping to designated sites only<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> For example, the Council document "Rational for Prohibiting Townships" (undated) notes that "in order to protect the natural environment of South Westland we need to provide **designated sites** that are well-formed and have amenities provided" (our emphasis).

Driving towards a Sustainable Future



## About the NZMCA

- 5 Formed in 1956, the NZMCA is a not-for-profit membership organisation representing the interests of over 120,000 individual New Zealanders who enjoy exploring our country at leisure in their certified self-contained motorhomes and caravans. Most NZMCA members are hybrid campers frequently alternating between commercial campgrounds, private campsites, and freedom camping areas throughout the country. Some 400 members reside in Westland, and many of them enjoy freedom camping in their own backyard or in cities and districts that welcome responsible campers from other areas.
- 6 The NZMCA is a local ratepayer and one of the largest campground managers in New Zealand, operating 62 private campsites (including one in Hokitika) and three public campgrounds. The Association is a founding member of the Responsible Camping Forum, and a longstanding member of Tourism Industry Aotearoa and the Holiday Parks Association. Thirty years ago, the NZMCA spearheaded the self-containment standard (NZS 5465) and more recently our staff have worked with the Minister of Tourism and MBIE on the new self-containment regulations. Our staff also worked with Local Government New Zealand and Simpson Grierson to develop new guidance support for council's making or reviewing bylaws under the FCA.
- 7 In 2018, the NZMCA approved the Council's request to promote Hokitika as a Motorhome Friendly Town. Prior to this, we met with the Council's former group manager (Jim Ebenhoh) overseeing freedom camping to identify sites within Hokitika that would be suitable for freedom camping in certified self-contained vehicles. The purpose of this exercise was to demonstrate to the NZMCA that there are plenty of suitable overnight parking options for certified self-contained vehicles within Hokitika. This, in turn, enabled the NZMCA to grant Hokitika Motorhome Friendly Town status. The 2024 bylaw prohibits most of these places.
- 8 Since Covid-19, the Association has successfully challenged freedom camping bylaws made by the Marlborough and Queenstown-Lakes District Council's. The High Court decisions in both cases have provided further guidance for local authorities on how to make lawful decisions within scope of section 11 of the FCA. We urge the Council to consider the case law established by these High Court decisions before adopting this bylaw.

### Clause 6.3 – prohibiting freedom camping within 20m of a lake, seashore, or beach frontage

- 9 This prohibition is vague and unreasonably restrictive. There may be many carparks and pull over areas suitable for freedom camping within 20m of a lake, seashore, or beach front. The prohibition is also uncertain as the bylaw does not define what constitutes a lake, seashore, or beach frontage.
- 10 It appears the Council has not undertaken any assessment to determine why freedom camping must be prohibited within 20m of these waterways. In our view, this prohibition is inconsistent with section 11B(1) of the FCA which requires a bylaw to define an affected area by a map and/or description of its locality (other than just its legal description). The reason for this requirement is to give freedom campers the information they need to comply with the bylaw.

- 11 If it came to it, we expect the Court would require a map of this 20m buffer zone to provide certainty for compliance and enforcement purposes, or alternatively a lengthy and detailed description of exactly where each boundary line runs.
- 12 **Recommendation:** Delete Clause 6.3 from the bylaw.

### **Clause 10 – temporary closure or restricted access**

- 13 The NZMCA does not oppose temporary closures or restrictions per se. For practical reasons, we acknowledge why temporary decisions consistent with section 11 of the FCA may be necessary. However, Clause 10 is broadly written and does not define “temporary”. This means the Council has the power to effectively close a freedom camping site indefinitely and for reasons that may be inconsistent with section 11 of the FCA. Unfortunately, we have seen other local authorities use similar provisions in this manner, which is an abuse of power.
- 14 In line with legal advice that we have received for similar clauses in other bylaw proposals, if the Chief Executive exercises his/her authority under Clause 10 beyond “temporary” (i.e. the closure did not give any timeframe or any criteria to be met for it to be lifted), the decision could be challenged on the basis it is *ultra vires* because it is not truly “temporary”.
- 15 **Recommendation:** Amend Clause 10 so that prior to making a decision the Council must
- a) Confirm the decision is consistent with section 11 of the FCA, that it is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area, and that it is not inconsistent with the NZBORA;
  - b) Define the affected area either by a map or description of its locality;
  - c) Give appropriate notice to the public and key stakeholders, including a timeframe and criteria to be met for the temporary closure or restriction to be lifted.

### **Prohibited areas and site assessments**

#### *Rational for Prohibiting Townships*

- 16 For the following reasons, the NZMCA firmly opposes the extent of prohibition that Council wants to apply to townships and settlement areas across the district.
- 17 The NZMCA’s membership rules require its members to freedom camp responsibly and be mindful of their impact on neighbouring properties. However, the way Council has used the bylaw to protect residents’ privacy, access, views, and quiet enjoyment of their properties may be deemed unlawful for the same reasons the High Court found QLDC’s bylaw invalid.
- 18 Prohibiting non-self-contained and all certified self-contained vehicles to simply avoid any risk of human waste being left in the environment is unreasonable. The Council permits freedom

camping in self-contained vehicles in other areas of the district and therefore it seems irrational to assume the occupants of a self-contained vehicle cannot be responsible with their waste in urban areas too. In its submission on the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Bill, the Council supported the proposed law change and explicitly mentioned

*Problems occur with vehicles that claim to be 'self-contained' but are not genuinely 'self-contained' with appropriate toilet facilities. We support the intention in the Bill to strengthen the legislation and regulations for fixed toilets and a certification register for self-contained vehicles.*

*(Our emphasis)*

- 19 Over the past two years the NZMCA has (at considerable expense) worked constructively with the government and industry to improve the vehicle certification system and implement the changes sought by many local authorities, including the Westland District Council. Furthermore, most commercial operators and tens of thousands of New Zealanders have gone through the expense of upgrading their vehicles and will each be paying a \$120 levy to certify their vehicles under the new self-containment regulations. To then prohibit these vehicles certified under new laws the Council supports is unreasonable and counterintuitive.
- 20 Many NZMCA members want to freedom camp in urban and residential areas and often do so without causing a nuisance or harm to the environment. For example, they may be visiting a motorhome friendly town (like Hokitika) and want to stay close to shops and amenities. Or they may be visiting friend and relatives and need to camp overnight in their motorhomes on the roadside. Please see **Appendix 2** for comments from our members explaining why they freedom camp in urban areas.
- 21 **Recommendations:** Review the bylaw restrictions and prohibitions applied to townships and settlement areas with a view to making the bylaw more permissive towards vehicles certified under the new rules.

#### *Individual site assessments*

- 22 The NZMCA acknowledges the specific section 11 (FCA) criteria that Council has relied on in this document, along with the explicit confirmation that private land has been excluded from their site specific evaluations. However, curiously the Council has applied a different set of criteria to the broader township and settlement area assessments and included the impact on private land as commented above.
- 23 We support freedom camping at Kumara Domain and believe the local community can continue to receive donations from campers without breaching section 5(3) of the FCA.
- 24 Several sites with public car parks place significant weight on "cultural values/significance" to justify prohibition, however the assessments do not adequately explain what the significance is relative to each site, where the values are located in proximity to the car parks (where freedom camping will take place), and how freedom camping affects the cultural values.

- 25 Other site evaluations lack a clear line of sight between the relevant issue(s) and necessary outcome. For example, the Council recommends prohibiting freedom campers from using the formed carparks at Cass Square “due to the residential nature of the area”, but also because the adjacent park contains statues and monuments, and the carpark is used by other visitors. The carpark is currently being used for freedom camping, however it is unclear why freedom campers are detrimental to nearby statues and monuments but other day visitors using the carparks are not. It is also unclear why the residential nature of the area is a relevant matter.
- 26 Section 11 of the FCA still requires the Council to be satisfied its decisions are necessary, and the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problems in relation to each restricted or prohibited area. To the best of our knowledge, the Council has not assessed whether it is appropriate and proportionate to prohibit freedom campers travelling in self-contained vehicles from using public carparks but continue to allow other visitors travelling in non-self-contained vehicles from visiting the same carparks for daytrips.
- 27 **Recommendation:** Re-assess the township, settlement area, and site-specific prohibitions following a review of the High Court’s decisions in
- a) *New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc vs. Queenstown Lakes District Council [2024]* in particular the Court’s decision on the reliance of irrelevant matters; and
  - b) *New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc vs. Marlborough District Council [2021]* in particular the Court’s view on making a “genuine attempt” at the site assessment analysis when applying the section 11(2) criteria to restricted and prohibited areas.
- 28 We wish to speak to this submission.

End.

Key contact: [james@nzmca.org.nz](mailto:james@nzmca.org.nz)

# Appendix 1

**From:** [James Imlach](#)  
**To:** [Alicia Paulsen](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw  
**Date:** Friday, 18 October 2024 2:12:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)

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Hi Alicia,

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft SOP and bylaw.

First impressions, whoever wrote the SOP and bylaw has a very good understanding of the new regime and did well navigating some of the complexities.

I recommend the SOP explains that under the 'do nothing' option the Council can still rely on the FCA's infringement regime for many of the offences listed under section 20(1). This includes, for example, not displaying a lawful warrant card, damaging an area, or depositing waste. Doing nothing might give some submitters the impression the Council is effectively powerless, which is not true.

I am reluctant to make too many observations on the prohibited and restricted areas without reviewing the site assessments (hopefully these will be included as part of the SOP). I am going to assume that prior to carrying out these assessments the Council considered recent decisions from the High Court that found both the Marlborough and Queenstown-Lakes District Bylaws invalid, due to the lack of genuine site assessments and influence from irrelevant matters.

The NZMCA is generally opposed to prohibiting expansive areas like settlements and townships, particularly as many of our members like to visit friends and family members and occasionally freedom camp on the roadside outside their homes. Or do the same close to town shops and businesses. Furthermore, Hokitika is a [motorhome friendly town](#) and while the Council proposes to create two small restricted freedom camping areas, we have to consider the extent of the prohibited area against our criteria for certification. Unless there has been significant issues with campers staying in Hokitika I would question whether the extent of prohibition is necessary, appropriate and proportionate.

Good to see the Council is proposing to set aside a few locations for non-self-contained vehicles. We have many members who cannot comply with the new regulations, but their vehicles still have accessible toilets, and they camp responsibly.

Can you please add me to the stakeholder comms list, just so I know when submissions open? I'd like to get some feedback from our members too.

Have a nice weekend.

Regards,  
James

---

**From:** Alicia Paulsen <Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 16 October 2024 9:15 am  
**To:** James Imlach [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw

Hi James,

Thanks for your prompt response.

As attached.

Kind Regards,

**Alicia Paulsen** | Asset Strategy and Development Manager  
**Te Kahui o Poutini | Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |     
 03 756 9010 |  027 207 9464 |  [Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)

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---

**From:** James Imlach [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 October 2024 4:34 pm  
**To:** Alicia Paulsen <[Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

Hi Alicia,

Thanks for your email.

Happy to provide some thoughts on the draft SOP and bylaw if you send me through an advanced copy.

Ngā mihi | Kind regards

**James Imlach**

National Manager – Property and Policy

New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.

**P** 09 298 5466 extn. 705 | **M** 027 298 5648

4 Graham Road, Takanini, Auckland 2112

[www.nzmca.org.nz](http://www.nzmca.org.nz)



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**From:** Alicia Paulsen <[Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 October 2024 3:36 pm

**To:** James Imlach [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw

Hi James,

Just reaching out to see if you are the correct person to contact.

We are reviewing the management of freedom camping within our District and wanted to touch base.

We have put together a Statement of Proposal and Proposed Bylaw which will go to Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> October for one months consultation through the special consultative procedure if approved.

We would appreciate your thoughts on the Proposed Bylaw and I am happy to send you an advanced copy.

Kind Regards,

**Alicia Paulsen** | Asset Strategy and Development Manager

**Te Kahui o Poutini** | **Westland District Council**

36 Weld Street, Private Bag 704, Hokitika 7842 |   

 03 756 9010 |  027 207 9464 |  [Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:Alicia.Paulsen@westlanddc.govt.nz)

## APPENDIX 2

“Freedom camping in townships and urban areas is very convenient for us. We can do our laundry, stock up on groceries, and eat out. We will make a conscious effort to freedom camp in smaller towns and support local businesses as they support us being there. We will bypass a town that does not provide a safe and convenient place to park overnight” **Brenda Graham & Ross McGregor (Christchurch).**

“We are exploring New Zealand fulltime now and love freedom camping. We stay almost exclusively in towns or urban areas for two main reasons: (1) Jude has a disability and cannot walk unassisted. Being close to town means we can look around and shop at our own pace; and (2) we feel much safer staying in town, particularly as it takes a while for us to get in and out of our motorhome. We do not feel safe freedom camping in remote areas.” **Jude Black & Paul Lawrence (Papamoa).**

“We enjoy freedom camping in towns as it provides opportunities to park up our motorhome and go out for dinner or breakfast, or to go shopping. We love supporting local businesses, however if we are not welcome then those towns will simply miss out on our business.” **Paula & Torsten Baker (Wellington).**

“We purchased our motorhome three years ago. We are still townies at heart and love camping in townships and urban areas when on the road or visiting friends. Close proximity (i.e. walking distance) to townships and shops is important for us as we like to spend a lot of time and money in cafes, restaurants, supermarkets, farmers markets, clothes shops, and at local events etc. We enjoy staying in a variety of locations, including freedom camping areas, low-cost sites, NZMCA parks and campgrounds. We value the free and low-cost parking options that many towns provide and will always spend money as a show of appreciation.” **Heather & John McMurdo (Blenheim).**

“Owning a motorhome makes it easier for us to visit friends and family around the country. It is often more convenient for us to park outside their homes and sleep inside the motorhome overnight. Banning this will make it difficult for us to continue to visit our friends and family.” **Neil Hellewell (Christchurch).**

“We go out of our way to support local businesses and spend money in towns that welcome motorhomers. If the overnight parking areas are easy to get to and enable us to stay close by, we will eat out at local restaurants and explore the town.” **Averil & Robin Williams (Southland).**

“We love motorhoming in towns and have done so in several countries. The convenience of parking in town allows us to shop around and spend money. We find the better the facility the more the town benefits.” **Geoff & Jo Kidd (Christchurch).**

“We love freedom camping as well as visiting public campgrounds, DOC campsites and NZMCA Parks during our travels. Freedom camping, particularly in rural and provincial towns, is a fantastic and easy way for us to learn more about a town’s past. We are more inclined to spend money in local shops and visit tourist attractions run by local residents when we are staying in town. As retirees, if we are forced to stay in campgrounds all the time, we will not be able to afford to travel as much as we do, while learning about New Zealand’s rich history and supporting a wider range of local businesses.” **Christine & Darryl Avery (Foxton Beach).**



## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 2:51 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Lachlan Mackie

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

14 donovan drive

**Township**

Franz Josef

**Organisation**

Franz Alpine Mechanical and Engineering

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

Other

**Tell us why**

I think if people are going to stay at the Franz Josef heliport carpark there needs to be a small compulsory donation to the community. Even if it's \$5 per night per vehicle. The money raised can go to the community for projects like building a park or a new hall for example.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

If there is well maintained toilets on site

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Franz Josef.

Because I think they should be donating 5 dollars per night to the community. If they are contributing a small amount to the community I'm happy for them to stay there

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

# Share your Feedback – Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

**Submissions close at 5pm Monday 25 November 2024**

**Submissions hearing: 5 December 2024**

Westland District Council is seeking public feedback on its proposal to make a new bylaw which will manage the negative impacts of freedom camping whilst ensuring everyone, including visitors to the Westland region, can continue to enjoy our open spaces.

Full details of the proposed changes are set out in the Statement of Proposal, which can be read alongside the Proposed bylaw and other information on our website: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/responsible-camping-bylaw/>

Please **scan and email** this form to the Council. **Email:** [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 901

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name\* Kirsty White \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Township\* Franz Josef Glacier \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to speak to Council about my submission  At the meeting in the Council Chambers

Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

I do not wish to speak to my submission  X

\*Required

## Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  I do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why: Rules & regulations are required for ensuring the preservation and protection of our natural ecosystems however they must also be monitored and enforced.

Please note, submissions will be publicly available on the council's website, through inclusion in council agendas, and/or retrievable by request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Personal contact details will redacted under the Privacy Act 2020 or by request.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree     No, I do not agree

Tell us why: **Do not agree with allowing non self-contained vehicles due to the risk of poor waste management practices, unsanitary & improper waste disposal, the associated health risks, & burdens the community with the cost of additional cleaning.**

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

- Yes, there are sites I disagree with     No, the proposed sites are acceptable Tell us why:
- **The Franz Josef Glacier Country Heliport carpark.**
- proximity to and security of the CAA Operational Area - the risk of unauthorised & uninformed access to the green areas of the CAA Operational Area (children, dogs, frisbee, drones etc)
- the SAR helicopter utilises the heliport at any time (including after hours)
- proximity to and security of the helipad fuel bowsers;
- proximity to and security of RDP fuel tank and generator;
- potential for serious damage to aircraft due to foreign objects (ie rubbish and clothing) blowing onto the helipads;
- management of waste (who will collect it?)
- potential for campfires particularly in close proximity to the fuel bowsers and RDP fuel tank;
- public toilets are not close enough to the site particularly in inclement weather & the potential for toileting in the surrounding bushes both in the carpark area and on neighbouring private land and the consequential biohazard this presents;
- management of the proposed restricted hours (who will police this?)
- the burden this places on the community to not only police this but to protect the area and keep it clean and tidy for our visitors.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

There are far many other, more suitable areas the council should be considering in South Westland.

*Please note, submissions will be publicly available on the council's website, through inclusion in council agendas, and/or retrievable by request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Personal contact details will redacted under the Privacy Act 2020 or by request.*

## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 4:08 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Logan Skinner

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

Graham Place

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I would like to speak to Council about my submission through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I support banning freedom camping and I do not support a freedom camping site in Franz Josef.

I oppose freedom camping in Franz Josef for the following reasons:

the proposed site is in a flood risk zone

in an emergency there is no host for these visitor

freedom camping has been the cause of anti social behaviour and crime in the past. I have operated a camper van park in Franz Josef in the past, I have permanent pain in my shoulder due to being hit by two freedom camper vans who I have caught stealing showers. I have run into twice by camper vans and physically kicked on the ground when I have caught freedom campers stealing showers and tried to stop them until the police could arrive. Giving people free sites does not stop their need for showers and kitchens etc, it only encourages them to steal from small business who are trying to make a living between road closures and pay their rates.

Why does the rate payer and tax payer want to subsidise other peoples holiday's? If it is really important to do so, why not open a soup kitchen.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

The certification is inconsistent and all van types I have caught stealing showers in the past.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

See above why I oppose freedom camping in Franz Josef, there are several low cost sites in the area. Enforcing a six vehicle limit would be difficult and most likely ineffective.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Please help support small business who are trying to recover from covid, pay increasing costs and keep competitive. The majority of a camper van parks costs are fixed, so decreasing the number of people staying means others must pay more to cover fixed costs. The more people that stay, the cheaper you can offer a site.

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 4:08 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Rosemary Skinner

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

30 Cron St  
 Franz Josef Glacier

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

Why should the rate payers support Freedom camping. There are legitimate camp grounds that pay rates and offer a range of price range options

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Freedom should be banned.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Franz josef sufficient legal camping grounds who pay rates to the council. The council should support them , not freeloaders.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

---

**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 4:16 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Tom Skinner

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

30 Cron St

**Township**

Franz Josef Glacier

**Organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

The council should support legal rate paying business  
 Freedom Camping should be banned.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Why should rate payers support freedom camping .

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

FRanz josef there are sufficient legal rate paying sights that have to comply with council regulations and pay rates and Tax operating in the town . Council should support legal campgrounds as they offer a range of price options.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 4:22 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Heliservices Grant White

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

29 Main Road  
 Franz Josef

**Township**

West Coast Towns

**Organisation**

Fox Franz Heliservices Limited

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

There are enough paid camp area in Franz That do not pose a risk to helicopter aviation close to the town

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree

**Tell us why**

Freedom camping vans must be self contained

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Opposed because the close proximity of the Franz Heliport and the potential for foreign object to end up encroaching into the safety critical heliport area with the potential to cause damage to aircraft by (foreign object damage FOD) or persons at heliport  
 Dangerous avoiding action by aircraft to avoid contact with foreign object  
 Disruption to heliport operations should FOD end up in the operational area forcing change of procedures that may add risk to the operational area  
 Also



the toilet and rubbish facilities are too far away from the proposed freedom camping area.

Fine days may see them used wet days they may not

The grassy Heliport may get viewed by campers as area to play frisbie , hacky sac, walk dogs or fly drones when helicopters are not flying but the rescue helicopter could arrive at any time regardless of the weather or time of day.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

There are enough paid camping areas in the town that contribute to the town economy

# Share your Feedback – Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

**Submissions close at 5pm Monday 25 November 2024**

**Submissions hearing: 5 December 2024**

Westland District Council is seeking public feedback on its proposal to make a new bylaw which will manage the negative impacts of freedom camping whilst ensuring everyone, including visitors to the Westland region, can continue to enjoy our open spaces.

Full details of the proposed changes are set out in the Statement of Proposal, which can be read alongside the Proposed bylaw and other information on our website: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/responsible-camping-bylaw/>

Please **scan and email** this form to the Council. **Email:** [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 901

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name\* Bruce Watson & Claudia Landis Organisation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email\* \_\_\_\_\_ Address 8 South Spit Rd, Ruatapu  
 Telephone\* \_\_\_\_\_ Township\* Helkitika 7883

I would like to speak to Council about my submission  At the meeting in the Council Chambers

*we*

Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

I do not wish to speak to my submission

\*Required

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

*we* support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  I do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why: subject to additional comment –

Please see attached submission

Please note, submissions will be publicly available on the council's website, through inclusion in council agendas, and/or retrievable by request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Personal contact details will be redacted under the Privacy Act 2020 or by request.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree <sup>we</sup>  No, I do not agree

Tell us why:

But not in prohibited areas.  
See attached submission.

More pages can be attached if necessary.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with  No, the proposed sites are acceptable

Tell us why:

We cannot see why freedom camping should be allowed anywhere within Hokitika. The proposed Sunset Point and Beach St area would both restrict prime public access.

More pages can be attached if necessary.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

Please see attached submission.

More pages can be attached if necessary.

**To be attached to the submission form from Bruce Watson and Claudia Landis**

**Submission on the Draft WDC Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024**

**Introduction**

We live at 8 South Spit Rd and also own 12 South Spit Rd and hold the DOC lease over the conservation land and reserve paddocks on South Spit. Our house at 12 South Spit is tenanted and the paddocks are used for baleage.

We have used South Spit recreating and/or living there for over 45 years since first settling in the Hokitika area. So we know the area and its users well.

**Our Attitude to the proposal**

We note that the expiring WDC 2018 Bylaw has worked well in practice in Hokitika and on South Spit, the area we are especially concerned with.

We generally support the Council's proposed new bylaw, especially for its provisions for the areas in and around Hokitika which we know best. We think the bylaw will continue to enhance local peoples' and discerning visitors' enjoyment of the area. But there are some amendments we would like to see, mainly for clarification and the avoidance of doubt on what areas are prohibited.

**General proposed amendments.**

We note that in the Draft Bylaw it is not completely clear that Hokitika (apart from the two proposed Restricted Areas) together with the area extending south to Takutai, is in fact a Prohibited Area.

This is because it is not listed in Clause 6 which refers only to Schedule 1. Prohibited Areas.

It is however covered by the maps in Schedule 3. Prohibited and Restricted Area Maps. Particularly Figure 14. Hokitika. We have been assured by staff that the intention is that the red shaded areas on Figure 14 are in fact intended to be Prohibited Areas.

We ask that Council amend the Draft Bylaw to make it clear that all the Prohibited Areas shown on the maps in Schedule 3 are covered by Clause 6. Prohibited Areas and Schedule 1. Prohibited Areas.

We support the intention of Clause 6.3 in the Draft Bylaw, to prohibit Freedom Camping within 20 metres of a lake or seashore or beach frontage unless otherwise permitted. Because of the potential difficulty of interpreting where the exact 20 metre margin might be we suggest widening the area to avoid arguments and to make compliance easier.

We ask that the distance in Clause 6.3 be expanded to 50 metres.

### **Proposed amendment specifically for South Spit**

We understand from our interpretation of the Maps and discussion with staff that South Spit Rd is a Prohibited Area which we support. The maps are hard to read in detail and we would like to be assured this is Council's intention.

For the avoidance of doubt we propose that the record of Council's decision on the Draft Bylaw specifically include the full length of the legal road South Spit Rd from its junction with Gold Links Rd, and including from the beach carpark, north up the Spit.

Perhaps the simplest way to do this is to include another map in Schedule 3, showing the legal road in more detail.

(We understand that Clause 6.3 dealing with the seashore will pick up some of this, but as the coastline is very mobile here due to erosion, it would be advantageous to also specifically include the legal road).

We ask that Council make clear in the Bylaw that the whole of South Spit Rd is included in the Prohibited Area.

### **Specific supporting reasons for South Spit being a Prohibited Area**

The main reasons for prohibiting freedom camping from South Spit are "to protect access to local authority areas" and "to protect local authority areas" (especially for penguins and other wildlife). There is a "safety" concern too, especially during busy periods.

#### Reasons:

South Spit and the adjacent beach is an important public recreation area. It is used especially by South Side and Hokitika area residents but also by visitors who are interested in the same activities as the locals.

This is a high use area, including for the following activities:

Walking, running, dog exercising, horse riding, sea and river fishing, firewood gathering, picnicking and barbequing, bird watching, watching sunsets, sunrises, moon rises and aurora, swimming, surfing and bodyboarding, bike riding, quad biking, motorbiking, canoeing and more. As well there is access to the houses and adjacent paddocks for the landowners on either side.

All these uses depend on the access to the beach using the maintained portion of South Spit Rd between Mahinapua Creek and the car park at the beach. Many people leave their cars at the car park and go by foot or other means north on the Spit, often as far as the Mahinapua estuary and Hokitika River.

From the Mahinapua Ck bridge to the beach South Spit road the old gravel road is completely washed out with the legal road on what is now dune. North up the beach from the car park it is just sand-surface four-wheel driving on the beach (where two wheel drive vehicles and vans get struck on a regular basis). The car park is very narrow but access through it is required for vehicles and walkers to reach the beach. .

For the last few years the South Spit coastline has been subject to increasing serious coastal erosion. This threatens the car park and adjacent house, and the farm adjacent paddocks. At the carpark Council have put a bund to protect the park and adjacent land from flooding. This has restricted the width available for parking and the situation could continue to worsen. (In the WCRC Coast Plan South Spit is a Coastal Hazard Zone with removal of sand and gravel prohibited).

The car park and track north up the Spit is all subject to coastal inundation.

Most users use the area between dawn and dusk, but some also use it during darkness for uses like sea, trout and flounder fishing or family barbeques.

Before the current Bylaw was introduced at the end of 2018, as campervans started to increase on the West Coast, vans started staying overnight at the South Spit car park and further north behind the dunes. With even 3 or 4 vans in the car park, access for locals' cars was blocked and often access to the track north was blocked. At times even 10 or so vans would attempt to use the area, and spill over back towards the bridge.

There are no toilet or other facilities on South Spit.

As problems started to increase Council provided us with a "No Camping - by order of WDC" sign which we maintained. Since the 2018 Bylaw and the "official" sign there have been few problems. We have informally talked to people trying to freedom camp in the area, pointing out nearby alternatives like the DOC Mahinapua Campground and Links-View Holiday Park. 95% of the time people are happy to move on.

Little blue penguins nest along South Spit and use the car park to access their nests in scrub behind the road and on our properties. They survive because most people have either not arrived or have left when they move up and down the beach. Despite this we have found penguins killed by both dogs and vehicles over the years. Overnight stopping by freedom campers would make it very hard for the remaining population to survive.

### **Further proposed amendments**

It would be good to see the bylaw providing for additions to prohibited areas by Council passing a resolution and by public advertising. This is currently proposed in Clause 10.1 only for temporary reasons.

We ask that Council amend the Draft Bylaw to allow for both temporary and permanent closures or restrictions.

### **Compliance**

We have found most people freedom camping on South Spit say either they did not see the (very obvious) sign. But when spoken to, pretty well all move on without hassle. We would be happy to assist Council with compliance with the new bylaw in the South Spit area.

Bruce Watson and Claudia Landis

Note: photos illustrating some of our points will be emailed separately.

**Photos to Illustrate Freedom Camping Bylaw Submission by Bruce Watson and Claudia Landis**



**South Spit car park is heavily used by locals and there is no room for freedom camping and access the the track north.**





**The erosion bund restricted access for parking already and may have to be increased in size in the near future**



**Coastal inundation at the South Spit car park**



**Penguins use South Spit car park during the hours of darkness for access to nesting sites.**



**Freedom campers already get stuck on the South Spit access track.**



**The South Spit access track is not a suitable site for freedom camping - here after recent inundation and coast erosion.**

# Share your Feedback – Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024

**Submissions close at 5pm Monday 25 November 2024**

**Submissions hearing: 5 December 2024**

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Full details of the proposed changes are set out in the Statement of Proposal, which can be read alongside the Proposed bylaw and other information on our website: <https://www.westlanddc.govt.nz/responsible-camping-bylaw/>

Please **scan and email** this form to the Council. **Email:** [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

You can also **call** us with your submission and use the form to help you.

**Phone:** 03 756 901

**Freephone:** 0800 474 834

Name\* Melanie Anderson Organisation (if applicable) Destination Westland Ltd T/A Glacier Country Heliport  
 Email\* [REDACTED] Address C/- Hokitika Airport Terminal, Airport Drive, Hokitika  
 Telephone [REDACTED] Township\* Hokitika

I would like to speak to Council about my submission  At the meeting in the Council Chambers

Through a remote option (Zoom link or telephone)

I do not wish to speak to my submission

*\*Required*

## Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  I do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why:

My understanding is that this is a legislative requirement and therefore Council is required to consider all options available to them.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

Yes, I agree     No, I do not agree

Tell us why:

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with     No, the proposed sites are acceptable

Tell us why:

Please see attached submission that outlines our opposition to the Franz Josef Heliport Carpark site being used for Responsible Freedom Camping. This is based on the information we have had to date and lack of clarity about enforcement plus the increased risk to heliport operations without additional safety measures being put in place.

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

*More pages can be attached if necessary.*

# SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED USE OF THE GLACIER COUNTRY HELIPORT CARPARK FOR FREEDOM CAMPING

## INTRODUCTION:

We support, in principle, the Responsible Freedom Camping bylaw and understand the legislative requirement to provide opportunities for this within the district. When properly managed, Freedom Camping brings valuable economic and social benefits to the region. However, the proposed use of the Glacier Country Heliport carpark raises significant safety and operational concerns.

Our opposition stems from the lack of clarity on enforcement measures Westland District Council will implement to mitigate the risks associated with Freedom Camping. Without this information, we cannot make an informed assessment of whether this site can safely accommodate such activities without compromising aviation safety and operations.

As a Part 139 qualifying aerodrome operator, we have obligations under Civil Aviation Rules and our Safety Management Program (SMS) to ensure safe operations. We have updated our hazard register to reflect both our existing controls, and the additional risks Freedom Camping would introduce, including:

- Increased **Foreign Object Debris (FOD)** risks.
- Unauthorised **drone activity**.
- **Unauthorised airside access**, which could lead to safety and security breaches.
- **Increased wildlife activity** due to food and waste, leading to bird strike risks.
- **Blocked access** to the emergency helipad.

Additionally, per our Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP), our hours of operation are 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Safe pedestrian access between helicopter pads and depots is critical during these times. The proposed Freedom Camping departure time of 7:00 AM conflicts with this, as campers could still be in the area during operational periods. For Freedom Camping to be considered, the carpark must be vacated earlier to ensure pedestrian safety and time to conduct safety checks of the area.

## RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The hazard register provides a detailed assessment of current risks and controls. Below, we outline how Freedom Camping increases these risks and the additional measures required to mitigate them:

1. **Foreign Object Debris (FOD):**
  - **Risk:** Loose camping equipment or poor waste management could create FOD that damages helicopters or engines, potentially resulting in fatalities.
  - **Current Controls:** Minimal rubbish bins and staff inductions to limit debris.
  - **Additional Measures:**
    - Install adequate waste disposal facilities outside the heliport's operational buffer zones.
    - Conduct frequent FOD checks and cleanups.
    - Educate campers on FOD risks through multilingual signage and public awareness campaigns.
2. **Drone Activity:**
  - **Risk:** Inexperienced drone operators and unauthorised flights could cause extensive damage to aircraft.



- **Current Controls:** Warning signs along SH6 and geofencing for DJI drone types.
  - **Additional Measures:**
    - Install additional onsite signage to inform campers of drone restrictions.
    - Actively enforce Civil Aviation Rules prohibiting unauthorized drone flights.
3. **Unauthorised Airside Access:**
- **Risk:** Campers may inadvertently access restricted airside areas, increasing the risk of pedestrian-aircraft interactions and security breaches.
  - **Current Controls:** Low fencing, operational area signage, CCTV and a trespass policy.
  - **Additional Measures:**
    - Increase fencing height between landside and airside areas.
    - Enhance surveillance with additional CCTV and regular security patrols.
    - Install multilingual or universally understood signage to mark restricted airside zones.
4. **Wildlife Hazards (Bird Strikes):**
- **Risk:** Food and waste left by campers could attract wildlife, increasing bird strike hazards.
  - **Current Controls:** Wildlife management program.
  - **Additional Measures:**
    - Provide secure, animal-proof waste bins.
    - Deploy wildlife deterrent systems around the heliport.
5. **Emergency Helipad Access:**
- **Risk:** Campers could block or impede ambulance access to the emergency helipad.
  - **Current Controls:** None specific to Freedom Camping.
  - **Additional Measures:**
    - Designate and enforce specific parking areas to maintain clear access routes.
    - Install additional signage to ensure campers are aware of access requirements.

## CONCERNS ABOUT ENFORCEMENT AND COSTS

At this stage, we lack sufficient information about WDC's proposed enforcement measures to manage these increased risks. Enforcement measures should include:

- Regular monitoring and compliance checks.
- Clear communication of rules through signage and public awareness campaigns.
- Infrastructure improvements, such as fencing, surveillance, and waste management systems.

We also wish would emphasise that we had already sought design & pricing for gates to close the carpark outside operational hours in response to the increased risks we are already seeing. However, should this site be approved by Council, who will bear the additional costs or resource demands required to manage the increased risks from Freedom Camping in the Heliport Carpark?

## CONCLUSION:

We are willing to engage with WDC to explore the feasibility of Freedom Camping at this site, provided that a comprehensive enforcement plan is developed to address the increased risks. This plan must include detailed measures for managing FOD, drone activity, unauthorised airside access, wildlife hazards, and emergency access. It must also ensure that campers vacate the area before 7:00 AM to avoid conflicts with our operational schedule and maintain pedestrian safety. Until such a plan is presented, we cannot support this proposal.

We emphasise that any additional controls required should not impose financial or resource burdens on us as the operator of aerodrome. Ensuring safety is a shared responsibility that requires WDC to lead the development and enforcement of appropriate measures.

We welcome further discussions on this matter before a decision is made on this site, to ensure that any changes prioritise safety, operational integrity, and equitable resource allocation. Until this happens, we oppose this site for Responsible Freedom Camping,

**Melanie Anderson**

**Chief Executive**

**Destination Westland t/a Glacier Country Heliport**

## Rachel Evans

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**From:** noreply@westlanddc.govt.nz  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 November 2024 4:58 pm  
**To:** Infrastructure  
**Subject:** Responsible camping submission

This email is from an external sender. Be careful when opening any links or attachments. If you are unsure, please contact IT for assistance.

The following submission has been received:

**Name**

Anna Leary

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Telephone**

[REDACTED]

**Address**

84 The Strand, Okarito

**Township**

Okarito

**Organisation**

n/a

**Please select one of the following:**

I do not wish to speak to my submission

**Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?**

I do not support the Proposed Bylaw

**Tell us why**

I'd rather the rule stayed as is, and am opposed to freedom camping per se, as believe it encourages low-contributing, high-impact tourism that is not what we need. We need the opposite, less tourists, that contribute more, with less negative impact.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, do you agree?**

No, I do not agree

**Tell us why**

Unfortunately, the new self containment rules for vehicles are still being undermined by some campervan rental companies that require a deposit that only gets returned in full if toilets in the vehicle are returned unused.

Historically, before current restrictions were put in place, human waste and paper left by the side of the road ran into the Ōkārīto River or tributaries that feed the lagoon. This is unacceptable.

There are many well behaved and respectful freedom campers - but we also have local campgrounds available at a reasonable cost that actually contribute to the upkeep of local water supplies, toilets and the local road itself that every camper uses at least part of.

**The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Are there any sites that you oppose?**

Yes, there are sites I disagree with

**Tell us why**

Okarito has a very affordable campground that supports the local community. Allowing freedom camping on the road b/w the Main Road and the Okarito village will undermine this important revenue source for the village. I further disagree with Freedom Camping at the south end of the village near the beach that looks to be excluded from the map.

**Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Elected Members to consider?**

I understood that following Covid, NZ was having a tourism reset that focused on higher value, and higher-contributing tourism. Freedom camping is the antithesis of this and is a backward step. There are plenty of excellent campgrounds with good facilities that de-risk this type of traveller.

# Share your Feedback – Draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw 2024



Feedback must be received by 5pm Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Westland District Council is seeking public feedback on its proposal to make a new bylaw which will manage the negative impacts of freedom camping whilst ensuring everyone, including visitors to the Westland region, can continue to enjoy our open spaces.

Please read our information sheet and FAQs.

Full details of the proposed changes are set out in the Statement of Proposal.

We encourage you to give your feedback online or fill out the survey form below:

## Your details

Your name and feedback will be included in public details. All other personal details will be made publicly available.

First Name: Biddy Last Name: Manera

Email or Postal Address: 45 Tranway St - Ross

## Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation or business?

(If yes, this confirms you have the authority to submit on the organisations behalf)

Yes/No

Name of organisation/business: \_\_\_\_\_

## Would you like to speak for 5 minutes during the hearing on 14th November 2024?

Yes (if you have answered yes, please ensure your contact details are filled out)

If yes, please choose:  In the Council Chambers  Through a remote option (Zoom link or phone)

No

Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?

support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  I do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why:

Council promotion of local park up business's would be a valued salute to those businesses who pay tourist/commercial rates

Park up businesses have facilities to cater to travelling tourists – ensuring 'no negative' impact on communities.

The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non self-contained vehicles, do you agree?

Yes, I agree  No, I do not agree

Tell us why:

Park Over Property - NZMCA  
Historic Empire Hotel Park up space  
Ross Beach Top 10 Holiday Park

The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Is there any sites that you oppose?

Yes, there are sites I disagree with  No, the proposed sites are acceptable

Tell us why:

Keeps heritage + recreational areas spared of unwanted rubbish + human waste, + overcrowding. Small Settlements do not need to be advertised as a free-bee for ratepayers to be charged for cleaning up out of our rates.

Residents, ratepayers + local business deserve considered value in what they offer to tourists + their contributions within their community (ie sponsorship, employment etc) - locals/volunteers should not be the ones to clean up after someone elses mess.

Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Councillors to consider?

Totara Rail Bridge Closure - negative impact on business  
Promotional support for these businesses should come first above offering 'free' business is livelihood, employment - and ratepayers should not have to be lumbered with 'free sites' to potential paying customers.

Please scan and email this form to the Council - Email: [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

Or drop in to Westland District Council, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika 7811

Signed *EM*

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Email or Postal Address: 45 Trancey St - Ross

## Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation or business?

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Yes/ No

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If yes, please choose:  In the Council Chambers  Through a remote option (Zoom link or phone)

No

Do you think Westland District Council should introduce the Proposed Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw?

I support Council introducing the Proposed Bylaw  I do not support the Proposed Bylaw  Other

Tell us why:

Council promotion of local park up business's would be a valued salute to those businesses who pay <sup>tourism</sup> rates - who have facilities to cater for Camper Vans etc

The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in both certified self-contained and non self-contained vehicles, do you agree?

Yes; I agree  No, I do not agree

Tell us why:

Park Over Property  
Empire Hotel Park Up  
Ross Beach Top Ten Holiday Park

The Proposed Bylaw allows for freedom camping in restricted areas across the Westland District. Is there any sites that you oppose?

Yes, there are sites I disagree with  No, the proposed sites are acceptable

Tell us why:

Small Settlements do not need to be advertised as a freebie for people to take advantage of. Residents, Ratepayers & township business needs consideration - as they are the collective who 'look after their backyard'.

Is there anything else you would like the Mayor and Councillors to consider?

Totara Rail Bridge closed - tourist numbers down.  
Local Volunteers work hard to upkeep their small settlements - cleaning up after freedom campers is not acceptable.  
We have 3 accomodating sites in Ross for campervans = paying their way keeps businesses afloat.

Please scan and email this form to the Council - Email: [infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:infrastructure@westlanddc.govt.nz)

Or drop in to Westland District Council, 36 Weld Street, Hokitika 7811

Signed

Pixie M-M