

DRAFT RESPONSIBLE CAMPING STRATEGY

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

**CONSULTATION OPEN FROM
14 OCTOBER – 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

**HAVE
YOUR SAY**





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Generations of New Zealanders have enjoyed summers camping in Tasman District, at Kaiteriteri, Totaranui, Māpua and a range of our other beautiful holiday destinations.

Over the past few years the number of campers in both self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles has increased dramatically, particularly in Motueka and Golden Bay. The increase in budget and freedom campers has come with challenges, including littering, waste disposal, noise, public space conflicts, safety and commercial competition concerns.

We want to continue to be welcoming hosts to people wishing to enjoy the uniquely Tasman experience, and we expect our visitors to respect the special places and communities as they pass through.

The draft Responsible Camping Strategy is intended to provide direction as we manage responsible camping through regulations and by providing facilities and visitor information. It may lead to future rule changes in the Tasman Freedom Camping Bylaw.

We've been talking to a wide range of groups and organisations to develop this draft, including Te Tau Ihui.

Now we need to hear from you – this strategy will inform the way we manage freedom camping in your community.

PROVIDE FEEDBACK

You can let us know your views by completing the feedback form, available online and at Council offices and libraries, by **18 November 2019**.

**HAVE
YOUR SAY**



Head to **tasman.govt.nz/feedback** to submit your feedback online.



Via post to:

Draft Responsible Camping Strategy

Tasman District Council,
Private Bag 4, Richmond



Via email at

info@tasman.govt.nz







At Tasman District
Council offices and libraries

SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT RESPONSIBLE CAMPING STRATEGY

This document is a summary of the draft strategy and outlines the vision, goals, objectives, principles and key actions. You can find more of the detail and background in the full draft strategy on our website – head to tasman.govt.nz/feedback.

THE VISION

We provide a wide range of opportunities for camping and welcome visitors that reciprocate by showing respect, appreciation and a positive contribution to our special places and the communities through which they pass.

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
<p>The natural environment is protected and enhanced.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Camping occurs where suitable facilities are available (on site or in vehicles).• Visitor numbers at sites are sustainable and within the capacity of facilities provided.• Environmentally and culturally sensitive sites are protected.• Campers respect the environment and comply with the bylaw.
<p>The quality of life of local communities is maintained.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residents are able to maintain their lifestyles in the presence of campers.• Reserves and public areas remain available, accessible and appealing for community use.• The community feels positive about sharing its special places with visitors.
<p>Responsible campers are welcomed and enjoy their stay.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are a wide range of opportunities for responsible camping available in the rohe (Tasman District).• Visitors know where they can camp and what is expected of them.• Facilities are safe and fit for purpose.• Visitors demonstrate their awareness, appreciation and respect for our special places through reciprocity.
<p>Economic activity is sustainable and benefits the local economy.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campers spend money in the rohe and opportunities for additional expenditure are encouraged and available.• A range of camping and other accommodation options remain available for visitors.• Campers contribute towards their stay and any facilities they use.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Freedom Camping Act explicitly prevents a council from enacting a bylaw that prohibits freedom camping. That means banning freedom camping totally in Tasman District would be illegal.



OUR MANAGEMENT APPROACH

We prefer to:

- Prohibit freedom camping in sensitive areas.
- Provide specific sites for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles, improve site selection, design and management and increase the provision of sites in areas where there is pressure on the existing facilities.
- Limit freedom camping on any other Council-administered land to self-contained vehicles only.

CHOOSING SITES

The strategy doesn't consider the future use of specific sites for freedom camping. However, to improve the way we choose sites for responsible camping, the draft strategy includes a range of criteria for assessing whether sites are suitable or not for responsible camping.

The primary criteria include conservation, cultural, historical, landscape and amenity values, risk of natural or other hazards, and the effect on access to recreation sites.

Secondary criteria looks at ownership, ability to minimise negative effects, impact on existing accommodation providers, community relationships, waste management and legal requirements.

You can check out the full list of criteria online at tasman.govt.nz/feedback.

TASMAN'S BUDGET CAMPERS

A survey of those using designated Council freedom camping sites in early 2019 showed the largest group of campers at those sites were those known as 'International Free Roamers' – young budget travellers, primarily from Europe, in small hired or owned vehicles.

Another common group were 'NZ Free Roamers or Roadtrippers', described as lifestyle drifters or young people on a road trip seeking free camping.

KEY ACTION AREAS

To achieve the goals and objectives, we plan to:

- Encourage responsible camping behaviours, a respect for the environment and our communities.
- Direct camping to appropriate areas through effective regulation and enforcement.
- Work cooperatively with others to encourage a range of camping opportunities.
- Provide free or low-cost, low-facility sites where not provided adequately by others.



Te Kaunihera o
te tai o Aorere