

Item 2: Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025

SESSION TYPE: Workshop

PURPOSE/DESIRED OUTCOME:

The purpose of this workshop is to share an overview of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025; provide an opportunity for the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) to ask questions about the draft bylaw; and collect feedback from WUCCB members that can be reported to the hearings panel for their consideration during deliberations.

DATE/START TIME:

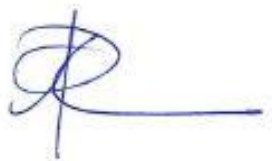
Tuesday, 15 July 2025 at 10.00am

TIME BREAKDOWN:

Presentation: 10 minutes

Questions: 20 minutes

Prepared by:



Name: Luke Place
Title: Principal Policy Advisor
4 July 2025

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Kenneth Bailey
Title: General Manager Community Services
4 July 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

A	Presentation – Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025
---	---

Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025

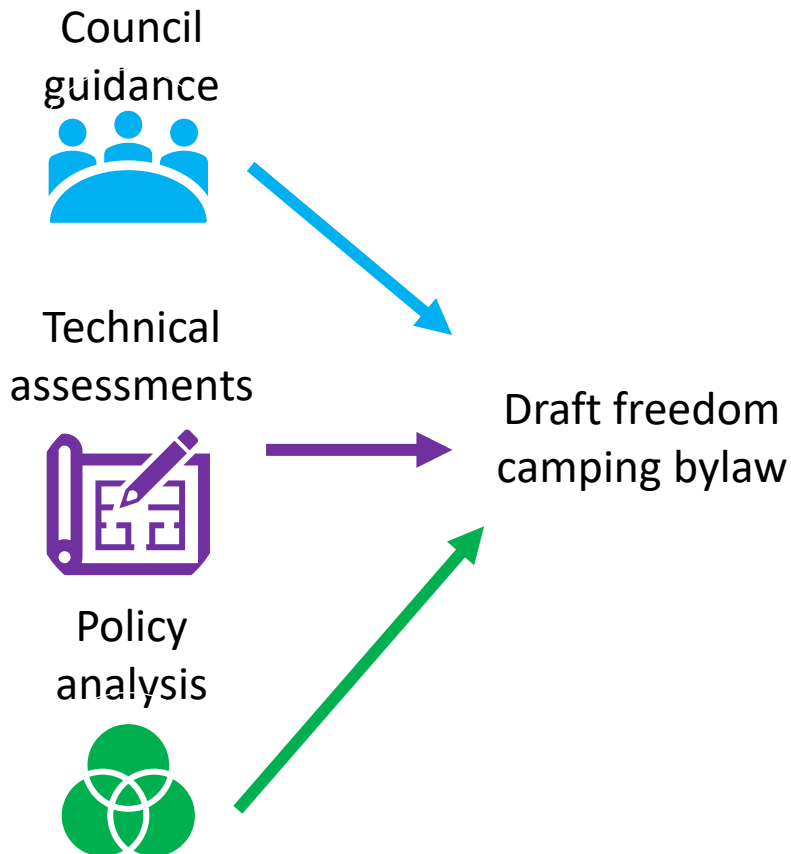
Ture ā-Rohe mō te Noho Puni Korehere

WUCCB workshop 15 July 2025

Purpose of workshop

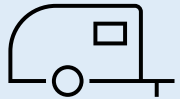
- > Share an overview of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025.
- > Provide an opportunity for the WUCCB to ask questions about the draft bylaw.
- > Collect feedback from WUCCB members that can be reported to the hearings panel for their consideration during deliberations.
- > Draft bylaw and further information [here](#).

Bylaw development process



Indicative date	Task
20 March 2025	Council meeting – Issues and options Determined that a bylaw and non-regulatory tools are the most appropriate way to manage perceived problem
15 April	Council workshop #1
22 May 2025	Council workshop #2
26 June 2025	Council meeting - adopt a draft bylaw for consultation
8 June 2025	Consultation opens
16 July 2025	WUCCB workshop
8 August 2025	Consultation closes
September 2025	Hearing of submissions and deliberations
9 October 2025	Council meeting - adopt final bylaw

Background – QLD camping context



The Freedom Camping Act 2011 permits camping in self-contained vehicles on all QLDC controlled/managed land.



The Reserves Act 1977 prohibits freedom camping on land classified as 'reserve'.

1 (formal) NZTA freedom camping site

All other NZTA land currently permitted for freedom camping

13 Doc camping areas
- either free or low cost
(approx. \$15/night)

18 Commercial Campsite/Holiday Park

1 QLDC freedom camping site
(Luggate Red Bridge)

1 New Zealand Motor Caravan Association camping site

0 LINZ freedom camping sites

Freedom Camping Act 2011 and freedom camping bylaws

Freedom camping bylaws can restrict or prohibit freedom camping to protect:

- > the area
- > health and safety of people who may visit the area
- > access to the area.

Bylaws can not:

- > manage freedom camping on private land
- > consider impacts on private land.

Bylaws may not apply blanket prohibitions.

Draft bylaw – key aspects

Key aspects of the draft bylaw:

1. 15 specific restricted freedom camping areas
2. Rural roads (roads outside of built-up areas) identified as restricted freedom camping areas
3. Urban roads (roads within built-up areas) identified as prohibited freedom camping areas
4. Council may temporarily prohibit, restrict or change conditions in any restricted freedom camping area (i.e. events)
5. Council may provide consent to temporarily freedom camp in an area where freedom camping is otherwise prohibited or restricted

Specific restricted freedom camping areas

> Specific areas where freedom camping is enabled subject to identified conditions – identified in schedule 1A of the draft bylaw.

Location	Number of carparking spaces proposed within location
Upper Clutha	
Wānaka Recreation Centre carpark, Wānaka	18
Allenby Place, Wānaka	5
Beacon Point Road carpark, Wānaka	5
Camp Hill Road carpark, Hāwea	15
Whakatipu	
Boundary Street carpark, Queenstown	15
Gorge Road carpark, Queenstown	2
Industrial Place carpark Queenstown	6
Lakeview carpark, Queenstown	10
Gray Street carpark, Frankton	10
Queenstown Event Centre carpark, Frankton	9
Howards Drive Carpark, Lake Hayes	3
Glenorchy Domain carpark, Glenorchy	3
Gibbston Highway/State Highway 6 carpark (NZTA land)	2
Kingston Road/State Highway 6 carpark (NZTA land)	50
Flint Street carpark, Arrowtown	5
Total number of carparking spaces in proposed restricted freedom camping areas	158

Specific restricted freedom camping areas - Conditions

- > use a certified self-contained motor vehicle
- > use one of the marked motor vehicle spaces within the area
- > must not arrive in any of the spaces before a specific time in the evening (time will be site dependent)
- > must leave any space before a specific time in the morning (time will be site dependent)
- > ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within one of the marked spaces
- > not stay more than two nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
- > not leave any waste
- > not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle

- > Roads in the district's rural areas are identified as restricted freedom camping areas
- > Freedom camping is enabled on these roads
- > Freedom camping must comply with the conditions in Clause 8.3 of the draft bylaw
- > Identified in schedule 1B of the draft bylaw

Rural roads restricted freedom camping areas - Conditions

- > use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
- > ensure that the side or part of the motor vehicle closest to the road (that is the carriageway) is located a minimum of 5 metres from the nearest edge of the road hard shoulder (where provided) or edge of seal (where no hard shoulder) at all times;
- > ensure that the motor vehicle is positioned in a location to ensure any other person can stop their motor vehicle in the immediate area at all times for any other purpose (i.e. other than for freedom camping);
- > ensure that the motor vehicle is only positioned on a formed gravel or sealed surface;
- > ensure any camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within 2 metres of the motor vehicle at all times, on a side of the vehicle away from the carriageway
- > not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any location within 500 metres of a location where the person has previously freedom camped
- > not leave any waste
- > not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle

Urban roads

- > Roads in the district's urban areas are identified as prohibited freedom camping areas.
- > Freedom camping can not be undertaken on these roads.
- > Includes roads within built up town centres, residential areas, commercial and business areas.
- > Identified in Schedule 2 of the draft bylaw.

Opportunity for feedback