Summary of site assessments for informing proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw

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

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment of Sites

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

Table 1. Freedom Camping Area Assessment Matrix

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

Applying the assessment matrix

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

Table 2. Assessment of Sites

| Area Assessed | Current Status | Score | | Summary of assessment | Recommendation |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Kumara Domain, | Public Carpark. No | Total: | 3 | The Kumara Domain is a | It is recommended that the |
| Kumara | freedom camping | Protect area: | 1 | suitable site for freedom | Kumara Domain be a registered |
| | restriction in | Protect H&S: | 1 | camping with facilities such | freedom camping site in the |
| | place. | Protect access: | 1 | as waste bins, public toilets, | Kumara township. It should be |
| | | | | and seating available. | noted that the Domain is currently |
| | | | | | used by the local community as |
| | | | | | a campsite where donations are |
| | | | | | required. |
| Arahura Historic | Public carpark, No | Total: | 4 | The Arahura Historic Bridge | It is recommended that the |
| Bridge Reserve, | freedom camping | Protect area: | 2 | Reserve is a suitable site for | Arahura Historic Bridge Reserve |
| Arahura | restrictions in | Protect H&S: | 2 | freedom camping. The | Carpark be a registered freedom |
| | place | Protect access: | 1 | carpark is located off State | camping site between the hours of |
| | | | | Highway 6. | 8 pm – 7 am with 8 sites allocated. |
| Gibson Quay, | Public Carpark. No | Total: | 9 | The Gibson Quay Western | It is recommended that the Gibson |
| Hokitika | freedom camping | Protect area: | 4 | Carpark is not a suitable site | Quay area is not allocated as a |
| | restriction in | Protect H&S: | 2 | for freedom camping. | freedom camping site due to the |
| | place. | Protect access: | 3 | | cultural significance of the area. |
| Cass Square, | Public Carpark. No | Total: | 6 | The Cass Square South | It is recommended that the Cass |
| Hokitika | freedom camping | Protect area: | 2 | facing carpark is a suitable | Square South facing carpark have |
| | restriction in | Protect H&S: | 2 | site for freedom camping | five allocated carparks to be a |
| | place. | Protect access: | 2 | with facilities such as waste | registered freedom camping site. |
| | | | | bins, public toilets and | We recommend that freedom |
| | | | | seating available. | camping be restricted to the hours |
| | <u> </u> | | | | of 8pm – 7am. |
| Sunset Point, | Public Carpark. No | Total: | 7 | The Sunset Point Northern | It is recommended that the parking |
| Hokitika | freedom camping | Protect area: | 2 | carpark is a suitable site for | area north of the Sunset Point |
| | restriction in | Protect H&S: | 3 | freedom camping with | public toilets be a freedom |
| | place. | Protect access: | 2 | facilities such as waste bins, | camping site. We recommend that |
| | | | | public toilets and seating | freedom camping be restricted to |
| | | | | available. | the hours of 8pm – 7am with 7 sites |
| Hokitika | Public Carpark. No | Total: | 3 | The Hokitika Beachfront | allocated. It is recommended that the |
| Beachfront, | freedom camping | Protect area: | 1 | Southern car park is a | Hokitika Beachfront Southern car |
| Hokitika | restriction in | Protect H&S: | 1 | suitable site for freedom | park be an allocated site for |
| TIORIUNG | place. | Protect access: | 1 | camping with facilities such | freedom camping. We recommend |
| | pidoo. | 1 101001 400033. | ' | as waste bins, public toilets | that freedom camping be |
| | | | | and seating nearby. | and in codom camping bo |
| | | | l | and bodding nodiby. | |

| Area Assessed | Current Status | Score | | Summary of assessment | Recommendation |
|------------------------------------|---|--|------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | restricted to the hours of 8pm – 7am. |
| Rimu Lookout, Rimu Woodstock | Public carpark for lookout, No freedom camping restrictions in place Carpark for | Total: Protect area: Protect H&S: Protect access: | 9 2 4 3 | The Rimu Lookout was highlighted as not being a suitable freedom camping site due to the small parking area and the dangerous vision entering and existing the lookout. The Woodstock Domain is a | It is recommended that the Rimu Lookout be included in the restricted zone due to its small parking area and access to Woodstock Rimu Road. It is recommended that the |
| Domain, Woodstock | Woodstock Domain. Maintained and operated camping site by local community. | Protect area: Protect H&S: Protect access: | 1 1 1 | suitable site for freedom camping. It is currently a campground managed by the local community. | Woodstock Domain be a registered freedom camping site. It should be noted that the Domain is currently used by the local community as campsite where visitors are charged. |
| Kaniere Domain, Kaniere | Public carpark located along Kaniere road on edge on Domain. | Total: Protect area: Protect H&S: Protect access: | 9 2 5 2 | The Kaniere Domain carpark was highlighted as not being a suitable freedom camping site due to the level of traffic along Kaniere Road. No facilities such as toilets or waste bins are available. | It is recommended that the Kaniere Domain be included in the prohibited zone due to its location in proximity to Kaniere Road. |
| Miltown Shelter, Miltown | Public carpark located on West Coast Wilderness Trail | Total: Protect area: Protect H&S: Protect access: | 5 1 3 1 | The Miltown shelter carpark is a suitable site for freedom camping. It is located off Miltown Road. Public toilets and covered seating is also available. | It is recommended that the Miltown shelter carpark have ten allocated carparks to be a registered freedom camping site. We recommend that freedom camping be restricted to the hours of 8pm – 7am. |
| Ross Hall, Ross | Public carpark, No freedom camping restrictions currently in place. | Total: Protect area: Protect H&S: Protect access: | 6 2 3 1 | The Ross Hall carpark is a suitable site for freedom camping. It is located off State Highway 6 and is close to facilities such as waste bins and public toilets. | It is recommended that the Ross Hall carpark have four allocated carparks to be a registered freedom camping site. We recommend that freedom camping be restricted to the hours of 8pm – 7am. |

| Area Assessed | Current Status | Score | | Summary of assessment | Recommendation |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Harihari Hall, | Public carpark | Total: | 6 | The Harihari hall carpark | It is recommended that the |
| Harihari | next to domain. No | Protect area: | 1 | between the garden and | Harihari Hall carpark have eight |
| | freedom camping | Protect H&S: | 2 | State Highway 6 provides a | allocated carparks to be a |
| | restrictions | Protect access: | 3 | safe area for freedom | registered freedom camping site. |
| | currently in place. | | | campers to park. This | We recommend that freedom |
| | | | | location is within close | camping be restricted to the hours |
| | | | | proximity to the public toilets | of 8pm – 7am. |
| | | | | and waste bins. | |
| Kakapotahi Beach, | Public carpark, | Total: | 7 | The Kakapotahi Beach | It is recommended that the |
| Kakapotahi | Currently a | Protect area: | 2 | carpark is a suitable site for | Kakapotahi Beach carpark be a |
| | popular freedom | Protect H&S: | 3 | freedom camping. The off the | registered freedom camping site. |
| | camping site. No | Protect access: | 2 | highway/road large carpark | We recommend that freedom |
| | restrictions in | | | would be a safe location for | camping be restricted to the hours |
| | place. | | | campers to park. | of 8pm – 7am. |
| Franz Josef Heli | Public paid | Total: | 3 | The Franz Josef Heli carpark | It is recommended that the Franz |
| Carpark, Franz | carpark. No | Protect area: | 1 | located off State Highway 6 | Josef Heli carpark have eight |
| Josef | freedom camping | Protect H&S: | 1 | provides a safe area for | allocated carparks to be a |
| | restriction in | Protect access: | 1 | freedom campers to park. | registered freedom camping site. |
| | place. | | | This location is within close | We recommend that freedom |
| | | | | proximity to the public toilets | camping be restricted to the hours |
| | | | | and waste bins. | of 8pm – 7am. |
| Paringa Salmon | Public carpark. | Total: | 3 | The Paringa Salmon Farm | It is recommended that the Paringa |
| Farm, Paringa | Currently popular | Protect area: | 1 | carpark located off State | Salmon Farm carpark be a |
| | freedom camping | Protect H&S: | 1 | Highway 6 provides a safe | registered freedom camping site. |
| | site. No | Protect access: | 1 | area for freedom campers to | We recommend that freedom |
| | restrictions in | | | park. This location includes | camping be restricted to the hours |
| | place. | | | public toilets. | of 8pm – 7am. |
| Bruce Bay Beach, | Road reserve, no | Total: | 5 | The Bruce Bay Beachfront | It is recommended that the Bruce |
| Bruce Bay | freedom camping | Protect area: | 1 | near the Public toilets would | Bay Beachfront car park area |
| | restriction in | Protect H&S: | 3 | be a suitable site for freedom | towards the South could be a |
| | place. | Protect access: | 1 | camping. The off the | registered freedom camping site. |
| | | | | highway/road large parking | We recommend that freedom |
| | | | | area would be a safe location | camping be restricted to the hours |
| | | | | for campers to park. The | of 8pm – 7am. |
| | | | | location would also be | We recommend it be restricted to |
| | | | | across the road from public | 10 sites. |
| | | | | toilets. | |

| Area Assessed | Current Status | Score | | Summary of assessment | Recommendation |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Haast Playground, | Public carpark, No | Total: | 5 | The Haast playground | It is recommended that the Haast |
| Haast | freedom camping | Protect area: | 1 | carpark is a suitable site for | playground carpark have five |
| | restriction in | Protect H&S: | 3 | freedom camping with | allocated carparks to be a |
| | place. | Protect access: | 1 | facilities such as waste bins, | registered freedom camping site. |
| | | | | public toilets and seating | We recommend that freedom |
| | | | | available. | camping be restricted to the hours |
| | | | | | of 8pm – 7am. |