

CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL POLICY

Policy Number	06 – 03 – 003	Freedom Camping
Prepared by	Planning and Environment Manager	
Authorised by	Council	
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Policy on Freedom Camping

Purpose

The Clutha District welcomes “free independent travellers”. This policy is intended to allow this form of tourism and recreation to continue, but provide some protection to minimise littering and dumping of toilet wastes.

Policy

1. Freedom Camping may only be carried out in mobile vehicles currently certified to New Zealand Standard 5465:2001 and displaying the necessary documentation. Freedom Camping in vehicles which are not certified self-contained, or tenting or sleeping outdoors, is not permitted.
2. Freedom Camping in a certified self-contained vehicle may occur on any Council controlled public land, except land stated in Schedule 1, for a maximum of three nights in any four week period at any single location. This might include roadside parking spaces, public reserves, beaches, lakes and rivers.
3. Toilet waste and greywater must be disposed of to a Council approved dump point (See Schedule 2). Fees may apply for using dump points at commercial locations.
4. All refuse must be disposed of to an approved litter bin, skip service or landfill.
5. All Freedom Camping sites must be left in a clean and tidy state.
6. There is no lighting of any fire at the site.
7. Freedom Campers must comply with any request to move on by any Authorised Officer.

SCHEDULE 1: PROHIBITED AREAS

- Public places in any urban area. This includes: Balclutha, Clinton, Kaitangata, Kaka Point, Lawrence, Milton, Owaka, Papatowai, Pounawea, Stirling, Taieri Mouth, Tapanui and Waiholo. This prohibition does not apply to any signposted designated freedom camping sites within those urban areas.
- All areas where Council ‘No Camping’ signs are displayed.
- The foreshore area between Kaka Point and The Nuggets

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SCHEDULE 2: DUMP POINT LOCATIONS

- Balclutha - Balclutha Camping Ground (commercial)
- Catlins Valley - River Ridge Retreat (commercial)
- Chaslands - McLean Falls Holiday Park, Rewcastle Road (commercial)
- Clinton - Triangle Reserve opposite BP Station (public)
- Kaitangata - Kaitangata Riverside Motor Camp (commercial)
- Kaka Point - Kaka Point Camping Ground (commercial)
- Lawrence - Reserve opposite Police Station (public)
- Milton - Taylor Park (commercial)
- Owaka - Catlins Inn (commercial)
- Owaka - Thomas's Catlins Lodge & Holiday Park (commercial)
- Owaka - Inn Street (public)
- Papatowai - Papatowai Motor Camp (commercial)
- Pounaweia - Pounaweia Camping Ground (commercial)
- Tapanui - Near Bushyhill Street playground (public)
- Waihola - Lake Waihola Holiday Park (commercial)

Note: Dump Point locations may be added to or deleted from this list from time to time as availability changes. Fees may apply for using dump points at commercial locations.

Procedures

This Policy is given effect by:

- Enacting a Bylaw which gives legal force to the Policy
- Providing pamphlets for visitors which outline the Policy, provide location maps for camping grounds, toilets, dump points and litter disposal, and also give more general tourist information
- Providing information about the Policy through Service Centres, Information Centres and websites
- Placing signage (within existing budgets and work programmes) advising of freedom camping restrictions
- Informing local residents close to popular freedom camping areas of the policy, so that they can advise campers appropriately
- Authorised Officers requesting campers to move on where they are not complying with the Policy, on occasions where there are significant problems at a particular site.

Council will not be regularly policing this Policy, as it does not have the staff nor resources to do so throughout the District. It will mostly rely on informing visitors and residents to encourage compliance, although legal backing will be in place through the Bylaw when required.

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It is noted that there are also existing legal controls on littering and dumping of toilet wastes, which can be used in conjunction with this Policy.

Definitions

“**Authorised Officer**” means any person appointed or authorised by the Council to act on its behalf and with its authority

“**Freedom Camping**” means any overnight stay on a public site, other than in commercial accommodation or an established camping ground which has toilets. It includes stays in campervans, mobile homes, other vehicles, tents or sleeping outdoors.

Relevant Legislation

Local Government Act 2002
Resource Management Act 1991
Freedom Camping Act 2011

Legal Compliance

Related Policy and Documents

Regulatory Bylaws Clause 203 Freedom Camping

Key Words

Freedom Camping, Bylaw