

# Submission – sustainable freedom camping in Aotearoa

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council  
**Date of meeting:** 26 May 2021  
**Reporting officer:** Shireen Munday, Policy Team Leader

## Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To present a draft submission to proposed changes to freedom camping related regulatory matters.

## Executive summary | Whakarāpopototanga

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is seeking feedback on proposed changes to freedom camping regulatory matters. Council was presented with an overview of the proposal, together with a draft submission at the 5 May 2021 Council Briefing. Council is now being asked to either approve the final draft submission, suggest final amendments, or decline to make a submission to the process before the 31 May 2021 submission closing date.

## Recommendation | Ngā tūtohunga

That Kaipara District Council

- a) Approves the submission to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on freedom camping matters as provided in Attachment A.
- b) Delegates the Mayor and Chief Executive the authority to approve a final version of the submission for final formatting purposes or in response to decisions at this meeting.

## Context | Horopaki

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the Act) was introduced in response to concerns regarding New Zealand's hosting of the Rugby World Cup in 2011. Since then, there have been numerous proposed reviews, mayoral working groups and other reports that have discussed concerns and/or proposed changes to the regulatory environment for freedom camping in New Zealand. These were both as a response to challenges experienced by local authorities in successfully implementing and administering bylaws under the Act, as well as a distinct increase of, and change in behaviours by, freedom campers in New Zealand over the last ten years.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is now proposing some changes in response to these ongoing issues and launched its proposal on 9 April 2021. The initial closing date was 16 May 2021. Council staff advised at a meeting hosted by MBIE in Whangarei on 15 April that it would be challenging for Council to approve a submission within the current timeframes.

MBIE staff have subsequently advised that the Minister has approved to receive submissions from councils by 31 May 2021.

## Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

The details of the [proposal](#) were presented to Council at the 5 May Council [Briefing](#), together with a proposed draft submission in response to this. Based on the feedback and discussion at the Briefing, staff are now presenting a finalised draft submission for approval (Attachment A), which has been reviewed for grammar, formatting and clarity, but which remains substantively the same as the draft presented to the Council Briefing. Attachment B shows these amendments in track changes.

Council's options are to approve the submission, resolve to make amendments to the submission, or decline the option to provide a submission to the process.

Given the tight timeframes it is proposed that the approval of a final submission is delegated to the Chief Executive and Mayor.

## **Significance and engagement | Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā**

The decisions or matters of this report are considered to have a low degree of significance in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. No feedback is required, and the public will be informed of Council's decision via the agenda and minutes publication of this meeting, on the website and through other channels if appropriate.

## **Next steps | E whaiake nei**

Depending on the decisions made at this meeting, staff will provide a submission to MBIE prior to the 31 May 2021 closing date.

## **Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga**

	<b>Title</b>
A	Kaipara District Council submission – Proposed changes to support effective management of freedom camping in New Zealand
B	Track changes to submission.