

<b>POLICY ON FREEDOM CAMPING</b>		<b>ACTIVITY GROUP:</b>	<b>REGULATORY</b>
<b>Policy Type:</b>	Council		
<b>Approved by:</b>	Council		
<b>Department:</b>	Regulatory		
<b>Date Approved:</b>	10 December 2020	<b>Next Review Date:</b>	10 December 2023
<b>Relevant Legislation:</b>	Freedom Camping Act 2011		
<b>Clutha District Council Documents referenced:</b>	Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021		

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline Council's approach to the management of freedom camping on local authority areas. The policy is intended to minimise any negative effects from freedom camping on the Clutha District community and environment.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to people who wish to freedom camp on Council controlled public land in the Clutha District. The policy is consistent with the Act in that it enables freedom camping to occur, whilst also providing for:

- The protection of local authority areas,
- The protection of health and safety for people who may visit local authority areas; and
- The protection of access to local authority areas.

## POLICY

1. Council encourages travellers and campers to use camping grounds and other accommodation as much as possible.
2. 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.
3. Freedom Camping may occur in any local authority area unless it is prohibited in accordance with Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw or any other enactment. Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw defines areas where freedom camping is prohibited.
4. Council may provide for freedom camping to occur at restricted freedom camping areas within urban areas, subject to any restrictions and conditions which may apply at particular sites.
5. There is no limit on the total number of nights a person may freedom camp within the Clutha District. However, no person may freedom camp for more than three consecutive nights at any single location, and no person may freedom camp for

- more than five nights in any four-week period at any single location.
6. On-board storage tanks must be emptied on a regular basis at a Council approved dump point, as identified in Schedule 2 of Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw.
  7. All refuse must be disposed of to an approved litter bin, skip service or landfill
  8. All Freedom Camping sites must be left in a clean and tidy state.
  9. There is to be no lighting of any open fire at the site. However, gas cookers or gas barbeques are permitted.
  10. An Authorised Officer may issue an infringement notice to anyone who the officer believes has committed an infringement as specified in the Act or Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw. The Act and other legislation prescribe the fines which are associated with particular offences.

## DEFINITIONS

**Act** means the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

**Authorised Officer** means a person appointed or authorised by the Council to act on its behalf and with its authority including a member of the police.

**Camping ground** means a camping ground that is the subject of a current certificate of registration under the Camping Regulations 1985; or any site at which a fee is payable for camping at the site

**Council** means Clutha District Council or any Committee of the Council or officer delegated to exercise the authority of Council.

**Local Authority Area** means an area of land within the Clutha District that is controlled or managed by the Council under any enactment, but does not include land that is permanently covered by water.

**Freedom camp** has the meaning in section 5 (1) and (2) of the Act.

**Night** means the period between 8pm and 7am or any part thereof.

**Restricted Freedom Camping Area** means a parking area or marked parking space identified within the urban areas in Schedule 1 of this Bylaw and indicated by signs erected in the area where camping is permitted subject to any restrictions and conditions.

**Self-contained Vehicle** means a vehicle designed and built for the purpose of camping which has the capability of meeting the ablutionary and sanitary needs of the occupants of that vehicle for a minimum of three days without requiring any external services or discharging any waste and:

- Complies with New Zealand Standard 5465:2001, as evidenced by the display of a current self-containment warrant issued under New Zealand Standard Self Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans, NZS 5465:2001, and the availability on request of the associated self-containment certificate; and
- The toilet facility must be readily usable within the vehicle including sufficient head and elbow room at all times, even with the bed made up.

**Waste** means any kind of waste, including human waste.

**Waste Receptacle** means a receptacle or facility that is provided by the Council for the purposes of disposing of waste (for example, a rubbish bin, public toilet, or bulk waste disposal unit).

## Version Control

<b>Version History</b>			
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Version:</b>
9 August 2012	Policy issued	Policy on Freedom Camping	1
10 December 2020	Policy reviewed	Policy on Freedom Camping	2