



# Council Agenda

Thursday 05 June 2025, 8:30 am

The meeting will be held at Hato Hone St Johns,  
35 Bowen Street, Feilding, and a video recording  
made available on [www.mdc.govt.nz](http://www.mdc.govt.nz).

**[www.mdc.govt.nz](http://www.mdc.govt.nz)**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Chairperson**

Her Worship the Mayor, Helen Worboys

### **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor Michael Ford

### **Members**

Councillor Bridget Bell  
Councillor Steve Bielski  
Councillor Lara Blackmore  
Councillor Stuart Campbell  
Councillor Grant Hadfield  
Councillor Colin McFadzean  
Councillor Andrew Quarrie  
Councillor Kerry Quigley  
Councillor Alison Short  
Councillor Fiona Underwood

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shayne Harris'.

Shayne Harris  
**Chief Executive**

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

## PAGE

### 1. MEETING OPENING

Bobby Kusilifu will open the meeting in prayer.

### 2. APOLOGIES

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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#### *Recommendation*

*That the minutes of the Council meeting held 15 May 2025 be adopted as a true and correct record.*

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Notification from elected members of:

- 4.1 Any interests that may create a conflict with their role as an elected member relating to the items of business for this meeting; and
- 4.2 Any interests in items in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest as provided for in the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

### 5. PUBLIC FORUM

#### 5.1 GARY BARNETT (8.35AM)

Gary Barnett will be in attendance to speak to Council about Parking - CBD, Grey Street & Hobson Street.

### 6. PRESENTATIONS

There are no presentations scheduled for this meeting.

### 7. NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting, that item may be dealt with at that meeting if:

- 7.1 The Council by resolution so decides; and
- 7.2 The Chairperson explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public the reason why the item is not on the agenda, and the reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

### 8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There are no recommendations from committees.

## 9. NON-COUNCIL MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

### 9.1 COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

Minutes of the following Community Committees and Youth Council meetings are uploaded to the Council's website, as they become available.

Liaison councillors will have the opportunity to provide a verbal update.

The below meetings took place from 15 May to 04 June 2025:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Cheltenham Community Committee	• 3 June 2025
Colyton Community Committee	• 22 May 2025
Hiwinui Community Committee	• 20 May 2025
Rangiwahia Community Committee	• 21 May 2025
Rongotea Community Committee	• 2 June 2025
Tangimoana Community Committee	• 19 May 2025
Waituna West Community Committee	• 21 May 2025
<a href="https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/community-committees-and-plans">https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/community-committees-and-plans</a>	

YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS	
Meeting	• 19 May 2025
Meeting	• 3 June 2025
<a href="https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/mdc-youth-council/youth-council-meeting-minutes">https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/committees-and-organisations/mdc-youth-council/youth-council-meeting-minutes</a>	

### 9.2 MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

Councillors have the opportunity to update council about their marae committee.

## 10. OFFICER REPORTS

- |             |   |    |
|-------------|---|----|
| <b>10.1</b> | <b>AWAHURI FOREST KITCHENER PARK TRUST DRAFT STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025 – 2026 (8.40AM)</b> | 19 |
|             | Report of the General Manager – Community.  |    |
| <b>10.2</b> | <b>MANAWATU COMMUNITY TRUST FINAL STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025/26 (9.40AM)</b>                | 33 |
|             | Report of the General Manager – Community.  |    |
| <b>10.3</b> | <b>FEILDING CIVIC CENTRE TRUST DRAFT STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025 – 2026 (10.30AM)</b>        | 52 |
|             | Report of the General Manager – Community.  |    |



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<b>10.4 DELIBERATIONS – SIGNIFICANCE &amp; ENGAGEMENT POLICY</b>	67
Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate.	
<b>10.5 DELIBERATIONS FOR THE FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW</b>	117
Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate.	
<b>10.6 DELEGATIONS MANUAL – RMA 1991 AMENDMENTS (LAND DEVELOPMENT TEAM)</b>	247
Report of the Chief Executive.	
<b>11. CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS</b>	
<b>12. PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS</b>	
COUNCIL TO RESOLVE:	
That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:	
1. Confirmation of Minutes – 15 May 2025	
2. Makino Aquatic Centre Lifeguarding <b>(11.30AM)</b>	
3. Manawatu Community Trust – Appointment of Trustee	
4. Renewal of Building Services Contract with Palmerston North City Council	

That the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
13. Confirmation of Minutes; 15 May 2025	<p><i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 15 May 2025.</i></p> <p><i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i></p>	s48(1)(a)
14.1 *Makino Aquatic Centre Lifeguarding	<p>7(2)(c)(ii) – obligation of confidence</p> <p>It includes sensitive commercial and staffing information, that if made public, could affect Council's negotiations and operations</p>	s48(1)(a)
14.2 Manawatu Community Trust – Appointment of Trustee	<p>7(2)(a) – privacy</p> <p>It includes private details about the recruitment and potential appointment of a trustee</p>	s48(1)(a)
14.3 Renewal of Building Services Contract with Palmerston North City Council	<p>7(2)(b)(ii) – prejudice commercial position</p> <p>It contains sensitive contractual and performance information</p>	s48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.

\*Also, that Sonia Griffin and Tyson Schmidt from Third Bearing be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of Third Bearings participation in the Section 17A review of the Makino Aquatic Centre. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter.

## 15. MEETING CLOSURE

MEETING MINUTES		
COUNCIL		TIME
THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025		8:33 AM

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Thursday 15 May 2025, which commenced at 8.33 am at Hato Hone St Johns, 35 Bowen Street, Feilding.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Helen Worboys	Chairperson
Cr Bridget Bell	
Cr Steve Bielski	
Cr Lara Blackmore	
Cr Stuart Campbell	
Cr Michael Ford	
Cr Grant Hadfield	
Cr Colin McFadzean	
Cr Andrew Quarrie	
Cr Kerry Quigley	
Cr Alison Short	
Cr Fiona Underwood	

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Shayne Harris	Chief Executive
Hamish Waugh	General Manager – Infrastructure
Lyn Daly	General Manager – Community
Amanda Calman	Chief Financial Officer
Ash Garstang	Governance and Assurance Manager
Lisa Thomas	Strategy Manager

MDC 22-25/1141

#### MEETING OPENING

Cr Steve Bielski opened the meeting with a prayer.

MDC 22-25/1142

#### APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

MDC 22-25/1143

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

**That the minutes of the Council meeting held 1 May 2025 be adopted as a true and correct record.**

**Moved by:** Cr Alison Short

**Seconded by:** Cr Kerry Quigley

**CARRIED (12-0)**

MEETING MINUTES		
COUNCIL		TIME
THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025		8:33 AM

MDC 22-25/1144

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Andrew Quarrie – LGNZ Membership: allocated a seat at the LGNZ conference.

Councillor Alison Short – Adoption of the Remuneration and Reimbursement for External Committee Members Policy: she is a member of the District Licensing Committee.

MDC 22-25/1145

#### PUBLIC FORUM

There were no requests for public forum.

MDC 22-25/1146

#### NOTIFICATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business notified for consideration.

MDC 22-25/1147

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from committees.

MDC 22-25/1148

#### COMMITTEE AND GROUP MEETINGS – FOR INFORMATION

The following Council Committees, Community Committees and Youth Council meetings were notified for information.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Creative Communities Assessment Committee	• 29 April 2025

COMMUNITY COMMITTEES	
Halcombe Community Committee	• 5 May 2025
Rongotea Community Committee	• 5 May 2025
Sanson Community Committee	• 8 May 2025

YOUTH COUNCIL	
Meeting	• 05 May 2025

Liaison Councillors provided brief updates on their respective Committees.

- Creative Communities Assessment Committee – Cr Alison Short advised that there was almost enough funding to approve all grants to their full level.

MEETING MINUTES	
<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>TIME</b>
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- Halcombe Community Committee – Cr Colin McFadzean advised that the ANZAC service at Halcombe was attended by more than 500 people. They appreciate that they need to get their Community Plan in place by June.
- Rongotea Community Committee – Cr Fiona Underwood. They had an extended meeting and updated their Community Plan. They were thankful for the pathway that has been completed, but a resident has requested an extension so that the pathway goes past their house as they have young children.
- Sanson Community Committee – Cr Alison Short. Working on their history boards. They are getting a bus shelter on SH 3. Horizons are engaging with them on the design, and they will make it a blue colour in alignment with the RNZAF Base close by.
- Youth Council – Cr Lara Blackmore. They are planning the Youth Market for 19 July.

MDC 22-25/1149

#### MARAE LIAISON COUNCILLORS

Councillors provided a verbal update on their attendance at marae meetings.

- Aorangi Marae – Cr Andrew Quarrie. He met with marae representatives which went very well.

MDC 22-25/1150

#### DECISION ON LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

Report of the General Manager – Infrastructure presenting Council's preferred option for Local Water Done Well for adoption. The decision Council makes today will inform the preparation of Council's Water Services Delivery Plan.

*Cr Alison Short left the meeting at 9.03 am and returned at 9.04 am.*

#### RESOLVED

1. That the Council adopt Option 1 – that an in-house stand-alone business unit is adopted for the delivery of water services in the Manawātū District.
2. That Council approve the responses to issues and concerns raised in submissions on Local Water Done Well (Annex A) for distribution.

***Note: The Water Services Delivery Plan will be developed based on the preferred option and will be presented to Council for adoption and approval for submission to the Department of Internal Affairs at the 24 July 2025 Council meeting or before if possible.***

**Moved by:** Mayor Helen Worboys

**Seconded by:** Cr Michael Ford

**CARRIED (12-0)**

MEETING MINUTES	
COUNCIL	TIME
THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025	8:33 AM

MDC 22-25/1151

#### REPRESENTATIVE FUND PRESENTATION – TE MATATINI O TE KAAHUI MAUNGA

Haimona Maruera spoke to Council on behalf of Te Tu Mataora about attending the Te Matatini o Te Kāhui Maunga 2025 Festival at the Bowl of Brooklands, New Plymouth in March 2025.

##### Highlights:

- It was a wonderful experience to represent the region. The group are the reigning champions for our regional competition.
- Te Tu Mataora placed 24<sup>th</sup> out of 55 competing groups. The competition was fierce, and the group was proud of their result. The event is an opportunity to present the group's kaupapa and acknowledge one of their founding members Coral.
- In response to a query around the District hosting a future Te Matatini event in six year's time, he advised that accommodation and spaces for groups to practice will be the key challenges to address.

MDC 22-25/1152

#### HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS - SIGNIFICANCE & ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate providing an opportunity for submitters to present their views and to verbally interact with Council, as required by Section 83(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 2002.

##### RESOLVED

**That the Council receives this report and hears verbal submissions on the Significance & Engagement Policy.**

**Moved by: Cr Michael Ford**

**Seconded by: Cr Lara Blackmore**

**CARRIED (12-0)**

##### 005 Angela Baker

##### Highlights:

- Believes that 'equality' should be changed to 'equity' under Schedule 4: Engagement Principles.
- Would like to see a shift away from the term 'stakeholder' and would prefer the term 'Community' is used as this is more inclusive.
- Angela is not fond of the term "ratepayers and residents", as this creates a distinction. She would prefer that the term "residents" is used more widely.

MEETING MINUTES	
<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>TIME</b>
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- In general, she believes that the Council should do all it can to increase the participation of the community. For example, joint community-Council committees on big issues. She believes that many people perceive the Council's formal consultations as being foregone conclusions and that Council has a reputation for conducting business behind closed doors.
- Angela believed that the Council needs to do better with LGOIMA requests (requests for official information), as requests are sometimes interpreted strictly and not all relevant information is provided in the Council responses.
- Future generations need to be considered in every decision, acknowledging that this is difficult.

In response to questions, Angela Baker advised:

- Balancing apathy against the wish of those who want to be engaged is tricky, but she believes that it is somewhat of a vicious cycle. I.e., not engaging well reinforces community apathy.
- She acknowledged that her comments on Cr Ford's views on a Feilding Community Committee were slightly misconstrued and accepted that the case for a Feilding Community Committee was an open question that needed addressing.

#### **006 Mark Wasley**

Highlights:

- Overall, Mark approved of the draft Policy.
- On page 89 (of the agenda) it stated that the Council will use plain English and avoid jargon where possible and provide a plain English summary document if needed. He supported this provision.
- He supported the inclusion of the Māori and Mana Whenua participation principle in Schedule 4 of the Policy.
- There are multiple ways to engage with the community, including radio. He suggested that the Council recommence its use of TikTok.
- Feilding Community Committee – the consensus from "Keep Feilding Beautiful" was that the Feilding area was too large to form a cohesive group. However, Mark hopes that this question is revisited after the 2025 election.

In response to questions, Mark Wasley advised:

- He does not personally use TikTok and cannot comment on its utility, however Palmerston North City Council make good use of social media and engaging with youth and are a good example to look to.
- He would like to see a livestream of Council meetings.

#### **007 Frances Pere (on behalf of Te Kōtui Reo Taumata)**



MEETING MINUTES	
<b>COUNCIL</b>	TIME
<b>THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025</b>	<b>8:33 AM</b>

**Highlights:**

- Te Kōtui Reo Taumata support the intent of the Policy. She also acknowledged the efforts of elected members in forming relationships with iwi and Māori (e.g., marae liaisons).
- She queried how the Council will continue to progress these relationships in view of the Māori wards referendum and encouraged the Council to continue its work in living up to the standards that the Policy lays out.
- She mentioned that at the Te Kōtui Reo Taumata workshop that staff attended, the group provided several suggested amendments for inclusion in the Policy.

In response to a question, Frances Pere advised:

- While policies and procedures are important, the foundation of strong relationships lies in authenticity and trust. Manaakitanga captures these values – it reflects how genuine connections allow people to uplift and enhance each other's mana.

*The meeting was adjourned at 10.07 am and reconvened at 10.34 am.*

MDC 22-25/1153

**ADOPTION OF THE REMUNERATION AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS POLICY**

Report of the General Manager – People and Corporate presenting to Council the Remuneration and Reimbursement for External Committee Members Policy to the Council for adoption.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Council adopts the Remuneration and Reimbursement for External Committee Members Policy without amendment, noting that funding will be sourced from existing budgets.**

**Moved by: Cr Stuart Campbell**

**Seconded by: Cr Lara Blackmore**

**CARRIED (11-0)**

*Cr Alison Short abstained from the vote due to a declared conflict of interest*

MDC 22-25/1154

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND MEMBERSHIP**

Report of the Chief Executive seeking a Council decision on whether to renew its membership with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ).

**RESOLVED**

MEETING MINUTES	
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That the Manawātū District Council renews its membership with Local Government New Zealand and pays the subscription of \$53,730.53 (GST EXCL) for the 2025-26 year.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Bridget Bell

**CARRIED (8-4)**

*Cr Grant Hadfield, Cr Andrew Quarrie, Cr Kerry Quigley, and Cr Fiona Underwood voted against the motion*

MDC 22-25/1155

#### CONSIDERATION OF LATE ITEMS

There were no late items notified for consideration.

MDC 22-25/1156

#### PUBLIC EXCLUDED BUSINESS

#### RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 1 May 2025
2. Tender Award - MDC1470-1 Feilding Food Waste Collection - Bin Supply, Distribution and Ongoing Collection
3. Feilding Civic Centre Trust new trustee appointments
4. Public Excluded Resolutions for Release

That the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
13. Confirmation of Minutes; 1 May 2025	<i>To consider the accuracy of the minutes of the public excluded Council meeting on 1 May 2025.</i>  <i>Any changes to previous minutes may require members to discuss the content of the public excluded session.</i>	s48(1)(a)

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14.1 Tender Award - MDC1470-1 Feilding Food Waste Collection - Bin Supply, Distribution and Ongoing Collection	s7(2)(i) – commercial negotiations  <i>This report discusses Council's commercial position and negotiations relating to a Feilding Food Waste Collection</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.2 Feilding Civic Centre Trust New Trustee Appointments	s7(2)(a) – privacy  <i>This report discusses private individuals prior to any formal appointment</i>	s48(1)(a)
14.3 Public Excluded Resolutions for Release	s7(2)(a) – privacy  s7(2)(h) – commercial activities  <i>To consider the release of previous public excluded resolutions. Any discussion around these need to remain public excluded</i>	s48(1)(a)

**This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of the Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as specified above.**

**Moved by: Mayor Helen Worboys**

**Seconded by: Cr Alison Short**

**CARRIED (12-0)**

*The meeting went into public excluded session at 11.15 am. For items MDC 22-25/1157 to MDC 22-25/1161 refer to public excluded proceedings. The meeting returned to open session at 12.01pm.*

MDC 22-25/1162

#### CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED RESOLUTIONS IN OPEN SESSION

MDC 22-25/063 – South Street Land Sale – Special Development Zone Humphries (02 Feb 23)

#### RESOLVED

1. That the Council disposes of 'real property', by entering into a sale and purchase agreement for the sale of 3,000 square metres (more or less), legally described as Lot 4 Deposited Plan 573030 (Record of Title 1042223) with Humphries Developments Limited for the purchase price of five hundred and five thousand dollars (\$505,000) plus GST (if any).

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AND

2. That the Chief Executive be delegated all powers necessary to conclude the transaction including settling the final conditions of sale, imposing any reasonable covenants, and anything else necessary to execute an Agreement for Sale and Purchase and complete the transfer of the land.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Colin McFadzean

CARRIED

MDC 22-25/215 – Purchase of Feilding High School Land for Walkway (01 Jun 23)

RESOLVED

That the Council approve the acquisition of 'real property' of approximately 1.89 hectares (subject to survey) being a part of the property comprised in New Zealand Gazette 1968 p 584 held for a Secondary School, New Zealand Gazette 1963, p 1989 held for a Secondary School, and in New Zealand Gazette 1974 p 2646 held for a Secondary School; for one hundred and two thousand one hundred and seventy-five dollars \$102,175 plus GST (if any) noting this is within budget for settlement in the 2023/2024 financial year.

AND

That the Chief Executive be authorised to undertake such actions as necessary to complete the transfer of this land to Council.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Mayor Helen Worboys

CARRIED

MDC 22-25/832 – CEDA Director Recruitment (03 Oct 24)

RESOLVED

That the Council supports the recommendation of the Electoral College as per the CEDA Appointment of Directors Policy, Section 3.4a:

AND

1. Appoints Bobbie O'Fee as director and chair of Central Economic Development Agency until 31 December 2027.

2. Appoints Margy Maré and David Norman as directors of Central Economic Development Agency until 31 December 2026.

3. Note advertising will not be necessary as the reappointment of the members above will ensure continuity of strategic direction.

Moved by: Mayor Helen Worboys

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Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/968 – Animal Control Services Contract Renewal (05 Dec 24)

RESOLVED

That Council approve the Animal Control Contract Renewal between Rangitīkei District Council and Manawātū District Council for the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027 at a cost of \$1,032,458.40 (excl GST) which is within the existing budget.

Moved by: Cr Grant Hadfield

Seconded by: Cr Lara Blackmore

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/1030 – Manawatu Community Trust Trustee Recruitment (20 Feb 25)

RESOLVED

That Council re-appoints Allan Davey to the Manawātū Community Trust for a further 3-year term from 6 May 2025 to 5 May 2028, and undertake a recruitment process for one Trustee.

Moved by: Cr Alison Short

Seconded by: Cr Michael Ford

CARRIED (12-0)

ARC 22-25/205 – Key Project Status Report (13 Mar 25)

RESOLVED

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives the Key Project Status Report from March 2025.

Moved by: Cr Lara Blackmore

Seconded by: Cr Grant Hadfield

CARRIED (5-0)

MDC 22-25/1070 – Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trustee Recruitment (20 Mar 25)

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. Accepts Matt Davis's resignation from the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust as a Trustee effective 19 December 2024 and establishes a vacancy.

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2. Accepts Rachel Harrison's resignation from the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust as a Trustee effective 31 January 2025 and establishes a vacancy.

3. Appoints Tracey Alston as a Trustee to the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust for a three-year term from 20 March 2025 to 19 March 2028, and

4. Appoints Jo Morris as a Trustee to the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust for a three-year term from 20 March 2025 to 19 March 2028.

Moved by: Cr Alison Short

Seconded by: Mayor Helen Worboys

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/1071 – Feilding Civic Centre Trustee Recruitment (20 Mar 25)

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. Accepts Kelly Hayes' resignation from the Feilding Civic Centre Trust as a trustee effective from 12 April 2025.

2. Notes that there are two existing trustee vacancies.

3. Approves a recruitment process to be undertaken for three trustees.

4. Appoints Cr Grant Hadfield as an interim trustee for up to three months, if necessary, effective from 12 April 2025, to ensure the Trust has a minimum of six trustees, as is required in the Trust Deed, during the trustee recruitment process.

Moved by: Cr Michael Ford

Seconded by: Cr Kerry Quigley

CARRIED (12-0)

MDC 22-25/1091 – Tender Award Recommendation – MDC1963 Wastewater Centralisation Rising Main Construction (03 Apr 25)

RESOLVED

1. That the Council authorises the award of contract MC1963 to Fulton Hogan Ltd for construction of the Wastewater Centralisation – Halcombe Stage 1 and Rongotea contract (excluding the Awahuri-Kauwhata line) for a sum not exceeding three million, seven hundred and sixty two thousand, one hundred and fifty dollars, and forty two cents (\$3,762,150.42) plus GST.

2. That a contingency amount of two hundred and sixty four thousand, forty seven dollars, and seventy five cents (\$264,047.75) plus GST is approved, to be spent only upon written instruction from the Engineer to the Contract.

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Note: That future stages of related contract work may be awarded directly to Fulton Hogan Ltd as recommended by Council officers, subject to satisfactory performance during the original contract, and noting that any future stages awarded are to be authorised as per the Delegations Manual.

Note: Pre-award negotiations may reduce the contract award price.

Note: The proposed contract spans the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years. A portion of the recommended contract price will be expended in 2025/26.

Note: This project is funded through wastewater renewal budgets which are funded by depreciation.

Moved by: Cr Colin McFadzean

Seconded by: Cr Steve Bielski

CARRIED (9-0)

MDC 22-25/1163

#### MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.01 pm.

#### Meeting Video

<https://www.mdc.govt.nz/about-council/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/videos-of-council-and-committee-meetings/manawatu-district-council-meeting-videos>



## Council

Meeting of 05 June 2025

Business Unit: Community  
Date Created: 29 April 2025

### Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust Draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026

#### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present for consideration the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 for feedback in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2002. If there are no material changes required, Council are asked to agree to the draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 as the final version.

#### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Council:

1. Agree to the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 subject to feedback being incorporated into the final Statement of Intent.
- OR**
2. Agree to the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 -2026 with no changes, confirming this as the final version.

Report prepared by:  
Maree Pritchard  
Community Operations Advisor

Approved for submission by:  
Lyn Daly  
General Manager - Community

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## 1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Manawatū District Council resolved at the 01 February 2024 meeting to revoke the CCO-exempt status for Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust (AFKPT). As a result the Statement of Expectation (SOE) and Statement of Intent (SOI) process was introduced from the 2024 – 2025 year. We are now in the second year of this annual process.
- 1.2 Manawatū District Council (MDC) finalised and approved the AFKPT SOE for 2025 – 2026 (ref: [Appendix 1](#)) at the 06 March 2025 council meeting. AFKPT have submitted their draft Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026 for Council’s consideration and feedback in response to the SOE.

## 2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 The Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust assists in the ecological restoration, management and enhancement of the land contributing to priority three of Council as laid out in the long term plan: an environment to be proud of.
- 2.2 An annual Statement of Intent is also a legislative requirement under the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 for Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs).

## 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 The draft Statement of Intent (ref: [Appendix 2](#)) responds to the five expectations given in the SOE 2025 - 2026:
  - Maintain the forest / park, within the existing boundary, as an area of unspoilt nature (scenic reserve) for the benefit of the community and visitors
  - Actively pursue third-party funding opportunities for forest / park investment (to invest in the activities within the forest / park and development of the forest / park)
  - Plan to develop further walking and cycling tracks within the forest / park to connect to the “loop track concept” described in Council’s Walking & Cycling Strategy
  - Minimise future flooding impacts to the forest / park through appropriate design and planting
  - Make the forest / park available for educational opportunities to increase awareness and extend knowledge.
- 3.2 Officers worked together with the Trust to set the proposed targets and actions in the draft SOI 2025 – 2026 to meet the expectations in the SOE.
- 3.3 The original date for the draft SOI 2025 – 2026 presentation to Council was in May, however this was extended to June to allow further time for Officers and the Trust to work together to update the first draft submitted.

- 3.4 If there are no material changes required by Council, Officers recommend the draft Statement of Intent 2024 -2025 is approved as the final version.

#### 4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 A key risk is the uncertainty of future funding availability. Mitigation is by adjustment of the workplan if necessary to be inline with the resource / funding available. This may impact on achievement of the targets / outputs specified in the Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026.

#### 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

##### Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

##### Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary, although officers note the strong working relationship between Ngāti Kauwhata and AFKPT that does influence some activities in the SOI.

##### Community Engagement

- 5.3 There is no community engagement associated with this report.

#### 6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 Officers will continue to work collaboratively with AFKPT to achieve the expectations in the SOE and targets and actions in the SOI.

#### 7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this report.
- 7.2 For information, MDC provides annual grant funding to Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust and also has budgeted capital expenditure over the next three years. Additionally there is an annual plan request (to be confirmed annually) for plant care funding of \$20,000 for the 2025 – 2026 and 2026 – 2027 financial years.

MDC Grant funding	2025 - 2026	2026 – 2027	2027 - 2028
MDC operational grant forecast	123,760	127,350	130,780
Plant care for newly restored areas <i>* AP request to be approved</i>	20,000	20,000	

AFKP Projects	2025 - 2026	2026 – 2027	2027 - 2028
Replace non-slip plastic surfacing on main board walk		32,337	

Boardwalk renewal			80,056
Carpark Reseal			43,937
Installation of feature seating along boardwalk	8,365		9,607
Replacement and upgrading of signage through the park	8,365		

## 8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

### 8.1 The LGA2002 Schedule 8 Part 1 states

#### **1. Draft Statement of Intent**

*(2) The draft statement of intent must be delivered on or before 1 March\* in the year preceding the financial year to which the draft statement of intent relates.*

#### **2. Consideration of Shareholder comments**

*The board must consider any comments on the draft statement of intent that are made by the shareholders, and by local authorities with indirect control, or by any of them, on or before 1 May\* in the year preceding the year to which the draft statement relates.*

#### **3. Final Statement of Intent**

*The board must deliver the completed statement of intent to the shareholders before the commencement of the financial year to which it relates.*

8.2 Note the dates\* above have not been met in relation to this report given the cadence is not yet established with the inaugural introduction of the SOE / SOI process for the 2024 – 2025 year. The Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026 is scheduled to be finalised prior to 1 July 2025, this timing has been discussed and accepted by the Trust.

## 9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 The comments and feedback from Council will be updated in the final Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026, unless there are no material changes required then Council are asked to agree the draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 as the final version.

9.2 The final Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026 will be effective from 01 July 2025.

## 10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- AFKPT Statement of Expectation 2025 - 2026
- AFKPT draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026



## Office of the Mayor

7 March 2025

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust  
Bessie Nicholls (Chair)  
FEILDING

Dear Bessie

### Statement of Expectations for Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

Manawatū District Council values the important contribution Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust (AFKPT) makes to our vision of “Proudly Provincial. A great place to land - Wehi nā te kāinga taurikura nei ki tuawhenua”.

This Statement of Expectations provides direction to assist the Trust in preparing its Statement of Intent (SOI) for the three years 2025 – 2028. It also clarifies Council’s expectations on how AFKPT and Council can work together for maximum community benefit.

#### 1.0 Strategic Direction

Manawatū District Council’s vision is:

***Proudly provincial. A great place to land - Wehi nā te kāinga taurikura nei ki tuawhenua***

Awahuri Kitchener Park has an important role to play in helping Council achieve its strategic priorities to achieve our vision, of particular focus is the strategic priority of an environment to be proud of.

Manawatū District Council’s Strategic priorities are:

- A place to belong and grow. He kāinga e ora pai ai te katoa - We provide leisure and sports facilities and support community activities to encourage social and cultural well-being for everyone.
- A future planned together. He kāinga ka whakamaherea tahitia tōna anamata e te hapori tonu - We work with all parts of our community to plan for a future everyone can enjoy.
- **An environment to be proud of. He kāinga ka rauhītia tōna taiao - We protect and care for the Manawatū District’s natural and physical resources.**
- Infrastructure fit for future. He kāinga ka tūwhena tonu ōna pūnahahanga, haere ake nei te wā - We ensure the Manawatū District has infrastructure (water, roads, etc.) that meets the needs of the community now and into the future.
- A prosperous, resilient economy. He kāinga ka tōnui tōna ōhanga - We aim to make the Manawatū District a great place to live, to visit and to do business.

- Value for money and excellence in local government He kāinga ka eke tōna kāwanatanga ā-rohe ki ngā taumata o te kairangi - We take pride in serving our communities. We focus on doing the best for the District.

The overall result Council strives for is - Our people delivering great service and facilities to our community. AFKPT as a Council Controlled Organisation is seen as an extension of Council striving towards this outcome.

## 2.0 Development of the Statement of Intent (SOI)

When developing Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park's SOI, we expect that you will address the following:

Council's Expectations	Comment to Trust for preparation of their SOI 2025 - 2028
Maintain the forest/park, within the existing boundary, as an area of unspoilt nature (scenic reserve) for the benefit of the community and visitors	Performance measures describe the Trusts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pest control activity for plants (i.e. phragmites) and animals</li> <li>• native planting activity (enhancement or replaced planting)</li> </ul>
Actively pursue third-party funding opportunities for forest/park investment (to invest in the activities within the forest/park and development of the forest/park)	Performance measures developed on an agreed minimum number of third-party funding applications lodged by the Trust per annum (on top of any Council based funding)
Plan to develop further walking and cycling tracks within the forest/park to connect to the "loop track concept" described in Council's Walking & Cycling Strategy	Performance measures developed to agree on a timeline for the Trust delivering a plan for new walking and cycling tracks in the forest/park that connect to Council's loop track development
Minimise future flooding impacts to the forest/park through appropriate design and planting	Performance measures developed that describes the Trust's flood protection activity vs Horizon's flood protection activity
Make the forest/park available for educational opportunities to increase awareness and extend knowledge.	Performance measures developed to maintain a passive education programme for the community and visitors

## 3.0 Working together

One of Council's priorities is to establish and manage an effective working relationship based on mutual respect and trust with its CCOs. This means more than regular reporting, it means two-way dialogue and working together to achieve shared outcomes.

To achieve these aims, Council has the following expectations:

- Collaboration - AFKPT and Council will work together collaboratively to ensure AFKPT's policies and decisions represent the strategic direction and best interest of the Council and ultimately the community;
- Communication - Ongoing engagement between AFKPT and Council, both at a governance and operational level, to ensure that all parties are well-informed of each other's mandate and priorities. Council decisions are to be communicated in a positive manner; any concerns should be raised directly with Council Officers;

- Performance - The Trust is the most important monitor of AFKPT's performance. Council expects the Trust to advise regularly of its performance, implications for future performance, and risks and opportunities faced by the organisation. Reporting to Council is required six-monthly and annually with a no surprises approach to communication. Performance measures will be developed together;
- Partnerships - Strategic partnerships will be developed and maintained;
- Funding – In addition to the grant funding Council provides, opportunities to attract third party investment to be identified and actioned as appropriate.

Council will notify AFKPT of any actions or announcements that may affect the trust before any public announcement is made.

#### **4.0 Responsibilities**

The Council expects that AFKPT will:

- Achieve the objectives and performance measures as determined through the AFKP Trust Deed, the Statement of Expectations, and the Statement of Intent;
- Align its strategic priorities to Council's wider strategic priorities;
- Manage financials in a prudent manner which promotes current and future interests of the community, ensuring efficient allocation of public resources;
- Provide audited financial statements which are prepared with generally accepted accounting practice;
- Work to mitigate risk through ensuring sound Health, Safety and Wellbeing practices. Reporting on Health, Safety and Wellbeing to be included in the 6-monthly reporting to Council;
- Uphold good governance practices, such as managing real or perceived conflicts of interest in line with Council's policy; be sensitive to the demand for accountability and transparency required by the status of a public entity; and retain good visibility over operational decision-making managing risks in a proactive manner.

The responsibilities of Council are to:

- Provide an operational grant to the Trust for the relevant LTP period;
- Support AFKPT to achieve the objectives of this Statement of Expectation, receiving and approving the draft and final Statement of Intent;
- Appoint trustees to the AFKPT board in accordance with the Trust Deed and Appointment of Directors Policy;
- Monitor AFKPT's performance as informed through the presentation of six monthly and annual reports to Council;
- Build and maintain a relationship of mutual respect and trust, including communicating in a positive manner about AFKPT's successes.



## 5.0 Accountability, monitoring and transparency

AFKPT is statutorily required to meet its obligations under Part 5 and Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) including achieving the objectives of the Council, be a good employer, and exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility. The Act was amended with changes applicable from October 2019.

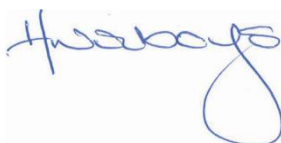
It is important to the Council that the people of the Manawatū District know that they can attend at least one public board meeting each year, even if the majority will not choose to do so. The Council sees AFKPT's AGM as the ideal opportunity to do this and encourages AFKPT to actively promote this to the public.

## 6.0 Timeline of the Statement of Intent (SOI)

1 May 2025	Draft SOI presented to Council
2 May 2025	Council recommended changes to the draft SOI sent to the Trust for consideration / inclusion
On or before 23 May 2025	Updated SOI delivered to Council Officers by AFKPT
5 June 2025	Final SOI presented to Council

We look forward to working with AFKPT collectively as we continue to develop a model of service and facilities that ensure our community thrives socially, culturally, economically and environmentally. We thank the Trust and volunteers of AFKP for their collaboration as we move ahead together.

Yours sincerely



Helen Worboys

**Mayor, JP**

## **Statement of Intent 2025 / 2026**

**This Statement of Intent covers the year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Statement of Intent is to

- a) State publicly the activities and intentions of this Council Controlled Organisation for the year and the objective to which those activities will contribute; and
- b) Provide an opportunity for shareholders<sup>1</sup> to influence the direction of the organisation; and
- c) Provide a basis for the accountability of the directors<sup>2</sup> to their shareholders for the performance of the organisation.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATION**

- 1. Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides:  
Principal objective of a council-controlled organisation
  - 1) The principal objective of a council-controlled organisation is to
    - a. Achieve the objectives of its shareholders, both commercial and non-commercial, as specified in the statement of intent; and
    - b. Be a good employer; and
    - c. Exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates and by endeavouring to accommodate or encourage these when able to do so; and
    - d. If the council-controlled organisation is a council-controlled trading organisation, conduct its affairs in accordance with sound business practice.
  - 2) In subsection 1)b. good employer has the same meaning as in clause 36 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The overall result Council strives for is - Our people delivering great service and facilities to our community. AFKPT as a Council Controlled Organisation is seen as an extension of Council striving towards this outcome.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Shareholders' include any partners, joint venture partners, members or other persons holding equity securities in relation to the organisation. In this case the shareholders will be the Mayor and the Councillors of the Manawātū District Council.

<sup>2</sup> 'Directors' and the 'Board' include trustees, managers or office holders (however described in the organisation).

## **NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Nature**

The park / forest is classified as Scenic A reserve. Scenic A Reserve preserves native flora and fauna as much as possible. The Trust is required to govern the maintenance and restoration of the park / forest as per the Reserves Act (RA) stipulations.

### **Scope**

Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), accessing funding and providing governance for: long-term planning for reforestation as near as possible to 150 years ago, Planting, Biodiversity, Hydrology, Infrastructure, and Education.

## **PURPOSES OF AWAHURI FOREST KITCHENER PARK TRUST**

The purposes of the Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park Trust as identified in its Trust Deed are:

- a) To assist in the ecological restoration, management and enhancement of the land at Kitchener Park and for this purpose to maintain a five year plan which, with an annual budget, will be made available to the Settlor for its approval prior to the commencement of each financial year;
- b) To steer and co-ordinate the raising of funds to assist the restoration, management, enhancement, promotion and further development of the land at Kitchener Park;
- c) To encourage community access to Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park, and foster knowledge of and interest in the ecological restoration activity at the Park;
- d) To ensure the continued protection and restoration of Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park where possible and restore biodiversity values;
- e) To create a safe haven for native plant and animal species, controlled for plant and animal pests;
- f) To collaborate with other relevant organisations and individuals to reintroduce locally extinct or threatened plant and animal species, to ensure their long term survival;
- g) To develop self-sustaining threatened species populations which will act as source populations for the creation of future community restoration projects in the Manawatu District;
- h) To care for some special collections, including the podocarp, epiphyte and lichen collections presently established at Awahuri Forest Kitchener Park;
- i) To support scientific and historic research of the Kitchener Park ecosystem or components thereof;
- j) To educate the general public, especially school children, about the need to conserve and protect native forest environments in New Zealand.

This Statement of Intent recognises the large number of purposes detailed in the trust deed and concentrates on the five expectations detailed in the Statement of Expectation, given the number of trustees and resource available.

## **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

1. Financial statements are in accordance with the Public Benefit Entity Simple format – Accrual (not for profit)
2. Comply with the financial obligations of the Local Government Act 2002 with respect to CCO financial reporting
3. Comply with the Charitable Act 2005

4. Approval of payments and monthly sign off of all activities by all Trustees
5. To apply sound financial practices, act prudently and transparently, recognising the Trust receives significant funding from Manawātū Ratepayers.

## PERFORMANCE TARGETS

**Expectation 1. Maintain the forest / park, within the existing boundary, as an area of unspoilt nature (scenic reserve) for the benefit of the community and visitors.**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output
To continue pest plant programme	2020	<b>Zero density control of Old Man's Beard by 2027</b> 25-26 continue monitoring the whole forest for seedling infestations <b>Manage Bind weed, Jasmine and dock weed by 2027</b> 25-26 continue management of new plantings and summer blitz in Awahuri Paddock <b>Achieve control mechanism for Phragmites by 2028</b> 25-26: a) Management to continue at optimal levels within the Trust's resources b) Priority for research & development succession to ensure knowledge is retained and shared c) Continue to lobby for national recognition as a pest plant and funded eradication across NZ
Number of traps vs kill catch animal pests	2013	Encourage buffer zone upstream to prevent new infestation.
Number of Native species planted	Restoring species numbers present as per as per 1927 bio-audit	38 species, 14,000 plants by 30 June 2026 Assess, develop and communicate with nurseries a 10 year enrichment planting program for the newly restored areas
New plant survival rate	80%+	New wetlands: 80%+ over 2½ year period 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2027 Final plant counts to be completed for Coronation planting area and MPI funded plants
Numbers of big trees lost	2024/25 commenced tracking	Nil per annum

**Expectation 2. Actively pursue third-party funding opportunities for forest / park investment (to invest in the activities within the forest / park and development of the forest / park).**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output
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Maintain appropriate third party funding for the activities and development of the forest / park	n/a	Relevant funding applications are lodged to maintain the funding level required  Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phragmites \$85,000</li> <li>Plants funding for 2026-2027 \$30,000</li> </ul>
Measurement of 'In kind' support	Estimated annual hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trustee 1,100</li> <li>Stakeholders 200</li> </ul>	Maintain relationships and measure the resulting significant 'in kind' support

**Expectation 3. Plan to develop further walking and cycling tracks within the forest / park to connect to the “loop track concept” described in Council’s Walking & Cycling Strategy.**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output
Awahuri Paddock all weather maintenance track	May 2025	Permits approved Dec 2025 Completion June 2026 <i>Note MDC funded activity</i>
Work with Council on a cycling track design	Not yet commenced	Understand MDC’s vision and work together on a cycling track design. Keep dialogue open with Council, review and have input into relevant plans.

**Expectation 4. Minimise future flooding impacts to the forest / park through appropriate design and planting.**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output
Take opportunities to provide feedback to Council and Horizons concerning flood management activity. Maintain relationship with Horizons	February 2024 infrastructure for wetland planting.  Makino stream side re-modelling. Monitor and plan adaptations as required.  Initiate discussions on road flooding risks at the pump house corner Awahuri Rd	Report on feedback provided to Council and Horizons  Keep monitoring flood infrastructure impacts in wetland and westside hydrology restoration, responding to any issues as required.  Continue discussions for Makino stream removal of willows over next 10 years and develop initial plan from flood observations.  Progress talks with MDC and Horizons working to create a plan in preparation for the next LTP funding decisions

**Expectation 5. Make the forest / park available for educational opportunities to increase awareness and extend knowledge.**

Description	Starting Point	Target / Output
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Continue to create forest plan species signage	22 species signs at 1 July 2025	Increase by 10 new signs by 1 July 2026
Maintain and make available forest knowledge to the public / schools	Website <a href="#">Home - Awahuri Forest - Kitchener Park</a>	Review and update website by June 2026 including increase of knowledge-based information
Maintain the Trust's adult education programme	Adult education events occur	3 x adult related engagements / events p.a. (may include university student visits)

# AFKPT FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

To Financial Year ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY 2025 / 26 \$	SOI FY 2026 / 27 \$	SOI FY 2027 / 28 \$
<b>Income total</b>	<b>258,760</b>	<b>272,350</b>	<b>275,780</b>
MDC operational grant forecast	123,760	127,350	130,780
MDC Wetland Maintenance Funding	20,000	20,000	
Contestable / other grants	115,000	125,000	145,000
<b>Expenses total</b>	<b>254,760</b>	<b>267,546</b>	<b>274,749</b>
Biodiversity	235,760	246,546	251,749
Admin	19,000	21,000	23,000
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,804</b>	<b>1,031</b>
Depreciation	1,000	1,800	1,500
<b>Net Surplus / deficit</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,004</b>	<b>(469)</b>

# AFKPT FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

To Financial Year ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY 2025/26 \$	SOI FY 2026/27 \$	SOI FY 2027/28 \$
<b>Assets total</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>127,500</b>	<b>156,500</b>
Cash and receivables	105,000	121,000	150,000
Assets	6,000	6,500	6,500
<b>Liabilities total</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>27,500</b>
GST	6,000	7,500	7,500
Trade creditors	16,000	20,000	20,000
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>129,000</b>
Accumulated Funds	86,000	96,996	129,469
Current Year Earnings	3,000	3,004	(469)

Note 1: Trust has few assets as all non removable assets are transferred to MDC.

Note 2: Native Trees have no accounting value



## Council

Meeting of 05 June 2025

Business Unit: Community  
Date Created: 15 April 2025

### Manawatu Community Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025/26 9.45am

#### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present the Manawātū Community Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025-2026 in accordance with the Local Government Act (2002) Schedule 8 Part 1.

#### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Council agrees to the Manawātū Community Trust Final Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026.

Report prepared by:  
Maree Pritchard  
Community Operations Advisor

Approved for submission by:  
Lyn Daly  
General Manager - Community

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## 1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 The Manawātū Community Trust (MCT) was established in July 2008. The Trust operates as a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) – an organisation in which the Council owns at least 50 percent of the voting rights or has the right to appoint at least 50 percent of the directors or trustees.
- 1.2 Although there is full confidence in MCT and the operation of the Trust, to be in keeping with Council's other Council Controlled Organisations and to provide clear direction of Council's expectations, a Statement of Expectation (ref: [Appendix 1](#)) for MCT was introduced for the 2025 to 2026 year.
- 1.3 Manawātū Community Trust presented their draft Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026 to Council on 20 March 2025 in response to the Statement of Expectation.
- 1.4 The feedback from Elected Members and the discussion on the draft Statement of Intent was positive with no material changes required for the final Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026.

## 2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 The annual Statement of Intent is a legislative requirement for a Council Controlled Organisation as per the LGA Schedule 8 Part 1.
- 2.2 The Manawātū Community Trust (MCT) has the purpose of the promotion of housing for senior and disabled residents of the Manawātū district and the promotion of wellbeing services for residents of the Manawātū district. This aligns with Manawātū District Council's priorities as a 'Place to belong and grow' and 'Value for money and excellence in local government.'

## 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 The Statement of Expectation from Council detailed the following expectations for MCT for 2025 – 2026, along with comments on focus areas.

Council's Expectations	Comment to Trust for preparation of SOI 2025 - 2026
Identify demand in the Manawātū District for affordable housing stock for seniors and disabled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Seek out partnerships including third party funding opportunities, grants and financing to ensure MCT remains financially sustainable</li></ul>
Contribute to community health and wellbeing in the Manawātū District by maintaining and developing the existing housing stock to be user friendly, adaptable, accessible, compliant, and safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Focus on compliance</li><li>Focus on tenant health and safety</li></ul>
Contribute to community health and wellbeing by increasing the number of affordable housing units in the Manawātū District.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contribute to community health and wellbeing via diversified: housing tenure, neighbourhoods, and service offerings.</li></ul>

Practice good governance principles and sound financial performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succession planning for the continuation and development of MCT</li> <li>• Submit a 6mthly financial report and an audited annual report that meets the timelines of MDC and Audit NZ</li> </ul>
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- 3.2 The Manawatū Community Trust's 2025 - 2026 final Statement of Intent is consistent with its constitution, complies with statutory requirements, and responds to the Statement of Expectation.

#### 4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūrarū

- 4.1 The Statement of Intent aligns with Council's strategic direction for the promotion of housing for senior and disabled residents of the Manawatū district and the promotion of wellbeing services for residents of the Manawatū district. Risk mitigation includes:

- Selection of Trustees by Council through a sound recruitment process with consideration of the Trust Boards skills matrix to ensure the practice of good governance principles and sound financial performance;
- Adherence to LGA requirements for 6-monthly reporting;
- Strong relationships are developed with the Trust Board and Chief Executive with two-way communication and support provided as required.

#### 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

##### Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

##### Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

##### Community Engagement

- 5.3 There are no consultation requirements as a result of this report.

#### 6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 There are no operational implications as a result of this report.

#### 7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this decision.
- 7.2 Manawatū District Council supports Manawatū Community Trust with enabling lower interest loans through LGFA.

## 8 Statutory Requirements *Ngā Here ā-Ture*

- 8.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002, Part 5 (Council – Controlled Organisations and Council Organisations), section 64 (Statement of Intent), Manawatū Community Trust has a statutory obligation to provide Council with a Statement of Intent for the coming financial year that is consistent with its constitution.
- 8.2 The CCO board must deliver the completed statement of intent to the shareholders before the commencement of the financial year to which it relates.
- 8.3 The content of every statement of intent of a CCO must comply with Part 2 of Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002, covering the financial year to which it relates and each of the immediately following 2 financial years.

## 9 Next Steps *Te Kokenga*

- 9.1 The Manawatū Community Trust's 2025 - 2026 final Statement of Intent is consistent with its constitution, complies with statutory requirements, and is presented to Council for agreement.
- 9.2 The Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026 will be published on the Manawatū District Council's website and MCT will report on progress towards the targets / KPI's on a six-monthly basis.

## 10 Attachments *Ngā Āpitihanga*

- Manawatū Community Trust Statement of Expectation 2025 – 2026
- Manawatū Community Trust final Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026



## Office of the Mayor

7 March 2025

Manawatū Community Trust  
Liam Greer (Chair)  
FEILDING

Dear Liam

### Statement of Expectations for Manawatū Community Trust 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026

Manawatū District Council values the important contribution Manawatū Community Trust (MCT) makes to our vision of “Proudly Provincial. A great place to land - Wehi nā te kāinga taurikura nei ki tuawhenua”.

This Statement of Expectations provides direction to assist the Trust in preparing its required Statement of Intent (SOI) as a Council Controlled Organisation for the three years 2025 – 2028. It also clarifies Council’s expectations on how MCT and Council can work together for maximum community benefit.

#### 1.0 Strategic Direction

Manawatū District Council’s vision is:

***Proudly provincial. A great place to land - Wehi nā te kāinga taurikura nei ki tuawhenua***

Manawatū Community Trust has an important role to play in helping Council achieve its strategic priorities to achieve our vision. Although all priorities are relevant, of particular focus is the priorities of a place to belong and grow, and value for money and excellence in local government.

Manawatū District Council’s Strategic priorities are:

- **A place to belong and grow. He kāinga e ora pai ai te katoa - We provide leisure and sports facilities and support community activities to encourage social and cultural well-being for everyone.**
- A future planned together. He kāinga ka whakamaherea tahitia tōna anamata e te hapori tonu - We work with all parts of our community to plan for a future everyone can enjoy.
- An environment to be proud of. He kāinga ka rauhitia tōna taiao - We protect and care for the Manawatū District’s natural and physical resources.
- Infrastructure fit for future. He kāinga ka tūwhena tonu ōna pūnahahanga, haere ake nei te wā - We ensure the Manawatū District has infrastructure (water, roads, etc.) that meets the needs of the community now and into the future.

- A prosperous, resilient economy. He kāinga ka tōnui tōna ōhanga - We aim to make the Manawatū District a great place to live, to visit and to do business.
- **Value for money and excellence in local government He kāinga ka eke tōna kāwanatanga ā-rohe ki ngā taumata o te kairangi - We take pride in serving our communities. We focus on doing the best for the District.**

The overall result Council strives for is - Our people delivering great service and facilities to our community. MCT as a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) is seen as an extension of Council striving towards this outcome.

## 2.0 Development of the Statement of Intent (SOI)

When developing Manawatū Community Trust's SOI, we expect that you will address the following:

Council's Expectations	Comment to Trust for preparation of SOI 2025 - 2028
Identify demand in the Manawatū District for affordable housing stock for seniors and disabled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek out partnerships including third party funding opportunities, grants and financing to ensure MCT remains financially sustainable</li> </ul>
Contribute to community health and wellbeing in the Manawatū District by maintaining and developing the existing housing stock to be user friendly, adaptable, accessible, compliant, and safe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on compliance</li> <li>• Focus on tenant health and safety</li> </ul>
Contribute to community health and wellbeing by increasing the number of affordable housing units in the Manawatū District.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to community health and wellbeing via diversified: housing tenure, neighbourhoods, and service offerings.</li> </ul>
Practice good governance principles and sound financial performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succession planning for the continuation and development of MCT</li> <li>• Submit a 6mthly financial report and an audited annual report that meets the timelines of MDC and Audit NZ</li> </ul>

## 3.0 Working together

One of Council's priorities is to establish and manage an effective working relationship based on mutual respect and trust with its CCOs. This means more than regular reporting, it means two-way dialogue and working together to achieve shared outcomes.

To achieve these aims, Council has the following expectations:

- Collaboration – MCT and Council will work together collaboratively to ensure MCT's policies and decisions represent the strategic direction and best interest of the Council and ultimately the community;
- Communication - Ongoing engagement between MCT and Council, both at a governance and operational level, to ensure that all parties are well-informed of each other's mandate and priorities. Council decisions are to be communicated in a positive manner and any concerns should be raised directly with Council Officers;

- Performance - The Trust is the most important monitor of MCT's performance. Council expects the Trust to advise regularly of its performance, implications for future performance, and risks and opportunities faced by the organisation. Reporting to Council is required six-monthly and annually with a no surprises approach to communication. Performance measures will be developed together;
- Partnerships - Strategic partnerships will be developed and maintained;
- Funding – In addition to the access through Council for reduced interest loans through the Local Government Funding Authority (LGFA) and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ), opportunities to attract third party investment to be identified and actioned as appropriate.

Council will notify MCT of any actions or announcements that may affect the trust before any public announcement is made.

#### **4.0 Responsibilities**

The Council expects that MCT will:

- Achieve the objectives and performance measures as determined through the Manawātū Community Trust Deed, the Statement of Expectations, and the Statement of Intent;
- Align its strategic priorities to Council's wider strategic priorities;
- Manage financials in a prudent manner which promotes current and future interests of the community, ensuring efficient allocation of public resources;
- Provide audited financial statements which are prepared with generally accepted accounting practice;
- Work to mitigate risk through ensuring sound Health and Wellbeing practices. Reporting on Health and Wellbeing to be included in the 6-monthly reporting to Council;
- Uphold good governance practices, such as managing real or perceived conflicts of interest in line with Council's policy; be sensitive to the demand for accountability and transparency required by the status of a public entity; and retain good visibility over operational decision-making, managing risks in a proactive manner.

The responsibilities of Council are to:

- Enable access for reduced interest loans through the Local Government Funding Authority (LGFA);
- Support MCT to achieve the objectives of this Statement of Expectation, receiving and approving the draft and final Statement of Intent;
- Appoint trustees to the MCT board in accordance with the Trust Deed and Appointment of Directors Policy;
- Monitor MCT's performance as informed through the presentation of six monthly and annual reports to Council;
- Build and maintain a relationship of mutual respect and trust, including communicating in a positive manner about MCT's successes.

## 5.0 Accountability, monitoring and transparency

MCT is statutorily required to meet its obligations under Part 5 and Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) including achieving the objectives of the Council, be a good employer, and exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility. The Act was amended with changes applicable from October 2019.

It is important to the Council that the people of the Manawatū District know that they can attend at least one public board meeting each year, even if the majority will not choose to do so. The Council sees MCT's AGM as the ideal opportunity to do this and encourages MCT to actively promote this to the public.

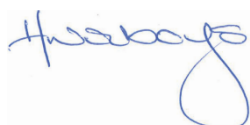
## 6.0 Timeline of the Statement of Intent (SOI)

20 March 2025	Draft SOI presented to Council
21 March 2025	Council recommended changes to the draft SOI sent to the Trust for consideration / inclusion
On or before 23 May 2025	Updated SOI delivered to Council Officers by MCT
05 June 2025	Final SOI presented to Council

We look forward to continuing our collaborative working relationship with MCT as a robust, professional, and viable organisation that is providing a modern healthy living environment, up to date, good quality, sustainable housing and health facilities that address the needs of the community to enhance the long-term wellbeing of Manawatu residents.

We thank the Trust and Employees of MCT for their work and collaboration as we move ahead together.

Yours sincerely



Helen Worboys

**Mayor, JP**





## STATEMENT OF INTENT 2025/26

**THIS STATEMENT OF INTENT COVERS THE YEAR 1 JULY 2025 TO 30 JUNE 2026**

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this statement of intent is to

- (a) state publicly the activities and intentions of this council-controlled organisation for the year and the objectives to which those activities will contribute; and
- (b) provide an opportunity for shareholders<sup>1</sup> to influence the direction of the organisation; and
- (c) provide a basis for the accountability of the directors<sup>2</sup> to their shareholders for the performance of the organisation.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATION

1. Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides:

#### Principal objective of a council-controlled organisation

(1) The principal objective of a council-controlled organisation is to

- (a) achieve the objectives of its shareholders, both commercial and non-commercial, as specified in the statement of intent; and
- (b) be a good employer; and
- (c) exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates and by endeavouring to accommodate or encourage these when able to do so; and
- (d) if the council-controlled organisation is a council-controlled trading organisation, conduct its affairs in accordance with sound business practice.

(2) In subsection (1)(b), good employer has the same meaning as in clause 36 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

### NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

#### Nature

The Nature of the Trust is to promote and provide housing and wellbeing services that are relevant and meet long term community needs.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Shareholders' include any partners, joint venture partners, members or other persons holding equity securities in relation to the organisation. In this case the shareholders will be the Mayor and the Councillors of the Manawatu District Council.

<sup>2</sup> 'Directors' and the 'Board' include trustees, managers or office holders (however described in the organisation).

## Scope

The Trust is a robust, professional, and viable organisation that is providing a modern healthy living environment, up to date, good quality, sustainable housing and health facilities that address the needs of the community to enhance the long-term wellbeing of Manawatū residents.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE MANAWATŪ COMMUNITY TRUST

The objectives of the Manawatū Community Trust as identified in its Deed of Trust are:

1. Any charitable purpose within the Manawatū District
2. To create a fund to be used for:
  - 2.1 The promotion of any purpose or purposes within the Manawatū District for the relief of poverty and for the benefit of the residents of the Manawatū District.
  - 2.2 The promotion and provision of housing for the elderly and disabled residents of the Manawatū District.
  - 2.3 The promotion of health services for the residents of the Manawatū District.
  - 2.4 The promotion of wellbeing services for residents of the Manawatū District – these services shall include services promoting the improvement of the lifestyle, health and welfare of residents in the Manawatū District and creating a sense of community for the benefit of the residents of the Manawatū District.
  - 2.5 To accept gifts and grants of whatever description, provided that any private benefit conferred on any individual is incidental to the above purposes.

## GOVERNANCE

Five Trustees have been appointed by the Manawatū District Council to the Trust with terms as set out below.

- **Allan Davey**, reappointed for 3 years from 6 May 2022 – 5 May 2028
- **Tyson Schmidt**, reappointed for 3 years from 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2025
- **Liam Greer**, Chairperson, reappointed for 3 years from 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2027
- **Joanne Shortall**, reappointed for 3 years from 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2027
- **Tracey Hunt**, reappointed for 3 years from 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027

The Trust meets for Board meetings on a bi-monthly basis, the three Subcommittees meet on a bi-monthly basis, and regular meetings are held with senior staff to review the operational business of the Trust.

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Trust has elected to apply PBESFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector) on the basis that the Trust does not have public accountability (as defined) and has total annual expenses of less than \$5 million in the two years prior to June 2023.

All transactions in the financial statements are reported using the accrual basis of accounting.

The financial statements are prepared on the assumption that the Trust will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

## **PERFORMANCE TARGETS**

### **Goal 1: Maintain and develop existing housing to be user friendly, safe and sustainable.**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Starting Point</b>	<b>Target</b>
Maintain all occupied housing stock at a 3 Star* rating or above by 2025. <i>*A rating system from 1 to 5 Star; 5 Star being the highest.</i>	Housing at a 3 Star rating or above as at 30 June 2021: 193 of 205.	2026: All housing stock 2027: All housing stock 2028: All housing stock
Maintain Healthy Homes Compliance	2024: • Heat Pumps 175 of 205 • Extraction Units 125 of 205	2025: 100% Compliance 2026: 100% Compliance 2027: 100% Compliance
Plan major unit renovations that incorporate improved functionality and safety and that support aging in place.	2024: Defined level of service.	2026: 4 2027: 4 2028: 4
Be responsive to urgent maintenance requirements and resident health and safety needs.	Urgent requests are recorded electronically and are responded to in accordance with their priority.	2026 - 2028 Urgent maintenance requests are actioned in alignment with MCT Tenant Health and Safety Policy.
Maintain average month end occupancy at above 95%	Average month end occupancy 2022: 96%.	2026: >95% 2027: >95% 2028: >95%

### **Goal 2: Increase the number of community housing units - 250 by 2030.**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Starting Point</b>	<b>Target</b>
MCT will increase affordable home in Manawatū to a total of 250 housing homes by 2030.	As at 30 June 2022: 205 units.	2026: 209 2027: 221 2028: 223
Collaborate with the MDC in defining, developing, and refining a strategy to address housing needs for elderly and disabled residents in the Manawatū.	2020: 250 by 2030 Strategy agreed. 2024: Scoping the establishment of a Feilding based Community Housing Provider. 2024: CHP application declined.	2025/26: • Impact Investment achieved. • Access Grant Funding toward housing developments. • Identification of suitable council owned land or planned decommission of MDC existing property.

### **Goal 3: Diversify housing typologies and increase the range of affordable housing offerings to meet identified local need.**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Starting Point</b>	<b>Target</b>
The promotion of wellbeing services promoting the improvement of lifestyle, health and welfare and	2022: Research based community needs assessment for senior citizens completed.	2025-2028: • Update Housing Needs Assessment Data.

creating a sense of community for the benefit of the residents of the Manawatū.	2024/25: Housing model forum to guide future housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design future housing and communities based on identified need.</li> <li>• Contribute to the promotion of best practice models of housing.</li> </ul>
Continue to offer Manawatū residents the option of rentals at no more than 30% of the superannuation plus accommodation benefits available.	April 2023: Highest rental at 30% of superannuation benefit (as at April 2022) including 100% of available accommodation supplement.	2026: <30% 2027: <30% 2028: <30%

#### Goal 4: Practice Good Governance and Sound Financial Performance

Description	Starting Point	Target
Provide financial reporting to the MDC as required applying PBE SFR (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector).	Meet half yearly and annual reporting deadlines set by MDC and Audit NZ.	2026 - 2028: Reports submitted on time and to the satisfaction of MDC.
Meet ANZ financial undertakings as per our loan agreements to maintain an effective equity / total tangible asset % greater or equal to 50%.	As at 30 June 2022: 83.6%	2026 - 2028: ≥ 50%
Maintain an interest coverage ratio of EBITDA to interest at above 3.	As at 30 June 2022: 8.47	2026 - 2028: >3
Practice good governance principles.	As at 30 June 2024: Annual Board performance reviews. MCT Board has IOD Membership. Discussion of Board selected of governance articles/case studies.	2026 – 2028 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of annual Board Performance Reviews.</li> <li>• Board training based on board performance review.</li> <li>• Maintenance of IOD membership.</li> <li>• Continued review of topical governance matters.</li> </ul>



Liam Greer

**Chairperson**  
**Manawatū Community Trust**

**FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
To Financial Year Ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY2026	SOI FY2027	SOI FY2028
<b>Income</b>			
Residential Housing Income	2,144,635	2,224,095	2,401,182
Commercial Rental Income	1,086,842	1,086,842	1,094,812
Sundry Income	448,746	44,445	30,111
<b>Total Consolidated Income</b>	<b>3,680,223</b>	<b>3,355,382</b>	<b>3,526,105</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration Expenses	285,231	286,983	291,873
Maintenance Expense	357,489	365,354	373,392
Rates Expense	217,460	238,002	260,571
Insurance Expense	397,092	436,801	480,481
Trustee & Staff Expenses	567,436	577,528	593,278
Interest on Borrowing	331,196	427,568	442,871
<b>Total Consolidated Expenses</b>	<b>2,155,904</b>	<b>2,332,235</b>	<b>2,442,466</b>
<b>Operating Surplus / Deficit</b>	<b>1,524,319</b>	<b>1,023,147</b>	<b>1,083,640</b>
Depreciation	989,639	1,019,329	1,049,908
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>534,679</b>	<b>3,818</b>	<b>33,731</b>
<b>Planned Capital Programme</b>	<b>Year End 30 June 23</b>	<b>Year End 30 June 24</b>	<b>Year End 30 June 25</b>
Housing Improvements	385,000	300,000	200,000
New Housing	2,477,778	2,372,222	150,000
Other Capital Spend	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>2,872,778</b>	<b>2,682,222</b>	<b>360,000</b>

**FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
To Financial Year Ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY2026	SOI FY2027	SOI FY2028
<b>Asset</b>			
<b>Current Asset</b>			
Bank Accounts & Cash	193,501	185,822	381,600
Other Current Asset	65,176	80,921	37,677
<b>Non-current Asset</b>	0	0	0
Property, Plant & Equipment	38,680,282	40,343,176	39,653,268
<b>Total Asset</b>	<b>38,938,959</b>	<b>40,609,919</b>	<b>40,072,544</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Current Portion Of Loans From MDC	356,296	264,191	272,471
Current Portion Of Loans From ANZ	216,000	216,000	146,000
Current Portion Of Loans - Other	41,029	154,650	163,374
Trade Payables	248,756	247,500	279,054
Tax Payables	20,057	20,581	21,499
Lease Payable - Current	15,950	18,821	21,691
Payroll Liability	33,497	34,431	36,246
Other Current Liabilities	89,928	74,915	114,386
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Loan From MDC	4,153,168	3,888,977	3,616,506
Loan From ANZ	362,000	146,000	0
Loan From CET	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Other Loan	836,056	2,986,707	2,823,334
Lease Payable	84,810	71,916	59,022
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>7,457,548</b>	<b>9,124,689</b>	<b>8,553,583</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>31,481,411</b>	<b>31,485,230</b>	<b>31,518,961</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>			
Capital	10	10	10
Accumulated Surpluses	15,739,456	15,743,275	15,777,006
Asset Revaluation Reserve	15,741,945	15,741,945	15,741,945
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>31,481,411</b>	<b>31,485,230</b>	<b>31,518,961</b>

**FORECAST STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW**  
To Financial Year Ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY2026	SOI FY2027	SOI FY2028
<b>Cash Flow from Operating Activities</b>			
Operating Income	3,686,780	3,355,170	3,521,167
Operating Expenses	-2,065,815	-2,273,297	-2,477,214
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>	<b>1,620,965</b>	<b>1,081,873</b>	<b>1,043,952</b>
<b>Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>			
Sales of Fixed Assets	0	0	0
Payments to Acquire Property, Plant & Equipment	-2,903,472	-2,781,528	-213,333
<b>Net Cash from Investing Activities</b>	<b>-2,903,472</b>	<b>-2,781,528</b>	<b>-213,333</b>
<b>Cash Flow from Financing Activities</b>			
Proceeds from Loans	1,000,000	2,400,000	350,000
Payments of Loans	-702,880	-708,024	-984,841
Term Deposit Movement	900,000	50,000	-250,000
<b>Net Cash from Financing Activities</b>	<b>1,197,120</b>	<b>1,741,976</b>	<b>-884,841</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
Net Decrease/Increase in Cash For The Year	-85,387	42,321	-54,222
Add Opening Bank Accounts and Cash	228,888	143,501	185,822
<b>Closing Bank Accounts and Cash</b>	<b>143,501</b>	<b>185,822</b>	<b>131,600</b>
	<b>Year End FY2026</b>	<b>Year End FY2027</b>	<b>Year End FY2028</b>
<b>Borrowing and Debt Repayment Programme</b>			
Existing Borrowing	6,667,429	6,964,550	8,656,526
New Borrowing	1,000,000	2,400,000	350,000
Debt Repayment	-702,880	-708,024	-984,841
<b>Total Borrowing and Repayment</b>	<b>6,964,550</b>	<b>8,656,526</b>	<b>8,021,685</b>

## **MANAWATŪ COMMUNITY TRUST**

### **Statement of Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The Trust has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector) on the basis that the Trust does not have public accountability (as defined) and has total annual expenses of less than \$5 million in the two years prior to 30 June 2024.

The Trust will not be required to transition to Tier 2 not-for-profit Public Benefit Entities Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime as the XRB has increased the tier 3 threshold from \$2 million to \$5 million. The tier 2 threshold is \$5 million or above. Application of the amendments is required for accounting periods that end on or after 28 March 2024. However, the Trust has already adopted Tier 2 PBE IPSAS 17 Property, Plant and Equipment and PBE IPSAS 31 Intangible Assets.

All transactions in the management reports are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The management reports are prepared on the assumption that the Trust will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

#### **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

The Trust is registered for GST. All amounts in the management reports are recorded exclusive of GST, except for debtors and creditors, which are stated inclusive of GST. The Trust also carries out transactions which fall under exempt supplies legislation for GST purposes and therefore are not applicable for GST and are recorded gross in the management reports.

#### **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **Revenue**

###### **Rental/Lease Income**

Rental revenue is recognised as revenue on a straight-line basis over the term of the agreement.

###### **Grants**

Council, government, and non-government grants are recognised as revenue when the funding is received unless there is an obligation to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met (“use or return condition”). If there is such an obligation, the grant is initially recorded as a liability and recognised as revenue when conditions of the grant are satisfied.

###### **Sale of goods**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the goods are sold to the customer. Sale of services Revenue from the sale of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the services delivered at balance date as a percentage of the total services to be provided.

###### **Donated assets**

Revenue from donated assets is recognised upon receipt of the asset if the asset has a useful life of 12 months or more, and the value of the asset is readily obtainable and significant.



## Interest

Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.

## Employee Related Costs

Wages, salaries, and annual leave are recorded as an expense as staff provide services and become entitled to wages, salaries, and leave entitlements.

Superannuation contributions are recorded as an expense as staff provide services.

## Advertising, Marketing, Administration, Overhead, and Fundraising Costs

These are expensed when the related service has been received.

## Lease Expense

Lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash comprise cash on hand, cheque or savings accounts, and deposits held at call with banks.

## Debtors

Debtors are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recognised and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.

## Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consist of rental accommodation available for the elderly and disabled and property leased out and operated as an integrated health centre, the Manchester House Senior Hub Facility and The Feilding Menzshed. This has been classified as property plant and equipment rather than investment property as it is held to meet service delivery objectives rather than to earn rentals or for capital appreciation.

Land is measured at fair value, and buildings are measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation. All other asset classes are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

## Revaluation

Operation Land and buildings are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that their carrying amount does not differ materially from the assets' fair value and at least every three years.

The carrying values of revalued assets are assessed annually to ensure that they do not differ materially from the assets' fair values. If there is a material difference, then an off-cycle asset valuation is undertaken.

Revaluations of property, plant, and equipment are accounted for on a class-of-asset basis.

The net revaluation results of revaluing are credited or debited to the asset revaluation reserve in equity. Where this would result in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses. Any subsequent increase on revaluation that reverses a previous decrease in value recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses will be first recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses up to the amount previously expensed, and then recognised in equity.

## Additions

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset if, and only if, it is probable that the asset will provide future economic benefits or service potential to the Trust and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Work in progress is recognised at cost less impairment and is not depreciated.

In most instances, an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised at its cost. Where an asset is acquired at no cost, or for a nominal cost, it is recognised at fair value as at the date of acquisition.

## Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are included in the Statement of Financial Performance. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in asset revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to retained earnings.

## Subsequent costs

Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Trust and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

The costs of day-to-day servicing of property, plant and equipment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

## Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on all property, plant and equipment other than land (which is not depreciated), at rates that will write off the cost (or valuation) of the assets over their useful lives. The residual value and useful life of an asset is reviewed and adjusted, if applicable, at each financial year end.

The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Land	Indefinite	None
Buildings and Improvements	2- 58 years	1.72% - 50%
Motor Vehicles	5 years	20%
Plant and Equipment	3 - 10 years	10% - 33%

## Impairment of Assets

Property, plant, and equipment assets subsequently measured at cost that have a finite useful life are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicated that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

If an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is regarded as impaired and the carrying amount is written-down to the recoverable amount. The total impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance. The reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

## **Intangible Assets**

### **Recognition and measurement**

Intangible assets are initially measured at cost. All of the Trust's intangible assets are subsequently measured in accordance with the cost model, being cost (or fair value for items acquired through non-exchange transactions) less accumulated amortisation and impairment. The Trust has no intangible assets with indefinite useful lives. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset.

### **Subsequent expenditure**

Subsequent expenditure is capitalised only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the specific asset to which it relates. All other expenditure, including expenditure on internally generated goodwill and brands, is recognised in surplus or deficit as incurred.

### **Amortisation**

Amortisation is recognised in surplus or deficit on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each amortisable intangible asset. The estimated useful lives amortisation rates are:

Software	3 years (2022: 3 years).
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## **Creditors and Accrued Expenses**

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

### **Loans**

Loans are recorded at the amount borrowed from the lender. Loan balances include any interest accrued at balance that has not yet been paid.

## **Employee Costs Payable**

A liability for employee costs payable is recognised when an employee has earned the entitlement.

These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date.

## **Income Tax**

The Manawatū Community Trust has been granted charitable status by the Inland Revenue Department, and therefore is exempt from income tax.

## **Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards Applied**

The Trust has elected to apply Tier 2 Accounting Standard PBE IPSAS 17 Property, Plant and Equipment and PBE IPSAS 31 Intangible Assets when preparing its financial statements.

## **Changes in Accounting Policies**

There have been no changes in accounting policies. The accounting policies detailed have been applied consistently with those of the previous reporting period.

## Council

Meeting of 05 June 2025

Business Unit: Community  
Date Created: 22 May 2025

### Feilding Civic Centre Trust Draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026

#### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To present for consideration the Feilding Civic Centre Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 for feedback in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2002. If there are no material changes required, Council are asked to agree to the draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 as the final version.

#### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Council:

1. Agree to the Feilding Civic Centre Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 subject to feedback being incorporated into the final Statement of Intent.

**OR**

2. Agree to the Feilding Civic Centre Trust draft Statement of Intent 2025 -2026 with no changes, confirming this as the final version.

Report prepared by:  
Maree Pritchard  
Community Operations advisor

Approved for submission by:  
Lyn Daly  
General Manager - Community

## 1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Manawatū District Council (Council) resolved at the 01 February 2024 meeting to revoke the CCO-exempt status for Feilding Civic Trust (FCCT). As a result, the Statement of Expectation (SOE) and Statement of Intent (SOI) process was introduced.
- 1.2 Council paused the SOE / SOI process when it became apparent that the Trust Deed and Lease agreement between Council and FCCT needed refreshing. Both these documents have now been updated and signed.
- 1.3 Council finalised and approved the FCCT SOE for 2025 – 2026 (ref: [Appendix 1](#)) at the 06 March 2025 council meeting. FCCT have submitted their draft Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026 for Council’s consideration and feedback in response to the SOE.

## 2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 The Feilding Civic Centre Trust promotes and encourages participation in arts, culture, recreation and sport in the Manawatū, managing the Civic Centre. This contributes towards Council’s priority one as laid out in the long term plan: to a place to belong and grow.
- 2.2 An annual Statement of Intent is also a legislative requirement under the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 for Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs).

## 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 The draft Statement of Intent (ref: [Appendix 2](#)) responds to the four expectations given in the SOE 2025 - 2026:
    - Work to attract, promote and hold events and activities to encourage utilization in the Civic Centre.
    - Work to encourage participation of the community in performing arts and recreational activity.
    - Work to optimally run the Feilding Civic Centre in a financially astute manner.
    - Work with Council on developing and delivering a facility investment schedule and 10+ year asset management plan (AMP).
  - 3.2 The original date for the draft SOI 2025 – 2026 presentation to Council was in May, however this was extended to June to allow further time to update the first draft submitted following review.
  - 3.3 If there are no material changes required by Council, officers recommend the draft Statement of Intent 2024 -2025 is approved as the final version.
- ## 4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru
- 4.1 There is a risk to the FCCT of not being able to meet all of its targets within the Statement of Intent due to seismic strengthening remedial and facility upgrade work. This risk cannot be defined as yet, given the work is in the planning stage.

- 4.2 This remedial and upgrade work will impact bookings in the facility and FCCT's income. It is too early to define the impact on the facility for users and the Trust, however this will become clearer in the coming months and will be reported to Council.

## 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

### Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

### Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

### Community Engagement

- 5.3 There is no community engagement associated with this report.

## 6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 Officers will continue to work collaboratively with FCCT to achieve the expectations in the SOE and targets and actions in the SOI.

## 7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this report.
- 7.2 For information, MDC provides annual grant funding to Feilding Civic Centre Trust, holds an annual maintenance budget for maintenance works carried out on the facility, and capital expenditure is budgeted over the next ten years.

Additionally, there is an annual plan request made by FCCT of \$64,500 to pay for additional staff, and a further \$13,500 for outgoings payments transfer from MDC to the Trust.

MDC funding	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	2027 - 2028
MDC operational grant forecast + \$64,500* increase in grant for additional staff VAP.request.to.be.approved	183,130	187,696	192,189
Transfer of outgoing payments budget from MDC to FCCT forecast VAP.request.to.be.approved	13,500	13,905	14,308
Maintenance Budget	52,891	54,424	55,894

The following capital expenditure is approved by Council:

Y1	\$770,250	\$250k for heating and ventilation upgrades
		\$500k safety remediation
Y2	\$42,320	Replace windows in Cedar Room
	\$264,500	Remedial works based on condition assessment

Y3	\$272,000	Remedial works based on condition assessment
Y4	\$503,100	Remedial works based on condition assessment
Y5	\$80,200	Replace windows in Concert Chamber (Stafford Street side)
	\$286,500	Remedial works based on condition assessment
Y10	\$89,460	Replace concert chamber seating
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,308,330</b>	

## 8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

### 8.1 The LGA2002 Schedule 8 Part 1 states

#### **1. Draft Statement of Intent**

*(2) The draft statement of intent must be delivered on or before 1 March\* in the year preceding the financial year to which the draft statement of intent relates.*

#### **2. Consideration of Shareholder comments**

*The board must consider any comments on the draft statement of intent that are made by the shareholders, and by local authorities with indirect control, or by any of them, on or before 1 May\* in the year preceding the year to which the draft statement relates.*

#### **3. Final Statement of Intent**

*The board must deliver the completed statement of intent to the shareholders before the commencement of the financial year to which it relates.*

8.2 Note the dates\* above have not been met in relation to this report as the cadence is not yet established given this is the inaugural introduction of the SOE / SOI process. The Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026 is scheduled to be finalised prior to 1 July 2025 and this timing has been discussed and accepted by the Trust.

## 9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 Any comments and feedback from Council will be updated in the final Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026. However, if there are no material changes required then officers ask that Council approve this draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026 as the final version. As indicated, the FCCT is comfortable with the draft.

9.2 The final Statement of Intent 2025 – 2026 will be effective from 01 July 2025.

## 10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- FCCT Statement of Expectation 2025 – 2026
- FCCT draft Statement of Intent 2025 - 2026



## *Office of the Mayor*

07 March 2025

Feilding Civic Centre Trust  
Tony Chapman (Chair)  
84 Aorangi Street  
FEILDING

Dear Tony

### **Statement of Expectations for Feilding Civic Centre Trust 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026**

Manawatū District Council values the important contribution Feilding Civic Centre Trust (FCCT) makes to our vision of “Proudly Provincial. A great place to land - Wehi nā te kāinga taurikura nei ki tuawhenua”.

This Statement of Expectations provides direction to assist the Trust in preparing its Statement of Intent (SOI) for the three years 2025 – 2028. It also clarifies Council’s expectations on how FCCT and Council can work together for maximum community benefit.

#### **1.0 Strategic Direction**

Manawatū District Council’s vision is:

***Proudly provincial. A great place to land - Wehi nā te kāinga taurikura nei ki tuawhenua***

Feilding Civic Centre has an important role to play in helping Council achieve its strategic priorities to achieve our vision, of particular focus is the strategic priority of a place to belong and grow.

Manawatū District Council’s Strategic priorities are:

- **A place to belong and grow. He kāinga e ora pai ai te katoa - We provide leisure and sports facilities and support community activities to encourage social and cultural well-being for everyone.**
- A future planned together. He kāinga ka whakamaherea tahitia tōna anamata e te hapori tonu - We work with all parts of our community to plan for a future everyone can enjoy.
- An environment to be proud of. He kāinga ka rauhitia tōna taiao - We protect and care for the Manawatū District’s natural and physical resources.
- Infrastructure fit for future. He kāinga ka tūwhena tonu ōna pūnahahanga, haere ake nei te wā - We ensure the Manawatū District has infrastructure (water, roads, etc.) that meets the needs of the community now and into the future.



- A prosperous, resilient economy. He kāinga ka tōnui tōna ōhanga - We aim to make the Manawatū District a great place to live, to visit and to do business.
- Value for money and excellence in local government He kāinga ka eke tōna kāwanatanga ā-rohe ki ngā taumata o te kairangi - We take pride in serving our communities. We focus on doing the best for the District.

The overall result Council strives for is - Our people delivering great service and facilities to our community. FCCT as a Council Controlled Organisation is seen as an extension of Council striving towards this outcome.

## 2.0 Development of the Statement of Intent (SOI)

When developing Feilding Civic Centre Trust's SOI, we expect that you will address the following:

Expectations	Comment to Trust for preparation of their SOI 2025 - 2028
Work to attract, promote and hold events and activities to encourage utilization in the Civic Centre	Describe the Trusts anticipated 6-monthly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• booking occupancy rate</li> <li>• foot traffic (utilization) rate</li> </ul>
Work to encourage participation of the community in performing arts and recreational activity	Performance measure on the new initiatives developed that encourage community involvement in the variety of roles involved in performing arts and recreation
Work to optimally run the Feilding Civic Centre in a financially astute manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively source and apply for relevant third party funding</li> <li>• Submit a 6-monthly financial report and an audited annual report that meets the timelines of MDC and Audit NZ</li> </ul>
Work with Council on developing and delivering a facility investment schedule and 10+ year asset management plan (AMP)	Performance measure developed to agree on a timeline for the Trust and Council officers to agree on the annual facility maintenance schedule and a 10-year facility asset management plan.

## 3.0 Working together

One of Council's priorities is to establish and manage an effective working relationship based on mutual respect and trust with its CCOs. This means more than regular reporting, it means two-way conversation and working together to achieve shared outcomes.

To achieve these aims, Council has the following expectations:

- Collaboration - FCCT and Council will work together collaboratively to ensure FCCT's policies and decisions represent the strategic direction and best interest of the Council and ultimately the community;

- Communication - Ongoing engagement between FCCT and Council, both at a governance and operational level, to ensure that all parties are well-informed of each other's mandate and priorities. Council decisions are to be communicated in a positive manner; any concerns should be raised directly with Council Officers;
- Performance - The Trust is the most important monitor of FCCT's performance. Council expects the Trust to advise regularly of its performance, implications for future performance, and risks and opportunities faced by the organisation. Reporting to Council is required six-monthly and annually with a no surprises approach to communication. Performance measures will be developed together;
- Partnerships - Strategic partnerships will be developed and maintained including with Feilding and District Promotion;
- Funding – In addition to the grant funding Council provides, opportunities to attract third party investment to be identified and actioned as appropriate.

Council will notify FCCT of any actions or announcements that may affect the trust before any public announcement is made.

#### **4.0 Responsibilities**

Council expects that FCCT will:

- Achieve the objectives and performance measures as determined through the FCCT Trust Deed, the Statement of Expectations, and the Statement of Intent;
- Align its strategic priorities to Council's wider strategic priorities;
- Manage financials in a prudent manner which promotes current and future interests of the community, ensuring efficient allocation of public resources;
- Provide audited financial statements which are prepared with generally accepted accounting practice;
- Work to mitigate risk through ensuring sound Health, Safety and Wellbeing practices. Reporting on Health, Safety and Wellbeing to be included in the 6-monthly reporting to Council;
- Uphold good governance practices, such as managing real or perceived conflicts of interest in line with Council's policy; be sensitive to the demand for accountability and transparency required by the status of a public entity; and retain good visibility over operational decision-making managing risks in a proactive manner.

The responsibilities of Council are to:

- Provide an operational grant to the Trust for the relevant LTP period;
- Support FCCT to achieve the objectives of this Statement of Expectation, receiving and approving the draft and final Statement of Intent;
- Appoint trustees to the FCCT board in accordance with the Trust Deed and Appointment of Directors Policy;

- Monitor FCCT's performance as informed through the presentation of six monthly and annual reports to Council;
- Build and maintain a relationship of mutual respect and trust, including communicating in a positive manner about FCCT's successes.

## 5.0 Accountability, monitoring and transparency

FCCT is statutorily required to meet its obligations under Part 5 and Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) including achieving the objectives of the Council, be a good employer, and exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility. The Act was amended with changes applicable from October 2019.

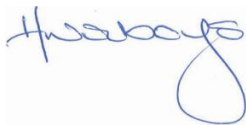
It is important to the Council that the people of the Manawātū District know that they can attend at least one public board meeting each year, even if the majority will not choose to do so. The Council sees FCCT's AGM as the ideal opportunity to do this and encourages FCCT to actively promote this to the public.

## 6.0 Timeline of the Statement of Intent (SOI)

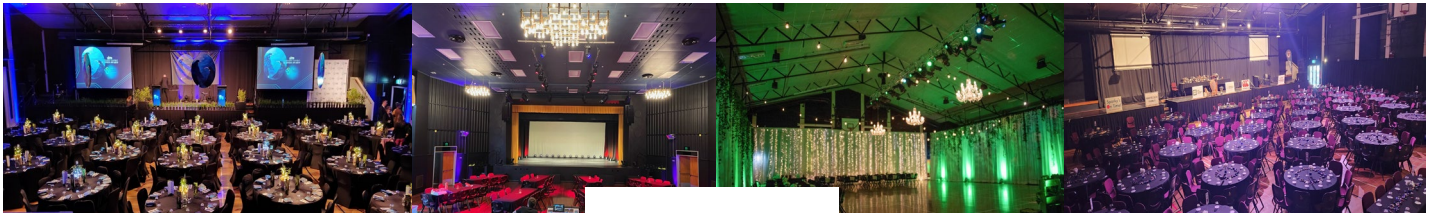
1 May 2025	Draft SOI presented to Council
2 May 2025	Council recommended changes to the draft SOI sent to the Trust for consideration / inclusion
On or before 23 May 2025	Updated SOI delivered to Council Officers by FCCT
5 June 2025	Final SOI presented to Council

We look forward to working with FCCT collectively as we continue to develop a model of service and facilities that ensure our community thrives socially, culturally, economically and environmentally. We thank the Trust and volunteers of FCCT for their collaboration as we move ahead together.

Yours sincerely



Helen Worboys  
**Mayor, JP**



## **Statement of Intent 2025 / 2026**

This Statement of Intent covers the year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026, and the following two years required information.

### ***PURPOSE***

The purpose of this Statement of Intent (Section 64 of the Local Government Act 2002) is to

- a) State publicly the activities and intentions of this Council Controlled Organisation for the year and the objective to which those activities will contribute; and
- b) Provide an opportunity for shareholders<sup>1</sup> to influence the direction of the organisation; and
- c) Provide a basis for the accountability of the directors<sup>2</sup> to their shareholders for the performance of the organisation.

### ***OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNCIL CONTROLLED ORGANISATION***

1. Section 59 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides:

Principal objective of a council-controlled organisation

- 1) The principal objective of a council-controlled organisation is to
  - a. Achieve the objectives of its shareholders, both commercial and non-commercial, as specified in the statement of intent; and
  - b. Be a good employer; and
  - c. Exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates and by endeavouring to accommodate or encourage these when able to do so; and
  - d. If the council-controlled organisation is a council-controlled trading organisation, conduct its affairs in accordance with sound business practice.
- 2) In subsection 1) b. good employer has the same meaning as in clause 36 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Feilding Civic Centre has an important role to play in helping Council achieve its strategic priorities in accordance with our vision, of particular focus is the strategic priority of a place to belong and grow.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Shareholders' include any partners, joint venture partners, members or other persons holding equity securities in relation to the organisation. In this case the shareholders will be the Mayor and the Councillors of the Manawātū District Council.

<sup>2</sup> 'Directors' and the 'Board' include trustees, managers, or office holders (however described in the organisation).

## **NATURE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES**

### *Nature*

The Trust seeks to provide a recreation and entertainment facility which engenders a feeling of civic pride, and which is recognised as the venue of choice for community activities.

### *Scope*

Feilding Civic Centre Trust is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), managing and seeking funding to achieve the following objectives.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE FEILDING CIVIC CENTRE TRUST**

The objectives of the Feilding Civic Centre Trust as identified in its Trust Deed are:

- B1 Any charitable purposes within the Manawatū region.
- B2 To create a fund to be used for:
  - B2.1 The promotion of any purpose or purposes within the Manawatū region for the advancement of education specifically in areas concerning the arts, culture, recreation and sport and the fostering of a sense of community.
  - B2.2 Engendering a feeling of regional pride through strategies reflecting the positive image within the Manawatū region.
  - B2.3 Creating an awareness of the arts, culture, recreation, and sport of the Manawatū region.
  - B2.4 Encouraging participation of the community of all ages and persuasions including youth and amateur in the arts, culture, recreation, and sport.
  - B2.5 To manage, promote, market, enhance and maintain the Civic Centre for the use and enjoyment of the Manawatū Community and the wider New Zealand community.  
and to accept gifts and seek grants of whatever description. Provided that any private benefit conferred on any individual is incidental to the above purposes.
  - B2.6 Ensuring that the Feilding Civic Centre is the place for the Manawatu Community to connect, participate, and to be entertained.
  - B2.7 Equipping the Centre with the facilities, services, and resources to be a competitive venue for business or private meetings, events, and functions.

This Statement of Intent recognises the large number of purposes detailed in the trust deed and concentrates on the four expectations detailed in the Statement of Expectations, given the number of trustees and resource available.

## GOVERNANCE

There are currently seven trustees appointed by the Manawatu District Council to the Trust with terms as set out below. The number of trustees as per the deed are no less than six and no more than nine.

- Tony Chapman, Chairperson, reappointed for 3 years from 1 October 2023 to 1 October 2026
- Allan Williams, reappointed for 3 years from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2025
- Lindsay Taylor, reappointed for 3 years from 1 October 2023 to 1 October 2026
- Mark Marsden, appointed for 3 years from 15 June 2023 to 14 June 2026
- Brodie Noon, appointed for 3 years from 15 June 2023 to 14 June 2026
- Theo Baker, appointed for 3 years from 15 May 2025 to 14 May 2028
- Evan Tull, appointed for 3 years from 15 May 2025 to 14 May 2028

The Trust meets for Board meetings monthly, with ad-hoc meetings as required.

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Comply with the financial obligations of the Local Government Act 2002 with respect to CCO financial reporting.
2. Comply with the Charitable Act 2005
3. Approval of payments and monthly sign offs from related activities by Trustees
4. To apply sound financial practices, act prudently and transparently, recognising the Trust receives significant funding from Manawātū Ratepayers.

## PERFORMANCE TARGETS

**Goal one. Work to attract, promote, and hold events and activities to encourage utilization in the Civic Centre.**

Description	Measurement or Method of Delivery	Target
Endeavour to maintain occupancy rates.	Confirmed Bookings	Bookings – 480-500 <sup>3</sup>
Increase community participation via a targeted marketing promotion.	Design a marketing / information pack, aimed at schools and community groups to utilise the facility as their “home” for lessons, practices, performances, and events.	Within the budget year 2025-2026.
Regular communication that keeps current customers and new potential customers informed.	Develop the current database with potential new clients to enable direct marketing of events and other opportunities.	2025 – 250 in Database. 2026 – 350 in Database. 2027 – 450 in Database.

<sup>3</sup> Confirmed bookings are likely to be affected by seismic strengthening remedial and Centre upgrade works.

**Goal two. Work to encourage participation of the community in performing arts and recreational activity.**

Description	Measurement or Method of Delivery	Target
Improved Community based volunteer engagement.	Development and Implementation of “Friends of FCCT” programme for volunteers.	2025 – 2026 - 8 Registered. 2026 – 2027 – 12 Registered. 2027 – 2028 – 15 Registered.
Database of Manawatu Schools and Community Groups.	Continue active engagement with schools and community groups to maximise all year-round centre use.	Six monthly contacts made: 15
Promotion and advertising of Arts, Cultural, Exhibitions and Events.	Actively engage with art and cultural groups to maximise all year-round centre use.	Six monthly contacts made: 10

**Goal three. Work to optimally run the Feilding Civic Centre in a financially astute manner.**

Description	Measurement or Method of Delivery	Target
Alternative sources of funding & revenue, including sponsorships, third party funding and revenue from other FCCT activities, to help diversify funding sources for the trust. <sup>4</sup>	Actively seek relevant sponsorships and third-party funding and review options for other sources of revenue from FCCT.	2025 / 2026 Additional Income \$ 25,000. 2026 / 2027 Additional Income \$ 30,000. 2027 / 2028 Additional Income \$ 30,000.
6-monthly financial report and an audited annual report that meets the timelines of MDC and Audit NZ.	Six monthly financial and audited annual reports are completed to meet required timelines.	Required timelines are met. Six monthly and audited annual reports presented to MDC within 3 months of end of relevant period. Draft financial reports for the end of budget year July to June due to MDC by 30 <sup>th</sup> July.
Agreed FCCT assets are vested to MDC.	Identify FCCT held assets for potential vesting to MDC.	Request provided to MDC and agreed by 30 June 2026.
Trust follows procurement best practice.	Implement Trust procurement plan	September 2025.

<sup>4</sup> This excludes any third-party funding for the seismic remedial and upgrade works.

**Goal four. Work with Council on developing and delivering a facility investment schedule and 10+ year asset management plan (AMP).**

Description	Measurement or Method of Delivery	Target
Annual facility maintenance schedule agreed by due date.	Using MDC's policy, the FCCT Centre manager and MDC's Asset management & Compliance Co-ordinator meet and agree the schedule.	EOM June 2025.
10-year facility asset management plan agreed on with Council Officers by due date.	Design, operating impact and investment plan agreed between MDC and FCCT for the following work:  1. Seismic assessment work.  2. Facility remedial work.  Concept design and estimated cost for future facility development agreed between MDC & FCCT.	December 2025 <sup>5</sup> .

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<sup>5</sup> Timeline will be dependent on Council decisions relating to the Centre seismic remediation and upgrade work.



## FCCT FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

*Based on remedial work on the leased premises.*

To Financial Year ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY 2025 - 2026	SOI FY 2026 - 2027	SOI FY 2027 - 2028
<b>Revenue</b>			
MDC operational Grant <sup>6</sup>	196,630	201,601	206,497
Fundraising & other similar revenue	25,000	30,000	30,000
Revenue from providing goods & services <sup>7</sup>	90,000	90,000	100,000
<b>Additional MDC operational grant<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>13,906</b>	<b>14,308</b>
Trustee Honorarium <sup>9</sup>	9,000	9,000	9,000
<b>Total Revenue<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>320,630</b>	<b>330,602</b>	<b>345,497</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Trustee and employee related cost <sup>11</sup>	200,500	220,500	242,500
Cost related to providing goods & services	115,000	115,000	115,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>315,500</b>	<b>335,500</b>	<b>357,500</b>
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>5,130</b>	<b>-4,898</b>	<b>-12,003</b>
Depreciation <sup>13</sup>	79,559	64,893	53,172
<b>Net Surplus / deficit</b>	<b>-74,429</b>	<b>-69,791</b>	<b>-65,175</b>

<sup>6</sup> Projected operational grant includes \$64,500 for increase in staffing and \$13,500 to cover ground maintenance, lift servicing, fire protection, Building Warrant of Fitness and HVAC which are subject to MDC Annual Plan approval.

<sup>7</sup> This amount is based on the Centre's full or minor affected operational capabilities.

<sup>9</sup> Based on having a maximum trust board of nine people.

<sup>10</sup> Total income uncertain due to forecast major works on the Centre.

<sup>11</sup> Includes staff wages, trustee honorarium payment and training.

<sup>12</sup> Any budgeted deficit will be covered by capital moneys.

<sup>13</sup> Depreciation is based on no vesting of FCCT assets to MDC and no extra equipment purchased.

## FCCT FORECAST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

*Based on remedial work on the leased premises.*

To Financial Year ending 30 June 2028

	SOI FY 2025 - 2026	SOI FY 2026 - 2027	SOI FY 2027 - 2028
<b>Asset</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Bank Accounts & Receivable	114,000	109,102	97,099
Investments – Term deposits	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment <sup>14</sup>	516,779	451,886	398,713
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>680,779</b>	<b>610,988</b>	<b>545,812</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors & accrued expenses	25,000	25,000	25,000
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>655,779</b>	<b>585,988</b>	<b>520,812</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>655,779</b>	<b>585,988</b>	<b>520,812</b>

<sup>14</sup> Estimate based on no vesting of assets to MDC and no purchases due to the unknown building remedial seismic works and upgrades.

## Council

Meeting of 05 June 2025

Business Unit: People and Corporate

Date Created: 27 May 2025

## Deliberations for the Significance & Engagement Policy

### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

The purpose of this report is to deliberate on all oral and written submissions for the draft Significance & Engagement Policy, and to make decisions on the requested changes that submitters have made.

### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

1. That the Council receives this report and the submissions received on the Significance & Engagement Policy (attachment 1).

#### AND

2. That the Council considers and agrees in principle to the following changes raised by submitters, for inclusion in the revised draft Significance & Engagement Policy to be presented for adoption on 19 June 2025:
  - a. Replace 'equality' with 'equity', in Schedule 4: Inclusiveness and Equality
  - b. Replace 'stakeholder' with 'community' and avoid 'ratepayers and residents', throughout the Policy
  - c. Acknowledge the overlap between iwi, hapū and marae with other communities, in Section 7: The Community
  - d. Make several wording changes to Schedule 4: Māori and Mana Whenua participation:
    - Include 'Tangata Whenua' in the principle title
    - Include '... enhanced **and nurtured**' in the last outcome
    - Change the word 'might' to 'will' in the final indicator
  - e. Add reference to disabled communities, in Schedule 4: Inclusiveness and Equality
  - f. Add commentary on the Council's commitment to LGOIMA transparency, to the outcomes of Schedule 4: Transparency
  - g. Add commentary on the Council's commitment to pre-engagement, in Schedule 4: Transparency

- h. Add more emphasis on social media channels, to Schedule 2: Engagement Methods (Council's Method of Engagement)
- i. Add 'Parents of children and young people', in Section 7: The Community
- j. Include the consideration of future generations in Council's decision-making, as a separate bullet point within Section 1: Purpose

**AND**

- 3. That the Council notes that the following requests from submitters are outside the scope of this Policy review, but may be actionable via other avenues in the future if there is appetite to do so (no decisions required for this report):
  - Establishment of a Disability Reference Group – this could be incorporated as an action within the upcoming Community Development Strategy
  - Establishment of a Feilding Community Committee – this could be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Community Committees Policy (e.g., via a community public meeting chaired by the Mayor)
  - Establishment of joint Council and community committees (e.g., citizen assemblies, joint committees) – this could be considered separately by the Council
  - Opening and/or recording of Council Workshops – this was considered separately by the Council in response to the Ombudsman's report: Open for business, in 2024. At that time, no changes were made. The Council may reconsider this issue at any time in the future
  - Formal appointment of a councillor to SINCOSS (Social Issues Network Council of Social Services) – attendance at SINCOSS meetings are open, and the Council currently has one councillor who regularly attends. Future attendance by other councillors is at their discretion and does not require a formal appointment

Report prepared by:  
Ash Garstang  
Governance and Assurance Manager

Approved for submission by:  
Frances Smorti  
General Manager - People and Corporate

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## 1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 Section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) requires that each local authority has a Significant and Engagement Policy (the “Policy”). At a minimum, the Policy must cover:
- Indicators of Significance
  - Methods and/or principles of Engagement
  - A list of Strategic Assets
- 1.2 The Policy does not expire and can be reviewed at any time. The Policy was last reviewed in March 2020, and was proposed to be readopted in June 2024 as part of the Long-term Plan 2024-34. However, the Council resolved at its meeting 20 June 2024 (MDC 22-25/698) that the Policy be reviewed after the LTP adoption. Members generally agreed that refining the existing Policy could enhance its practicality and provide clearer guidance for both members and officers.
- 1.3 As per the below table, public consultation on the draft Policy was open from 04 April to 08 May 2025. The consultation followed the Special Consultative Procedure prescribed in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Given the nature of the Policy, consultation is a legislative expectation unless the changes are purely technical in nature. Consultation for the Policy was promoted via the Council’s “Make Your Mark” webpage and the newspaper.
- 1.4 The current timeline for this Policy review is detailed below:

**Table 1: Consultation and adoption timeline**

Stages	Date/s	Explanation
Statement of Proposal adopted by Council	03 April 2025	
Consultation Period	04 April – 08 May 2025	As per Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.
Oral Submissions	15 May 2025	
Deliberations on submissions received during consultation	05 June 2025	
Adoption	19 June 2025	

- 1.5 The draft Policy (attachment 4) that went out for public consultation differed from the existing Policy in the following areas:
- Structural and grammatical improvements.
  - A new section on community participation, outlining practical ways residents can engage with the Council.
  - A more detailed approach to assessing the significance of proposals.

- A tiered framework for engagement methods, based on the level of significance.
- A revised list of strategic assets, including Te Āhuru Mōwai (Community Hub).
- Clearer principles for engagement, including a strong commitment to inclusion, transparency, and Māori participation.

1.6 Staff met with Te Kōtui Reo Taumata on 30 April 2025 and discussed the Policy's implications for Māori within the District. Officer notes from this meeting are included in attachment 3.

## 2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

2.1 During the adoption of the Long-term Plan 2024-34, the Council resolved not to adopt the Significance & Engagement Policy, and instead asked that staff review and update it.

2.2 The Policy adoption will further the Council's strategic goal of "A future planned together", by working with all parts of the community to plan for the future together.

2.3 It represents an improvement on the existing Policy, and furthers the Council's strategic goal of "Value for money and excellence in local government".

## 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

3.1 The submission process and submission form asked the public to provide their views on these points, in addition to any other views that they may have around engagement with the Council.

3.2 The Council received eight submissions (attachment 1), with three submitters subsequently presenting their views to the Council at its meeting 15 May 2025.

3.3 All requested changes from submitters (both via written and oral submissions) are listed below and included within recommendations 2 and 3 of this report:

**Table 2: Request changes from submitters**

Requested Change	Officer recommendation
1. Replace 'equality' with 'equity' in Schedule 4: Engagement Principles	<b>No officer recommendation provided</b> , due to the interpretive distinction between the terms, this is a matter best determined by Council
2. Replace 'stakeholder' with 'community', and avoid 'ratepayers and residents'	<b>Yes</b> , recommend terminology change to shift language towards inclusivity
3. Acknowledge the overlap between iwi, hapū and marae with other communities in Section 7: The Community	<b>Yes</b> , recommend change to highlight the interconnectedness of iwi, hapū, and marae with the wider community
4. Wording changes to the Māori and Mana Whenua participation engagement principle	<b>Yes</b> , recommend change to more explicitly acknowledge the Council's commitment to Māori participation and collaboration

Requested Change	Officer recommendation
5. Establish a Disability Reference Group	The establishment of a reference group is outside the scope of this Policy, but could be an action within the upcoming Community Development Strategy.  However, recommend including reference to disabled communities in the Policy
6. Establish a Feilding Community Committee	<b>No change recommended to the Policy</b> , as it is outside the scope of the Policy review. Members may feel it is more appropriate to leave any consideration of this to the newly elected Council in October 2025
7. Establish joint Council and community committees	<b>No</b> , do not recommend change. Future consideration of this concept may be best done on an experimental basis and should not be prescribed in the Policy
8. Better transparency in LGOIMA processes and major project disclosures	<b>Yes</b> , recommend changes for including commitment to LGOIMA transparency, to help signal the Council's commitment to freely providing official information
9. Improve pre-engagement practices and transparency of workshops	<b>Yes</b> , recommend placing more emphasis on pre-engagement in Schedule 4 to signal the Council's dedication to undertaking comprehensive community engagement.  <b>No change recommended to the Policy</b> , to the suggestion of opening/recording workshops due to this being outside the scope of the Policy review
10. Continue to strengthen iwi and marae relationships	<b>No changes</b> to this Policy are needed for Council to give affect to this request, as this is something that is already a Council priority. Refer to requested changes 3 and 4 above in this table
11. Council appointment of a councillor to SINCOSS (Social Issues Network Council of Social Services)	<b>No change recommended to the Policy</b> , as it is outside the scope of the Policy review
12. Use TikTok and other social channels for engagement	<b>Yes</b> , recommend change to boost engagement with younger audiences
13. Add 'Parents of children and young people' as a category in section 7	<b>No</b> , do not recommend change
14. Include the consideration of future generations in Council's decision-making	<b>Yes</b> , recommend adding to section 1 'Purpose' to emphasise the Council's intention to make decisions that are fair across generations

3.4 A fuller table of the requested changes, their effects, advantages and disadvantages, are included in attachment 2 of this report.

## 4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

4.1 Risks for this adoption and implementation of this Policy are mostly reputational. The Council has a cautious approach to reputational risk. MDC's reputation is a tangible measure of how the community perceives us (e.g., the Resident Satisfaction Survey).

4.2 Reputational risks include:

- Perceived lack of follow-through – if the Council adopts the Policy and then fails (or is perceived to fail) to live up to the Policy standards. This risk will be mostly managed at the governance level, as future decision-making processes (including aspects of their engagement and transparency) can be measured more precisely against the new Policy than previously.
- Pushback on Cultural principles and inclusion – the new Policy includes more reference to Māori and iwi, with a higher degree of commitment to working alongside these communities. More broadly, this topic is the subject of diverse views and the upcoming Māori wards referendum may place a spotlight on this issue in 2025.
- Interpretation ambiguity – some concepts in the Policy (e.g., equality, stakeholders) mean different things to different people. Words also change over time. This is a low risk and the consultation period has provided an opportunity for interested parties to have their say on terminology.

## 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

### Significance of Decision

5.1 As this is the Policy that determines how the Council determines significance, any substantial update to it requires community consultation, as per Section 76AA(5) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### Māori and Cultural Engagement

5.2 Te Kīwai is the engagement process which guides Council's practice and ensures the onus to engage and include Māori is shared between Council and all partners. In this manner, we progress both the articles and principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by maintaining the balance between Kawanatanga (Governance) of the Council and Tino Rangatiratanga (Sovereignty) of whānau, hapū, and iwi Māori.

5.3 Cr Bell and staff presented to a Te Kōtui Reo Taumata Hui on 30 April 2025, to discuss the draft Policy and seek views on its content.

5.4 The Manawatū Multicultural Council helped to promote the consultation through their internal contacts and social media page.

### Community Engagement

5.5 Consultation on the draft Policy took place from 04 April to 08 May 2025, and was promoted via the Council's Make Your Mark website, which included an online submission form. The Policy consultation was also advertised via the District News and Council's social media platforms.



## 6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere

- 6.1 Meeting the standards of the Policy will require ongoing resourcing. However, many of the expectations set out are already being met in practice (particularly through recent engagement processes such as the Long-term Plan 2024–34) and the Policy will help to formalise and clarify these approaches.

## 7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

## 8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

- 8.1 The LGA 2002 defines several important concepts for this report and/or the content of the draft Policy, including:

- Section 81 – Contributions to decision-making processes by Māori
- Section 82 – Principles of consultation
- Section 83 – Special consultative procedure

## 9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

- 9.1 Based on the decisions made today by the Council, officers will amend the draft Policy and bring this to the Council meeting on 19 June 2025 for consideration and formal adoption. The review period has been set at four years, with the next review taking place in 2029 (one year prior to the 2030-40 Long-term Plan). Following this, it will be best to change the review date to 3-yearly so that it coincides with future Long-term Plan processes.
- 9.2 Regardless of the review period stipulated on the Policy document, the Council can initiate a review of it at any time.
- 9.3 If adopted by the Council at its meeting 19 June 2025, the Policy will be made live and uploaded to the Council website. Officers will then formally respond to submitters and provide commentary, including on whether or not requested changes were implemented and the reasons for this.

## 10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Submissions to the Significance & Engagement Policy
- Analysis of Decisions Sought by Submitters
- Te Kōtui Reo Taumata Meeting notes – 30 April 2025
- Significance & Engagement Policy

**From:** [Make your mark Manawatū](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission  
**Date:** Sunday, 13 April 2025 8:25:30 pm

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**001**

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## Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First and Last Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Phone:**

[REDACTED]

**Email:**

[REDACTED]

**Postal Address:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Age Group:**

60-79

**How did you hear about this Consultation?**

Social Media

**Thinking about the past 2–3 years, have you ever engaged with Manawatū District Council on a decision, proposal or issue?**

I made an application for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA)

**If you answered yes and have engaged with Manawatū District Council, how would you rate your experience?**

Very negative

**What are the best ways for you or your community to engage with the Manawatū District Council?**

Online surveys or feedback forms  
Public meetings or workshops  
Hui with iwi/hapū or marae-based engagement

**Are there any groups or communities you feel are underrepresented in Council engagement?**

Yes

**If yes, who are they and how could we better include them?**

Disabled people. You could establish a Disability Reference group to mirror the arrangements made by PNCC to engage with the disability community.

**Do you have any feedback or suggestions on how we could improve the draft Significance and Engagement Policy?**

It would be great if your staff adhered to the policy particularly about significant issues and potential developments.

There have been two significant processes in which I don't believe the Council engaged adequately or even at all. The first was the debacle over the Pyrolysis plant proposal. There was no public discussion run by Council at all and the information I was able to access via my LGOIMA request was not representative of all the discussions and decisions that had been made by Council. It was very sparse and included no information about meetings and proposals.

The second issue was the establishment of a radioactive materials waste disposal facility in near Ohakea air base. There was no public consultation at all about a facility of the nature. It is in the public's interest to know what is being established in our region particularly when it is a facility of this type. There was no consultation or even information sharing - in fact no engagement at all!

**Would you like to come to a hearing and speak to Elected Members about your submission?**

Yes

**I wish to request that my name and contact details be withheld from general publication by ticking this box. Please note that if you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing, your name but not your contact details will be published within the Council Agenda.**

Yes

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

[https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms\\_new/data/38](https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms_new/data/38)

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**From:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**To:** [Ash Garstang](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 24 April 2025 10:42:50 am

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**From:** Make your mark Manawatū <[makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 April 2025 10:40 am  
**To:** MDC Submissions <[submissions@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

002

## Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First and Last Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Phone:**

[REDACTED]

**Email:**

[REDACTED]

**Postal Address:**

[REDACTED]

**Age Group:**

60-79

**How did you hear about this Consultation?**

Other

**Thinking about the past 2–3 years, have you ever engaged with Manawatū District Council on a decision, proposal or issue?**

Yes, I have attended a community workshop or meeting.

**If you answered yes and have engaged with Manawatū District Council, how would**

**you rate your experience?**

Mostly positive

**If yes, what worked well or could have been improved?**

Written material not too complex physical engagement eg markets comfortable and inviting

**What are the best ways for you or your community to engage with the Manawātū District Council?**

Online surveys or feedback forms

Social media or digital outreach

Public meetings or workshops

**Are there any groups or communities you feel are underrepresented in Council engagement?**

Not sure

**Do you have any feedback or suggestions on how we could improve the draft Significance and Engagement Policy?**

Sometimes comments are made but council has already made up its mind and the consultation is just lip service so 'the people' feel like they are engaged .... but I suppose that is democracy

**Would you like to come to a hearing and speak to Elected Members about your submission?**

No

**I wish to request that my name and contact details be withheld from general publication by ticking this box. Please note that if you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing, your name but not your contact details will be published within the Council Agenda.**

Yes

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**From:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**To:** [Ash Garstang](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission  
**Date:** Tuesday, 29 April 2025 12:18:49 pm

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**From:** Make your mark Manawatū <[makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 April 2025 10:24 am  
**To:** MDC Submissions <[submissions@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

003

## Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First and Last Name:**

Gary Barnett

**Phone:**

0272467616

**Email:**

[garyr@inspire.net.nz](mailto:garyr@inspire.net.nz)

**Postal Address:**

70 Warwick Street Feilding

**Age Group:**

60-79

**How did you hear about this Consultation?**

MDC Website

**Thinking about the past 2–3 years, have you ever engaged with Manawatū District Council on a decision, proposal or issue?**

Yes, I have made a submission or spoke at a Manawatū District Council meeting.

**If you answered yes and have engaged with Manawatū District Council, how would**

**you rate your experience?**

Very positive

**If yes, what worked well or could have been improved?**

The bird aviaries were removed

**What are the best ways for you or your community to engage with the Manawātū District Council?**

Online surveys or feedback forms

Social media or digital outreach

Direct contact with Council staff

**Are there any groups or communities you feel are underrepresented in Council engagement?**

Yes

**If yes, who are they and how could we better include them?**

Retired business people

**Do you have any feedback or suggestions on how we could improve the draft Significance and Engagement Policy?**

Councillors and Council staff engaging in the community events and available to be identified by the residents.

**Would you like to come to a hearing and speak to Elected Members about your submission?**

Yes

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**From:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**To:** [Ash Garstang](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 2 May 2025 9:21:00 am

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**From:** Make your mark Manawatū <[makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 May 2025 12:19 pm  
**To:** MDC Submissions <[submissions@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

004

## Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First and Last Name:**

John Lowen

**Phone:**

021647211

**Email:**

[john.lowen88@gmail.com](mailto:john.lowen88@gmail.com)

**Postal Address:**

302C Kimbolton Road, Feilding

**Age Group:**

80 plus

**How did you hear about this Consultation?**

MDC Website

Other

**Thinking about the past 2–3 years, have you ever engaged with Manawatū District Council on a decision, proposal or issue?**

Reporting flooding in Litton Street via Antenno post



**From:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**To:** [Ash Garstang](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 7:58:05 am

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**From:** Make your mark Manawatū <[makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 May 2025 10:37 pm  
**To:** MDC Submissions <[submissions@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

005

## Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First and Last Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Phone:**

[REDACTED]

**Email:**

[REDACTED]

**Postal Address:**

[REDACTED]

**Age Group:**

60-79

**How did you hear about this Consultation?**

Word of Mouth

**Thinking about the past 2–3 years, have you ever engaged with Manawatū District Council on a decision, proposal or issue?**

This question doesn't allow us to 'select all that apply'. I wanted to tick 'Yes' for the first 4 items

**If you answered yes and have engaged with Manawatū District Council, how would you rate your experience?**

These were mostly 'positive' experiences i.e. not unpleasant, people said encouraging words etc, though largely I felt like I had no power to influence anything

**What are the best ways for you or your community to engage with the Manawatū District Council?**

Public meetings or workshops

Hui with iwi/hapū or marae-based engagement

Focus groups with key community sectors

**If yes, who are they and how could we better include them?**

See attached submission

**Do you have any feedback or suggestions on how we could improve the draft Significance and Engagement Policy?**

See attached submission

**Would you like to come to a hearing and speak to Elected Members about your submission?**

Yes

**I would like to include additional documentation to support my submissions uploaded here.**

- [Significance\\_and\\_Engagement\\_Submission\\_final.docx](#)

**I wish to request that my name and contact details be withheld from general publication by ticking this box. Please note that if you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing, your name but not your contact details will be published within the Council Agenda.**

Yes

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

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## Engagement Submission

"The Policy helps ensure that the level of community engagement is proportionate to the importance of the issue, and it sets clear principles and expectations around how and when the Council will consult with the public."

## Context

I recognise that improving community engagement is a major challenge. Both globally and nationally there has been an increasing emphasis on the importance of the individual, and a narrative (with little connection with reality) that we are all capable of looking after our own needs and that needing or leaning on others is a sign of weakness. The idea of 'community' is increasingly being eased out of political policies and programmes, and instead our political leaders speak of community services and assets using the same language as they would for profit-making businesses, and treat citizens / residents as if they were 'customers' giving feedback on 'products'. Confidence and trust in both central and local government is at an all-time low, and for the second time, New Zealand has dropped its placing, this time significantly so, in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), published annually by Transparency International.

So, as I said, finding a way back from this all-time low of loss of trust is a major challenge, for Manawātū District as much as for all our local bodies.

I believe that transparency is key to rebuilding trust. But before I get into that ...

## My vision

My vision for local body engagement is for a much more transparent system which includes processes of participative and deliberative democracy. To quote from a recent newsroom article: "Representative democracy presupposes that people feel that somebody is representing them. The reality is, it's a spectator sport from the citizen's point of view and it's an adversarial sport from the representative leadership's point of view". (<https://newsroom.co.nz/2025/04/26/kiwi-citizens-assembly-succeeds-in-experiment-to-find-climate-solutions/>). I found it heartening that the inaugural Rod Oram award went to an essay written on deliberative democracy.

It is being increasingly recognised that our representative democracy system only really represents those who already have a significant degree of 'power' in our world – those of us who are privileged due to such things as financial stability, being white, being male, being from the business world, being well-educated etc etc. Many people don't feel that they are being 'represented' in this system. This is more visible in central politics, but applies equally to local bodies.

I am not asking MDC to over-turn the whole system, but I'd love to see small nudges in the direction of a more participatory system. These might include things like:

- Joint Council and community committees on issues of local concern

- Pre-consultation meetings with the public. This could be useful to Councillors to find out what residents are thinking and saying before you put up the options and state which is your preferred option. No doubt you have such meetings with more important 'stake holders' but residents are stake-holders too. Pre-consultation meetings could help residents feel involved if there were opportunities for discussion on important issues before policy is written or decisions were made i.e. if the meetings were genuinely for discussion, not just designed to 'inform' residents. At present writing submissions or going to consultation meetings feels like 'going through the motions' of having a say because almost always there is a sense that the decision has already been made and that the submission process and the meetings are simply to meet government requirements or to give council a sense that they have done the right thing.

Pre-consultation meetings would provide opportunities to hear the thinking of councillors as they are still in the decision-making process. Hearing the arguments for and against various options, and hearing about the factors that have been taken into consideration would help residents to have a greater understanding of the decisions once they have been made. Recording 'workshops' and making the recordings available could be a step towards this. At present, the formal consultation documents e.g. on Local Water Done Well feel like justifications of the Council's preferred option rather than an even-handed identification of the pros and cons of the different options. The LWDW document felt dumbed-down and repetitive. Is there a requirement for these documents to have a really low reading-age level? Even if there is, with skilful writing it should still be possible to include more meaningful information. Perhaps it would be useful to have a test focus group to run the submission documents in front of before they go out.

**Significance: I'm yet to write this section.**

- Reading the policy document helped me understand why the Aviary was included as a consultation question in recent years – presumably because it was an issue that was perceived to possibly be 'of high importance to the community' perhaps more in an emotional sense, although in the bigger picture there are many issues that are more important that we don't get asked about. The Aviary may have met the 'emotional issue' threshold of your engagement policy but it was a whole lot less important than things such as a waste incinerator proposal.

## **Community**

Are there other significant communities of interest which should be included?

- The Social Services sector. At present Alison Short participates actively in the Feilding Sincoss group (Social Issues Network Council of Social Services). I think this is a very valuable involvement, giving Council a direct overview of what is happening with the local social

services and what issues in the community are of concern to them, and giving representatives of the social service organisations a more detailed background to issues that Council is dealing with. The social services are a very important part of community wellbeing and whether or not central government allows local government to focus on wellbeing, it is still an important mandate as far as the majority of residents are concerned. I don't know if having a Councillor representative at Sincoss meetings is formally embedded in Council engagement processes, but if not, I recommend that this be done.

- Feilding Community Committees. I think there is a huge gap in terms of community representation by the absence of such committees. I use the plural here as I think 'Feilding' is too big an area for residents to relate to in a personal way. I think part of the reason the village committees succeed is because they relate to a smaller area and their residents strongly identify with this smaller 'neighbourhood'. I don't see it as M.D.C.'s role to these up – they are only likely to work if they emerge from genuine community desire. I think it is unlikely that this will happen anytime soon, but think it is still a gap that needs to be acknowledged. I often hear the pride of Councillors and staff expressed in what is happening in the village community committees. But please remember when you talk about this, that half of the MDC population is not included under these. For example, our villages may be really well prepared for civil defence emergencies. The same does not apply to Feilding residents.

I disagree with Michael Ford's comment on the 'Manawātū District Elections 2025' Facebook page that Feilding community committees are not needed because the community is well served by its many community organisations, and also by the Manawatu Residents and Ratepayers association. Our community organisations have completely different purposes than a community committee. And while the Residents and Ratepayers association may have some things in common with a community committee, this organisation appears focussed on opposing any Council activities other than 'roads, rats and rates'. They also appear to oppose involvement of Iwi. As such, while they believe they represent all the residents and ratepayers of the district they absolutely don't represent me, and probably not the majority of the community. I value Iwi involvement. I value our library and other cultural, arts, sports and community facilities. I value financial prudence, as they do, but don't see cutting out all service except the essential infrastructure as creating the kind of community I want to live in. Their group has its place, but it is not equivalent to a community committee.

Perhaps there is scope somehow to help Neighbourhood Support develop more street and neighbourhood groups, and use larger groupings of 'street' groups within their networks as the equivalent of community committees.

- I wonder if 'parents of children and young people' is a specific population that should be focussed on, in addition to the ones you already mention.
- I wonder if there is any way to more consciously and actively include the interests of future generations when making decisions. The busy-ness and the 'business-style' focus of meetings

could easily result in there being more focus on the here and now. This approach is sometimes framed by the idea of seven generation stewardship, a concept that urges the current generation of humans to live and work for the benefit of the seventh generation into the future. This approach is increasingly important in the light of climate change.

- **Engagement Principles**

I strongly endorse all of the four 'Principles for Engagement'.

Building Relationships and Community Capacity – this implies a two way relationship which hasn't felt strong in the past – I have felt more like I'm treated as a 'customer' with service provided by Council, rather than feeling as if 'engagement' or 'relationship' or 'conversation' was particularly important.

I applaud MDC's efforts with regard to community events. These result in the community enjoying time together in different ways and are good for our community. In no way am I suggesting that these not be offered, but I don't think they build 'engagement' – they are 'consumer events' where people attend and enjoy themselves, and it probably helps them to think more positively about Feilding and MDC. However, I don't think participation in entertainment and engagement are the same thing.

Inclusiveness and Equality. I would prefer this be changed to Inclusiveness and Equity. There are particular barriers for some groups in terms of engaging with Council. Treating everyone the same (equally) will not help to remove these barriers.

Māori and Mana Whenua participation. I strongly value this principle, and note that the work the current Councillors have done on this has been significant. I am blown away by the way that Marae have engaged with planning and submission processes. I really enjoyed the more 'robust' discussion on Local Water Done Well hosted by Bridget Bell and Council officers – this felt more like a real conversation than the main Feilding meeting the previous week. I really hope that residents vote to support the continuation of Māori Wards.

Transparency

Transparency is so much more than this: "The Council ensures decision-making is accessible and transparent, providing the community with timely information to participate effectively." I believe that lack of transparency is one of the main reasons for the lack of trust in Council and would benefit from a much more rigorous set of indicators.

The more information that is in the public domain the better. I accept that when it gets to the point of tenders, this is no longer possible 'for commercial reasons' but there is a lot more scope to be transparent up to that point. I also recognise that some people cry 'lack of transparency' regarding information that Council already has in the public domain or where questions on the issue would happily be answered by Council.

Some of the actions that I think Council could take:

- Make information available in an easily 'findable' format. For example, people complain about how much they believe was spent on the new Library / Community Hub. Being able to easily point people to the correct information on this would be helpful.
- Keeping the Public Informed on important issues that will or could affect them: A great deal of trust has been lost by not doing this. Three recent examples I am aware of are the Bioplant Waste Incinerator proposal, the Kainga Ora block, and the disposal of nuclear medical waste on Defence Ministry land near Ohakea. Of these, the one I am most familiar with is the Bioplant proposal. I would like an explanation for the following, please.
  - Why was information withheld from the public on this? It was a proposal that had 'Significance' in terms of its potential effect on our community. There were no issues regarding commercial sensitivity – if MDC really believed our community needed one of these incinerators operating at the Resource Recover Park there should have been some kind of open 'expression of interest' process to attract the best available option.
  - Why was this never discussed in a public council meeting prior to it being a fait-accompli (in terms of there being an agreement to lease and an intention to support the application through the Resource Management Act application process).
  - Why were Councillors never given the opportunity to vote on it, but rather were asked to vote to support the MDC submission supporting Bioplant once the application was notified?
  - What checks and balances have been put in place to ensure that our district never gets caught up in such a shonky process again?
  - What will you do to ensure that residents know that changes have been made?

This particular proposal was almost laughably shonky. It turned out that the company involved were dishonest, arguably fraudulent in their application and it also turned out that contrary to their PR they had little experience in setting up these plants and the only one actually built was in South Korea. It looked like a farmer's implement shed surrounded by garbage, and was later closed down by the city authority who called it an 'environmental abomination'. A local resident identified that they had photo-shopped laboratory certificates as part of their application and National Business Review followed this up, exposing further issues with the certificates. NBR also wrote an article about the shonky nature of the share-holding of Bioplant NZ, again, alerted to the issue by a local resident.

Even if this had turned out to be a totally credible company offering largely safe technology (unfortunately such technology still does not exist) the secrecy of the proposal was, in my view, totally inappropriate, and was yet another event resulting in resident's erosion of trust in MDC.

LGOIMAs: I was not familiar with this process prior to becoming involved in the opposition to the Bioplant Waste Incinerator proposal. I was a bit shocked to discover the level of avoidance of providing information that could be involved. I learnt that unless you included every possible parameter, but at the same time making your request very broad, you might not get the information asked for. Hence Feilding Against Incineration members made several requests in their attempt to gain useful information. This is very odd. There wasn't any credible

'commercial' / competition reason for not providing the information. The proposal was of high enough significance that if MDC wanted such a plant in our region there should have been some kind of open expression of interest process. The response to one of our member's requests for a document related to a Land-use application related to the Bioplant proposal was that no such document existed. Some time later on the Council website showing LGOIMA requests I found a response from some-one else's request with the document we had been wanting to have access to, but didn't know the correct title of. Although the absolutely correct name for the document may wasn't given by our member, the description clearly indicated she was talking about this document. To me that is willful obstruction of democratic process. Again, this lack of transparency further erodes people's trust in the Council.



**From:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**To:** [Ash Garstang](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 9 May 2025 7:45:09 am

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**From:** Make your mark Manawātū <[makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 6:07 pm  
**To:** MDC Submissions <[submissions@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

**006**

## Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form through your Make your mark Manawātū website.

**First and Last Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Phone:**

[REDACTED]

**Email:**

[REDACTED]

**Postal Address:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Would you like to come to a hearing and speak to Elected Members about your submission?**

Yes

**I wish to request that my name and contact details be withheld from general publication by ticking this box. Please note that if you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing, your name but not your contact details will be published within the Council Agenda.**

Yes

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

[https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms\\_new/data/38](https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms_new/data/38)

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**From:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**To:** [Ash Garstang](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 9 May 2025 7:45:15 am

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**From:** Make your mark Manawatū <[makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 9:27 pm  
**To:** MDC Submissions <[submissions@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

**007**

## Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First and Last Name:**

Frances Pere on behalf of Te Kōtui Reo Taumata

**Phone:**

0278336140

**Email:**

[freetakuz@hotmail.com](mailto:freetakuz@hotmail.com)

**Postal Address:**

17 Vera Street  
Marton  
4710

**Age Group:**

40-59

**How did you hear about this Consultation?**

MDC Website

**Thinking about the past 2–3 years, have you ever engaged with Manawatū District Council on a decision, proposal or issue?**

Yes, I have made a submission or spoke at a Manawatū District Council meeting.

**If you answered yes and have engaged with Manawatū District Council, how would you rate your experience?**

Mostly positive

**If yes, what worked well or could have been improved?**

The officers who presented LWDW and significance of engagement did an excellent job. The presentations were very detailed and well-prepared.

**What are the best ways for you or your community to engage with the Manawatū District Council?**

Hui with iwi/hapū or marae-based engagement

Public meetings or workshops

Direct contact with Council staff

**Are there any groups or communities you feel are underrepresented in Council engagement?**

Not sure

**Do you have any feedback or suggestions on how we could improve the draft Significance and Engagement Policy?**

Engagement is not just about formal process. Council staff and elected members should continue to invest in building relationships and understanding, the local values, aspirations, of iwi, hapū and marae in the district. It is encouraging to see relationships developing between

marae chairs and Councillors, this is a promising start. I would also like to acknowledge the Mayor's availability to meet with the chair of Te Kōtuiti Reo Taumata. These relationships form the

foundation of meaningful engagement and demonstrates a willingness to engage authentically,

not just follow a process.

We support the intent of this policy and continue to encourage Manawatū District Council to strengthen relationships, with the goal of creating co-partnership.

**Would you like to come to a hearing and speak to Elected Members about your submission?**

Yes

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

[https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms\\_new/data/38](https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms_new/data/38)

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**From:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**To:** [Ash Garstang](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 9 May 2025 7:45:28 am

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**From:** Make your mark Manawatū <[makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:makeyourmark@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 May 2025 11:12 pm  
**To:** MDC Submissions <[submissions@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@mdc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

**008**

## Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Significance and Engagement Policy Submission Form through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First and Last Name:**

[REDACTED]

**Phone:**

[REDACTED]

**Email:**

[REDACTED]

**Postal Address:**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Age Group:**

60-79

**How did you hear about this Consultation?**

Social Media

**Thinking about the past 2–3 years, have you ever engaged with Manawatū District Council on a decision, proposal or issue?**

A little over 3 years ago at the Colyton hall.

**What are the best ways for you or your community to engage with the Manawātū District Council?**

None of the above. I was once asked to do a council survey. I was asked my age the ward I voted in and then my ethnic background. When I insisted I was a New Zealander I was told we could not proceed because there was no place to tick New Zealander. Because this council treats a 3rd generation New Zealander whose Great Grandfather was the mayor of Feilding with such disrespect I made the decision that I would be wasting my time dealing with self-serving idiots.

Printed newsletters or mailed information

Social media or digital outreach

**Are there any groups or communities you feel are underrepresented in Council engagement?**

Yes

**If yes, who are they and how could we better include them?**

All groups other than Māori. Your last paragraph says it all. Why highlight one group above any other.

**Do you have any feedback or suggestions on how we could improve the draft Significance and Engagement Policy?**

Treat all citizens as equal New Zealanders. I am a New Zealander not New Zealand European or New Zealand Māori or Chinese. Respect my right to be called a New Zealander.

**Would you like to come to a hearing and speak to Elected Members about your submission?**

No

**I wish to request that my name and contact details be withheld from general publication by ticking this box. Please note that if you wish to speak to your submission at the hearing, your name but not your contact details will be published within the Council Agenda.**

Yes

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

[https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms\\_new/data/38](https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms_new/data/38)

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### Changes to Council's Significance & Engagement Policy requested by Submitters

Requested Change	Effect of the change	How this change would be given effect to in the Policy	Submitter(s) who requested this change	Advantages	Disadvantages	Officer recommendation
1. Replace 'equality' with 'equity' in Schedule 4: Engagement Principles	Changing to 'equity' may place more of an emphasis on equal and fair outcomes, whereas 'equality' may emphasise a fair and equal process	Update the outcomes for this principle, to focus more strongly on making disproportionate efforts to reach historically underrepresented groups	005	Signals commitment to addressing disparities for historically underrepresented groups	May introduce ambiguity or misinterpretation, especially for people unfamiliar with the semantic distinction between the terms	<b>No change recommended to the Policy</b> , due to the interpretive distinction between the terms, this is a matter best determined by Council
2. Replace 'stakeholder' with 'community', and avoid 'ratepayers and residents'	Shifts language toward inclusivity and removes any implication of exclusion	Revise wording throughout the Policy where applicable	005	Fosters a sense of community belonging and ownership in Council processes	Nil	<b>Yes</b> , recommend terminology change to shift language towards inclusivity
3. Acknowledge the overlap between iwi, hapū and marae	Clarifies that iwi, hapū, and marae are interconnected with	Inclusion of the word 'composite': "There are smaller composite	007 (Te Kōtui Reo meeting 30 April 2025	Supports a more inclusive view of the Community, and makes it clear	Nil	<b>Yes</b> , recommend change to highlight the interconnectedness of iwi, hapū, and marae

<b>Requested Change</b>	<b>Effect of the change</b>	<b>How this change would be given effect to in the Policy</b>	<b>Submitter(s) who requested this change</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>	<b>Officer recommendation</b>
with other communities in Section 7: The Community	other parts of the community	communities, including from iwi, hapū and marae, who have wide interests and are a part of other communities described in this section”	– attachment 3)	that Māori communities in are intrinsically linked with other communities (not separate from)		with the wider community
4. Wording changes to the Māori and Mana Whenua participation engagement principle	Strengthens language to better reflect Council’s commitment to Māori participation and collaboration	Include “Tangata Whenua” in the principle title.  Include “Nurtured” in the outcomes.  Modify the word ‘might’ to ‘will’ in the final indicator	007 (Te Kōtui Reo meeting 30 April 2025 – attachment 3)	Strengthens the language and Council’s commitment to participation with Māori	Nil	<b>Yes</b> , recommend change to more explicitly acknowledge the Council’s commitment to Māori participation and collaboration
5. Establish a Disability Reference Group	Improves representation and accessibility for disabled people in	Add reference to disabled communities in Schedule 4	001	Provide a consistent channel of input for a community that may struggle	Requires resourcing and coordination	The establishment of a reference group is outside the scope of this Policy, but could be an action within the



Requested Change	Effect of the change	How this change would be given effect to in the Policy	Submitter(s) who requested this change	Advantages	Disadvantages	Officer recommendation
	Council decision-making	'Inclusiveness and Equality'		with accessibility and representation		upcoming Community Development Strategy.  However, recommend including reference to disabled communities in the Policy
6. Establish a Feilding Community Committee	Enhances the representation of the Feilding urban population	The establishment of a Feilding Community Committee is outside the scope of this Policy review, but could be considered by the Council separately	005, 006	Gives the Feilding urban population equal representation to the Council via a Community Committee (alongside rural/village communities)	Requires community-led support to be sustainable, and historical attempts at this have suggested it may not be effective	<b>No change recommended to the Policy</b> , as it is outside the scope of the Policy review. Members may feel it is more appropriate to leave any consideration of this to the newly elected Council in October 2025
7. Establish joint Council and community committees	Promote shared decision-making (e.g., deliberative democracy)	Include reference to deliberative approaches (e.g., citizen assemblies, joint committees) to Schedule 4 ('Building	005	Encourages deeper community engagement and buy-in for	Requires significant facilitation and resourcing to implement well	<b>No</b> , do not recommend change. Future consideration of this concept may be best done on an experimental basis and

<b>Requested Change</b>	<b>Effect of the change</b>	<b>How this change would be given effect to in the Policy</b>	<b>Submitter(s) who requested this change</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>	<b>Officer recommendation</b>
		Relationships and Community Capacity')		significant decision-making		should not be prescribed in the Policy
8. Better transparency in LGOIMA processes and major project disclosures	Builds public trust and reduces the perception or bias or self-serving practices	<p>Add comment on the Council's commitment to LGOIMA transparency (specifically with regards to the Council's processes) to transparency outcomes under Schedule 4.</p> <p>While outside of the scope of this Policy, staff intend to more accessibly publish resolutions on the Council's website in the next triennium (e.g., easily searchable formats)</p>	005	Clearer commitment from the Council to openness (where appropriate) around public excluded decision-making and prompt engagement in the LGOIMA process	Nil	<b>Yes</b> , recommend changes for including commitment to LGOIMA transparency, to help signal the Council's commitment to freely providing official information

Requested Change	Effect of the change	How this change would be given effect to in the Policy	Submitter(s) who requested this change	Advantages	Disadvantages	Officer recommendation
9. Improve pre-engagement practices and transparency of workshops	Gives the public more opportunity to influence decision-making processes at an earlier stage	Expand Schedule 4 ('Transparency' principle) to more explicitly promote pre-engagement.  The opening of Council workshops is outside the scope of this Policy review, but could be considered by the Council separately	005	Improves transparency and public buy-in to long decision-making processes	Increased time and resources required for pre-engagement phases.  Opening and/or recording workshops may constrain member's ability to freely explore emerging issues and strategic options	<b>Yes</b> , recommend placing more emphasis on pre-engagement in Schedule 4 to signal the Council's dedication to undertaking comprehensive community engagement.  <b>No change recommended to the Policy</b> , to the suggestion of opening/recording workshops due to this being outside the scope of the Policy review
10. Continue to strengthen iwi and marae relationships	Supports authentic partnership and cultural safety in Council practices	Expand guidance in Māori and Mana Whenua participation section	007	Continues to build mutual trust between Māori and the Council	Requires effective resourcing to support	<b>No changes</b> to this Policy are needed for Council to give affect to this request, as this is something that is already a Council

<b>Requested Change</b>	<b>Effect of the change</b>	<b>How this change would be given effect to in the Policy</b>	<b>Submitter(s) who requested this change</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>	<b>Officer recommendation</b>
						priority. Refer to requested changes 3 and 4 above in this table
11. Council appointment of a councillor to SINCOSS (Social Issues Network Council of Social Services)	Formalises the existing arrangement with an elected member being represented on the group	Outside of the scope of this Policy, but formal appointment would occur at the start of the Council triennium	005	Ensures that the representation is reconsidered at the beginning of each triennium	Nil	<b>No change recommended to the Policy</b> , as it is outside the scope of the Policy review
12. Use TikTok and other social channels for engagement	Improves engagement with younger demographics	Add digital engagement methods to Schedule 2 examples	006	Reaches younger and more digitally-inclined audiences	Increased resources and time	<b>Yes</b> , recommend change to boost engagement with younger audiences
13. Add 'Parents of children and young people' as a category in section 7	Highlight the unique wants, needs and challenges for the parents and caregivers of	Add this as another segment of the community discussed in section 7	005	Draw Council's attention to this demographic group during significant decision-making	It can be a difficult group to define, and to consistently highlight shared issues	<b>No</b> , do not recommend change

<b>Requested Change</b>	<b>Effect of the change</b>	<b>How this change would be given effect to in the Policy</b>	<b>Submitter(s) who requested this change</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>	<b>Officer recommendation</b>
	children and youth in the District					
14. Include the consideration of future generations in Council's decision-making	Promote long-term thinking, and consideration of intergenerational impacts	Update the Policy purpose to reflect this consideration	005	Supports forward-thinking and resilient decision-making, particularly with regards to long-term issues (e.g., climate change)	Conceptual in nature and may be difficult to tangibly demonstrate in engagement processes	<b>Yes</b> , recommend adding to section 1 'Purpose' to emphasise the Council's intention to make decisions that are fair across generations

## S&E Policy – requested changes

Te Kōtui Reo Taumata Meeting notes – 30 April 2025

**Significance and Engagement Policy.** Cr Bell and Ash Garstang talked to the Council’s draft policy, which has been due for review. It has undergone a substantial makeover to ensure that it is more explicit, descriptive and practical, including with regard to tangata whenua and mana whenua. Te Kōtui Reo considered the draft Policy and made several suggestions, which are noted by staff below:

- Section 7 – inclusion of the word ‘composite’ ... there are smaller composite communities, including from iwi, hapū and marae, who have wide interests and are a part of other communities described in this section
- Engagement Principles – Māori and Mana Whenua participation: ensure tangata whenua are included.
- Include ‘nurtured’ in the Outcomes ... relationships are maintained, enhanced, or nurtured.
- Strengthen final indicator from ‘might’ to perhaps will - ... LGA 2002, consider how it will build the capacity...

# Significance and Engagement Policy



Adopted/Confirmed	
Review Frequency	4 yearly
Date last reviewed / Reconfirmed	March 2020
Next review due	2024
Policy type	Governance
Policy Owner	Governance and Assurance Team
Policy version	P274

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Aid the Council in assessing the significance of ideas, problems, assets, services, planning and finances.
- Explain when the Council will engage with residents.
- Describe the ways that residents can share their opinions with the Council, and how they can influence decision-making.
- Meet the requirements of Section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002.
- Clarify Council decision making on consultation and engagement.

## 2. Scope

- This Policy applies to Council elected members and staff.
- It is applicable to any proposal presented to the Council or its Committees for a decision.
- The Policy does not affect any statutory requirement to undertake specific consultation and decision-making processes (e.g., under the Local Government Act 2002 or resource management legislation).



### 3. Glossary

Term	Description
Significance	<p>Significance refers to how important something is and its impact on residents. The Council determines this by looking at how the District will be affected, the long-term consequences, and the associated costs.</p> <p>‘Significant’ is also defined in section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002: <i>“In relation to any issue, proposal, decision, or other matter, means that the issue, proposal, decision, or other matter has a high degree of significance.”</i></p>
Engagement	Engagement is the process by which the Council seeks input from the community. It ranges from informing residents to actively involving them in decision-making.
Consultation	<p><b>Consultation</b> is a more formal process than <b>engagement</b>, with principles outlined in section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002).</p> <p>In certain cases, the Council is required to use the <b>Special Consultative Procedure</b> (section 83, LGA 2002), which includes specific legal requirements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The type of information that must be provided to the public</li> <li>• The minimum length of the consultation period</li> <li>• The opportunity for the public to provide both written and oral submissions</li> </ul> <p>Once a consultation period closes, the process typically continues with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hearing oral submissions</li> <li>• Deliberating on the content of submissions and public feedback</li> <li>• Deciding whether to adopt the proposal (with or without changes), or not adopt it at all.</li> </ul>
Annual Report	<p>A document published yearly that summarises the Council’s performance, including how much money it spent.</p> <p>This document allows residents to scrutinise the Council’s performance against the goals set out in Long-term Plans and Annual Plans.</p>
Assets	<p>Assets are resources owned by the Council that have economic value and can provide future benefit for the community.</p> <p><b>Strategic assets</b> are important assets that the Council needs to keep and maintain, in order to continue providing for the needs of the community. The Council’s current strategic assets are detailed in Schedule 3 of this policy.</p>
Planning	<p>This refers to the Council’s long-term planning. Planning is generally significant, and the community is asked to provide input. Important pieces of planning include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Long-term Plans</b> where the Council decides how to use its finances and how to deliver services. Completed every three years (next due in 2027).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Annual Plans</b> which take place in the “in-between years” of Long-term plans.</li> <li>• The <b>District Plan</b> which sets the rules for the District around zoning, land-use and consenting.</li> </ul>
Mana Whenua	Refers to iwi/hapū with ancestral connection, custodianship and guardianship over the lands in the Manawatū district. Mana whenua in a Te Ao Māori lense has distinct responsibilities of a particular area.
Tangata Whenua	A translation to “People of the land” and refers to the Māori people or Indigenous people of Aotearoa.

## 4. Community Participation

While the Council has a responsibility for determining how and when to engage with the community, we welcome and encourage the public to reach out to the Council themselves – there are several ways to do this:

### Contacting the Council

- The public can contact Council staff for routine matters and queries:  
Email: [public@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:public@mdc.govt.nz)  
Phone: 06 323 0000  
Visit us: 135 Manchester Street, Feilding
- Antenno. The public can contact the Council via the Antenno app to report things that need fixing, provide feedback about services or make suggestions. Lodged queries include the GPS location of the submitter, which combined with the ability to send photos, allows the Council to respond quickly to reported issues.

### Contacting the Mayor or Councillors

- The public have a right to contact their Mayor or Councillors and to request to meet with them, although routine matters may be referred back through to Council staff if appropriate. Contact details are published on our website.

### Attending Meetings

- The Council holds regular meetings where the Mayor and Councillors make decisions. These are advertised on the Council’s website. They are open for the public to attend, but may include a “public excluded” portion towards the end of the meeting to discuss anything confidential (e.g., to maintain the privacy of individuals, or to discuss commercially sensitive matters).

#### Public Forum

The public can speak at a Council meeting if they send the Council a request at least 5 working days prior. The request should describe the subject the individual wants to talk about, and can be made by email ([governance@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:governance@mdc.govt.nz)), or by calling Customer Services (06 323 0000).

### Deputations

Deputations are when a group or individual wants to speak about an item at the specific time that it is being presented to the Council for consideration. Like public forums, requests should be made 5 working days prior to the meeting either by email or phone.

### **Petitions**

- The public can present petitions to the Council requesting that they consider a topic or undertake some type of action. A petition must be fewer than 150 words and signed by at least 20 people. It should be sent to the Council at least 5 working days prior to a Council meeting.

### **Elections**

- Elections are held every 3 years (due in 2025 and 2028) to elect our Mayor and Councillors. Anybody over 18 years of age who resides in the District, or owns a property in the District, is eligible to vote.

## **5. Significance**

The significance of an issue is assessed based on a range of considerations, and while it requires careful judgement, the Council applies a consistent set of factors when making this assessment, including:

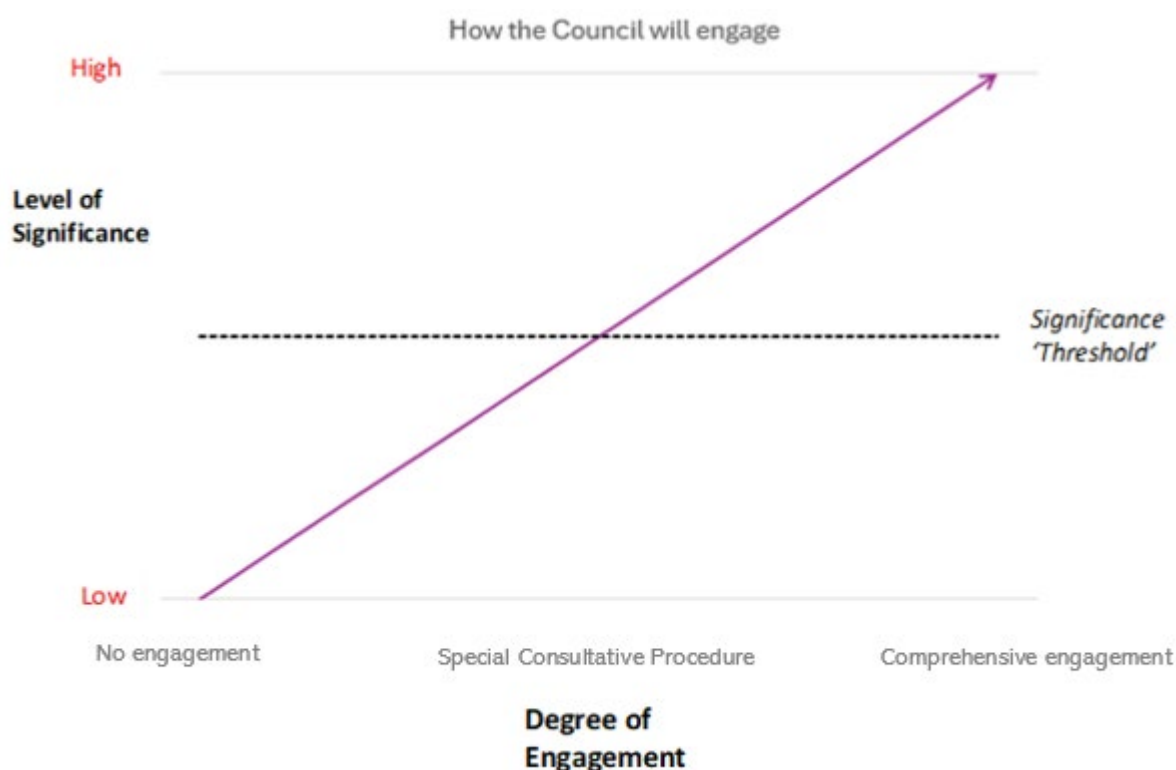
- The importance to the District as a whole
- Any disproportionate impacts on some parts of the community
- The amount of money involved (e.g., any impact on rates, debt or financial stability)
- The types of assets involved
- The effects on levels of service that the Council provides (including day-to-day services and longer-term projects)
- The permanence of the decision (e.g., can it be reversed at a later stage)
- Any effects on Council's relationships with partners and stakeholders
- Any inconsistencies with existing strategies, plans and policies

The way that the Council decides the significance of an issue is explained more fully in Schedule 1 of this policy.

## 6. Engagement

The Council has a responsibility to engage with the community when a topic is significant. As a general principle, it is also expected that the Council will engage with relevant people when an issue is not significant but may be of interest to specific groups.

The ways the Council will engage are described in Schedule 2 of this policy, but in general the more significant an issue is, the greater the level of engagement will be:



### When the Council won't engage

There are extraordinary cases where the Council won't engage on an issue that is deemed to be significant, such as:

- In an emergency event response
- Where failure to make a decision urgently would risk harm to people or property, cause the Council to miss a substantial opportunity, or result in significant financial loss
- When physical alterations or repairs to strategic assets are required to remove immediate hazards and protect the health and safety of people

In these rare cases, the Council may notify the public of a decision made after the fact. If there are aspects of an issue yet to be resolved, or opportunity to readdress it at a later stage, the Council's engagement response will be reconsidered.

### Special Consultative Procedure

The Local Government Act 2002 (section 82) sets out a legislative minimum for consultation. Consultations following the Special Consultative Procedure must:

- Include sufficient information to inform the public of the issue, and publicise this as widely as practical (e.g., newspapers, website, Council public facilities)
- Provide people with an opportunity to give comment (both in writing and in-person)
- Last for at least 1 month

There are several things that the Council is legally required to consult on, regardless of whether the Council would have otherwise determined them to be significant. For example, proposed plan changes and variations to the District Plan amendments must be consulted on in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991, unless the changes are of a minor/technical nature or there is government direction which says consultation is not required.

## 7. The Community

While ‘the community’ is generally referred to in this policy as being everybody in the District, the Council also recognises that there are smaller communities within and across our boundaries that have unique interests.

Several major communities of note in our District (not a complete list) include:

Community	Description
Feilding community	The Feilding community is made up of residents living in our major District town. Projects in the town are of particular interest to this community, such as industrial and residential expansions. This group may also include commuter workers, visitors and tourists.
Village residents	There are several villages across the District and residents in these may have particular interests in roading, village growth and local facilities.
Rural community	The rural community in our District is closely tied to the land and natural resources, with a deep sense of stewardship and responsibility for the environment. This connection often shapes their way of life and influences their perspectives on land use, conservation, and local infrastructure needs.
Iwi, hapū and marae	In the District there are six mana whenua iwi and ten hapū on twelve marae (standing and non-standing). This makes for a complex and diverse cultural narrative but together they share a common affinity to the land and waterways.
Youth	Children and youth in the District are more likely to be impacted by education, transport, sport and recreational issues.  Additionally, youth will naturally be impacted by Council decisions for a longer-period of time. The Council considers the long-term effect of its decisions on future residents and ratepayers.

Senior residents	Our senior residents may be more impacted by housing, health, and transport topics.
Business community	The ease of doing business in Feilding and the rural areas is important for ensuring the District's economic wellbeing.

Other communities that will have specific interests include whaikaha (those living with disabilities), the rainbow community (LGBTQI+), other ethnic communities, migrants, and transient workers.

## Schedule 1: Determining Significance

The below considerations broadly sit on a continuum of low to high significance. A decision that involves two or more of these factors with greater significance is likely to be important and require some level of engagement with the community.

The Council's risk appetite informs the assessment of significance, particularly in areas such as service delivery, financial affordability, and cultural considerations. These factors are reflected in the table below:

Considerations	Description	Low significance	High significance
Importance to the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General sense of importance to the community</li> <li>The degree of change from the status quo, and whether this is positive or negative</li> <li>How wide-ranging the impacts will be</li> </ul>	Issues that are routine and related to the inner workings of the Council	Controversial subjects, or decisions that will result in very noticeable changes from the present situation
Disproportionate impacts on select parts of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disproportionate impacts (positive or negative) can lead to perceptions of unfairness</li> <li>Is it likely to be controversial</li> </ul>	The impact is generalised relatively equally across different segments of the community	Decisions that specifically impact one or more community groups
The amount of money involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is this likely to result in higher rates</li> <li>Who does it benefit</li> <li>Will it have any impact on Council's borrowing capacity</li> </ul>	Low-cost decisions that are more related to the inner workings of Council	Costly decisions that will generate high community interest, and involve risk or opportunity
The types of assets involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic assets vs other assets</li> <li>Sentimental value of assets to the community</li> <li>Cultural value of land to mana whenua</li> </ul>	Low-value assets of limited cultural or social importance	Assets that see high community use or have sentimental value
Effects on levels of service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it an increase or reduction in service</li> <li>Will the change clash with the expectations of the community</li> </ul>	No effects or minor increases to levels of service	Reductions or major increases in levels of service, particularly for publicly valued services
Permanence of the decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will there be opportunity in the future to reconsider, perhaps with some level of community engagement</li> <li>Is the funding of the decision equitable across existing and future ratepayers</li> </ul>	Short-term decisions that do not involve much funding, or are subject to formal engagement	Irreversible decisions that have major impacts on the community, and commit future generations to higher debt
Effects on relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there any risks around a decision having a negative impact on the Council's relationship with partners and stakeholders</li> </ul>	No foreseen impact on Council's relationships with partners and stakeholders	There is a risk that Council's relationship with a partner or stakeholder could be damaged
Inconsistencies with existing strategies, plans and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the decision likely to contradict other frameworks the Council has</li> <li>What degree of change or uncertainty is there in this area</li> </ul>	Decisions that do not significantly conflict with existing documentation	Decisions that substantially differ from existing strategies, plans and policies

## Schedule 2: Engagement Methods\*

Degree of Significance	<div> <div></div> <div>Significance</div> <div></div> </div>				
	Low Significance (not important)	Limited Significance (of interest to select people or groups)	Significant (i.e., threshold) (community-wide)	High Significance (issue of high interest to the community)	Very high Significance (critical issue)
Council's Method of Engagement	<b>Provide information:</b>  Public notices Websites and/or emails Media releases Council agendas Community noticeboards Billboards / displays	<b>Provide information, and seek targeted feedback:</b>  Brainstorms Surveys Events / roadshows Meeting with Council staff Hui	<b>Involve</b> the community:  Formal proposals Hearings Public meetings Community committees Iwi / hapū Partner organisations	<b>Collaborate</b> with the community:  External working groups Steering committees Continuous feedback loops Iterative developments	<b>Empower</b> the community to decide:  Legislated processes Externally facilitated Binding referendums
Special Consultative Procedure?	No		Possible	Yes	
When will the Engagement happen?	After a decision has been made	After the issue has been discussed by the Council and Council decides to seek feedback from relevant people or groups	The Council will generally notify the public of the process and topic, before making a proposal for community-wide feedback	The Council will undertake some type of pre-engagement (i.e., prior to making a proposal), to better understand the community's viewpoints	The Council will provide a long lead-in time (typically several months), before facilitating a process that hands decision-making to the community
Example of issues (not an exhaustive list)	Water restrictions Road closures Emergency repair works New policies	Signage Leases and licences New minor facilities (e.g., gardens, toilets)	District Plan Annual Plan (major updates) Changes to level of services Repairs to major facilities	Long-term Plan Changes to strategic assets Key reductions to services Bylaws	Elections Polls Representation reviews

\*based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Participation



## **Schedule 3: Strategic Assets**

The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to list its strategic assets in this Policy. These assets are essential for the Council to achieve outcomes important for the community's well-being, both now and in the future.

The Council considers its networks and other large assets as “complete single assets”, as it is the group of assets within these that deliver the service. This means that the Council will not follow the special consultative procedure if only part of a strategic asset is affected, unless that part substantially alters the level of service provided to the community.

Any change of ownership or control for a strategic asset as a whole must be provided for in the current Long-term Plan, and the Long-term Plan must involve engagement with the community (including the special consultative procedure).

### **Strategic Assets**

- Parks, reserves and sports grounds
- Council administration building (135 Manchester Street, Feilding)
- Te Āhuru Mōwai (Community Hub Libraries)
- Recreational buildings including theatres, recreation complexes and high-priority halls
- Makino Aquatic Centre
- Roading network
- Stormwater network (urban)
- Land drainage networks (rural)
- Wastewater reticulation networks and treatment assets
- Water supply reticulation networks, treatment assets and storage facilities

## Schedule 4: Engagement Principles

<b>Principles</b> <i>Council will reinforce the below principles when engaging with the community</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>Engagement processes that follow these principles commonly exhibit the following characteristics</i>	<b>Outcomes</b> <i>Meeting these principles and indicators will be likely to result in the following outcomes</i>
<b>Transparency</b>  The Council ensures decision-making is accessible and transparent, providing the community with timely information to participate effectively.	Council will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct engagement in a genuine effort to listen to, and consider with an open mind, community and stakeholder input</li> <li>• Present realistic and deliverable options for feedback</li> <li>• Ensure that engagement questions are objective (i.e., not leading)</li> <li>• Provide enough time and resources to ensure participants have been provided fair opportunity to understand the matter and contribute their views</li> <li>• Allow sufficient extra time in case other issues arise during an engagement process</li> <li>• Value contributions made by the public, acknowledging the time and effort they have given</li> <li>• Give timely feedback on the results of the public's input, and the subsequent decisions made</li> <li>• Respect and give weight to local knowledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the public have a better understanding of the proposal or decision, and are able to participate effectively</li> <li>• Council has an enhanced understanding of community sentiment</li> </ul>

<b>Principles</b> <i>Council will reinforce the below principles when engaging with the community</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>Engagement processes that follow these principles commonly exhibit the following characteristics</i>	<b>Outcomes</b> <i>Meeting these principles and indicators will be likely to result in the following outcomes</i>
<b>Building Relationships and Community Capacity</b>  Engagement is an opportunity for the Council to build on its long-term relationship with the community.	Council will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise a variety of engagement approaches (as set out in schedule 2) and make optimal use of these to build ongoing relationships with the community</li> <li>• Ensure that engagement opportunities are suited to the target audience, and provide ample opportunity for participants to present their views</li> <li>• Promote ways for the community to raise issues directly with the Council so that it is a two-way relationship (see section 3)</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to work in partnership with the community, to encourage a shared sense of ownership and participation</li> <li>• Ensure that community views and preferences are widely shared among Council members and officers</li> <li>• Engage early with partners and stakeholders in the development of plans, policies and decisions that affect them</li> <li>• Actively consider how to address and contribute to the needs and aspirations of our villages and marae</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement processes improve awareness, elevate future participation and enhance the capacity of the community</li> <li>• A better decision or proposal will result from community participation</li> <li>• The decision or proposal will have greater community acceptance</li> <li>• Residents at our villages and marae will feel more supported in their growth aspirations</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusiveness and Equality</b>  Engagement and decision-making processes identify and encourage participation of the community in its full diversity.  Historically excluded groups and individuals are included authentically in processes, activities, and decision-making.	Council will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairly identify and distribute costs and benefits, to ensure comparable outcomes across the community</li> <li>• Explore creative and genuine ways of reaching community groups and individuals whose views are typically heard from the least often</li> <li>• Identify the specific ways that different demographics of the community may be affected by decision-making, and tailor the engagement process to amplify their views</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council activities and decisions are responsive to the full range of needs and priorities in the community</li> <li>• Trust and respect for the Council increases among community members</li> <li>• Inclusivity and equality are increased by actively involving communities that may have been underrepresented in previous decision-making processes</li> <li>• New decisions and policies do not disadvantage</li> </ul>

<b>Principles</b> <i>Council will reinforce the below principles when engaging with the community</i>	<b>Indicators</b> <i>Engagement processes that follow these principles commonly exhibit the following characteristics</i>	<b>Outcomes</b> <i>Meeting these principles and indicators will be likely to result in the following outcomes</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide multiple ways for people to participate, and remove as many physical and mental barriers to this as possible</li> <li>• Where required, invest in community capacity building to enable participation</li> <li>• Consider cultural norms and values when designing engagement techniques for Council decision-making and consultation</li> <li>• Use plain language and avoid jargon or acronyms wherever possible. If formal or legal language is necessary, provide a plain language summary document</li> <li>• Follow up with under-engaged groups to see how the process worked for their community members, and identify improvements for future engagement</li> </ul>	<p>historically underrepresented groups</p>
<p><b>Māori and Mana Whenua participation</b></p> <p>Council will actively provide opportunities for Māori and Mana Whenua to contribute to its decision-making processes.</p> <p>Joint Management Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding or other similar, high level agreements will be considered when engaging with Iwi and Māori.</p>	<p>Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with iwi, hapū and marae to provide for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment (e.g., Mana Whakahaere)</li> <li>• Recognise and protect Māori and Mana Whenua rights and interests within the Manawatū District</li> <li>• Work with Māori to determine who the relevant spokespeople/parties/experts are for each specific matter</li> <li>• Seek guidance from Māori in the ways that they would like the Council to engage with them (e.g., Council-marae liaisons)</li> <li>• As required by Section 81 of the LGA 2002, consider how it might build the capability and capacity of active Māori engagement in Council decision-making (e.g., supporting Māori involvement in briefings and workshops)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treaty of Waitangi obligations are met (as per the LGA 2002, RMA 1991 and any other legislation relevant to local government)</li> <li>• Iwi and hapū relationships are maintained or enhanced</li> </ul>

## Council

Meeting of 05 June 2025

Business Unit: People and Corporate

Date Created: 01 May 2025

## Deliberations for the Freedom Camping Bylaw

### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To deliberate on all oral and written submissions received on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw.

To make decisions on options presented by officers to guide the preparation of the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw that will be presented to Council for final decisions at the 19 June Council meeting.

### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

1. That the Council receive this report and the submissions received on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw; and
2. That the Council considers and makes decisions on the matters raised in submissions and by officers on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw, as follows:
  - a. That freedom camping in self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles be provided for at Kina Street Reserve in Option 2 C (the road berm outside the reserve).
  - b. Support Option 2 - That the Ellison Reserve Carpark be included in the bylaw as a new Schedule 3 site for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles.AND  
That a site-specific restriction be included that limits the number of vehicles to two at any one time.
  - c. Support Option 1 (status quo) – That the amendments to the bylaw to remove all reference to Approved Camping Area and to insert a new definition of “Camping Ground” are retained as notified.
  - d. Support Option 1 (status quo) – no compulsory fee to stay at the Old School Reserve in Pohangina.
  - e. Support Option 1 (status quo) – that the Old School Reserve is retained in the bylaw as a Schedule 3 site.
  - f. Support Option 1 (status quo) – retain the maximum length of stay at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina, at five nights in any 30 day period.
  - g. Support Option 1 (status quo) – That there are no changes to the designated freedom camping area at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina.

- h. Support Option 1 (status quo) restrictions on the use of the Old School Reserve, Pohangina, during events is managed by Council through the events application process.
- i. Support Option 2B – that Council designate the offroad carpark just to the east of the Campbell Street toilet block (within the park boundaries) as suitable for non-self-contained freedom camping vehicles.

AND

That an additional restriction be imposed on these parks requiring freedom camping vehicles to depart no later than 8am, 7 days per week.

*Note – this change would necessitate Council leaving the Campbell Street toilet block unlocked overnight.*

- j. Support Option 1 (Status quo). That the bylaw does not provide for freedom camping in a tent or other temporary structure at Timona Park.
- k. Support Option 1 (Status quo). That no additional areas are designated for self-contained vehicles at Timona Park.
- l. Support Option 1 (Status quo). That only self-contained vehicles are allowed to freedom camp at the Kimbolton Domain.
- m. Support Option 2 – that Council develop guidelines to support enforcement of the freedom camping bylaw and to set clear expectations around how Council will engage with unhoused individuals staying in freedom camping locations.
- n. Support Option 1 (Status quo). Freedom camping is only provided for within the area fenced from stock at the Āpiti Reserve.
- o. Support Option 1 (Status quo). Freedom camping vehicles are allowed to park within the carpark at Mt Lees, and tents are permitted to be located on the grass area adjacent to the toilet block.
- p. Support Option 1 (status quo)– that the bylaw generally provides for a five night stay at Bartletts Ford but retains provision to extend this time with written approval of an Enforcement Officer.
- q. Support Option 1 (status quo) – No change to the bylaw with respect to Almadale Reserve.
- r. Support Option 2 – That the northern half of Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill) be designated as a Schedule 3 site, allowing for both self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping.
- s. Support Option 1 (status quo) – freedom camping at Kowhai Park is prohibited, except with Council approval in association with an event.
- t. Support Option 1 (status quo). That the current scoring methodology in the Site Assessment is retained, with the threshold for prohibition of freedom camping remaining at 9 out of 15.
- u. Support Option 2A - That the Feilding Central Business District shopping area map be amended so that the prohibited area matches the time limited parking zones.

AND

That the four Council-owned off-street carparks (Warwick Street, Manchester Street and two on Eyre Street) in the Feilding CBD be designated as Schedule 2 freedom camping sites for self-contained freedom camping only. However, these carparks should be time restricted, with freedom camping vehicles required to depart by 7:30am each day.

- v. Support option 2 – remove the current prohibition of freedom camping on Feilding residential road reserves.
  - w. Support option 2 – reference to road reserves is deleted from the introduction to Schedule 1 and Council re-evaluates (i.e. assigns separate significance scores) each village independently to determine their suitability for freedom camping.
  - x. Support Option 1 (Status Quo) – freedom camping on road reserves in Kimbolton is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
  - y. Support Option 2 – that Schedule 1 of the Bylaw is amended to remove the current prohibition that applies to freedom camping on road reserves in Rongotea. Except that the prohibition be retained around Douglas Square, Rongotea.
  - z. Support Option 2 – Remove Cheltenham Road Reserves from the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
  - aa. Support Option 2A – that the current prohibition be removed from those roads that are State Highway, but retained on local roads in Sanson.
  - bb. Support Option 1 (Status quo) – freedom camping on road reserves in Halcombe is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
  - cc. Support Option 1 (status quo) - freedom camping on road reserves in Himatangi Beach is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
  - dd. Support Option 1 (status quo) - freedom camping on road reserves in Tangimoana is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.
  - ee. Support Option 2 – That a new Schedule 3 area be identified at the carpark in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve.
- AND
- That a site-specific restriction be included that restricts the number of vehicles to no more than three on any one night.
- ff. Support Option 2 – that the bylaw is amended to reclassify Sanson Domain as a schedule 3 site suitable for self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping.
- AND
- The current restriction to three vehicles at any one time should be retained.

Report prepared by:  
 Lisa Thomas  
 Strategy Manager

Approved for submission by:  
 Frances Smorti  
 General Manager - People and Corporate

## 1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 The Freedom Camping Act 2011 (“the Act”) is the key legislation that regulates Freedom Camping in New Zealand. The Freedom Camping Act 2011 was amended by the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023, which received royal assent on 6 June 2023. Council is required by Schedule 1AA, clause 10 of the Act to amend or revoke its freedom camping bylaw to remove any inconsistencies. If this is not completed by the end of the transitional period (extended by an Order of Council to 7 June 2026), the bylaw will cease to exist.
- 1.2 The Manawātū District Council’s Freedom Camping Bylaw 2020 was adopted on 2 July 2020. The statutory review deadline for the bylaw is 2 July 2025. The bylaw review was completed at the 19 December 2024 Council meeting by the presentation of the Options and Findings Assessment, informed by the Site Assessment. The information contained in these documents was sufficient to satisfy Council, in accordance with section 11(2) of the Act that:
- *The bylaw is necessary for one or more of the purposes set out in section 11(2)(a) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011;*
  - *the bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problems in relation to that area; and*
  - *the bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.*
- 1.3 Council also resolved at the 19 December 2024 Council meeting that *“having completed the statutory review of the Manawātū District Council’s Freedom Camping Bylaw 2020, Council determines, pursuant to section 13, that the Bylaw should be amended in accordance with section 11B(3) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.”*
- 1.4 Council was presented two options with respect to consultation on the draft bylaw. Council could choose to pass resolutions under Schedule 1AA of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 to make the bylaw consistent with the recent changes in legislation first, and then to consult using the special consultative procedure on those changes recommended as part of the statutory review of the bylaw; or to consult on all changes together. Council confirmed at the 19 December 2024 Council meeting that their preferred option was to consult on all bylaw amendments concurrently, following the special consultative procedure as set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 1.5 A copy of the draft bylaw, the table that explains the reasons for the changes, and the Site Assessment, were sent to key stakeholders on 27 January 2025 for their feedback. Feedback received from key stakeholders was summarised within the report presented to Council at the 20 February 2025 Council meeting. The draft bylaw and statement of proposal presented to Council for adoption at the 20 February 2025 Council meeting included those changes to clause 9 (Temporary Prohibitions or Restrictions) requested by the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association. The draft Bylaw and Statement of Proposal were also amended to remove Halcombe Domain, in response to feedback received from KiwiRail. However, changes requested by the Te Araroa Manawatu Trust with respect to camping areas at Mt Lees and Timona Park were not supported.
- 1.6 At the 20 February 2025 Council meeting, Council adopted the Statement of Proposal, including the following attachments:
- Draft freedom camping bylaw;



- Table that describes the proposed changes to the bylaw and the reasons for the changes; and
  - Submission form.
- 1.7 At the 20 February 2025 Council meeting, Council also passed a resolution, in accordance with section 83(1)(a)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2002, that it considered, on reasonable grounds, that it was necessary to prepare a summary of the information contained in the statement of proposal to enable public understanding of the proposal. A summary of information was prepared in accordance with section 83AA of the Local Government Act 2002 and Council passed a resolution at the 20 February 2025 Council meeting to adopt this summary for use during the public consultation period.
- 1.8 The draft Freedom Camping Bylaw was publicly notified on 27 February 2025. The submissions period closed at 5pm on Friday 28 March 2025. A total of 17 submissions were received. Please note that submission 3 was withdrawn and replaced by submission 15 (so the submission numbering goes up to 18). Four submitters requested to speak at the Hearing. One submitter (submission 04) was unable to attend the hearing but provided further information to officers via a phone conversation. The minutes of this conversation were attached as Annex B to the Hearings Report. The representative from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association was also unable to attend the revised hearing time but offered to answer any questions that Council might have prior to deliberations.
- 2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki**
- 2.1 The review of Council’s Freedom Camping Bylaw is consistent with Council’s strategic priority of “A place to belong and grow” as freedom camping contributes to community wellbeing through enabling social connection, and enjoyment of public spaces.
- 2.2 The Freedom Camping Bylaw is relevant to “A future planned together” as through the review, Council is able to work with the community to identify those local authority areas that can be used for freedom camping, and the restrictions that should apply to protect these areas, for the benefit of everyone.
- 2.3 The strategic priority “An environment to be proud of” is relevant as through prohibiting or restricting freedom camping in local authority areas that have high natural values, Council is able to ensure that freedom camping does not compromise these values.
- 2.4 The strategic priority “A prosperous, resilient economy” is relevant as freedom camping brings tourists to the District. These tourists spend money and therefore contribute to the local economy.
- 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia**
- 3.1 Copies of all submissions received on the draft bylaw are attached as Annex A to this report. Changes to the bylaw requested by submitters are analysed in Annex B to this report. Council will need to make decisions on which of the submitter-requested changes they support. These decisions will guide the preparation of the proposed freedom camping bylaw that will be presented to Council for final decisions at the 19 June Council meeting.

- 3.2 Annex C to this report summarises additional matters raised in submissions that did not request a change to the bylaw, but still require a response. Feedback is invited on the draft officer responses contained in the table. Once finalised, this feedback will be incorporated into the letters that are sent to these submitters at the conclusion of the bylaw review.

**Submitter requested changes**

- 3.3 Submissions received on the draft bylaw have been reviewed and changes to the bylaw requested by submitters have been grouped in a table in Annex B. Officers have analysed each requested change in terms of:
- how it could be given effect to by changes to the bylaw;
  - reasons or considerations in support of the requested change;
  - limitations or reasons not to support the change;
  - suggested revisions to the Site Assessment score for that local authority area; and
  - an overall management recommendation on the requested change.
- 3.4 The information in Annex B has been used in the development of options for Council to consider in determining which submitter-requested changes to the bylaw to support (Table 1). The Management recommendations for each requested change are included as the report recommendations 2a. to 2 ee. of this report.
- 3.5 The decisions made by Council today will inform the drafting of the proposed freedom camping bylaw that will be presented to Council for final decisions at the 19 June Council meeting.

Table 1:

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2			Management Recommendation
Review the prohibition of freedom camping at the Tangimoana Estuarine Reserve	01	Status Quo – retain current prohibition	Amend the bylaw to provide for freedom camping at Kina Street Reserve in one or more of the three locations identified			<p>That freedom camping in self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles be provided for at Kina Street Reserve in <b>Option 2 C</b> (the road berm outside the reserve).</p> <p>No site specific restrictions (such as the number of vehicles or restricting the number of nights below the current five day maximum) are recommended.</p> <p><i>Report Recommendation 2a</i></p>
			Option 2 A Within Kina Street reserve with access from Kina St	Option 2 B Within Kina Street Reserve with access from Punga St	Option 2 C On the grass berm of Punga St, immediately adjacent to the public toilet	
That Council consider alternative places for freedom camping in Tangimoana – suggests by the beach or park	09	Status Quo – Freedom camping is prohibited on Tangimoana Road Reserves, Tangimoana Beach Reserves, and Ellison Reserve.	Provide for freedom camping at the new Ellison Reserve carpark			<p><b>Support Option 2</b> - That the Ellison Reserve Carpark be included in the bylaw as a new Schedule 3 site for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>That a site-specific restriction be included that limits the number of vehicles to two at any one time.</p> <p>No changes are recommended to Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw with respect to Tangimoana Beach as no new local authority areas have been identified.</p>

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2	Management Recommendation
				<i>Report Recommendation 2b</i>
That Council review the proposed change from “Approved Camping Areas” to “Camping Ground.”	06 & 09	Status Quo – delete all references to “Approved Camping Area,” retain “Camping Grounds” and insert a new definition of “Camping Ground” that references section 5(3) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.	Council could choose to reject this change and retain the reference to “Approved Camping Areas” in the principles of the Bylaw, and the definition of this term in clause 5.2.	<p><b>Support Option 1</b> – That the amendments to the bylaw to remove all reference to Approved Camping Area and to insert a new definition of “Camping Ground” are retained as notified.</p> <p>Note - The concerns raised in submissions are due to a misunderstanding of the effect of the proposed changes, with submitters concerned this might mean that they will have to pay to stay. These concerns will be addressed in the letters that are sent to these submitters after Council makes its final decisions on the bylaw.</p> <p><i>Report Recommendation 2c</i></p>
That Council charge people \$5 per night to stay at the Old School Reserve in Pohangina	07	Status Quo – that Old School Reserve is retained in the bylaw as a Schedule 3 freedom camping site.	That visitors be charged \$5 per night to stay at the Old School Reserve. In effect, this would mean that Council would need to remove this site from the bylaw as it would meet the definition of a “camping ground” under the Freedom Camping Act.	<p><b>Support Option 1</b> – no compulsory fee to stay at the Old School Reserve in Pohangina.</p> <p>Note – Council could make provision for visitors to make a voluntary donation for the upkeep of the reserve. However, Council would need to first agree with the Pohangina Community Committee how these donations would be collected, accounted for, managed and spent.</p> <p><i>Report Recommendation 2d</i></p>
That the Old School Reserve in Pohangina only provide for self-contained freedom camping as there is	07	Status Quo – that the Old School Reserve in Pohangina is retained in the bylaw as a Schedule 3 site (i.e. suitable for all	That Council re-classify the Old School Reserve, Pohangina, as a Schedule 2 site in the bylaw (only suitable for self-contained freedom camping) due to having no potable water onsite.	<p><b>Support Option 1</b> – that the Old School Reserve is retained in the bylaw as a Schedule 3 site.</p> <p>Note – separately from the bylaw review, Council could consider funding the installation of a potable water supply onsite.</p>

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2		Management Recommendation
no potable water supply		forms of freedom camping).			<i>Report Recommendation 2e</i>
That the maximum length of stay at the Pohangina Old School Reserve be changed from five nights to three	07	Status Quo – clause 8.1(b) of the bylaw is retained as drafted and the maximum length of stay is kept at 5 days in any 30 day period.	That Council limit the maximum length of stay at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina, to three nights. This could be done by changing the maximum length of stay at all Schedule 3 sites to three nights, or including an exclusion that specifically applies to this Reserve.		<b>Support Option 1</b> – retain the maximum length of stay at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina, at five nights in any 30 day period.  <i>Report Recommendation 2f</i>
Define a designated camping area at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina	07	Status Quo – the designated freedom camping area is retained as mapped in the draft bylaw.	The mapped area for the Old School Reserve Pohangina is amended to exclude the accessway and the area behind the eastern side of the old school building and next-door house.		<b>Support Option 1</b> – That there are no changes to the designated freedom camping area at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina.  <i>Report Recommendation 2g</i>
That Council provide clear information that limits use of the Old School Reserve in Pohangina when the venues is being used for a private function.	07	Status Quo – clause 8.1(l) of the bylaw restricts freedom camping when an event is on. However, this process is managed by the Council through the events application process.	Rather than relying on notifying the Council through an event application to restrict access via the bylaw, Council could delegate this authority to the Pohangina Community Committee to manage.		<b>Support Option 1</b> (status quo) restrictions on the use of the Old School Reserve, Pohangina, during events is managed by Council through the events application process.  <i>Report Recommendation 2h</i>
That Council provide for non-self-contained vehicles to freedom camp at Timona Park	15 & 17	Option 1 Status Quo – Only self-contained freedom camping is provided for at Timona Park.	Option 2A That Council designate an area for non-self-contained vehicles that is located on the Campbell Street Road Reserve just outside	Option 2B That Council designate the parking area just to the east of the Campbell Street toilet	<b>Support Option 2B</b> – that Council designate the offroad carpark just to the east of the Campbell Street toilet block (within the park boundaries) as suitable for non-self-contained freedom camping vehicles.  AND

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2		Management Recommendation
			of the Campbell Street gate to the park (refer to Annex B)	block as suitable for freedom camping in non-self-contained vehicles (refer to Annex B).	That an additional restriction be imposed on these parks requiring freedom camping vehicles to depart no later than 8am, 7 days per week. Note – this change would necessitate Council leaving the Campbell Street toilet block unlocked overnight. <i>Report Recommendation 2i</i>
That Council provide for tenting at Timona Park	15	Status Quo – No provision for freedom camping in a tent or other temporary structure at Timona Park	That Council designate an area within Timona Park for tenting. Annex B identifies a possible location within an area of mature vegetation near the Campbell Road toilet block.		<b>Support Option 1</b> (Status quo). That the bylaw does not provide for freedom camping in a tent or other temporary structure at Timona Park.  <i>Report Recommendation 2j</i>
That Council extend the area for self-contained freedom camping vehicles to stay at Timona Park	17	Status Quo – the current bylaw provides for self-contained vehicles to freedom camp in designated areas along the eastern boundary of Timona Park.	That Council amend the bylaw to designate additional parking areas for self-contained vehicles. This could include the sealed carparking areas along Campbell Street / Timona Park Road.		<b>Support Option 1</b> (Status quo). That no additional areas are designated for self-contained vehicles at Timona Park.  <i>Report Recommendation 2k</i>
That non-self-contained freedom camping is provided for at Kimbolton Domain	15	Status Quo – the bylaw provides for self-contained freedom camping in the carpark at the western boundary of the Kimbolton Domain	That Council allow for tenting and non-self-contained vehicles to stay at Timona Park. Non-self-contained vehicles could be provided for in the carpark, and tents or other temporary structures adjacent to the driveway under an avenue of elm trees.		<b>Support Option 1</b> (Status quo). That only self-contained vehicles are allowed to freedom camp at the Kimbolton Domain.  <i>Report Recommendation 2l</i>
That Council develop guidelines for engaging with those staying in freedom	15	Status Quo – enforcement of the freedom camping bylaw and interacting with	That Council develop guidelines that sit alongside the Freedom Camping Bylaw to guide enforcement.		<b>Support Option 2</b> – that Council develop guidelines to support enforcement of the freedom camping bylaw and to set clear expectations around how Council will engage with

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2	Management Recommendation
camping areas, particularly for unhoused individuals		unhoused individuals is carried out in accordance with the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and the discretion of Council's Enforcement Officers.	Note – these guidelines would be developed in accordance with the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and the <i>Freedom Camping Guidance</i> prepared by Simpson Grierson on behalf of Local Government New Zealand (January 2024).	unhoused individuals staying in freedom camping locations.  <i>Report Recommendation 2m</i>
That alternative locations for freedom camping be provided for at Āpiti Reserve.  The requests include allowing tents to be located behind buildings to reduce road noise, or to utilise the shearing shed and shelters.	15	Status Quo – all forms of freedom camping are provided for within the area fenced from stock at Āpiti Reserve.  Camping is not provided for in the buildings that are on the site.	That Council remove the current prohibition that applies to the part of the reserve that is currently grazed by stock (i.e. classify the whole reserve as a Schedule 3 site).	<b>Support Option 1</b> (Status quo). Freedom camping is only provided for within the area fenced from stock at the Āpiti Reserve.  <i>Report Recommendation 2n</i>
That tenting be permitted in all grassed areas at Mt Lees.  Light vehicles should be able to park near their tents.	15	Status Quo – Up to three freedom camping vehicles are permitted to stay in the carpark at Mt Lees on any one night. Freedom camping in a tent is provided for in the grass area adjacent to the toilet block, near the carpark.	That Council amend the bylaw to allow for tents to stay in all grassed areas at Timona Park. Alternatively, Council could identify one or more additional grass areas for tenting.  Council could remove the current restrictions that apply to vehicles – namely: the three-vehicle maximum and restricting vehicles to the carpark.	<b>Support Option 1</b> (Status quo). Freedom camping vehicles are allowed to park within the carpark at Mt Lees, and tents are permitted to be located on the grass area adjacent to the toilet block.  <i>Report Recommendation 2o</i>

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2	Management Recommendation
That the maximum length of stay at Bartletts Ford be extended to more than five nights	15	Status Quo – clause 8.1(b) restricts freedom camping at all Schedule 3 sites to give nights in any 30 day period. The length of stay may be further extended with the written approval of an Enforcement Officer.	That Council extend or remove the maximum stay period. Options include removing this restriction just for Bartletts Ford, for all Schedule 3 sites, or for all Schedule 2 and 3 sites.	<b>Support Option 1</b> (status quo)– that the bylaw generally provides for a five night stay at Bartletts Ford but retains provision to extend this time with written approval of an Enforcement Officer.  <i>Report Recommendation 2p</i>
That Council improve Almadale Reserve to make it safer and more appealing for freedom camping.	15	Status Quo – No change to the current management of Almadale Reserve	That Council explore ways to improve Almadale Reserve. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- erecting barriers to separate tents from vehicles</li> <li>- Increasing the frequency with which the toilet is cleaned and rubbish is removed from the site.</li> </ul> This work can happen separately from the bylaw review, if there is demand.	<b>Support Option 1</b> (status quo) – No change to the bylaw with respect to Almadale Reserve.  <i>Report Recommendation 2q</i>
That Council extend the area for non-self-contained freedom camping at Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill)	17	Status Quo – the bylaw identifies an area for non-self-contained freedom camping within a radius of 75m from the public toilet block.	That Council reclassify the whole northern half of the reserve as a Schedule 3 site (i.e. suitable for self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping)	<b>Support Option 2</b> – That the northern half of Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill) be designated as a Schedule 3 site, allowing for both self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping.  <i>Report Recommendation 2r</i>
That Council remove the current prohibition for freedom camping at Kowhai Park, or allow	17	Status quo – freedom camping at Kowhai Park is prohibited, except with Council approval in	That Council remove the current prohibition on freedom camping at Kowhai Reserve, or identify an area within the reserve as being available for freedom camping.	<b>Support Option 1</b> (status quo) – freedom camping at Kowhai Park is prohibited, except with Council approval in association with an event.



Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2		Management Recommendation
organisers to apply for a waiver with a token payment.		association with an event.			<i>Report Recommendation 2s</i>
That Council change the score in the Site Assessment that is used to determine whether prohibition is necessary, appropriate and proportion to 12 out of 15. And That Council review all prohibited sites with a score between 9 and 11.	16	Status quo – the score in the site assessment that determines which sites are ‘significant’ and therefore unsuitable for freedom camping remains at 9 out of 15.	That the score in the site assessment that determines which sites are ‘significant’ and therefore unsuitable for freedom camping is changed to 12 out of 15. This would necessitate a re-evaluation of all of those sites that currently have a score between 9 and 11.		<b>Support Option 1</b> (status quo). That the current scoring methodology in the Site Assessment is retained, with the threshold for prohibition of freedom camping remaining at 9 out of 15.  <i>Report Recommendation 2t</i>
That Council remove the prohibition on freedom camping on road reserves within the Feilding Central Business District shopping area.	16, 17 & 18	Status Quo – that Council retain the current prohibition that applies to freedom camping on road reserves within the Feilding Central Business District Shopping Area  There are currently no carparks identified for freedom camping use.	Option 2A That Council amend the extent of the prohibition on freedom camping on road reserves in the Feilding Central Business District Shopping Area to match those streets with time limited parking AND	Option 2B That Council remove the current prohibition that applies to freedom camping on road reserves within the Feilding Central Business District Shopping Area  Note – this would mean that the	<b>Support Option 2A</b> - That the Feilding Central Business District shopping area map be amended so that the prohibited area matches the time limited parking zones. AND That the four Council-owned off-street carparks (Warwick Street, Manchester Street and two on Eyre Street) in the Feilding CBD be designated as Schedule 2 freedom camping sites for self-contained freedom camping only. However, these carparks should be time restricted, with freedom camping vehicles required to depart by 7:30am each day.

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2		Management Recommendation
			Provide for self-contained freedom camping in up to four all day carparks (refer to the map in Annex B). AND That an additional restriction be imposed requiring these carparks to be vacated by 7:30am each day.	default position in the Act would apply, being that people can freedom camp anywhere providing they are using a self-contained vehicle, a tent, or other temporary structure.	<i>Report Recommendation u</i>
That the prohibition on freedom camping on Feilding residential road reserves be removed	16, 17	Status Quo – that Council retain the current prohibition that applies to freedom camping on road reserves within Feilding.	That the bylaw is amended to remove the current prohibition that applies to freedom camping on road reserves in Feilding.  Note – the Central Business District Shopping Area is evaluated separately.		<b>Support Option 2</b> – amend the bylaw to remove the current prohibition on freedom camping on Feilding residential road reserves.  <i>Report Recommendation v</i>
That the prohibition on residential and village road reserves be removed	16, 17	Status Quo – The introduction to Schedule 1 states that (emphasis added) “No person may Freedom Camp in the Local Authority Areas shown in the maps in Schedule 1. This schedule includes, but is not limited to, cemeteries and <b>Road reserves</b> .”	The reference to road reserves is deleted from the introduction to Schedule 1.  And That Council re-evaluate (i.e. assigns separate significance scores) each village independently to determine their suitability for freedom camping.		<b>Support Option 2</b> – reference to road reserves is deleted from the introduction to Schedule 1 and Council re-evaluates (i.e. assigns separate significance scores) each village independently to determine their suitability for freedom camping.  <i>Report Recommendation w</i>

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2	Management Recommendation
		<p>Note: Road reserves consist of all land that has been vested in the Council for the purpose of a Road. Generally this includes the corridor of land between a property boundary facing on to the Road and the Road itself, including Footpaths, drainage channels, berms, and grass shoulder. It also includes the carriageway (Road or street) itself."</p> <p>In addition to this statement, Schedule 1 of the bylaw includes maps of Feilding and the rural villages where freedom camping on road reserves is prohibited.</p>		
Review the Kimbolton Village Road Reserves	16, 17	Status quo – freedom camping is prohibited on village road reserves in Kimbolton (as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Bylaw)	That the current prohibition be removed from road reserves in Kimbolton. The effect of this is that the default position in the Freedom Camping Act 2011 would apply (i.e. freedom camping is permitted in a self-contained vehicle, tent or other temporary structure).	<p><b>Support Option 1</b> (Status Quo) – freedom camping on road reserves in Kimbolton is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.</p> <p><i>Report Recommendation x</i></p>

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2		Management Recommendation
Review the Rongotea Village Road Reserves	16, 17	Status quo – freedom camping is prohibited on village road reserves in Rongotea (as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Bylaw) and around Douglas Square.	That the current prohibition be removed from road reserves in Rongotea (except that the prohibition around Douglas Square is retained). The effect of this is that the default position in the Freedom Camping Act 2011 would apply (i.e. freedom camping is permitted in a self-contained vehicle, tent or other temporary structure).		<b>Support Option 2</b> – that Schedule 1 of the Bylaw is amended to remove the current prohibition that applies to freedom camping on road reserves in Rongotea. Except that the prohibition be retained around Douglas Square, Rongotea.  <i>Report Recommendation y</i>
Review the Cheltenham Village Road Reserves	16, 17	Status quo – freedom camping is prohibited on village road reserves in Cheltenham, including on SH54 (as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Bylaw)	That the current prohibition be removed from road reserves in Cheltenham as this is State Highway Road Reserve.		<b>Support Option 2</b> – Remove Cheltenham Road Reserves from the Freedom Camping Bylaw.  <i>Report Recommendation z</i>
Review the Sanson Village Road Reserves	16, 17	Status quo – freedom camping is prohibited on village road reserves in Sanson, including on SH1 and SH3 (as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Bylaw)	Option 2A That the current prohibition be removed only from those road reserves that are part of the State Highway (i.e. NZTA land). Local road reserves would remain prohibited for freedom camping.	Option 2B Remove the current prohibition from both State Highways and local roads throughout Sanson.	<b>Support Option 2A</b> – that the current prohibition be removed from those roads that are State Highway, but retained on local roads in Sanson.  <i>Report Recommendation aa</i>
Review the Halcombe Village Road Reserves	16, 17	Status quo – freedom camping is prohibited on village road reserves in	That the current prohibition be removed from road reserves in Halcombe. The effect of this is that the		<b>Support Option 1 (Status Quo)</b> – freedom camping on road reserves in Halcombe is

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2	Management Recommendation
		Halcombe (as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Bylaw)	default position in the Freedom Camping Act 2011 would apply (i.e. freedom camping is permitted in a self-contained vehicle, tent or other temporary structure).	prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.  <i>Report Recommendation bb</i>
Review Himatangi Beach Road Reserves	16, 17	Status quo - freedom camping is prohibited on Himatangi Beach road reserves (as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Bylaw)	That the current prohibition be removed from road reserves in Himatangi Beach. The effect of this is that the default position in the Freedom Camping Act 2011 would apply (i.e. freedom camping is permitted in a self-contained vehicle, tent or other temporary structure).	<b>Support Option 1</b> (status quo) - freedom camping on road reserves in Himatangi Beach is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.  <i>Report Recommendation cc</i>
Review Tangimoana Village Road Reserves	16, 17	Status quo - freedom camping is prohibited on Tangimoana Village road reserves (as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Bylaw)	That the current prohibition be removed from road reserves in Tangimoana. The effect of this is that the default position in the Freedom Camping Act 2011 would apply (i.e. freedom camping is permitted in a self-contained vehicle, tent or other temporary structure).	<b>Support Option 1</b> (status quo) - freedom camping on road reserves in Tangimoana is prohibited as mapped in Schedule 1 of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.  <i>Report Recommendation dd</i>
That Council consider providing for freedom camping in vehicles at the carpark in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve	N/A – recommendation has arisen as a result of Officers reviewing the provision of freedom camping in Himatangi Beach to ensure the bylaw does not	Status quo – freedom camping is prohibited in the Himatangi Beach reserves, including the carpark in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve.	That Council identify a new Schedule 3 area for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve and in close proximity to the public toilets (refer to the map in Annex B). AND That Council consider limiting the number of vehicles permitted to freedom camp to two or three vehicles on any one night.	<b>Support Option 2</b> – That a new Schedule 3 area be identified at the carpark in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve.  And that a site-specific restriction be included that restricts the number of vehicles to no more than three on any one night.  <i>Report Recommendation ee</i>

Submitter-requested change to the bylaw	Submitters	Option 1	Option 2	Management Recommendation
	discount freedom camping in this location due to proximity to paid campgrounds.			
Consider removing the current restriction that limits freedom camping at Sanson Domain to self-contained freedom camping vehicles only, to also allow non-self-contained vehicles.	None – Officer recommended change for consistency with other sites where public toilets are available 24/7.	Status Quo – The carpark as Sanson Domain is a Schedule 2 site (for self-contained vehicles only). There is also a specific restriction that limits the number of vehicles that are freedom camping overnight to no more than three at any one time.	That the classification of the Sanson Domain be changed from a Schedule 2 site (i.e. suitable for self-contained freedom camping only) to a Schedule 3 site for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles. A note would need to be included in the Schedule that limits freedom camping to vehicles only (i.e. no tents or other temporary structures). AND That the current restriction on the number of vehicles is retained.	<b>Support Option 2</b> – that the bylaw is amended to reclassify Sanson Domain as a schedule 3 site suitable for self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping.  AND The current restriction to three vehicles at any one time should be retained.  <i>Report Recommendation ff</i>

- 3.6 Feedback received from members of the Tangimoana Community Committee following the close of submissions but prior to deliberations, is included in Annex D for your information. The information has been considered by officers in relation to the matters Council should consider in determining its management recommendation, and in table 2 in relation to whether further consultation is required on possible changes.

#### 4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 As outlined in the Findings Assessment for the Freedom Camping Bylaw report presented to Council at the 19 December 2024 Council Meeting, freedom camping bylaws have a reputation as being one of the most complex and potentially litigious of council bylaws. The Council's current appetite for legal compliance risk is classified as *averse-minimalist*, indicating that members wish to avoid risk in this area wherever possible. Legal compliance risk is therefore only considered where it is essential to achieving the Council's core objectives and priorities.
- 4.2 Each submission received on the draft bylaw has been read, with each change to the bylaw requested by a submitter recorded in Annex B. In evaluating each submitter-requested change, care has been taken to limit the considerations to only those matters specified in section 11(2)(a) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011. For each submitter-requested change, officers have carefully identified all reasonably practicable options and made a recommendation to support Council's decision-making. This recommendation is based on the evaluation of supporting considerations and limitations in Annex B.
- 4.3 Where the management recommendation supports the identification of new freedom camping areas, or the modification or removal of current prohibitions, legal advice was sought regarding whether these changes are so significant as to require further public consultation. If further public consultation was required, this would delay final decisions on the bylaw, resulting in Council failing to meet the statutory deadline for the review.
- 4.4 If Council were to fail to meet the statutory review deadline, the bylaw would be treated as a "new" bylaw and the next review of the bylaw would be due within five years instead of ten.
- 4.5 Our legal counsel has advised that Council's decision whether to reconsult or not is the exercise of a discretion. The discretion must be exercised reasonably – e.g. a council could not reasonably conclude that it does not have to reconsult on a brand new matter which is completely out of scope. However, even where a change is within scope, there may be other factors relevant to the Council's exercise of discretion, such as where a new Area B or Area C location is proposed which is close to residential housing, or where there is an impact on shops or other businesses. In such instances, the Council may consider it appropriate to give an opportunity for especially affected people to give feedback if the specific change was not signalled.
- 4.6 The following table evaluates each management recommended change to the bylaw (as recommended in Table 1 above), for its significance in terms of Council exercising its discretion to not reconsult:

Table 2:

Management Recommended Change	Is this change reasonable without further public consultation?
Provision for freedom camping at the Kina Street Reserve	<p>There are residential properties opposite Kina Street Reserve. However, making this change without further consultation is considered reasonable for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council's recommended location (Area C) is already likely to be used by vehicles accessing the adjacent public toilet.</li> <li>- Submitter feedback suggests that Kina Street Reserve has a history of use by freedom campers. The proposed location (Area C) is the preferred as it poses the lowest risk in terms of damage to native vegetation and Horizons flood control stopbank.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback received from members of the Tangimoana Community Committee (Annex D) was generally opposed to freedom camping in this location. One respondent indicated support for self-contained freedom camping with a two night limit.</p>
Provision for up to two freedom camping vehicles at the Ellison Reserve carpark	<p>Not considered significant to Council's decision on whether or not to reconsult given that the carpark is especially designed to accommodate vehicles. The only difference is the overnight accommodation of these vehicles.</p> <p>Feedback received from members of the Tangimoana Community Committee (Annex D) expressed a preference for self-contained vehicles only, and limits on length of stay (1-2 nights) and numbers of vehicles (maximum of two).</p>
The designation of an area for non-self-contained freedom camping vehicles at Timona Park	<p>Not considered significant to Council's decision on whether or not to reconsult given that the area identified as the preferred location (Area B) is internal to the park, not near residential properties. The suggested departure time of 8am, 7 days per week, will minimise the potential for conflict with others users wanting to access these parks.</p>



Management Recommended Change	Is this change reasonable without further public consultation?
	Timona Park has a history of use for freedom camping by vehicles, so further provision for freedom camping is not a significant change.
The proposal to extend the Schedule 3 area at Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill) to encompass the full northern area of the reserve	This change is not considered significant given the remote location of this reserve and its history of use for camping.
<p>Amendments to the extent of the Feilding Central Business District (CBD) shopping area road reserves prohibited area; and</p> <p>The proposal to allow for self-contained freedom camping vehicles in four Council-owned off-street carparks in the Feilding CBD.</p>	<p>These changes are not significant given that freedom camping in the CBD was prohibited in the 2020 Freedom Camping Bylaw and this is proposed to be updated to reflect recent Council decisions regarding time limited parking.</p> <p>A decision not to reconsult on the proposal to provide for freedom camping in Council-owned off-street carparks is considered reasonable as the proposed restriction on use of these parks to overnight (vehicles must depart by 7:30am each day) will ensure these carparks remain available for daytime use by visitors to the CBD.</p>
The proposal to remove the current prohibition on freedom camping on Feilding residential road reserves	The proposal to remove this prohibition is not considered to be significant as Council did not receive any submissions requesting it be retained (i.e. was within scope of the original consultation). In addition, the current prohibition on freedom camping in the Feilding CBD is proposed to be retained (but with some modification to its extent, and greater provision in off-street parking areas).
The proposal to remove the current prohibition on freedom camping on Rongotea Road and Mersey Street in Rongotea	<p>The proposal to remove this prohibition without further consultation is considered reasonable as they are wide with formed kerb and channel, the likelihood of damage to the streets is low. Prohibition is recommended to be retained on residential streets outside of these main thoroughfares.</p> <p>While there are residential properties that front these streets, given that freedom camping has not been identified as a significant issue in Rongotea, the number of vehicles freedom camping in this location is likely to</p>

<b>Management Recommended Change</b>	<b>Is this change reasonable without further public consultation?</b>
	be low. There is also provision for freedom camping at the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre.
The proposal to remove the current prohibition on freedom camping on state highway road reserves in Cheltenham and Sanson	Council is required to remove this prohibition as it does not have permission from the New Zealand Transport Agency to include state highway road reserve in the bylaw. Even if the public wanted this prohibition to remain, Council would not be able to do so.
The identification of a new freedom camping location for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserves	This carpark is within a public area that is used for parking. Council is proposing to limit the number of vehicles that can stay overnight to minimise potential for conflict with other visitors. If Council sought feedback from the community prior to making this change it would be required to discount considerations such as proximity to the campground.
The reclassification of Sanson Domain from a Schedule 2 (self-contained vehicles only) to a Schedule 3 site for both self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles	This change is considered to not be so significant as to warrant further public consultation. Council's consistent approach is to provide for non-self-contained freedom camping vehicles where there are carparks with public toilet facilities available 24/7. Even if further consultation was sought, Council would be unlikely to deviate from this position without creating inconsistency. Council is also not proposing to alter the current restriction on the number of vehicles that can stay (i.e. no more than three vehicles per night).

4.7 Based on the findings in Table 2, Council is reasonably justified in using its discretion not to reconsult on the proposed changes to the bylaw.

4.8 The process that Council has followed to make decisions on the bylaw is robust and has been done in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and the special consultative procedure in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. Council will communicate outcomes with submitters following final decisions on the bylaw.

## 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

### Significance of Decision

5.1 Council's decision to amend the freedom camping bylaw is deemed 'significant' in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy 2020 as there is a legal requirement to engage.

- 5.2 Council is required by section 11B(3) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 to use the special consultative procedure as set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002 when:
- (a) Making a bylaw under section 10A, 11 or 11A; or
  - (b) Amending a bylaw made under any of those sections; or
  - (c) Revoking a bylaw made under any of those sections.
- 5.3 At the 20 February 2025 Council meeting, Council adopted the Statement of Proposal and Summary of Information for consultation on the draft Bylaw as required by section 83(1)(a). These documents formed the basis of Council's consultation on the draft bylaw. In accordance with Section 83(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 2002, a Hearing was held at the 17 April 2025 Council meeting for those who wished to present their views to Council in person. The next step in the bylaw review process is for Council to deliberate on all matters raised in oral and written submissions.

#### Māori and Cultural Engagement

- 5.4 Te Kīwai is the engagement process which guides Council's practice and ensures the onus to engage and include Māori is shared between Council and all partners. In this manner, we progress both the articles and principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi by maintaining the balance between Kawanatanga (Governance) of the Council and Tino Rangatiratanga (Sovereignty) of whānau, hapū, and iwi Māori.
- 5.5 The cultural significance of local authority areas to Māori was considered when evaluating the significance of sites and their suitability for freedom camping. The Site Assessment Report that includes these assessments was presented to Council at the 19 December 2024 Council meeting and will be made available to members of the public during public consultation on the draft Bylaw.
- 5.6 A copy of the draft bylaw, the table that outlined the reasons for the proposed changes to the bylaw and the Site Assessment were emailed to the members of Te Kōtuiti Reo Taumata by Council's Kaitohu Aporei – Māori (Principal Advisor – Māori) on 27 January. Members were invited to provide their feedback on the draft bylaw, prior to it being made available to the public.

#### Community Engagement

- 5.7 Council utilised the Make your mark webpage on the Manawatū engagement platform to seek feedback on Freedom Camping in the Manawatū District over the period from 17 January to 3 March 2024. A summary of the feedback received was attached as Appendix 1 to the Findings and Options Assessment that was presented to Council at the 19 December 2024 Council meeting.
- 5.8 The draft Bylaw was emailed to key stakeholders on 27 January 2025 for their feedback. These key stakeholders were given until 7 February to provide their feedback, with this feedback informing the version of the draft bylaw that was presented at the 20 February Council meeting for approval to publicly notify.
- 5.9 Council consulted on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw using the special consultative procedure, as set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. This included the following key steps:

- A public notice was published on Council’s website and in the Feilding-Rangitikei Herald on Thursday 27 February, commencing the public consultation period. The submissions period ran from 8am Thursday 27 February until 5pm on Friday 28 March 2025.
- Council’s “Make your Mark on the Manawatū” engagement site was made live for the duration of the public consultation period. This site included a link to the Statement of Proposal (including the tracked changes version of the draft bylaw, a table that describes the changes and the reasons for the changes, and the submission form), a link to the online submission form, and the Site Assessment report.
- Copies of the summary of information were made available at the temporary Council front-of-house at the Makino Aquatic Centre and the Manawatū Community Hub Libraries in Feilding.

5.10 An email was sent to all key stakeholders, Community Committees, campgrounds and holiday parks, rental car companies, freedom camping agencies, promotional agencies and other interested parties at the start of the consultation period inviting them to make a submission. The Baines Community Committee and Keeping Feilding Beautiful were added to the list of stakeholders that received targeted consultation, at the request of elected members at the 20 February 2025 Council meeting. A reminder email was sent to all stakeholders one week prior to the close of submissions (on Friday 21 March).

- Information on the bylaw review was made available at the Manawatū District Council’s stall at the Feilding Farmers Market on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March and the Family Fun Day at Victoria Park on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March.
- Officers also made themselves available in person at the Manawatū Community Hub Library in Feilding for a period of time on Friday 21 March and Wednesday 26 March to promote Council’s current consultations.

## 6 Operational Implications Te Whai Pānga Atu ki ngā Kaupapa Mahi

6.1 There are no capital or operating expenditure implications associated with this paper.

## 7 Financial implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni

7.1 Council received \$54,500 from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment’s Tourism Facilities Development Grant for freedom camping initiatives. \$20,000 of this grant is for the review of the freedom camping bylaw, including:

- Consultation on changes to bylaw
- Review of submissions received
- Legal advice on Bylaw amendment.

7.2 It is expected that this grant will cover the legal costs for the bylaw review as well as a significant portion of staff time associated with the review.

## 8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture

8.1 The statutory obligations are as stated within the relevant sections of this report.

## 9 Next Steps Te Kokenga

9.1 The decisions that Council makes today on oral and written submissions to the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw will inform the drafting of the final version that is to be presented to Council at the 19 June Council meeting for final decisions.

9.2 Once Council has made final decisions on the bylaw, letters will be sent to all submitters informing them of the final outcome and responding to any specific questions or requests relating to their submission.

9.3 Officers will then complete the accountability report for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment based for the review of the freedom camping bylaw, as required by the Funding Agreement.

9.4 Officers will also work to complete those education and enforcement initiatives that were detailed in the Funding Agreement with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. These initiatives include:

- Refreshed signage
- Freedom Camping Manawatū guide
- Public information
- Video
- Interactive map for freedom camping and non-freedom camping spots in the Manawatū

## 10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga

- Annex A - Submissions received on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw
- Annex B - Changes to the bylaw requested by submitters
- Annex C - additional matters raised in submissions
- Annex D - Feedback received from members of the Tangimoana Community Committee

**From:** [Make your mark Manawatū](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 February 2025 2:38:24 pm

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## Form Submission **01**

There has been a submission of the form through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First Name**

Dianne

**Last Name**

Coleman Dillon

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

Yes, withhold my contact details

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

As an owner of Motorhome to which I live fulltime in. I agree with the following:

Provision for both self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping at Mt Lees and at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina

Removal of the Rangiwahia Domain as a fee to stay there needs to be online payment system. Thief's from iron maiden

I also ask for extended time to be allowed to park during extreme weather related conditions that would n are driving hazardous for high-speed vehicles that may have been ordered off the road by police for that reason - safety first.

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

Prohibition of freedom camping at the Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves. WHY. When we belong to a caravan club, we a responsible we clean up after ourselves. This offers a safe place to park up, when arriving late at night. It's well known.

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

Replacement of clauses relating to the keeping of animals at freedom camping sites as this is managed through other Council bylaws. Yes. Must be controlled and dogs muzzled. Many of us travel with our pets (nzmca members) are part of our Family, we have cats/dogs trained to walk on leads or travel in a backpack when out an about. Dogs can be menace if allowed to run loose. Its the same with boy races who come into the designated areas start ripping up lawns or spraying stones that damage or chip our vehicles at

Improvements to the clauses that relate to temporary prohibitions or temporary restrictions at freedom camping sites. (Again weather dependant-specifically highsided vehicles could be a danger on road. I.e. 5th wheelers, class 2 & 4 hightsided. In extreme conditions common sense prevails. 4 day day should be considered up to 5 days due to climate change..

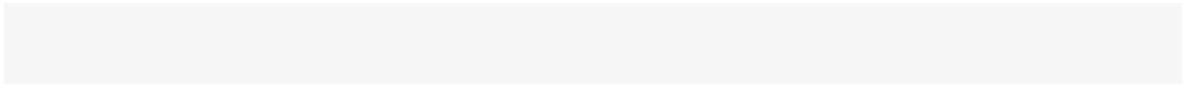
Deletion of clauses that allowed changes to the Schedules without following the bylaw review process outlined in the Act.

We also need a proper Dump station in Halcombe. Rather than Motorhomes or minivans using the public toilet to empty their cassettes.

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatu](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 February 2025 5:50:27 pm

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**02**

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## Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form through your Make your mark Manawatu website.

**First Name**

Peter

**Last Name**

Hunt

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

Self contained motorhomes and caravans bring people in to our city. This means spending in our community. It's a well known fact that the people associated with these self contained

vehicles look for friendly towns and cities, and will spend accordingly.

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

None

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**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 7 March 2025 3:29:51 pm

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04

## Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form through your Make your mark Manawatu website.

**First Name**

Mary

**Last Name**

Nettle

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Mobile**

[REDACTED] 0

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

No

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

Yes

**I would like to present in my own language, which is**  
English

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

I agree with Pohangina Old School Reserve being available for Freedom Camping for tent camping and motorhomes and campervans, because (1) it was previously available and was mistakenly removed from being available, and (2) it is an ideal place for the purpose of Freedom Camping. In addition, the Tour Aotearoa route brings riders down Pohangina Road within 300 metres of Pohangina Old School Reserve and it would be an ideal place for some of them to camp overnight in a beautiful location.

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

I think that all Freedom Camping sites in Aotearoa New Zealand, including MDC, should be restricted to three nights at a time because self-containment certification means that a vehicle must have three days' toilet and grey water capacity. After three days people will potentially empty their toilet cassettes grey water holding tanks into the public toilet, if provided, or the river if nearby, or on the ground in what they believe to be a discreet spot such as behind a tree etc, and so will the next person and the next, and so on.

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

I am delighted to see the proposal to reinstate Pohangina Old School Reserve for Freedom Camping. As a resident of Pohangina, and as a member of the Pohangina Old School Reserve Committee, and as a past member of the Pohangina Valley Community Committee, I am surprised that neither of these Committees appear to have been consulted in this process, but nevertheless I am delighted with the proposed outcome here in Pohangina.

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

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## Memorandum

To Elected Members  
From Lisa Thomas, Principal Policy Adviser  
Date 27 March 2025  
Subject **File note from phone conversation with Mary Nettle – submitter on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw**

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I had a phone conversation with Mary Nettle at 9:45am on Thursday 27 March 2025.

She intended to speak to her submission on the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw but is unfortunately no longer able to attend.

She wanted to raise concerns that she has with drinking water availability at the Pohangina Old School Reserve.

She has visited this site recently with a knowledgeable local to investigate whether drinking water is available. There is a small rain water tank located near the toilets. This tank only feeds into a tap in the kitchen, which is not available for general use. It is used for making cups of tea (i.e. boiled first) and washing up within the kitchen. There is no external tap connected to this tank. Even if visitors were able to access this water it may not be suitable for drinking unless boiled as it is unlikely that the rainwater tank has been cleaned for some time.

There is a tap that is connected to the bore water supply that feeds the toilets. She doesn't believe that this water is at all suitable for consumption.

If Council is to provide for non-self-contained freedom camping at the Pohangina Old School Reserve, something may need to be done about the provision of drinking water at the site.

### **Response:**

- I advised that this information would be shared with elected members as part of their hearings documentation.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Thomas

**From:** [Make your mark Manawatū](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 March 2025 6:09:37 pm

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**005**

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## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First Name**

Kim

**Last Name**

Archibald

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

All

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

None

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatū](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 March 2025 10:28:33 am

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006

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First Name**

Linda

**Last Name**

Buchanan

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

4 Tate Place

**Postcode**

4702

**Phone (day)**

0272387667

**Email address**

[iwikchik@icloud.com](mailto:iwikchik@icloud.com)

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

Agree with:

- Animal Bylaws relative to local level
- Bylaw review process being required



**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

The change in wording to define Freedom camping areas from:

“Approved Camping Areas” to “Camping Ground”

Leaves too much misunderstanding and differentiation with privately owned/managed and therefore fee based camping sites.

The confusion can lead to those who choose Freedom Camping being led to fee based campgrounds which defeats the purpose of Freedom Camping.

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatu](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 14 March 2025 12:39:32 pm

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007

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatu website.

**First Name**

Jenny

**Last Name**

Coleman

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Mobile**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

Camping at Old School Reserve Pohangina - see provisos below under 15.

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

**1. Self-contained freedom camping at Old School Reserve Pohangina**

Given the level of community volunteer activity in maintaining the site, I think it would be preferable that the site revert to charging a modest cost for overnight (CSC) camping in the order of \$5 per adult per night. This income could assist with minor maintenance costs. As someone who frequently stays in a CSC vehicle at freedom camping sites, DOC campsites, and NZMCA parks, I have observed that campers tend to be more respectful and responsible at sites for which they have paid a fee. Given the level of facilities available (toilets, tennis court, children's playground, swimming when the pool is open in summer, free electric BBQ, and easy walking access to County Fayre tearooms, Branch Road Walkway, and the Domain Walkway) and which are all maintained by voluntary community activity, charging a modest overnight cost is reasonable.

**2. Non-self-contained freedom camping at Old School Reserve Pohangina:**

The Old School Reserve is only suitable for freedom camping for Certified Self-Contained (CSC) vehicles that have their own water supply. The current water supply at the site is a small unfiltered rainwater tank with the water only accessible from inside the old school building. This water needs to be boiled before use, which is not an issue inside the school building because there is an electricity supply. Even if this water could be accessed from outside the building, users would need to have the means to boil it. It is only a small water tank and, obviously, the supply is weather dependent. It would be misleading to designate the site as having water available to freedom campers and it would be financially prohibitive to provide a larger water tank and a filtration system for use outside the school building.

**3. Maximum stay five nights camping at Old School Reserve Pohangina:**

The maximum limit for camping should be three days/nights in a calendar month to align with the CSC requirement to be self-sufficient for three days.

**4. Boundaries of CSC camping area at Old School Reserve Pohangina:**

The designated CSC camping area should be more clearly defined. It should not include the roadside verge outside the school Reserve boundary. There are occasions when large motorhomes park and stay on the roadside and this creates a barrier and potential hazard for locals, especially children using the playground. This area is routinely used by Council vehicles when maintenance and mowing is being undertaken. The CSC camping area should also not include the internal access way along the western boundary of the Reserve (to ensure easy access), or the area immediately behind the eastern side of the old school building and the next-door house. Given the plantings in this area, access for vehicles is limited and risks damaging the trees.

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

Regarding CSC camping at Old School Pohangina:

The Pohangina Valley is known for its scenic natural heritage and its close community spirit. At the heart of the Valley is Pohangina Village, which is blessed with many amenities,

foremost among which are the Hall, County Fayre, the Domain, and the Old School Reserve. Each of these facilities is used extensively by the community and have been maintained by community volunteers both on a casual and a more formal basis through various community committees and with support from Manawātū District Council. I have been a resident in Pohangina Village since 2002, three years of which I lived in the former schoolteachers' house next to the Old School Reserve. Although I have been on the Old School Reserve Committee for more than 20 years, this submission reflects my personal views.

The Old School Reserve differs from other Freedom Camping areas within the Manawātū District in that it lies within a rural residential hub. The Reserve complex is used on a regular basis by locals (e.g. over the years there have been many groups regularly use the facilities for Girl Guides, craft groups, art classes, yoga sessions, Friday night community BBQs, etc.). The toilets (which use bore water, hence the staining) are regularly used by passers-by. The Memorial Pool has been a great community asset with locals paying an annual fee for a pool key. Although the tennis courts have seen better days, they are still usable. The playground gets lots of use from locals and day-trippers. The recently installed Ashhurst Pohangina Lions Club-sponsored electric BBQ is another excellent facility that will result in even more use of the Reserve complex by locals and visitors. The Reserve complex is an excellent venue for community events (such as mini music festivals, The Perfect Day, and the Friday night community BBQs) and is also hired out by various groups including the NZMCA. Sometimes just the old school building is hired which has power, heating, and a small water supply.

Many of the day-to-day needs of the Old School Reserve – picking up litter, minor repairs, cleaning up after functions etc – are done by locals in a voluntary capacity. There is a formally constituted Old School Reserve Committee which oversees many of these activities, as well prioritising more significant maintenance tasks through its AGM and liaising with Council via the Pohangina Valley Community Committee. Many of us have been involved in working bees over the years to plant up the Reserve complex, clean the old school building, paint the pool sheds and the like. We take pride in all of our community facilities and enjoy sharing them with visitors, and this is shown by the level of community engagement and volunteer hours in care for them.

There needs to be very clear information that at times CSC camping may not be available if the venue is in use for a private function or if the ground is too wet. There have been occasions when heavy vehicles have used the site when the ground is too wet, and it takes a long time for the ground to recover from the damage caused.

There also needs to be very clear information that any pets must always be on a lead, and that dogs are not permitted in the children's playground. There are ongoing issues with dogs in the village that are not on leads and not under voice control.

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatū](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 008 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Monday, 17 March 2025 1:23:27 pm

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008

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First Name**

Margaret

**Last Name**

Fitzgerald

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Mobile**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

There are places on your list that I didn't know about

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

I agree with having correct measures in place to ensure vehicles are compliant otherwise they are fined

Some of us go to alot of trouble to know and follow the rules where others test the system to the limit

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

[https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms\\_new/data/35](https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms_new/data/35)

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatu](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 009 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 March 2025 7:54:37 am

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009

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatu website.

**First Name**

Sara

**Last Name**

Rodda

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Mobile**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No



**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

I like the idea of more restrictive laws on having animals at freedom camps they should be on leash or - contained in the more busier areas.

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

I do not believe that we should stop people freedom camping - generally I believe camping sites are sometimes ( especially busy times are full) resulting in no where to go ..  
I think fines should be more or a pass to purchase to freedom camp anywhere you like ...  
Tangimoana estuary ( as this is my neighborhood) I wouldnt imagine as a great place to camp so agree - that shouldn't be allowed... Though if someone is happier parking up down by the beach or park for the night and hasnt caused damage or disputes  
I would love them travelling around.

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

It seems fair

Not sure what it meant by for those who will be experincing this one:

" Replacement of reference to "Approved Camping Areas" with "Camping Ground" which is defined in the Act. "

So are they going to make freedom camping spots known as camping spots and have to pay ?

I think the recommended changes are all valid but  
I suppose what is required is what is important in the end

If it resulsits in payong a fee to freedom camp. I beleive that could be a good idea

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatu](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 010 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 March 2025 8:26:26 am

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010

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatu website.

**First Name**

Greg

**Last Name**

Smith

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

None. It's unnecessary and driven by nimbys.

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

All. These are too restrictive and close down a significant number of areas that have significant natural beauty that attract tourism. The restrictions are not based on any science and fines are ridiculously large and improbable of being challenged by a transient community.

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

You should open all areas to freedom camping and look to enforcing rubbish and dumping laws instead. A far better outcome can be achieved from carrots, not sticks that drive people away.

Stop listening to LGNZ and NZMCA who are extremely biased and ignoring the global trend towards "vanlife" as an alternative to homelessness. Get informed.

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatu](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 011 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Tuesday, 18 March 2025 4:50:53 pm

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011

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatu website.

**First Name**

peter

**Last Name**

williams

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**I would like to present in my own language, which is**

peter williams

**Yes, I would like to present in NZ Sign Language**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

My main concern of the loss of freedom camping both more and in the future. NZers live here for the lifestyle and openness of the country as a whole and we're losing that right.

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

Many retired people love to travel around NZ. They are not rich, just retirees looking to spend their time enjoying their life in NZ. These people along with other freedom camping homeland traveller's spend collectively big amounts of money in towns throughout NZ, our spend for 2 people as we travel 5 months a year around is avg of \$64 per day. During our travels we need food, fuel, night stays, vehicle warrants, repairs and maintenance of our vehicles, etc. This adds up by the thousands (believed to be around 10,000 per day and spending around \$250 million per year) of freedom camping homeland travelers traveling at any given time, and they are looking for somewhere to stay. The longer they stay put the more they spend and councils who ignore these travelers lose the income to businesses in those regions that don't accommodate their needs, which doesn't include being told to go stay in a camp as camps don't want their campers to go outside the camp as they want them to spend their money inside the camp grounds, plus any monies spent in camp grounds comes off the available money to spend elsewhere in the region.

Freedom camping in NZ is a right of all NZers and whilst we understand it can't be totally open around residential areas it's still a requirement that the councils make available areas of pleasurable and scenic value available to csc freedom camping travelers. There are many retired persons using larger motorhomes now as these are easy to move, and spend time in, but are not suitable for carparks, so require larger areas to park in. Most travelers prefer 3 night stays as this allows time to arrive then spend a couple of days visiting and shopping in the areas around the district, 2 days doesn't do this as it's forcing people to move on quickly with no time to relax and enjoy their stay. Due to this, many don't visit districts that have these, and more, restrictions like Auckland, Queenstown, and Wanaka as examples.

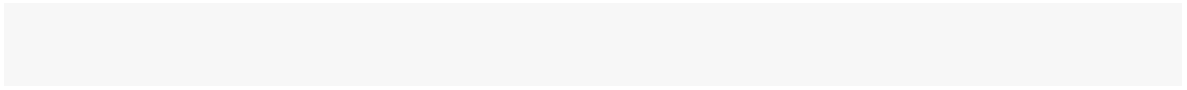
In closing councils have a duty to their businesses who pay rates to help make their region a place where people want to visit and spend money, therefore by not supplying quality and quantity freedom camping areas to accommodate the real needs for these travelers they are failing their business rate payers. Each traveler the council turns away from their region is a part loss in a \$250 million plus retail trade spent just by these travelers. Please consider as open a policy as possible for all concerned.

Thank you for your time.

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatu](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 012 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 20 March 2025 11:22:34 am

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012

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatu website.

**First Name**

Allan

**Last Name**

Dodge

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Mobile**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No



**I would like to present in my own language, which is**  
N/A

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

As there is a need to protect the Manawatu Beaches from damage and general abuse e.g. dumping rubbish, so therefore I agree with the following 2 changes:-

-> Removal of the Himatangi Beach North Road Reserves from the bylaw

-> Prohibition of freedom camping at the Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves

As Mt Lees is on the Te Araroa Trail it therefore prudent that there be provision for non-self-contained freedom camping. It is also prudent to maintain its popular self-contained freedom camping, since we see visitors come from all over NZ, and the world, to stay there.

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

I do not disagree with any parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw.

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

No

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatū](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 013 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, 19 March 2025 10:13:48 am

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**013**

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## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First Name**

Kim

**Last Name**

Hannan

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Mobile**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

I agree with the required and recommended changes and improvements because they seem to provide more clarity and currently many campers are confused about where they can and can't camp. Clarity is a good thing.

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

I don't disagree with anything outlined in the proposed changes.

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatū](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 014 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 21 March 2025 2:23:32 pm

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**014**

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First Name**

Renay

**Last Name**

Mccoy

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

44 nottingham avenue

**Postcode**

4412

**Phone (day)**

0223996345

**Mobile**

0223996345

**Email address**

[nay95xx@gmail.com](mailto:nay95xx@gmail.com)

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

No

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

No

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

I agree that people should be able to camp without having costs always being added. That's why we go camping because it all we can afford sometimes and even the gas going to the place the food is pushing your budget and now you want to take away what some of us do for Xmas with our kids?.

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

It's another money making scam, your taking away what some of us live in full time and only go away for Xmas with kids budgeting tight with food and now you want us to try and pay

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

Yeah plenty!

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**From:** [Make your mark Manawatu](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 015 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 27 March 2025 2:14:31 pm

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**015**

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## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatu website.

**First Name**

Karen

**Last Name**

Summers

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

No

**Postal Address**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode**

[REDACTED]

**Phone (day)**

[REDACTED]

**Email address**

[REDACTED]

**Yes, withhold my contact details**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

Yes

**I would like to present in my own language, which is**

Englash

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

Please see attached PDF

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

I have previously submitted and been given a speaking time. Please expunge the previous submission and replace it with this one. The speaking time is fine and I would like to appear in person. Thank you.

**Any supporting documents you wish to add.**

- [Submission\\_Freedom\\_Camping.pdf](#)

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Submission for the Statement of Proposal for the Manawatu District Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw Review.

I submit this as an individual who has spent 6 1/2 years houseless touring North Island campsites with a motorbike (NON self-contained ☺ ) and small tunnel tent or bivvy. Having been based in Palmerston North for the majority of that time, I am very familiar with Mawawatu District Campsites, usage and the type of campers who use them. I also have tertiary qualifications and practical farming experience in soil science, agriculture and horticulture that has relevance to my comments below. My submission is mainly from the point of an advocate for homeless people; as the Freedom Camping Act obviously excludes them and Council has not mentioned in the Bylaw how they will manage homeless people at all.

#### Lack of transparency in the Freedom Camping Act legislation 2011

The Self-Contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 amends the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Clause S45A of the Freedom Camping Act states a review on the effect upon the homeless is to occur no more than two years after the commencement date of the amendment act. A large part of that act commenced on 7th June 2023. There is no transparency on the commencement of the remainder. So when will the Council be contributing toward this review? It is not mentioned in the Proposal.

And will homeless people be able to make submissions as the people affected?

#### Lack of logic in the Freedom Camping Act legislation 2011

The senseless statements of both the Self-Contained Motor Vehicles and Freedom Camping Act legislations are that people who have a fixed toilet are responsible campers, even though 70% (Expose by NZ Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) CEO of the real reasons for Labors self contained.. [youtube.com/watch?v=hNskpxeA47M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNskpxeA47M) ) of NZMCA's members also feel entitled to never use their toilets and to always have taxpayer/ratepayer toilets available to them at every 'self-contained' only public campsite.

And that apparently if you do not have a fixed toilet, but ensure you camp by one to use it; you are irresponsible. I am an extremely responsible camper and this statement is offensive.

We are expected to believe the equally illogical idea that forbidding those who DO NOT have access to their own toilet at night from accessing a public toilet, will ensure they will not go elsewhere at the side of the road, in parks and reserves etc, leaving all their mess for others to walk into and clean up.

It makes no sense whatsoever that excluding NON self-contained from access to publically funded toilets at night, meets any of the excuses to prohibit the NON self-contained from campgrounds that have them.

Likewise, the insinuation in the legislations (with tenters having same freedom camping rights as the self-contained in all public areas not covered by bylaws); that NON self-contained sleeping in a tent rather than their vehicle are 'responsible' campers, but not the NON self-contained who sleep in their vehicle.

And who can make sense of a tent being defined as a vehicle because it is put into a vehicle or could be???

#### Lack of evidence to support the legislation and proposed bylaw

The legislation passes all blame for unacceptable behavior and fouling of the environment only to those who are NON self-contained with no evidence whatsoever presented.

No evidence has been given that pollution or excrement outside of a toilet, where a public toilet is provided and accessible to all, is definitely and solely from the NON self contained.

No evidence has been given that ALL NON self-contained do this, to necessitate much greater restrictions on that entire class of camper, rather than punish only the perpetrators.

No evidence has been given that shows those who sleep in a NON self-contained vehicle are less toilet trained than NON self-contained sleeping in a tent.

In keeping with that theme, it seems Council has not gathered any evidence from actual campers who use the campgrounds in the Manawatu District, farmers, soil experts, nor of the variety of tenters such as cyclist and motorcyclist, hikers, free-standing tents, motorbike lean-tos and so on; when assessing potential vehicle damage.

There are inconsistent and irrelevant excuses in evaluating camping sites, perhaps as a result of being ill informed; but seemingly also in response to NZMCA influence.

#### The obvious reason for the Freedom Camping Act; violation of human rights toward the class of homeless people

The clause of the Freedom Camping Act applying to all public land within 200m of an area accessible by motor vehicle; is written immediately in the background section of the proposal.

When considering trail bike access, and that the Act defines a tent as a vehicle, this in effects means ALL publically funded land and publically accessible land nationwide.

S5(2A) of the Freedom Camping Act clearly states that Freedom Camping does not apply to homeless people. Quite noticeably Council put a copy of that clause immediately after the one above, in the proposal.

The third clause from the Act in the proposal, in the 'Findings and Options Assessment'; is that the Bylaw is required to protect the area, health and safety of people and access.

The Act is 63 pages long and yet Council focus highlights only these three clauses. Two that incite hate against homeless people and let everyone know homeless people have no right to sleep in any public place. The third to self-justify that discrimination under guise of social benefit.

Given fouling by human excrement is being blamed on the NON self-contained, with absolutely no evidence.



And given the government is actively exacerbating homelessness; despite their denial of that.....

And given the legislation is so illogical and disjointed within itself that it cannot be made sense of except in S5(2A) the exclusion of homeless people.

Very obviously this legislation is only about the number of people now utilizing campgrounds due to the increasing rate of insufficient affordable housing. And other campers sense of entitlement that campgrounds should only be for them.

The legislation was obviously intended to totally exclude homeless people, self-contained or otherwise, from any publically accessible land or to camp in any freedom campground, in order to sleep.

NON self-containment is obviously not the real problem, but being used as a smokescreen to bring in segregation.

The Legislation is also an indicator that discrimination based upon a social credit system is in operation with it being illegal to refuse to tell enforcement officers your occupation. The only way it is legal to not disclose this, is if the Freedom Camping Act does not apply to you.

This legislation is absolutely a violation of Human Rights, no matter what way one tries to manipulate and redefine the Bill of Rights.

If there was any humanity in government, it would be those that have a house to go to that are turned away at times of overcrowding, not those that have no choice but to sleep on public land.

#### Lack of transparency in the Bylaw.

To self-justify this NZ apartheid legislation in non discriminatory terms and sell it to the public, a guise of excuses of it being to protect the area, protect health and safety of people and to protect access is given. In reality to 'resolve' all ill effects of disrespectful, ungrateful and unacceptable treatment of campgrounds and camper behavior with absolutely NO EVIDENCE whatsoever, 100% of blame is put on one particular class of people, the homeless.

Therefore it would seem Council intends one set of legislation for most people and a different set of legislation for the particular class of people that do not live in a house.

Council say on page 7 of the proposal that they intend to regulate and enforce SOLELY by the Freedom Camping Act and not in hand with the Local Government Act 2002.

Democratic governance of the community and a process of INCLUSION for ALL people is required with the Local Government Act 2002.

Why is Council surrendering democracy for this bylaw?

If this legislation is not about discriminating against homeless people, then Councils have absolutely no way to ensure that when offenses are caused by homeless INDIVIDUALS, that they can be held to account, fined and asked to leave. Rather it is obviously blanket exclusion for that entire class of people.

The Freedom Camping Act throws the door wide open for another violation of human rights. Enforcement officers are to assume, judge and dictate to the homeless that appropriate residential accommodation is available elsewhere. The definition of appropriate residential accommodation goes as low as an alternative campground.

This is another extremely illogical assumption as due to the Freedom Camping Act , most paying campgrounds have quadrupled their prices at least. Homeless people are not on the income that the likes of the privileged exclusive elitist NZMCA self-contained members enjoy who get to camp for free.

In my experience, MSD do not pay for housing allowance for campgrounds. Will the Council contribute?

ALL government authorities, including the Manawatu District Council demand a residential address to manipulate statistics for the increasing burden of homeless people in need of accommodation, and for the individual to get any services.

How will Council manage double standards required?

And how will that stack up in court?

How will the Council distinguish individuals of that particular class of people for persecution? Because most homeless people are no more identifiable than any other camper, non self-contained or otherwise.

I find it hard to believe having read the statement of proposal, that the Council does not have additional very hateful and human rights violating actions they intend to take against homeless persons. To not do so, defeats all the excuses to self-justify hate upon the homeless, using this legislation and bylaw.

Will homeless people have to wear a star of David or carry a Dompas, so enforcement authorities can readily identify them?

As the legislation does not apply to homeless people, so that homeless people do not have to leave when an enforcement officer tells them to do so for no reason, even if the five night stay is up; will Council use police to unlawfully trespass the homeless from public places for absolutely no reason? Such as Bulls police have been doing for years at a freedom campsite that permits non self-contained unrestricted.

And will Council then get police to harass homeless people on private land also, to totally drive them out of the town such as Rangitikei Council do at Bulls??

How far will the over-reach, abuse of power and discrimination go? To all public libraries? To all public toilets? To all public showers?

Some Councils are using the Reserves Act 1977 as the separate legislation to apply to the class of people who do not live in a house. This Act Part 5 S94, does not state camping to be an offense. Nor does it state not leaving just because asked to by an enforcement officer is an offense.

It would seem NON transparent rules of negative assumption and judgment are to be used by enforcement officers to drive out homeless people. Council staff will commit hate crimes against them just because they can, to prevent over-crowding in campgrounds.

Council transparency and guidelines to enable homeless persons to camp legitimately are lacking. It would seem there is absolutely nowhere for homeless people to go. And Council offers no alternatives or solutions.

This Bylaw is generous compared to a number of other Councils in proposing a greater number of Schedule 3 camping than Schedule 2 and publicizes the feel good excuses to camouflage the real intention of the legislation.

In reality it is exclusive, divisive, non democratic and hateful in permitting alternative legislation for eviction of homeless people just because they are homeless; and with absolutely no transparency of how Council plans to do such evictions.

All other campers get to be protected within the confines of the freedom camping act alone, and to have transparency and clear definitions of camping rules.

There is absolutely no way Council would state a campground is for non self-contained only. There would be uproar from the NZMCA for starters who would take them to court. But Councils nationwide are very accepting for a hateful apartheid manner to be used against homeless people.

With the extreme hate, marginalization, isolation, rejection and all round hate put upon homeless people by government; what is Council planning for the class of people whom government has fully intended to be excluded from all public areas with the Freedom Camping Act?

#### Discrepancy in assessments

Apiti Reserve. Is very resilient to pugging damage, except where horse events are held at the back; and even after large persistent downpours still has solid ground. Motorcyclist and cyclist tenters have almost zero impact even if the ground was vulnerable. Vehicular damage at Apiti Reserve would be due to compaction and churning of soil from larger vehicles, the self-contained campers.

There is no evidence given that anyone has had conflict with stock previously at Apiti. It is very evident prior to entry to the reserve that it is used to graze stock, and whether stock are present. In other Parks and Reserves, adults are permitted responsibility to make their own decisions for themselves and their children in regard to animals. Most parents are normally very astute at protecting their children and do not need controlling to do so. Sheep faeces when dry are little problem to pitch on and easily kicked aside regardless.

In contrast Mt Lees. From my experience is awful for tenters due to no place to pitch a tent without placing it upon Chicken manure. Campers are also awoken at four in the morning by roosters. Roosters are better known to harm children than rams. This is a Schedule 3 campsite also, but does not have a fenced poultry free area for hygienic pitching and safety, nor would it seem pest control.

Mt Lees is well known and advertised for years as a freedom camping site for ALL campers. Apparently there is a donation box, but most campers' comment that it cannot be found, so free. Tents have always been provided for. Council makes it appear they are generously opening it up for NON self-contained freedom camping (Schedule 3 in the proposed bylaw), and that more campers will flood in, but are actually placing restrictions on tents to only be adjacent to the toilet block and only three vehicles at a time. There is plenty of pitching area opposite the toilet block. Temporarily flattened grass should not be a reason to prevent light vehicles from parking near their tents. As with Apiti Domain, there is no damage from pugging.

On that note, I am flabbergasted at the comment that rain can cause 'minor damage to grass' at Londons Ford. This reserve is severely pugged! It is prone to flooding and so boggy the toilet block is locked and camping not permitted in winter. It is virtually unused. It is permitted as a NON self-contained camping ground. And yet Apiti Reserve that is NOT prone to flooding and is very resilient to pugging, has a large prohibited area supposedly for that reason.

Kimbolton Domain excuse to make it Schedule 2 (self-contained only) is that tents can only go on playing fields and that there is no water supply. The majority of NON self-contained campers that would use it and have used it are: tourists; motocyclists and cyclists with small tents, only for one or two nights infrequently, whom pitch at the sides of the access driveway and utilize the publically funded toilet at night. There is plenty of space either side of the driveway to permit this and it IS SUITABLE. Kimbolton has little going for it and too far from town to encourage longer stays. Every time I have gone past it, the fields have never been in use. On the rare occasion they may be, small tents should any happen to be in on the driveway sides are no hindrance. There is also plenty of parking area at the hardstand parking area for NON self-contained vehicles overnight. There is public access to a drinking water supply from the toilet block or other public places in the village.

In contrast there is no water supply provided at London's Ford, Bartlett's Ford or Almadale and yet NON self-contained are permitted to camp there and assumedly wash hands in the river.

I cannot understand why Council does not consider it a health issue when campers can't even wash their hands after toileting at these three places; especially for women who have additional sanitary issues?

Or an environmental issue to use soap in the river?

Council accepts NON self-contained to be responsible for bringing in their own water supply to these three campsites; but uses lack of water supply as an excuse to prohibit NON self-contained at Kimbolton.

It seems the elitist entitled people who look down their noses at tenters and the NON self-contained, do not want them at Kimbolton Domain.

It also seems the Council wants to avoid the firing line should they tell a number of families who have tent camped every summer at Bartletts Ford, that they are no longer permitted to do so.

In regard to that I rather suspect there will be flak for severely restricting family camping in summer at Bartletts Ford to 5 nights only. A number of families have a tradition of staying a week or two, sometimes longer.

For Wear St car park it is said the bylaw may contain that enforcement officers may ask campers to temporarily move on if an event is expected. This could also be an option if Kimbolton grounds are to be used for things such as markets, art exhibitions etc; and the people are too intolerant of the odd camper who may be there for a night or two.

Almadale had?/has significant anti-social issues. The one time I went there, the toilets were disgusting and didn't have toilet paper. People had defecated on the ground as had dogs that no one had cleaned up after. There was extensive graffiti and rubbish around.

Barriers should be put in place to protect tenters from: 1. potentially being killed by car drivers with no regard for the safety of others; and 2. having salvos of gravel hit their vehicles and tents; because of those drivers doing burnouts and spins. The campsite felt very unsafe at one stage as a tenter due to this. These people are locals, so the non self-contained and homeless should not be blamed. It is also seems unsafe to leave a tent to get supplies. I vowed never to go back.

Almadale is one campground that this legislation is perfect for to attempt to get more responsible behavior from people utilizing it; or to restrict it for safety and health reasons and yet Council allocates this campground as Schedule 3.

It seems Council has no plans to make this campground safe and appealing.

I frequently ride past Rangiwahia and Apiti Reserves and I see it a fallacy also, that they are more commonly used now, even in summer.

Timona Park is being declared self-contained only, because the NZMCA has purchased right to all but monopolise it, by paying for a tap and dump station. NON self-contained would be permitted to camp near the Campbell St toilet block if this was not so and Council give no reason for the exclusion. As Council are supposedly unable to monitor littering and dumping of waste, how does Council then know 100% of that is caused by the NON self-contained? The prohibition of NON self-contained at this site displays exactly the goal of the NZMCA to monopolise campgrounds and government submission to them; and also that this legislation is only about eradicating homeless people. Council is well aware homeless people use Timona Park.

Londons Ford. Council say camper safety has increased due to Poplar tree removal. I find that Interesting. I was the one who called in this hazard after a fully grown Poplar tree fell narrowly missing my tent as I slept. I was told the trees are sound; and it was insinuated I imagined this and that the tree had fallen down months before. And yet a Council worker arrived the next day to take photos and saw it was freshly down. I advised that it is common knowledge that Poplar trees will randomly fall, this was also dismissed and put down. And yet the trees were then taken down.

### General Comments

Apiti Domain tenters are only permitted to be beside the very noisy road. Locals use the road in front of the Reserve as a race track in very loud revving vehicles at night. They also do burnouts at the village intersection at night. Behind the buildings is significantly reduced road noise.

There is also the issue that opposite the Domain is a vexatious woman who deliberately puts her dog where it will bark all night so tenters can't get sleep and assaults anyone who dares ask her if she can keep it quiet. Council and police do nothing about her.

Bartletts Ford. Having been a parent of five children who would camp each summer, I can assure you that it is no easy feat to organise, prepare and set up, for a camping trip with children. A lot of stress goes behind preparation to set up such a quality bonding holiday experience with children. I think a brief five days would stifle many parents motivation.

Given the NZMCA rally to monopolize NZ campgrounds and make camping exclusive and elitist. Given their obsession to coerce government to bring in the Self Containment Act. Given they also told government they can use alternative legislation for homeless people. Given the NZMCA earn millions a year in membership fees and have purchased this apartheid legislation with power of revenue. Given their lack of transparency and censorship of their Reefton Rally video on self containment; and of obtaining self containment documents on their website; exclusively only for members to see. Given their strong response when government proposed that enforcement authorities had right of entry to inspect vehicles, but that government caved in to them to make it be merely an online register. Given some NZMCA members cannot meet the new legal requirements. Given government let NZMCA use their own certifiers. Given they are offering free certification if you are a member. Given the excessive number of people now manipulated to join and stay members of the cult for ongoing certification by one of their certifiers. Given their manipulation for even more profit. Given the two-facedness of the NZMCA.....

Council should be including in the bylaw that enforcement authorities have right of entry to inspect so called 'self-contained' green stickered vehicles of the NZMCA.

The NZMCA should not be getting away with a number of their members two-facedness in being everything they used as an excuse to violate the rights of non-members. Nor of their rallying for such hateful division of society with apartheid and hate crime against those they have zero tolerance and vile contempt toward. Nor of being fraudulently and unlawfully certified.

Council should not be condoning and supporting such corruption and darkness.

### Conclusion/Recommendations

In my experience houseless touring 'self-contained' campers are the worst at causing environmental damage especially pugging, but other antisocial things such as emptying of cassettes into public toilets and dropping it all over the floor for non self-contained to walk in; letting their dogs defecate everywhere without cleaning it up; having untrained dogs that bark all the time..... that this legislation is feigned to stamp out.

I think there is absolutely a problem with SOME homeless people being disrespectful, antisocial and polluting; as there is with ALL types of camper. An entire class of people should not be discriminated against, and this legislation does not solve problems INDIVIDUALS cause.

Rather as with anything the respectful homeless people who abide by laws and rules are to be punished. It is virtually impossible for homeless people to abide by the segregation, when the legislation forbids them to be in any public place to sleep and no appropriate residential accommodation is available.

The Act states if the homeless person is NOT ABLE to live in appropriate residential accommodation the act does not apply to them. Homeless people exhibiting negative behaviors are likely the reason paying campgrounds have become so expensive now, making greater numbers of homeless people NOT ABLE to stay at them. Generally speaking the disrespectful, antisocial and criminal type homeless person is not the sort anyone wants as neighbors, including the majority homeless people who live in campgrounds.

Therefore it is that sort of homeless INDIVIDUALS that the Act most definitively DOES NOT apply to and of which Council will have to take escalated measures against. It would seem these escalated measures will also be against ALL homeless people, just as Bulls police do on behalf of Rangitikei Council.

The manner of hating upon particular classes of people, leads to the very excuse Councils use to self-justify that hate. Especially so from the MINORITY homeless people that intolerant self-righteous arrogant people tar all homeless INDIVIDUALS as. After all, for the vast majority of people, a hateful manner leads to a negative response; sooner or later.

That aside. Evaluation of camping sites should be factual to iron out inconsistencies and irrelevant excuses. This should include experiences from those that actually camp in the camp grounds and homeless INDIVIDUALS themselves, not the elitist, intolerant, sense of entitlement people who want monopoly of campgrounds. It also seems that soil/environmental experts were not consulted.

Apiti Domain. Schedule 3 camping for tents should be permitted where road noise does not keep people awake. Behind the buildings. Signage could be put up at the gate to advise parents of young children that if a ram is present, their children may be at risk of bunting. The side area of the shearing shed furthest from the road should have restrictions of no vehicles due to the horse hoof damage.

Bartletts Ford. I think a 5 day restriction is too restrictive for this campsite that is popular for families with children.

Kimbolton Domain Driveway should be schedule 3. If the tenting area was restricted to driveway only, people would know it is not a place for a family summer vacation, as nearby Bartletts Ford is. Driveway tenting will not hinder grounds use or access. Council can publicize small tents only, or that the campground is closed when the occasional events are held there.

Mt Lees ought to permit tenting on all grass areas. A more suitable area is opposite the toilets. A limit of three vehicles is very restrictive.

Timona Park ought to be available to NON self contained vehicles and tenters, near the Campbell St toilet block. It is a publically funded place.

The Council should only be considering violating Human Rights and giving the privileged self-contained monopoly of public campsites only if there is no provision of a toilet.

I also think that for tenters, an additional consideration of safety in addition to noise is an acceptable reason to restrict tenting temporarily; whilst Council when possible makes improvements, as can occur at Almadale.

Council should be including in the bylaw that enforcement authorities have right of entry to inspect so called 'self-contained' green stickered vehicles of the NZMCA.

I strongly recommend the Manawatu District Council contact Horowhenua District Council over their management of Kimbolton Reserve. They have a permit system that allows up to 3n stay, extended if arranged. They have a lot of rules to abide by and it is sad they need to be spelled out so. But surprisingly, being very close to Levin, this campground is very tidy and clean, even the walkways around it. It is rare I can find such a beautiful walkway so close to an urban area and campground that is not littered or vandalized in some way that ruins the walk. Horowhenua Council succeed in running a campground they can be very proud of, without having to violate any particular class of people, except perhaps those with an intention to reside there, and by upholding respect toward everyone.

Ardern's legacy, as is the NZMCA's one of inciting hate, discrimination, marginalization, exclusion, divisiveness and division of society; all without any evidence to support such bitter hateful actions; and against reputable science and evidence. She went so far as to promote the most outrageous outright lies and demand all people swallow them hook, line and sinker. She would also redefine meanings to totally illogical things to cover up political motive and agenda, such as a tent being a vehicle and it not being a violation of human rights to violate human rights. And she did it all under guise of public good. The current government has proven they are no different and that they stand behind Ardern and the NZMCA's Freedom Camping changes, with other just as non-democratic legislation.

Councils can pass bylaws to counter political fascism and abuse of power; but this proposal doesn't.

Note

(London's Ford has been omitted from the list of Schedule 3 campsites on page 81 of the proposal).



**From:** [James Imlach](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 016 NZMCA submission - Manawatu proposed changes to freedom camping bylaw 2025  
**Date:** Friday, 28 March 2025 1:30:00 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[250328 Manawatu DC freedom camping bylaw review 2025.pdf](#)

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**016**

Kia ora,

Please find **attached** the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc. submission on Manawātū District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw Review 2025.

Ngā mihi | Kind regards

**James Imlach**

National Manager – Property and Policy

New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.

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28 March 2025

**016**

Manawatū District Council  
Freedom camping bylaw review  
Private Bag 10 001  
FEILDING 4743

Emailed to: [submissions@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@mdc.govt.nz)

## Manawatū District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw Review 2025

### Introduction

- 1 The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc. (NZMCA) appreciates the opportunity to submit on proposed changes to the Manawatū District Council's freedom camping bylaw. Our organisation is a strong advocate for responsible freedom camping in self-contained vehicles and we often support local authorities and communities with initiatives that enable camping and protect the local environment (see attached examples). We commend Council staff for their proactive engagement with key stakeholders. This submission highlights which parts of the proposed changes to the bylaw we support and do not support, with recommendations.
- 2 In October 2022, the Council made submissions to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee generally supporting the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Bill, particularly the provisions governing vehicle self-containment. The NZMCA has invested a significant amount of money and resource upgrading its IT systems while training hundreds of volunteers nationwide to certify tens of thousands of motorhomes and caravans under the new self-containment regulations. We are actively encouraging our members to obtain green warrant cards and pay the \$120 levy, supporting local government (including Manawatū's) quest for a higher self-containment standard. In return, our members' expectation is that local authorities like Manawatū will recognise this collective effort, avoid making prohibitive decisions, and adopt more permissive freedom camping bylaws.
- 3 Importantly, the Council's site assessment report acknowledges many New Zealanders enjoy freedom camping and that the Manawatū District has generally had few issues with freedom camping. The report also notes 93% of respondents who provided feedback early last year on freedom camping in the Manawatū generally supported the activity and agreed it is a great way to explore New Zealand. This should lend support towards a more permissive bylaw.

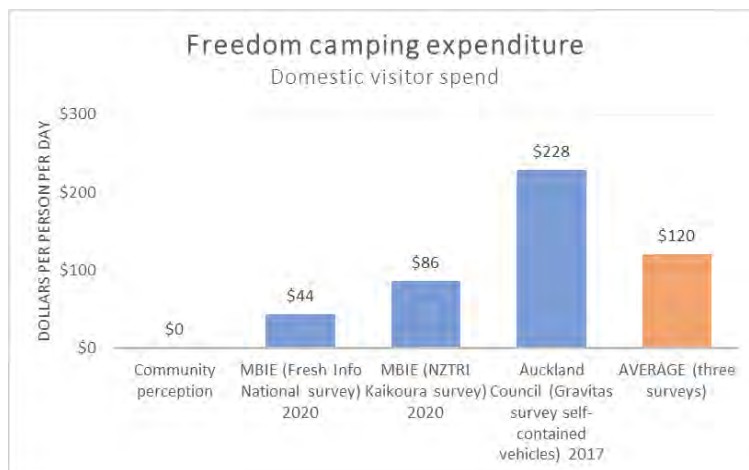
## About the NZMCA

- 4 Formed in Gisborne in 1956, the NZMCA is one of New Zealand's largest not-for-profit organisations representing the interests of over 120,000 individual New Zealanders who enjoy exploring the countryside at leisure in their certified self-contained motorhomes and caravans. Most NZMCA members are hybrid campers frequently alternating between commercial campgrounds, private campsites, and freedom camping areas.
- 5 Thirty years ago, the NZMCA spearheaded the first self-containment standard (NZS 5465). In 2022, following calls from local government to improve the standard of self-contained vehicles, we worked constructively with the Minister of Tourism and MBIE on new self-containment laws and regulations; and with LGNZ and Simpson Grierson to develop new guidance material for council's making freedom camping bylaws.
- 6 The NZMCA is one of New Zealand's largest campground operators with sixty-two private motorhome parks and three public campgrounds in our expanding portfolio. The Association is a founding member of the Responsible Camping Forum, and a longstanding member of Tourism Industry Aotearoa and the Holiday Parks Association NZ.
- 7 In the last four years, the Association has successfully challenged unlawful freedom camping bylaws adopted by the Marlborough and Queenstown-Lakes District Council's. The High Court decisions in both cases have provided further guidance on the importance of carrying out genuine site assessments and not considering irrelevant matters under section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the FCA).

## Benefits of responsible freedom camping

### Economic and social benefits

- 8 Several NZ-based studies have confirmed freedom camping can bring significant economic benefits to local communities. While it is to be expected that spending habits vary between regions, the table below provides some useful insight into typical domestic camper spend following three government-funded studies.



- 9 It is well recognised that vandalism, illegal consumption of alcohol and ‘boy racer’ activities are greatly reduced in parks and reserves regularly used by NZMCA members for overnight parking. The presence of responsible freedom campers can also protect an area.

A traditional activity enjoyed by kiwi families

- 10 When enacting the FCA, Parliament explicitly recognised that freedom camping is a traditional activity enjoyed by tens of thousands of kiwi families every year. NZMCA members value the privilege and opportunity to explore New Zealand and freedom camp in a variety of locations, including urban, residential, town centre, rural, and remote areas.

- 11 When discussing the presumption of the FCA back in 2011, the Hon Kate Wilkinson (then Minister of Conservation) stated

*“Freedom camping is a valued tradition in NZ, as we have heard, and this Government wants to ensure that it stays that way.... The presumption is that people can camp unless a location is specifically restricted.... This bill is purposely pro-camping, as we recognise that the majority of freedom campers are responsible and take great care to clean up after themselves.”*

- 12 When discussing the benefit of freedom camping to New Zealand families the former MP for Christchurch Central, Nicky Wanger, stated

*“The [Act] for the first time, enshrines the right of New Zealanders to go freedom camping as a default setting. New Zealanders can camp as of right on public land and Department of Conservation land, unless there is a good reason not to allow it...In creating these by-laws, [local] authorities need to prove that there is a real problem. This bill ensures that they can no longer impose blanket bans, and it will give consistency across the country...[Local] authorities can impose those by-laws within only very limited geographical areas.”*

- 13 The Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, Hon Louise Upston, also gave Parliament a personal account when discussing the purpose of the FCA back in 2011:

*“...the main point I want to make is that [the Act] is about protecting the right of New Zealand families to camp, I want to give a personal example. I was raised camping by the lakes, by the rivers, and by the beaches. I remember times with my son when staying in a camping ground was not affordable at the time. So, we would pack up the borrowed tent, jump in the car, and drive to a place that was yet undiscovered.”*

*“This bill protects the right of New Zealanders to have those kinds of adventures in this country because it will stop the blanket [ban] by-laws.”*

- 14 NZMCA members enjoy freedom camping within proximity to township amenities and the homes of their friends and family. There are several reasons why responsible freedom camping is appropriate in these urban / residential areas. The following quotes from NZMCA members explain the importance of freedom camping in these areas to kiwi motorhomers:

*"Freedom camping in townships and urban areas is very convenient for us. We can do our laundry, stock up on groceries, and eat out. We will make a conscious effort to freedom camp in smaller towns and support local businesses as they support us being there. We will bypass a town that does not provide a safe and convenient place to park overnight"* **Brenda Graham & Ross McGregor (Christchurch)**

*"We are exploring New Zealand fulltime now and love freedom camping. We stay exclusively in towns or urban areas for two main reasons: (1) Jude has a disability and cannot walk unassisted. Being close to town means we can look around and shop at our own pace; and (2) we feel much safer staying in town, particularly as it takes a while for us to get in and out of our motorhome. We do not feel safe freedom camping in remote areas."* **Jude Black & Paul Lawrence (Papamoa)**

*"We enjoy freedom camping in towns as it provides opportunities to park up our motorhome and go out for dinner or breakfast, or to go shopping. We love supporting local businesses, however if we are not welcome then those towns will simply miss out on our business."* **Paula & Torsten Baker (Wellington)**

*"We purchased our motorhome three years ago. We're still townies at heart and love camping in townships and urban areas when on the road or visiting friends. Close proximity (i.e. walking distance) to townships and shops is important for us as we like to spend a lot of time and money in cafes, restaurants, supermarkets, farmers markets, clothes shops, and at local events etc. We enjoy staying in a variety of locations, including freedom camping areas, low-cost sites, NZMCA parks and campgrounds. We value the free and low-cost parking options that many towns provide and will always spend money as a show of appreciation."* **Heather & John McMurdo (Blenheim)**

*"Owning a motorhome makes it easier for us to visit friends and family around the country. It is often more convenient for us to park outside their homes and sleep inside the motorhome overnight. Banning this will make it difficult for us to continue to visit our friends and family."* **Neil Hellewell (Christchurch)**

*"We go out of our way to support local businesses and spend money in towns that welcome motorhomers. If the overnight parking areas are easy to get to and enable us to stay close by, we will eat out at local restaurants and explore the town."* **Averil & Robin Williams (Southland)**

*"We love motorhoming in towns and have done so in several countries. The convenience of parking in town allows us to shop around and spend money. We find the better the facility the more the town benefits."* **Geoff & Jo Kidd (Christchurch)**

*"We love freedom camping as well as visiting public campgrounds, DOC campsites and NZMCA Parks during our travels. Freedom camping, particularly in rural and provincial towns, is a fantastic and easy way for us to learn more about a town's past. We are more inclined to spend money in local shops and visit tourist attractions run by local residents when we are staying in town. As retirees, if we are forced to stay in campgrounds all the time, we will not be able to*

*afford to travel as much as we do, while learning about New Zealand's rich history and supporting a wider range of local businesses." Christine & Darryl Avery (Foxton Beach)*

## Comments on the draft bylaw

### 15 We support

- a) the proposed changes to the bylaw as required by the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023.
- b) provision for both self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping at Mt Lees and at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina.
- c) removal of the Rangiwhia Domain as a fee is now charged to stay at this site (rendering it a campground under the Camping-grounds Regulations 1985).
- d) improvements to the clauses that relate to temporary prohibitions or temporary restrictions at freedom camping sites.
- e) deletion of clauses that allowed changes to the Schedules without following the bylaw review process outlined in the FCA.
- f) Prohibiting all cemeteries.

### 16 We do not support

- a) Setting the benchmark to prohibit local authority areas at 9/15.

**Recommendation:** *The benchmark for Council to consider whether prohibition is necessary, appropriate and proportionate should be set at 12/15. Review proposed prohibited areas with a score between 9 and 11.*

- b) Referring to the proximity of commercial campgrounds as part of the site assessment report, e.g. Tangimoana Beach. This may be in breach of the High Court's decision to revoke QLDC's freedom camping bylaw.
- c) Prohibiting freedom camping around Feilding CDB ([a Motorhome Friendly Town](#)) for the reasons noted above.

**Recommendation:** *When assessing town centres consider restrictions for self-contained vehicles in designated areas.*

- d) Prohibiting residential and village road reserves for the reasons noted above. Furthermore, considering the High Court's decision in QLDC vs NZMCA prohibiting areas to protect businesses may not be lawful and those campers may also be customers.

***Recommendation:*** *Responsible campers want to be able to freedom camp in these areas for the reasons mentioned above. Reconsider whether restrictions would be a more appropriate and proportionate response.*

- 17 We wish to speak to this submission via Teams or Zoom, if possible.

End.

Key contact: [james@nzmca.org.nz](mailto:james@nzmca.org.nz)





## Greenfund - Kiwis helping Kiwis

NZMCA members love picking up a shovel and getting involved, and together with the thousands of dollars contributed to projects across the country, their combined force is having a significant, positive impact on some of New Zealand's most fragile ecosystems. The NZMCA's Greenfund provides much-needed funding for grassroots environmental and conservation projects nationwide.

Promoting the sustainable protection of our natural environment is a key strategic goal for the NZMCA. "The NZMCA has always had a strong focus on community, of coming together and supporting each other," says NZMCA National Manager – Property and Policy, James Imlach.

From planting projects to pathway restorations, the Greenfund is all about giving back to the communities and environments that our members travel through, stay in, and enjoy being a part of.

"These are the sort of projects that are run by volunteers who are involved because they love their community. Often, they just need a bit of a leg up financially, as well as a few extra hands to help make inroads with clearing, planting, and whatever else needs to be done," says James.

“The Greenfund is a great way for members to do exactly that – to lend a hand where it's needed and enjoy each other's company while they help make a positive difference to the environment and the community around it.”

James Imlach, NZMCA National Manager  
- Property and Policy.

### Taupo Swamp Restoration Project - Porirua

Clearing weeds, planting trees, and managing pests isn't everyone's idea of a fun weekend. But for the volunteers at Friends of Taupo Swamp and Catchment (FOTSC), it's been a labour of love.

Taupo Swamp is one of the few wetlands in the Wellington ecological district where the vegetation is largely indigenous. It is also home to native fish, birds, and insects. But exotic weeds including blackberry, willow, gorse, and Darwin's barberry threaten the swamp's unique native plant communities. It's thanks to the ongoing efforts and advocacy of FOTSC that this special wetland has been lovingly protected and enhanced.

The swamp is adjacent to the Plimmerton NZMCA Park and has received funding from the Greenfund over several years.

“We've always had really good support from the NZMCA. Being able to access the Greenfund each year for planting, along with the help from volunteers, has made a real difference.”

Bill McAuley - FOTSC Chair



Local and NZMCA Volunteers mucking in

"When we started clearing four years ago, we began with the site closest to the NZMCA park," says Bill. "The native trees have become established quite quickly, so not only is there a visual benefit, but they also provide a windbreak along the park boundary."

Since FOTSC began, the group has planted around 10,000 native trees, flaxes, toi toi, and other plants



that support the swamp's ecosystem, many of which are paid for through the \$2,000 Greenfund they've received each year for the past three years.

The project has also had the support of many NZMCA member volunteers. "They enjoy working together on a local project that's really worthwhile," says Bill.

Rod Thompson, who is a past NZMCA Wellington Area chairperson and current main custodian of the Plimmerton Park, says it's been great to see the

transformation of the swamp over the years. "FOTSC rely on donations and funding for trees and help from volunteers, so the fact that the Greenfund is helping support that is a huge plus.

"Our members love travelling to see green trees, blue water, and the beauty of nature. And that's what the goal of the Greenfund is – to help protect those very things. It's a great way to connect the club and the community with an opportunity to get involved in doing something positive."

## Timona Park Pathway Project

Located in Motorhome Friendly Feilding, Timona Park sits alongside Oroua River and is a popular spot for sports, picnics, swimming, and family walks.

A project to clear exotic vegetation from around the riverbanks, plant native seedlings, and improve the cycle and walkway paths was initiated in 2019 by the local council.

"Timona Park is primarily a sports park, but it also serves the community in a number of other ways," says Manawatu District Council Parks and Property Support Contractor, Peter Shore. "Because the park sits on the edge of the Oroua River it has a great connection to the town with really neat walkway systems around it."

NZMCA member and past Manawhenua Area chair, Alan McKenna says the project helped improve the freedom camping area along the riverside. "The area was quite barren, so as part of the project we put the call out to local NZMCA members to help with planting natives along the riverbank. We had about 45 members turn up and the results outstripped all expectation!"

Peter says he allowed 1,000 plants for the morning's planting. "By about 10am the volunteers had planted them all and wanted more, so we ended up planting a couple of thousand. The volunteers were so industrious, so well organised, and so positive. Once the planting was done, we

threw some sausages on the BBQ and everyone was able to stand back and look at what has been achieved.

**“ Like most councils, we get budgets allocated every year, but the Greenfund allowed us to do a little bit more and help the park to achieve some of its potential. I'd recommend other councils consider applying for the Greenfund without any hesitation. The benefits are huge, not just for the environment but for the wider community as well. ”**

Peter Shaw - Manawatu District Council Parks and Property Support Contractor

### Tell us about your project

If some extra funding and more hands to help out would make a difference to your project, partner with us. The Greenfund is available for environmental, or conservation focused projects being undertaken by not-for-profit community groups/incorporated societies, NZMCA area committees, local authorities, and government departments such as the Department of Conservation.

**Find out more at [nzmca.org.nz/greenfund](https://nzmca.org.nz/greenfund)**



Local and NZMCA volunteers with their spades at the ready



# Kiwis helping Kiwis

## NZMCA supporting communities to help fund freedom camping initiatives.

Responsible freedom camping not only offers a fun, and family friendly way to enjoy the best of our unique country, it also benefits surrounding communities as campers spend locally on food, activities, and holiday souvenirs. But even bigger benefits are gained when freedom camping sites complement and enhance other recreational activities in the area.

As part of its commitment to supporting New Zealand's motorhome friendly communities, the NZMCA has recently supported a number of local authorities around New Zealand to help fund the development and enhancement of freedom camping sites.

pull together for the project, so having the NZMCA come on board was really positive and helped us secure that additional funding from central government."

The NZMCA provided \$10,000 of funding which was used to help install an improved surface on the parking area, bollards, rubbish bins, cold showers, and landscaping appropriate for the coastal environment. "Initially the plan was to have just a very basic surface and a toilet block, but the funding has allowed us to make the site more attractive and somewhere that is enjoyable to stay in," says Rebecca.

"Our members live in these areas too and so we're always open to supporting tourism initiatives that offer tangible benefits to the community too" says NZMCA National Manager – Property and Policy, James Imlach.

**"Projects such as this help to actively revitalise and regenerate the local environment which in turn has a positive impact on local communities."**

With a new NZMCA member site opening in Kaiaua soon, it's obvious that motorhomers have a desire to make the most of the region and all it has to offer. "This site will help cater for that demand and take the pressure off other busy sites like Ray's Rest."

Rebecca says she was surprised at how straightforward it was to apply for funding from the NZMCA. "They've been very supportive and helpful. I'd strongly recommend that other local authorities looking for funding for similar projects get in touch with the NZMCA."

"We have stayed here a few times ... a good spot that has done us well - parking for plenty of vehicles, easy access for big rigs. Has a rubbish bin." – Paul, Whangamata, January 2022.

"Lovely spot right by the water. Easy walk or bike ride to the Pink Shop for coffee etc, or fish n chips from Kaiaua Fisheries." – Pam, Whangaparaoa, December 2021

## A treat for trailblazers

The scenic 197km Hauraki Rail Trail cycle track runs from Matamata to Kaiaua and is a popular drawcard for motorhomers from all over New Zealand. The trail comprises five sections, with the most recent addition being the 10km extension that connects the trail from Pūkoro Mirando to Kaiaua.

A key part of completing the extension has been an overnight parking area for freedom campers starting the trail in Kaiaua. "We wanted to create a pleasant destination to stay in, not just a toilet stop," says Hauraki Council Community Development Advisor (Economic), Rebecca Jenks. "So we contacted the NZMCA and talked through the possibility of having some co-funding provided to help create a great parking area for motorhomers," she says.

"Prior to this, we'd applied to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund for funding toward the project. They are always keen to see that you've exercised all opportunities for co-funding. Our council unfortunately had a very low amount of co-funding that we could





## Barbecues by the bridge

With its beautiful West Coast landscape and a range of activities for all seasons, Greymouth is a popular spot for motorhomers to visit, and in fact was the NZMCA's first official Motorhome Friendly Town in the South Island.

A popular freedom camping spot in Greymouth is alongside Cobden Bridge, but with the area often becoming muddy, it was common for motorhomes to become stuck and require help to be pulled out.

When the local council recently reviewed its freedom camping bylaws, Engagement and Policy Facilitator Penny Kirk reached out to NZMCA National Manager – Property and Policy, James Imlach for advice.

**“James was extremely supportive in helping us look at ways to update our bylaw, and during that conversation the NZMCA offered funding toward improving the Cobden Bridge freedom camping site,”** she says.

The NZMCA provided \$5000 to help upgrade the area with suitable surfacing that would provide all-weather parking for all motorhomers. The parking spot accommodates around 20 motorhomes and is located within easy walking distance to supermarkets, cafes, and restaurants.

*“It was an amazing experience dealing with the NZMCA,” says Penny. “As an outside organisation, they were very willing to collaborate and work with us for the betterment of the area which is just awesome.”*

As well as upgrading the parking area, the NZMCA also contributed \$10,000 of funding to the Lions Club project to build a community shelter and a barbecue at the site. The project was spearheaded by Lions Club Greymouth member John Rothery.

*“We’d heard about the NZMCA from a friend who is a member and thought they might be keen to get involved with upgrading the area,” says John. “Motorhomers staying nearby would often be towing a boat and going off fishing, so I thought wouldn’t it be great to have a barbecue where they could cook up their catch afterwards?” he says.*

*“I couldn’t believe the fantastic response we got,” says John. “I spoke with James about the project and he got the ball rolling very quickly. And the good thing was once they had contributed, it made it much easier to approach others too.”*

*“Good spot, dogs ok. 10 min walk into town, 30 min walk along the stopbank to the river mouth and beach. Very little traffic noise overnight. Thanks GDC, very well kept area.” – Ann, Tauranga, March 2022*

*“Stayed for 2 nights, lovely and quiet most of the time. PDS as you enter the area with fresh water and good rubbish disposal facilities.” – Gordon, Waipukurau.*

**From:** [Make your mark Manawatū](#)  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 017 Freedom Camping Form Submission  
**Date:** Friday, 28 March 2025 4:24:30 pm

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**017**

## Freedom Camping Form Submission

There has been a submission of the form Freedom Camping through your Make your mark Manawatū website.

**First Name**

Gary

**Last Name**

Stoneley

**Is your feedback on behalf of an organisation?**

Yes

**Name of Organisation**

NZ Lifestyle Camping Ltd

**Postal Address**

32 Kennedy Avenue

**Postcode**

4702

**Phone (day)**

0272469778

**Email address**

[admin@nzlifestylecamping.com](mailto:admin@nzlifestylecamping.com)

**Email is my preferred method of contact**

Yes

**I would like to speak to Council in person about my feedback**

Yes

**I would like to present in my own language, which is**

English

**What parts of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw do you agree with and why?**

Please refer to the attached submission document which is to be printed and distributed

**What parts of the Freedom Camping Bylaw do you disagree with and why?**

Please refer to the attached submission document which is to be printed and distributed

**Do you have any general comments on the draft Bylaw?**

Please refer to the attached submission document which is to be printed and distributed

**Any supporting documents you wish to add.**

- [MDC\\_submission.pdf](#)

To view all of this form's submissions, visit

[https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms\\_new/data/35](https://makeyourmark.manawatudc.govt.nz/index.php/dashboard/reports/forms_new/data/35)

This is not SPAM. You are receiving this message because you have submitted feedback or signed up to Make your mark Manawātū.

# **Submission to Manawatu District Council on the Freedom Camping draft bylaw**

**From: Gary Stoneley**

**Manawatu resident  
Managing Director of NZ Lifestyle Camping Ltd  
Founder of all Points Camping Club of New Zealand.**

## **Submitter Background.**

I have been actively involved in the recreational camping industry for approximately 30 years and currently manage NZ's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest certifying authority for self-containment under the new regime. I work with NZ's major vehicle hire companies and vehicle campers throughout NZ comprising both NZ and international travellers. I am in regular contact with MBIE and the Plumbers and Gasfitters board in respect of the new regulations (both in implementation and advice) and was on the technical advisory committee prior to the new regulations being published.

I can confidently say that more than 90% of travelling vehicle campers bypass the Manawatu District on their travels. The tourism potential and benefits this brings, for our region, could be significant given the right management approach to the Freedom Camping Act and the new regulations.

## **Introduction to submission**

I would like to commend the MDC policy and planning team on some of the recommended changes, i.e. Mt Lees and the Old School Reserve in Pohangina.

However, the Manawatu District does not have a freedom camping problem, yet our district has and proposes one of the most restrictive Freedom Camping bylaws in NZ.

From my enquiries I have been advised by your policy team that not one, freedom camping infringement notice has been issued in the past 20 months.

While applying an education approach over issuing infringement notices, as adopted by the local enforcement team, sounds nice it does not correspond with having an overly restrictive bylaw that appears in some cases opinion or 'nimby' (not in my back yard) based rather than based on factual evidence. In fact, some of the site assessments would appear to have 'fabricated' content.

I will go into more detail on some of the anomalies in the proposed bylaws, in particular restricted areas, I have identified a bit later in my submissions. I would like to give a couple of anecdotes that may be worth considering when considering the detail in the proposed bylaw.

## **Anecdote 1.**

Recently some friends of ours travelled from the BOP with a new caravan arriving late at night. After driving for 9+ hours. They parked their caravan outside our house and wanted to sleep in their new caravan for the night.

Under the MDC current and proposed bylaw all residential streets (road reserves) (and the Fielding central business area are prohibited from Freedom Camping. Our guests would have been subject to an

infringement fee of \$400.00 for freedom camping in a prohibited area. However NZTA advises pulling over and resting so possibly they would be exempt. If they were homeless then no fines could be imposed.

So in effect the MDC Freedom Camping Bylaw (current and proposed) targets penalises residents guests for staying overnight in correctly certified vehicles outside their properties while exempting a person who is considered homeless. But we know that historically, the council enforcement officers would not issue an infringement notice anyway.

The question would have to be, why have a an overly restrictive bylaw component that restricts resident's guests and visitors and isn't going to be enforced anyway, in a rural community. Christchurch City is less restrictive, and we aren't the Coromandel, Kaikoura or Queenstown Lakes District.

### **Anecdote 2.**

John and Janet have a small retro caravan with an attached awning and a portable toilet that they carry with them. Their caravan setup is self-contained but does not meet the requirements under the new regulations for freedom camping. Their friends Dave and Debbie have a slightly larger retro caravan.

Dave and Debbie have been able to permanently fix a small toilet, and get self-containment certification.

Under the current and proposed bylaw Dave and Debbie can stay at Timona Park, John and Jenny can't but there are public toilets within 200 metres in either direction.

### **Vinegar Hill**

The proposed changes for Vinegar Hill campground suggest limiting tent campers to within 75 meters of the toilet block. This is not practical and could create a crowding of tenters or non self-contained vehicle campers in a very small, confined area. No doubt this would lead to some animosity amongst campers, dog friendly or not. Camping is a recognised recreational activity. Having space to relax and recover away from others is one of the reasons people use camping locations like Vinegar Hill.

I submit that restricting the area for tent or non self-contained campers as recommended will be problematic. There is more than enough room to accommodate a large number of campers and the toilets are as close as those at Timona Park.

### **Timona Park**

On any given day, and even more so when an event is happening the number of vehicles visiting and staying over at Timona park extend far outside the permitted area. While the defined freedom camping area is quite small, breaches are not enforced and infringement notices issued.

I submit that unless the council wishes to enforce the bylaw it would be prudent to extend the available Freedom Camping area to that which the vehicle campers are actually using and due to the availability of toilets permit non self-contained vehicles to freedom camp within the defined area. Some of these vehicles will have onboard toilets anyway and the council currently allows persons with no fixed abode / homeless to stay in this area.



## **Feilding – Kowhai Park**

**I find it interesting that the council recommendations state “Overnight freedom camping may increase the risk of vandalism of facilities” ...** for this reserve area. I have not seen any other assumptions /opinions of this nature anywhere else in the documentation and wonder how this comment came to be in the recommendations. Is it based on any fact and if so why is this no mentioned in relation to other reserves? Has this reserve area been identified as being subject to vandalism from ‘freedom campers? Is the council implying that freedom campers are vandals? Or is it simply that this comment was added in (fabricated) just to increase the weighting and create the exclusion zone.

The Kowhai Park Reserve area that has been identified as prohibited for Freedom Camping is quite extensive, but again, this restriction does not seem to be enforced by the Councils warranted officers. The area behind the old Tote Building has been used for multiple events with some attendees freedom camping in this area. Unless payment is made the camping is in breach of the council’s current and future bylaw.



*Figure 20 - Location and Perimeter of Kowhai Park*

I would submit that either the council adheres to its own bylaws and enforce those consistently or remove or modify the prohibited area that is referred to, from the proposed bylaw. An option for reserve areas such as this would be to allow event organisers to apply for a waiver with a token payment. This would nullify any impropriety on the councils’ part and create an opportunity for other event organisers to bring an event with a camping component / or support local events, without breaching the legislation.

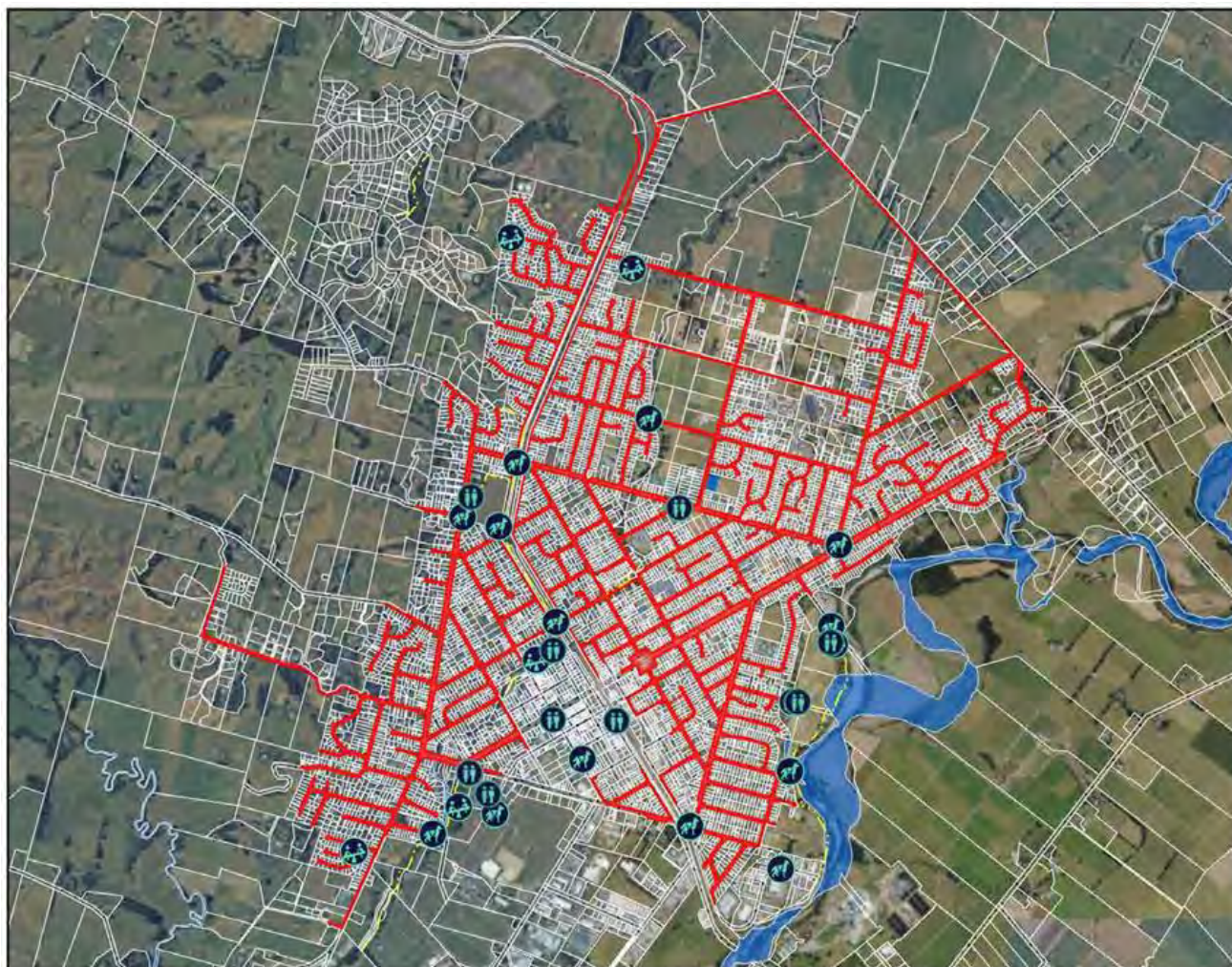


### **Manawatu township and village road reserves.**

The review and recommendations given for excluding / prohibiting all residential road reserves across the Manawatu district from freedom camping plus the Feilding Central Business Area indicate that the reasons given have been fabricated without justification.

Manawatu district is one of the few local authorities, across NZ, that has gone for a total, blanket ban on Freedom camping on all residential roads in the district. This is at odds with the intention of the freedom camping act and reeks of Nimbyism. The legislation requires that a self-contained vehicle can freedom camp on council reserve land unless the area is excluded by (as simplified by MDC) Area significance, health and Safety and Access. There is a general legislative principle applied across the commonwealth that restrictions and penalties should be proportionate to the risks involved. The MDC review and policy team has overstepped the mark in this case, creating reasons that are not based on fact to prohibit freedom camping on fact. This reeks of dishonesty and fabrication and is likely result in legal challenges.

The wording of the review site site assessment clearly shows that the rating has been intentionally increased and risks to the area by freedom camping, intentionally magnified and misrepresented.



**Figure 23 - Residential Road Reserves**

## **Council review of risk misrepresented for Residential roads and Commercial Business area**

The documents state

- 1) **“Residential and Village Road Reserves Facilities** - None Cultural, Environmental and Historical Significance (Area significance) Nothing significant.”

This should be rated zero

- 2) **“Health and Safety** - Residential roads throughout the District are generally not designed to accommodate large self-contained vehicles. Should large self-contained vehicles be parked with the road reserve in residential areas, this may impede access for emergency services. The parking of large vehicles on the road reserves could also affect road safety by impacting on visibility for vehicles at intersections.”

The majority of residential roads in the Manawatu District are wide and more than suitable for rubbish, furniture and heavy freight trucks to traverse. It is not unusual to see stock and freight trucks parked up overnight on urban streets. There are very few self-contained vehicles in NZ that are anywhere near the size of these vehicles. Many of our roads are wider than the NZ average and were even designed to run a railway line. Manawatu is not inundated with freedom campers, let alone large self-contained vehicles. Of far greater risk would be the occasional stock or freight truck parked on residential streets poses a far greater risk than the imagined large self-contained vehicles. This passage of text by MDC is effectively fabricated and dishonest and reeks of nimbyism.

- 3) **“Access** - The parking of large self-contained vehicles on residential and village streets may affect vehicle access, particularly where roads are narrow. The use of parking spaces in front of businesses within residential or village areas will affect the ability of customers visiting these premises to find accessible parking. “

Again, the fabricated “large self-contained vehicles” are included in this passage to create an increased rating in the formula to exclude freedom campers from parking outside residential properties. **There is no significant risk of access of access issues to residential properties and roads from self-contained vehicles.**

The council planning staff do not have a guideline /policy for the time when parking ends and freedom camping begins. As most self-contained vehicles are relatively small and have no issue parking close to Feilding Businesses during business hours, it is hard to see how suddenly overnight, when businesses are closed, freedom camping becomes an issue. It doesn't. Manawatu does not have a Freedom Camping issue and does not currently enforce any breaches with infringement notices or action.

There is no valid, legal justification for a “Significance Score rating of 9”. The MDC review team is unable to justify the exclusion / prohibition of freedom camping on residential roads and the Feilding Central Business District. The enforcement team historically doesn't apply penalties.

If we do not have a freedom camping issue and the district is not seen as a viable destination by the majority of travelling campers, plus we do not enforce the bylaws we currently have in place, what is the point in having an overly restrictive, draconian, freedom camping bylaw that is not relevant and will not be enforced.

I submit that the district residential street and Feilding business centre, prohibited areas (marked in red on the council documents) be removed from the proposed bylaw. The “Significance Score” for legislative purpose has been intentionally rated higher than it should be, there is no factual, significant

risk and the council is open to legislative challenges for misrepresenting and falsifying the risk. Apply the legislation as it is intended, don't manipulate the facts, meet an agenda of exclusion.

### **In Summary:**

The Manawatu Council planning and policy teams have put together a detailed freedom camping bylaw proposal, tweaked slightly from the existing bylaw. However, the legislation requires that exclusion, prohibitions and restrictions are based on fact. Not opinion or bias and definitely not misrepresented or fabricated. It would be good to think that our council is honest, with what they present, that they are committed to principles of fact and fairness, and that policies are not developed based on a preconceived bias or nimbyism – Not in my back yard.

I submit that the new MDC freedom camping bylaw proposal is flawed and does not meet the intention of the legislation. In some cases the data that has been presented to councillors and the public has been intentionally manipulated to create perceived risks that do not exist. This has resulted in exclusions that should not be incorporated in the bylaw, that are not factual and can be challenged in court.

I submit that the residential and central business prohibited areas should be removed from the proposed bylaw as the significance score or risk assessment is fabricated.

The council should consider an event waiver or fee system to allow for groups, and promoters to use reserve land such as Kowhai Park and Timona Park and similar reserves for weekend events that include overnight camping.

With Timona park having two toilets and defined freedom camping area it would be prudent to allow some non-contained vehicles to camp. The example of New Plymouth could be followed with an area allocated for say 4 or 5 non self-contained campers. This is a good compromise and indicates that such travellers are still welcome in our community. (Or is it perhaps that they are not welcome?)

As we see more and more businesses financially struggling and empty shops, we should be encouraging NZ travelling campers to visit and stay. There is far more likelihood of travellers spending in our communities if they know they are welcome and have good access. As someone who works in the industry every day I believe that the potential for this region, in increased economic benefit is huge. Raising the profile of Manawatu is not a bad thing. Let's put it on the tourist map and show that domestic and international tourists are valued here.

Thank you for considering my submission and the points raised. Let's get it right this time.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [MDC Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** 018 MDC Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw submission  
**Date:** Friday, 28 March 2025 10:03:03 pm  
**Attachments:** [Freedom Camping Bylaw Submission.docx](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of MDC's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe. If in doubt contact the MDC IT Team!

**018**

Please find my submission attached

I do not wish to have my name & contact details published

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



# 018

I am a campervan owner and therefore get the opportunity to experience other districts, towns and cities and see how they cater for this huge growth movement of campervans and caravans.

I am happy with the majority of this draft Bylaw however have an issue with the following attachment.

## *Attachment 2*

### *1 Preliminary Provisions*

#### *Clause 1.2      Insert reference to s11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011*

*Section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 authorises local authorities to make bylaws defining the local authority areas in its district or region where freedom camping is restricted, and the restrictions that apply to freedom camping in those areas; and where freedom camping is prohibited (subject to the requirements of s11(2)).*

***New section 11A of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (inserted on 7 June 2023 by s12 of the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023) authorises local authorities to make bylaws defining local authority areas where freedom camping in a motor vehicle that is not self-contained is permitted, and the restrictions and conditions that apply to freedom camping in those areas.***

*Clause 8.1 of the bylaw has been made under both sections 11 and 11A of the Act. It is therefore necessary for reference to be made to s11A in the preliminary provisions. 1*

I require further clarification on the above section 11A in red. Is this because the government is encouraging a welfare approach towards people living in vehicles? If so, I am opposed to this being allowed in freedom camp sites. I have personally experienced camping in a freedom camp site where this type of activity has been allowed by another council and will not go back to this site again due to the nature of our stay. When we arrived the police were removing a vehicle and occupant, then we experienced a couple rough sleeping in a car had us enduring verbal abuse, shouting, swearing and regular visits from police throughout the night as they had an ongoing domestic dispute. This was not the desired night in a camp site that we anticipated.

Feilding's privately run campground is not really a tourist destination. Therefore, freedom campers only have three options to camp in the Feilding. One being Timona Park, Victoria Park and the other being the POP at The Couch House Museum. Both offering limited nights stay in our district. We need to ensure their stay is a great

experience, so they share it with others, spend money in our town and encourage other people to visit.


At present I hear that Timona Park (a lovely place to camp for a few nights) is being challenged by long staying non-compliant vehicles. I believe little has been done towards enforcement.

I am both excited and concerned about the proposed camping at Mt Lees. Such a lovely park deserves some high standards. I've heard that it could be used as a wedding venue, school education programmes venue, possible NZMCA camp site as well as part of the Te Araroa Trail for camping. As a very isolated location we need to ensure that this site is nurtured with care and attention.

Another comment I would like you to consider is where can motorhome owners (campervans & caravan) park in our township? How do we make them welcome? I see many motorhomes drive around our township on a daily basis. I'm unsure if they are looking for a parking space or if they are just looking to see what is in town. What if we provided parking spaces for them within the township? So that they can visit cafes and our local shops without having to walk too far. I am aware that there are actually parks in the centre of Kimbolton Road if 2 parks were available – top to tail. However, with the angled parking in the centre it could be a very tight turn to drive out forwards.

I have seen in other towns where this type of parking is available and designated accordingly. I believe the NZMCA could be open to promoting these types of parking spaces in each town on their mobile app.

The NZMCA has nearly 120,000 members across New Zealand. It is important that we make staying here in our district as welcoming and easy as possible so that when they come they spend money here on fuel, groceries, retail shops and activities including supporting our hospitality business's.

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation																																							
New Freedom Camping Areas in Tangimoana																																														
Review the prohibition of camping at the Tangimoana Estuarine Reserve (01).	01	Tangimoana Estuarine Reserve is a well-known safe location for late night arrivals. Questions the rationale for prohibiting freedom camping here.	Potential to provide for freedom camping at the Kina Street Reserve. Three possible locations have been identified. If Council supports freedom camping at one or more of the locations identified below, the bylaw schedules would be amended to reflect this change. <div></div>	Proximity to public toilets (open 24/7)  Submitter has reported a history of use by freedom campers.  Having freedom campers onsite may reduce inappropriate use by motorcyclists and horse riders.	Tangimoana is known to be at risk from flooding and there is no flood warning system.  Horizons stopbank passes through this reserve. Freedom camping could damage the stopbank asset (most applicable to Area A)  Potential for freedom camping to interfere with native plantings (most applicable to Areas A and B)  Potential for vehicles to damage the grass and road verge (relevant to all)  Undulating topography in Area A (potential health and safety risk)  Whether there is sufficient space for manoeuvring large vehicles (relevant to A and B). Safety risk to people tenting at Area C due to no physical separation from	Significance Scores: <table><tr><th rowspan="2">S11(2)(a) criteria</th><th colspan="3">Significance Score</th></tr><tr><th>A</th><th>B</th><th>C</th></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>1 (5 for tenting)</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>10</td><td>10</td><td>5 (10 for tenting)</td></tr></table> Assessment of freedom camping types: <table><tr><th>Freedom camping suitability</th><th>A</th><th>B</th><th>C</th></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td><td>No</td><td>No</td></tr></table> Given the close proximity to a public toilet that is open 24/7, officers do not recommend that this site be limited to self-contained vehicles only (i.e. do not support the request from the member of the Tangimoana Community Committee).	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score			A	B	C	Area significance	3	4	2	Health and Safety	4	3	1 (5 for tenting)	Access	3	3	2	Total	10	10	5 (10 for tenting)	Freedom camping suitability	A	B	C	Self-contained vehicles	No	No	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	No	Yes	Tenting	No	No	No	That freedom camping be <b>prohibited at Area A</b> at the Kina Street Reserve for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Health and safety due to flood risk and undulating topography.</li><li>- Potential for freedom camping to damage native plantings or Horizons stopbank asset (need to protect the site)</li><li>- Lack of a formed accessway means that vehicles could cause damage or get stuck.</li></ul> That freedom camping be <b>prohibited at Area B</b> at the Kina Street Reserve for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Health and safety due to flood risk.</li><li>- Potential for freedom camping to damage native plantings and/or Horizons stopbank asset (need to protect the site)</li><li>- Lack of a formed accessway means that vehicles could cause damage or get stuck.</li></ul> That <b>Area C</b> be identified as an area that <b>is suitable for freedom camping in self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles</b> (i.e. Schedule 3 site for vehicles only). The proximity to a public toilet means that the risk to public health and safety is low and parking in this location is unlikely to interfere with native plantings or Horizons stopbank.  Officers do not recommend that Council limit the maximum length of stay to two nights as there is no evidence to suggest that this limitation is appropriate and proportionate to the perceived problems at this site. All other freedom camping locations in the Manawātū District have a five-night maximum stay in any 30-day period.  As the area identified is small, officers do not consider it necessary to specify a limit on the number of vehicles that can stay at any one night.
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score																																													
	A	B	C																																											
Area significance	3	4	2																																											
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Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation																		
					the road (i.e. no curb and channel)																				
Proposes that Council consider alternative places for freedom camping in Tangimoana – suggests by the beach or park.	09	<p>A new hardstand playground has been constructed since the draft bylaw was notified. This carpark has been identified by officers as potentially suitable for freedom camping vehicles.</p> <p>No local authority areas have been identified at Tangimoana Beach. Some parts of the beach are the responsibility of the Department of Conservation, and other parts are the responsibility of the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council. Camping on the beach will also elevate the risk to the sensitive coastal environment.</p>	The Ellison Reserve Carpark could be mapped as a new Local Authority Area in Schedule 3 of the bylaw and added as a new local authority area in the Site Assessment.	<p>Proximity to a public toilet (open 24/7)</p> <p>Off-road sealed carpark</p>	<p>Limited space available – the carpark is approximately 15m x 9m.</p> <p>Potential to limit access for those visiting the playground.</p>	<p>Note – this site was not included in the Site Assessment at the time of public notification as the carpark was not constructed at that time.</p> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance Score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>3</td></tr></table> <p>Assessment of freedom camping types:</p> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table> <p>Given the close proximity to a public toilet that is open 24/7, officers do not recommend that this site be limited to self-contained vehicles only (i.e. do not support the request from the member of the Tangimoana Community Committee).</p>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score	Area significance	1	Health and Safety	1	Access	1	Total	3	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	Yes	Tenting	No	<p>That the <b>Ellison Reserve Carpark be identified in Schedule 3 of the Bylaw as a freedom camping site</b> for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles.</p> <p>Due to the small size of this carpark, it should be limited to up to two vehicles at any one time.</p> <p>No changes are recommended to Council’s Freedom Camping Bylaw with respect to Tangimoana Beach as no new local authority areas have been identified.</p> <p>Officers do not recommend that Council limit the maximum length of stay to two nights as there is no evidence to suggest that this limitation is appropriate and proportionate to the perceived problems at this site. All other freedom camping locations in the Manawatū District have a five-night maximum stay in any 30-day period.</p>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score																								
Area significance	1																								
Health and Safety	1																								
Access	1																								
Total	3																								
Freedom camping suitability																									
Self-contained vehicles	Yes																								
Non-self-contained vehicles	Yes																								
Tenting	No																								




Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
<b>Freedom Camping Definitions</b>							
That the definition of freedom camping be more clearly defined	06, 09	Concerned that the change in the bylaw from “Approved Camping Areas” to “Camping Ground” may create confusion with paid camping grounds or will mean that people will have to pay to stay.	<p>One of the administrative improvements described in the Statement of Proposal was the deletion of reference to “Approved Camping Areas” and the insertion of a new definition of “Camping Ground.”</p> <p>Council could choose to reject this change and retain the reference to “Approved Camping Areas” in the principles of the Bylaw, and the definition of this term in clause 5.2.</p>	<p>The term “Approved Camping Area” is only used once in the Bylaw. It is used in conjunction with “Camping Grounds” and Local Authority Areas in Schedule 3 of the bylaw as somewhere where people can stay in a non-self-contained vehicle.</p> <p>The broad definition of “camping ground” in Section 5(3) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 captures all commercially operating camping grounds in the District. It is therefore not necessary to separately define “camping grounds” and “Approved Camping Areas” in the Bylaw.</p> <p>This change was recommended as part of the legal review of the draft bylaw.</p> <p>The proposed amendments will not result in any additional charges for camping.</p>	None. The proposed amendments are to address the current duplication in terms and do not result in any additional charges for camping.	N/A	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>That the notified amendments to be bylaw in relation to Approved Camping Areas and camping grounds be retained as drafted.</p> <p>The concerns raised in submissions are due to a misunderstanding of the effect of the proposed changes. These concerns should be addressed in the letters that are sent to these submitters after Council makes its final decisions on the bylaw.</p>



Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation												
Suggested Amendments to the Old School Reserve, Pohangina																			
That Council charge \$5 per night for people to stay at the Old School Reserve in Pohangina. This could help cover the costs for volunteers who manage the site.	07	<p>This income could assist with minor maintenance costs.</p> <p>Community volunteers maintain the site. The fee is reasonable given the level of facilities available (toilets, tennis court, children’s playground, swimming pool in summer, free electric BBQ, access to tea rooms and walkways).</p>	<p>If a compulsory fee of \$5 per night is to be charged, the Pohangina Old School Reserve would need to be removed from the bylaw. In charging a fee, this site would change from being a freedom camping site to a “camping ground.”</p> <p>The Old School Reserve would likely need to be registered as a camping ground under the Camping-Grounds Regulations 1985 and meet those requirements.</p> <p>Council would need to work with the Pohangina Community Committee to determine how the funds would be collected, managed, and spent.</p> <p>Alternatively, if the payment of a fee is to be voluntary, Council could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Install a donation box</li><li>- Install a sign at the reserve that describes how people can make an electronic donation; and/or</li><li>- Develop a brochure or other information for freedom campers that includes information on how to make a voluntary donation towards maintenance of freedom camping sites.</li></ul>	<p>The submitter suggests that campers might be more respectful of a site that they pay to stay at.</p> <p>The income could be reinvested in facilities at the site.</p> <p><i>Note: Current funding for the Old School Reserve at Pohangina is via the Long-term Plan (in accordance with Council’s Asset Management Plans). Funding is also obtained by the Community Committee who seek third party funding and support from groups like the Pohangina Valley Lions.</i></p>	<p>If fee payment is made compulsory, it would mean that it is no longer a freedom camping site.</p> <p>If people are given the option of paying a voluntary donation, it may result in a lower income but will mean the site can remain available for freedom camping.</p> <p>If a donation box is to be installed, Council would need to agree with the Community Committee how these funds are to be collected, accounted for, and spent.</p> <p>There is a risk that a donation box could be vandalised.</p>	N/A	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>It is not recommended that Council require payment of a \$5 fee to stay at the Old School Reserve at Pohangina.</p> <p>Council could make provision for voluntary donations without having to amend the freedom camping bylaw. However, Council would first need to agree with the Pohangina Community Committee how these funds would be collected, accounted for, managed, and spent.</p> <p>More broadly, Council could consider including information on how to make a voluntary donation towards maintenance of freedom camping sites in information available on the website, brochures or through signage.</p>												
That the Old School Reserve in Pohangina only provide for self-contained freedom camping as there is no potable water supply.	07	<p>The submitter considers that the Old School Reserve is only suitable for self-contained vehicles that have their own water supply.</p> <p>The current water supply at the site is a</p>	If Council considers the lack of potable water to be a significant health and safety risk Council could re-evaluate this site and deem it unsuitable for non-self-contained freedom camping and tenting. This would mean that this site would shift from being a Schedule 3 site in the bylaw to a Schedule 2 site (suitable for self-contained freedom camping only).	The Schedule (Standards for camping grounds) in the Camping Ground Regulations 1985 includes the requirement that “There shall be an adequate supply of potable water provided to the	Only campgrounds that are registered and certified under the Camping-Grounds Regulations 1985 are required to meet the water supply requirements in the Schedule.	<p>If Council considers that the lack of a potable water supply poses a “significant health and safety concern,” the current significance scores for this local authority area in the Site Assessment could be amended as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td colspan="2">Significance Score</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Self-contained</td><td>Non-self-contained</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>1</td><td>4</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score			Self-contained	Non-self-contained	Area significance	2	2	Health and Safety	1	4	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>Officers do not recommend that Council reclassify the Old School Reserve Pohangina as suitable for Self-contained vehicles only due to having no potable water on site. Doing so would create an inconsistency with the way that Council evaluates suitability for freedom camping at other Schedule 3 sites that also do not have a potable water supply (i.e. Almadale Reserve, Bartletts Ford, Londons Ford and Raumai Reserve).</p> <p>The health and safety risk to visitors can be minimised via signage and other freedom camping information.</p>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score																		
	Self-contained	Non-self-contained																	
Area significance	2	2																	
Health and Safety	1	4																	

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score			Management Recommendation												
		small unfiltered rainwater tank that is only accessible from within the school building (i.e. not available to freedom campers) and must be boiled first.	<p>The Site Assessment would need to be updated to reflect the increased concern for health and safety.</p> <p>Alternatively, Council could address the submitters concerns by installing a potable water supply at the Pohangina Old School Reserve.</p> <p>Green by Nature has provided officers with a cost estimate for a potable water supply from the existing bore of \$12,500 (excl. GST).</p> <p>Council Officers are also seeking a quote to install a water tank and UV filtration system. Depending on the price, it may be possible to action this from existing budgets.</p>	<p>satisfaction of the local authority.”</p> <p>A lack of potable water on site may be considered a health and safety risk.</p>	<p>Visitors are able to bring freshwater with them to site.</p> <p>Signage can be used to alert visitors to the fact that there is no potable water onsite to minimise the health and safety risk.</p> <p>If Council agrees with the submitter that non-self-contained freedom camping only be provided for where there is potable water on site, Council will need to re-classify (for consistency) the following sites that also do not have potable water onsite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Almadale Reserve</li><li>- Bartletts Ford</li><li>- Londons Ford</li><li>- Raumai Reserve</li></ul> <p>Note – potable water is available at the Āpiti Reserve (via a water tank), Mt Lees, Vinegar Hill, Victoria Park.</p> <p>Council could decide to fund the installation of a potable water supply at this site. This would</p>	<table><tr><td>Access</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>7</td><td>10</td></tr></table> <p>Assessment of freedom camping types:</p> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td><del>Yes</del> No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td><del>Yes</del> No</td></tr></table>	Access	4	4	Total	7	10	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	<del>Yes</del> No	Tenting	<del>Yes</del> No	<p>Council could also address the submitters concerns by installing potable water onsite.</p> <p>Prices have been supplied for a water supply that utilises the bore water that is already available to the site and the installation of a water tank and UV filtration system. However, this may set a precedent for those other Schedule 3 sites that currently do not have a potable water supply.</p>
Access	4	4																			
Total	7	10																			
Freedom camping suitability																					
Self-contained vehicles	Yes																				
Non-self-contained vehicles	<del>Yes</del> No																				
Tenting	<del>Yes</del> No																				

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
					address the health and safety concerns but could also set a precedent for other Schedule 3 sites that currently do not have a potable water supply.		
That the maximum length of stay at the Pohangina Old School Reserve be changed from five nights to three in a calendar month	07	For alignment with the Certified Self-Containment requirement to be self-sufficient for three days	<p>The Old School Reserve, Pohangina, is a Schedule 3 site (Freedom Camping Restricted Area) in the bylaw. Clause 8.1(b) restricts freedom camping at Schedule 3 sites to five nights in any 30-day period. The length of stay may be further extended with the written approval of an Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>There is an equivalent clause (7.1(b)) for Schedule 2 sites (self-contained vehicles only) that limits the length of stay to five nights.</p> <p>To give effect to this requested change, clause 8.1(b) would need to be amended to replace “five nights” with “three nights.”</p> <p>The effect of this change would be to alter the maximum length of stay at <b>all</b> Schedule 3 freedom camping sites, unless this change is limited to only the length of stay at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina.</p> <p>Council would also have to consider whether to amend the maximum length of stay for Schedule 2 sites (clause 7.1(b)) for consistency.</p> <p>Rather than amending clause 8.1(b), Council could also consider including a specific restriction that applies only to the Old School Reserve Pohangina under the map in Schedule 3. However, this option is not recommended by officers as this could create confusion by having two clauses in the bylaw that</p>	The Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers (Self-Contained Vehicles) Regulations 2023 include the requirement that a certified self-containment vehicle meets the ablutionary and sanitary needs of the occupants for a minimum of three days, without requiring any external services or discharging waste.	<p>The ablutionary and sanitary requirements in the regulations are the minimum standard. Some vehicles may have capacity to meet the needs of occupants for longer than three days.</p> <p>Through the 2020 review of Council’s Freedom Camping Bylaw, the maximum length of stay was amended from three days to five. This change was recommended due to demand for longer stays. The three-day limit was considered to be unnecessarily restrictive.</p> <p>It could be considered unreasonable to reduce the maximum length of stay for the Pohangina Old School Reserve</p>	N/A – the length of stay is not a matter that is related to the significance score.	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>While certified self-contained vehicles are required to meet the ablutionary and sanitary needs of their occupants for a minimum of three days, Council provides dump stations to enable owners to empty their cassettes as needed. Officers do not consider that the capacity of a certified self-contained vehicle’s cassette provides sufficient justification to limit the length of stay to a three-night maximum.</p> <p>It would be difficult to justify a reduction in the maximum length of stay at the Pohangina Old School Reserve without extending this change to all Schedule 2 and 3 sites. This may be considered a “significant” change to the bylaw and trigger the need to reconsult.</p>

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
			contradict each other. All other site-specific restrictions apply to departure times or maximum numbers of vehicles.		<p>without amending the restrictions that apply to all other Schedule 3 sites (and by extension, Schedule 2 sites also). This change could be considered “significant” and trigger the need for Council to reconsult.</p> <p>There are currently five Council-owned dump stations throughout the District for caravan waste. Freedom campers are able to empty their cassettes at one of these approved sites, if needed, without this having to limit their length of stay.</p>		
Define a designated camping area at the Old School Reserve, Pohangina	07	The boundary should not include the roadside verge outside the School Reserve boundary. There are occasions when large motorhomes park and stay on the roadside and this creates a barrier and potential hazard for	<p>The draft Bylaw includes the following map for the Old School Reserve, Pohangina:</p>  <p>The roadside verge is outside of the designated freedom camping area.</p>	<p>The accessway is narrow and unformed. Parking or tenting in this area would restrict access for other visitors.</p> <p>Camping under mature trees could be a health and safety risk, particularly if those trees are unhealthy or poorly maintained.</p>	<p>Unless there is signage on site identifying designated freedom camping areas, it might be difficult for visitors to know where they can and cannot go. This would complicate enforcement.</p> <p>This site has a history of use for freedom camping and no reported evidence of</p>	N/A – this request is not to alter the current restrictions, just the boundaries of where they apply.	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>While it is true that people camping on the accessway could block access, there is no documented evidence of this being an issue. Having designated camping areas would be difficult to monitor and enforce.</p>

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score		Management Recommendation										
		<p>locals. This area is routinely used by Council vehicles when maintenance and mowing is being undertaken.</p> <p>The camping area should not include the internal accessway along the western boundary of the Reserve (to ensure easy access).</p> <p>Camping should not be provided for in the area behind the eastern side of the old school building and the next-door house. Given the plantings in this area, access for vehicles is limited and risks damaging the trees.</p>	<p>However, unless Council specifically prohibits freedom camping in the road reserve, the default position in the Act will apply (i.e. self-contained vehicles only).</p> <p>Council could amend the map in the schedule to prohibit freedom camping from the accessway and/or the area behind the eastern side of the old school building and the next-door house or shift the green boundary to only include those areas where camping should be provided for.</p>		<p>improper use (except one incident of a vehicle parking for an extended period of time on the tennis courts).</p>													
Identify additional Freedom Camping areas at Timona Park																		
Non-self-contained freedom camping should be allowed at Timona Park as it has	15, 17	Disagrees with prohibiting freedom camping at any site that has publicly funded toilets available.	<p>Designate an area(s) for non-self-contained vehicles at Timona Park</p> <p>Officers have identified two possible locations for this – refer to Areas A and B on the map below:</p>	Area A is located just outside of the Campbell Street entrance to Timona Park. Although vehicle access through this gate is	The toilets near the Campbell Street entrance to the park are currently locked overnight. Council could choose to keep these toilets	<table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance Score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>4 3</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>8 7</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score	Area significance	3	Health and Safety	4 3	Access	1	Total	8 7		<p><b>That the Bylaw be amended to identify Area B as a suitable location for non-self-contained freedom camping vehicles.</b> This change would necessitate Council leaving the Campbell Street toilet block unlocked overnight.</p> <p>Given the demand for these parks by visitors accessing the public toilets, and when the playing fields are in use,</p>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score																	
Area significance	3																	
Health and Safety	4 3																	
Access	1																	
Total	8 7																	

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation										
publicly funded toilets available.  Non-self-contained freedom camping could occur near the Campbell Street toilet block.				restricted at night, pedestrians could still access the toilets (if they are kept unlocked).  Area B is a formed parking area within the park boundary in close proximity to the toilet block.	available for overnight use, but this could increase the risk of vandalism.  The Area A carpark area is frequently used by the Feilding Dog Training club. Freedom camping in this location could impact on accessibility for other users.	The Site Assessment has been revised. While the flood hazard risk remains, if the Campbell Street toilet block is left unlocked overnight, the risk to health and safety is able to be reduced from 4 to 3 (minimal health and safety concerns).	it is recommended that a restriction be imposed that requires freedom campers to vacate these parks no later than 8am, 7 days per week.  Area B is considered more suitable than Area A given that it is within the park boundaries, rather than being on residential road reserve, and should be of sufficient size to meet demand.										
			Area A is located just outside of the Campbell Street entrance to Timona Park and Area B is a parking area adjacent to the toilet block.	While the Campbell Street gate is locked at night, freedom campers in Area B would still be able to use the entrance to the north to enter and exit the park.	The parks in Area B are usually full when the playing fields are being used for sport.	<table><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table> While both Area A and Area B are suitable for non-self-contained vehicles, Area B is preferred given its location within the boundaries of the park.		Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	Yes	Tenting	No		
Freedom camping suitability																	
Self-contained vehicles	Yes																
Non-self-contained vehicles	Yes																
Tenting	No																
			Designate an area(s) for tenting at Timona Park.  The only grassed area near the Campbell Street toilets that is not used for playing fields is identified as follows:  	There are public toilets within easy walking distances.  This site is more suitable than where tents are currently locating adjacent to the children’s playground.	Mature vegetation poses a health and safety risk.  There is a popular walkway that passes through this area. The presence of camping and campers may make walkers feel unsafe.  Council already receives a lot of complaints about tents that locate elsewhere in Timona Park. Visitors to the park express concerns about public safety.	<table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance Score for potential tenting area</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9</td></tr></table> There are significant health and safety concerns given the flood risk, risk of mature vegetation and poor visibility for those tenting and those passing through area.  There is no vehicular access to this part of Timona Park, but there are parking areas nearby. Based on a significance score of 9, this site is not considered suitable for freedom camping in tents or other temporary structures.	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score for potential tenting area	Area significance	3	Health and Safety	4	Access	2	Total	9	<b>No change to the Bylaw.</b> No suitable locations for tenting at Timona Park have been identified that are within an easily accessible distance of public toilets.
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance Score for potential tenting area																
Area significance	3																
Health and Safety	4																
Access	2																
Total	9																

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
The freedom camping area at Timona Park should be extended	17	Campers are already staying outside of designated areas, and no infringements have been issued by Council.	<p>The boundary of the existing Schedule 2 areas at Timona Park could be extended, or additional Schedule 2 areas (for self-contained vehicles) could be identified within the boundaries of Timona Park.</p> <p>If additional parking areas are identified, Council could impose additional restrictions, such as a time by which vehicles must vacate, to minimise potential conflicts with other park users.</p>	On visits to Timona Park, Officers have confirmed that freedom camping vehicles are locating outside of the designated areas.	<p>Council Officers are satisfied that the current parking areas are sufficiently large to accommodate all freedom camping vehicles, but vehicles are often choosing to locate outside of designated areas, possibly to achieve greater separation between vehicles.</p> <p>Without active management, it is difficult for officers to enforce the current areas.</p> <p>Those campers staying outside of designated areas that do not have appropriate accommodation (i.e. unhoused persons) are exempt from the bylaw, which means that Council officers cannot require them to relocate. This sets a difficult precedent for enforcement.</p> <p>Additional parking areas that are not already identified as Schedule 2 areas in the bylaw are those parks that are in</p>	N/A – Council has already evaluated Timona Park as being suitable for freedom camping in self-contained vehicles.	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>Officers are satisfied that the bylaw achieves the right balance between providing areas for self-contained vehicles to freedom camp and ensuring there is sufficient parking spaces available for other visitors to the park.</p>




Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score			Management Recommendation
					greatest demand by other visitors to the park, given their proximity to playing fields and the public toilets.				
Request to provide for non-self-contained freedom camping at Kimbolton Domain									
Non-self-contained freedom camping should be allowed at Kimbolton Domain	15	Disagrees with prohibiting freedom camping at any site that has publicly funded toilets available	The carpark at the Kimbolton Domain is currently identified in the Bylaw as a Schedule 2 site – suitable for self-contained freedom camping vehicles only.  Council could re-classify the carpark as being suitable for all vehicles (including non-self-contained) as there is a public toilet on site (change this to a Schedule 3 site).  Council could also amend the bylaw to allow for tenting alongside the entrance way through the park.	There is a public toilet that is available 24/7.	Only one disability park is provided for within easy walking distance of the public toilet.  The parking area for the Domain is located on the opposite side of the park, approximately 200m from the toilet.  The only grassed area that is not used for playing fields is immediately adjacent to the driveway under an avenue of Elm trees that were planted in the 1950’s. One of these trees fell across the driveway in a recent storm.  Tenting under the trees could damage tree health and poses a health and safety risk (potential for tree fall).	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score for the carpark	Significance Score for tenting along the driveway	<b>No change to the Bylaw.</b> The carpark is considered to be too far from the public toilet to be suitable for use by non-self-contained vehicles.  Officers do not support tenting beneath the avenue of elm trees given the health and safety risk posed by these mature trees and given that tents could affect tree health (i.e. tent pegs could damage tree roots).
						Area significance	3	3	
						Health and Safety	1	4	
						Access	1	2	
						Total	5	9	
						Assessment of freedom camping types:			
						Freedom camping suitability			
Self-contained vehicles		Yes							
Non-self-contained vehicles		No							
Tenting		No							

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
					The community parks along the driveway when attending sporting events at the Domain. Freedom camping vehicles could impact on accessibility for other users.		
<b>Guidelines to guide behaviour towards unhoused individuals</b>							
Council should develop guidelines for engaging with those staying in freedom camping areas, particularly for unhoused individuals.	15	Concerned that the Freedom Camping Act violates human rights. Council guidelines around legitimate camping by unhoused individuals is lacking and Council offers no alternative site for these individuals.	Council could develop guidelines (in accordance with the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and the <i>Freedom Camping Guidance</i> prepared by Simpson Grierson on behalf of Local Government New Zealand (January 2024)) that sit alongside the Freedom Camping Bylaw to guide enforcement.	<p>The Freedom Camping Act specifically excludes a person who is living in either (or both) a tent or other temporary structure or a motor vehicle by virtue of being unable to live in appropriate residential accommodation.</p> <p>However, as unhoused persons often stay in freedom camping locations, there is benefit in Council developing guidelines that will ensure that Enforcement Officers are consistent in the way that they operate their discretion and offer support to these individuals.</p>	<p>Council is limited in relation to what information it can request of unhoused individuals (by virtue of the Privacy Act) and cannot require an unhoused individual to comply with the freedom camping bylaw.</p> <p>However, unhoused individuals, like all members of public, are required to comply with other bylaws, laws, and regulations. For example, Council could carry out enforcement action under the Public Places Bylaw if an individual is causing a nuisance. Council is also able to partner with the New Zealand Police to issue</p>	N/A	<b>Officers support</b> the submitters request to develop guidelines ensure clear and consistent enforcement of the bylaw, and to set clear expectations around how Council will engage with unhoused individuals staying in freedom camping locations.

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
					trespass notices from a public place to address issues such as disorderly behaviour.		
<b>Āpiti Reserve</b>							
<p>That alternative locations for freedom camping be provided for at Āpiti Reserve.</p> <p>The requests include allowing tents to be located behind buildings to reduce road noise, or to utilise the shearing shed and shelters.</p>	15	<p>The submitter is concerned about the following:</p> <p>Damage to the ground caused by large vehicles.</p> <p>Allowing tents behind buildings would reduce road noise.</p> <p>Concerned about a barking dog at the home opposite the reserve.</p> <p>Horse hoof damage to the ground on the side of the shearing shed could be hazardous for vehicles.</p> <p>The submitter also questions whether there has been conflict with stock and suggests that a sign on the gate should be sufficient to</p>	Council could remove the current prohibition that applies to the part of the reserve that is currently grazed by stock (i.e. classify the whole reserve as a Schedule 3 site).		<p>Council does not own the buildings on site and therefore cannot request that they be made available for use by freedom campers.</p> <p>Camping within the area that is grazed by stock could pose a health and safety risk and could frighten stock.</p> <p>Council Officers could find no evidence of any barking dogs in this vicinity.</p> <p>Council is not aware of significant issues with road noise.</p> <p>The presence of freedom campers onsite will potentially deter any antisocial behaviour that might otherwise happen onsite.</p>	No change is recommended to the significance score in the Site Assessment. The Site Assessment identifies the area fenced from stock as being suitable for all forms of freedom camping.	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>There is plenty of space onsite to accommodate freedom camping within the fenced area that is free from stock and close to the public toilet.</p>

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
		manage this risk.					
<b>Mount Lees</b>							
<p>That tenting be permitted in all grassed areas.</p> <p>Light vehicles should be able to park near their tents.</p>	15	<p>This has previously been a freedom camping site for tents, Council is now opening it up for non-self-contained freedom camping but are restricting tents to the area adjacent to the toilets and only allowing three vehicles at any one time.</p>	<p>Council could amend the bylaw to remove the current prohibition that applies to all grassed areas except for the grass adjacent to the toilet block. Alternatively, Council could identify one or more additional grass areas for tenting.</p> <p>Council could remove the current restrictions that apply to vehicles – namely: the three-vehicle maximum and restricting vehicles to the carpark.</p>	<p>There is space to pitch a tent opposite the toilets.</p> <p>There is space for more than three vehicles in the current carpark.</p>	<p>The grass area identified in the draft bylaw is close to the public toilets and is not significant in terms of plantings or other use.</p> <p>The grass area opposite the toilets is within the area that is planted with spring bulbs. Tenting in this area would damage these bulbs, which are valued by visitors to the reserve.</p> <p>This is the only public carpark that serves the whole reserve. If Council does not limit the number of spaces that are taken up by freedom camping vehicles this could limit access for other visitors.</p> <p>Parking of vehicles on the grass area adjacent to tents could pose a health and safety risk, particularly given that there is no lighting on site.</p>	<p>No change is recommended to the significance score in the Site Assessment. The Site Assessment already identifies the carpark as being suitable for freedom camping vehicles, and the grass area adjacent to the toilet block as suitable for tents.</p>	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>Council officers are confident that the draft bylaw (as notified) provides adequate space to meet the current needs of freedom campers. Expanding camping areas could put pressure on sensitive sites such as the daffodil lawn, which could be easily damaged.</p>
<b>Bartletts Ford</b>							

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
That the maximum stay at Bartletts Ford be extended to more than five nights	15	This site is popular with families over summer and many stay for longer than five nights.	<p>No change is needed.</p> <p>While clause 8.1(b) restricts freedom camping at Schedule 3 sites to five nights in any 30-day period, the length of stay may be further extended with the written approval of an Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>Council could choose to extend the default maximum stay, or to remove this restriction altogether. If the maximum stay is to be altered for Schedule 3 sites, consideration needs to be given as to whether the maximum stay for Schedule 2 sites (suitable for self-contained vehicles only) should also be amended for consistency.</p>	History of use by families for extended periods	Extending or removing the maximum stay period may result in people freedom camping in one location for an extended period. This may make this site unavailable for other individuals or families wanting to stay, particularly at those sites that have a restriction of the number of vehicles that may stay there on any one night.	N/A – the length of stay is not directly related to the significance score.	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>The bylaw already includes a provision to extend the maximum length of stay. The requirement to obtain approval from Council for an extended stay is considered to be reasonable given that the maximum stay is already five nights.</p>
<b>Almadale Reserve</b>							
<p>That Council improve this site to make it safe and appealing for freedom camping.</p> <p>Barriers should be put in place to protect people in tents from vehicles and from being hit by gravel from drivers doing burnouts and skids.</p> <p>Tenting should be restricted at this site while safety</p>	15	<p>This reserve currently feels unsafe.</p> <p>Antisocial issues, lack of cleanliness of toilets, and extensive graffiti and rubbish onsite.</p>	<p>Council could put up physical barriers to separate tents from vehicles.</p> <p>Council could increase the frequency with which its contractors clean the toilets and remove rubbish from the site.</p>	Council is aware of complaints about antisocial behaviour at this reserve.	Many of the antisocial behaviour issues reported by the submitter are being caused by unhoused individuals living permanently at this site. The Freedom Camping Bylaw does not apply to unhoused individuals.	N/A – the submitter does not question the suitability of the site for freedom camping but raises concerns about current use and the actions of others that are impacting on the safety of this site for visitors.	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>Council Officers are developing enforcement guidelines to ensure consistent action is taken, including with respect to unhoused individuals living permanently at freedom camping sites.</p>

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation																		
improvements are made.																									
Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill)																									
Request to extend the area for non-self-contained camping at Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill).	17	The area is too small for non-self-contained camping and will create disharmony between campers.	<div>The Schedule 2 area (for self-contained vehicles) could be removed from the map and the Schedule 3 boundary extended to include the full northern half of the reserve. This is illustrated below for information:</div> <div></div> <div>The effect of this is that people could freedom camp in a non-self-contained or self-contained vehicle, or a tent or other temporary structure, anywhere within the northern half of the reserve outside of the time when the park operates as a paid campground.</div> <div>If Council decides to allow for non-self-contained freedom camping throughout the northern half of the reserve, the Site Assessment would need to be amended to remove reference to the 75m radius around the public toilet block.</div>	<div>Having a small area for non-self-contained within a larger area that is available for self-contained vehicles only is difficult to enforce as the boundaries are not marked on the ground in any way (based on distance from the public toilet).</div> <div>There is a history of camping throughout the reserve. Education would be needed to get people to change their behaviour.</div>	The area for non-self-contained freedom camping is marked by a 75m radius distance from the public toilets. Allowing for non-self-contained freedom camping more than 75m from the public toilets may increase the risk of contamination by human waste.	<div>No changes are needed to the significance score for this reserve.</div> <div>The scores from the site assessment are as follows:</div> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>3* (at the northern end where toilets are available 24/7)</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>8</td></tr></table> <div>Assessment of freedom camping types:</div> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes*subject to restrictions</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes*subject to restrictions</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>Yes*subject to restrictions</td></tr></table> <div>*This only applies during the period from 10 February to 14 December.</div>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	3* (at the northern end where toilets are available 24/7)	Health and Safety	3	Access	2	Total	8	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	Yes*subject to restrictions	Non-self-contained vehicles	Yes*subject to restrictions	Tenting	Yes*subject to restrictions	<div><b>That the Bylaw be amended</b> to remove the current restriction that applies to camping at Putai Ngahere Reserve (Vinegar Hill) beyond 75m from the public toilet block in the northern half of the reserve.</div> <div>That is, the northern half of this reserve will be designated as a Schedule 3 site (all forms of freedom camping provided for) during the period from 10 February to 14 December.</div>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score																								
Area significance	3* (at the northern end where toilets are available 24/7)																								
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Self-contained vehicles	Yes*subject to restrictions																								
Non-self-contained vehicles	Yes*subject to restrictions																								
Tenting	Yes*subject to restrictions																								
Kowhai Park																									
That either Council enforces the bylaw consistently at Kowhai Park or that the current	17	Questions why the recommendati on for this park states that “Overnight freedom camping may	Council could review the current prohibition that applies to freedom camping at Kowhai Park. However, as noted in the “limitations column” this would necessitate Council leaving the gates and toilets unlocked at night.	A number of campers already stay there without consequence (Council has not issued any infringements)	The reference to increased risk of vandalism in the Site Assessment is in relation to the fact that Kowhai Park is currently locked at night.	<div>The scores from the site assessment are as follows:</div> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	5	<div><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></div> <div>Note – if Council resolves to remove the prohibition of freedom camping on residential and village road reserves, self-contained freedom camping vehicles will be able to utilise the public carparks on the road frontage for freedom camping.</div>														
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score																								
Area significance	5																								


Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score		Management Recommendation
prohibition for freedom camping is removed or modified in the bylaw.  The bylaw could allow event organisers to apply for a waiver with a token payment.		increase the risk of vandalism.” This comment could have been included to increase the weighting to support the exclusion.  The area behind the Old Tote Building has been used for multiple events, with some attendees freedom camping. Council has not been enforcing this breach.  Having a waiver application process would allow event organisers to bring an event with a camping component/ or support local events, without breaching the bylaw.	Clause 6.1 of the draft Freedom Camping Bylaw already allows a person to stay in any Local Authority Area described in Schedule 1 (prohibited area) with Council approval, in association with an event. Officers are satisfied that the current clause is sufficient to address the submitters concerns. However, further changes can be made if necessary.		For freedom camping to be allowed for in this reserve, Council would have to keep the public toilets and gates unlocked at night. Providing 24/7 access to the park could increase the risk of vandalism, particularly in relation to vehicles driving on the playing fields and cricket pitch and facilities such as the public toilets and playground equipment.	Health and Safety	2	Based on the significance score, Kowhai Park is considered unsuitable for freedom camping. The submitters feedback does not alter officers initial assessment.
						Access	3	
						Total	10	
Benchmark Scores for the Site Assessment								
The benchmark for Council to consider whether prohibition is necessary, appropriate,	16	The submitter suggests that the benchmark for Council to consider whether prohibition is necessary,	The following sites have a score between 9 and 11:  Schedule 1 sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cemeteries throughout the District (11)</li><li>- Awahuri Forest/ Kitchener Park (11)</li><li>- Cheltenham Memorial Reserve (9)</li></ul>	The submitters request to consider whether prohibition is necessary, appropriate, and proportionate is consistent with	The Site Assessment explains the methodology for calculating a score for each site, based on the three relevant	If Council was to set the trigger at 12 for prohibited sites, as per the submitter’s request, freedom camping would only be prohibited at Ellison Reserve. Camping of some description would be allowed at all the other Schedule 1 sites listed in column 4, despite the need to protect those areas for the reasons in the Site Assessment. This		<b>No change to the Bylaw or Site Assessment.</b> That the current scoring methodology in the Site Assessment be retained, with the threshold for prohibition of freedom camping remaining at 9 out of 15.

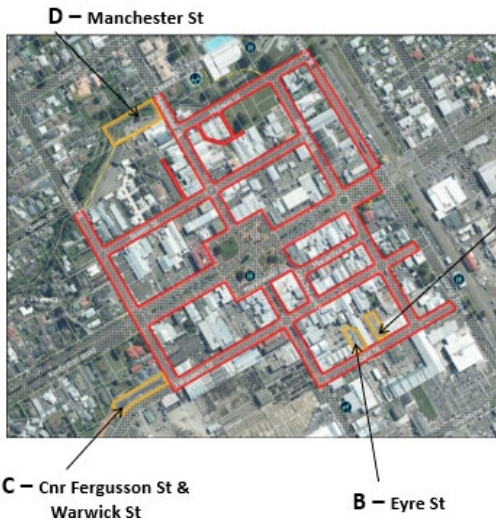
Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
and proportionate should be set at 12/15. Review proposed for prohibited areas with a score between 9 and 11		appropriate, and proportionate should be set at 12/15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Douglas Square (9)</li> <li>- Feilding Central Business Shopping Area (9)</li> <li>- Fraser Drive (9)</li> <li>- Herlihy Reserve (10)</li> <li>- Himatangi Beach (10)</li> <li>- James Palmer Park (9)</li> <li>- Kowhai Park (10)</li> <li>- Residential and Village Road Reserves (9)</li> <li>- Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves (10)</li> <li>- Vista Reserve (9)</li> </ul>	<p>the requirements of Council in accordance with section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act.</p> <p>Of the Schedule 1 sites listed in the previous column, Council has already re-evaluated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feilding Central Business Shopping Area</li> <li>• Himatangi Beach</li> <li>• Kowhai Park</li> <li>• Residential and Village Road Reserves; and</li> <li>• Tangimoana Estuarine Reserves.</li> </ul>	<p>criteria in section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act. There is a score between 1 and 5 for each criterion, with a description of what the relevant score means.</p> <p>It is considered that a cumulative score of 9 is the appropriate threshold for the Council to be satisfied that it is necessary to prohibit freedom camping at the site, in terms of section 11. As an example, taking a score of 3 for each criterion (totalling 9), under the scoring system this means there are some concerns regarding significant sites at the area, some (albeit minimal) health and safety concerns, and only moderate access to the site and some (albeit minimal) damage to access to the area. A site with those characteristics would not be suitable for freedom camping.</p>	shows why the submitter's threshold of 12 would not be appropriate.	



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					This same scoring system is used by other councils and was modelled on the South Taranaki District Council's Site Assessment that was endorsed by NZMCA and described in the Local Government New Zealand's <i>Good practice guide for freedom camping</i> (April 2018) as an "excellent basis of information for an informed decision."		


#### Residential and Village Road Reserves

<p>That Council remove the prohibition on freedom camping on road reserves within the Feilding Central Business District shopping area.</p> <p>Provide parking spaces for campervans and caravans in Feilding township.</p>	16, 17, 18	<p>Feedback from NZMCA members indicates that members enjoy freedom camping within proximity of township amenities.</p> <p>We should make staying in our District as welcoming and easy as possible, so people come here and spend money on fuel, groceries, retail shops and activities, including</p>	<p>Map showing the current prohibited area:</p>  <p>Council could remove the current prohibition that applies to freedom camping in the Feilding Central Business District. This would mean that the default in the Act would apply – being that people could freedom camp</p>	<p>Convenience for freedom campers being in close proximity to township amenities.</p> <p>The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is not designed to be restrictive in nature but to support safe freedom camping.</p> <p>Certain streets in the CBD are sufficiently wide to accommodate vehicles without causing significant health and safety concerns.</p>	<p>Concern from the roading department that large freedom camping vehicles may reduce road safety and sight lines, reducing visibility.</p> <p>Freedom camping could interfere with public access to places in the CBD and take up space that would otherwise be available for people to access shops.</p>	<p>The current Site Assessment scoring for the Feilding CBD shopping area is as follows:</p> <table><tr><th>S11(2)(a) criteria</th><th>Significance score</th></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>10</td></tr></table> <p>The CBD is significant as a meeting place for the Feilding community and is historically and culturally important. Parking areas in the CBD have a high level of public value as places serving customers, visitors and businesses in the shopping area. These areas need to be maintained and protected for these purposes. Camping is not considered to be consistent with these primary uses and may detrimentally affect the existing character of the area. Freedom camping may also interfere with public access to places in</p>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	5	Health and Safety	2	Access	3	Total	10	<p><b>That the Feilding Central Business District shopping area map be amended</b> so that the prohibited area matches the time limited parking zones.</p> <p>That the four Council-owned off-street carparks (Warwick Street, Manchester Street and two on Eyre Street) in the Feilding CBD be designated as Schedule 2 freedom camping sites for self-contained freedom camping only. However, these carparks should be time restricted, with freedom camping vehicles required to depart by 7:30am each day.</p>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score																
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		<p>supporting hospitality businesses.</p> <p>Prohibiting areas to protect businesses may not be lawful and those campers may also be customers.</p>	<p>in a self-contained vehicle or in a tent or other temporary structure.</p> <p>Alternatively, Council could review the current prohibited area and either look to reduce the extent of the prohibited area or change the restrictions to permit freedom camping in certain suitable locations within the Feilding CBD.</p> <p>One option suggested by officers is to amend the prohibited areas to align with parking monitored streets (i.e. those with time limited parking). Self-contained freedom camping could be provided for at four parking sites within the Feilding CBD, as identified in orange below:</p> <div></div> <p>There are two carparks on Erye Street: one behind Delish and one behind Murrays. There is also a Council-owned off-street carpark on the corner of Fergusson and Warwick Street, and one on Manchester Street. All are within a 500m walk from the Clock Tower.</p> <p>To minimise potential for conflict with other users (including CBD workers), Council could require that freedom camping vehicles depart from these</p>	<p>Other New Zealand Councils with restrictive bylaws are prime tourist destinations such as Kaikōura and Gisborne. Evidence suggests that freedom camping is not a significant issue in the Feilding CBD.</p> <p>Members feel much safer staying in towns than in remote areas.</p> <p>Freedom camping in towns supports local business and tourist attractions.</p> <p>Staying in towns enables visitors to learn about New Zealand’s history.</p>		<p>the CBD and take up space which would otherwise be available for people to access shops etc. There is also some concern from the roading department that large freedom camping vehicles parked in the CBD may reduce road safety and sight lines, reducing visibility.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</th></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table> <p><b>Significance Score for Council-owned carparks</b></p> <p>Limiting freedom camping in certain off-street carparks, as recommended, would have less of a negative impact on the matters above while providing some places in the CBD for self-contained freedom camping vehicles.</p> <table><tr><th>S11(2)(a) criteria</th><th>Significance score</th></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>7</td></tr></table> <p>As there are no 24/7 toilet facilities available, these carparks are considered suitable for self-contained freedom camping vehicles only.</p> <p>Assessment of freedom camping types:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</th></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	No	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	3	Health and Safety	2	Access	2	Total	7	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No	
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Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation																		
			freedom camping locations (A – D) by 7:30am.																						
The removal of the current prohibition on freedom camping in Feilding Residential road reserves	16, 17	<p>Responsible campers want to be able to freedom camp in these areas.</p> <p>The health and safety rating in the Site Assessment is too high – roads throughout the Manawatū District are wide enough to accommodate trucks and other large vehicles.</p>	<p>Review the current prohibition on freedom camping on Feilding Road Reserves.</p> <p>Consider removing the current prohibition that applies to all road reserves within the area zoned “residential” in Feilding (including ‘paper roads’ and individual ‘business zone’ sites within the residential area).</p>	<p>It is convenient for motorhome owners to be able to park outside homes of friends and family.</p> <p>Residential streets in Feilding are wide and have formed kerb and channel.</p> <p>People staying outside their properties or outside the homes of family or friends could be infringed.</p> <p>The draft bylaw is more restrictive than most other cities and towns. This is disproportionate to the problem.</p> <p>The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is not designed to be restrictive in nature but to support safe freedom camping.</p>	<p>Parking of large freedom camping vehicles on road reserves could have some impact on visibility and road safety, particularly if parked near intersections.</p> <p>Access to residential properties might be obstructed.</p>	<p>That the Feilding Road Reserves significance scores be reassessed as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <p>Due to the lack of public toilet facilities in residential areas, road reserves are considered to be only suitable for freedom camping in self-contained vehicles.</p> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	1	Health and Safety	2	Access	2	Total	5	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No	<p><b>That the bylaw be amended</b> to remove the current prohibition on freedom camping on Feilding residential road reserves.</p>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score																								
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Access	2																								
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That the prohibition on residential and village road reserves be removed. Consider whether restrictions would be a more	16, 17	<p>Responsible campers want to be able to freedom camp in these areas.</p> <p>The health and safety rating in the Site Assessment is too high –</p>	<p>The introduction to Schedule 1 would need to be amended as follows:</p> <p>No person may Freedom Camp in the Local Authority Areas shown in the maps in Schedule 1. <del>This schedule includes, but is not limited to, cemeteries and Road reserves.</del></p>	<p>It is convenient for motorhome owners to be able to park outside homes of friends and family.</p> <p>People staying outside their properties or outside the</p>	<p>Some village roads are narrow with poor visibility. Freedom camping on these road reserves could be unsafe.</p> <p>Road reserves serve as pedestrian</p>	N/A – refer to individual assessments of village road reserves below.	<p><b>That Council amend the introduction to Schedule 1</b> to remove all reference to road reserves.</p> <p>That Council re-evaluate each village independently and determine which are unsuitable for freedom camping due to health and safety or access concerns.</p>																		



Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score		Management Recommendation
appropriate and proportionate response.		roads throughout the Manawatū District are wide enough to accommodate trucks and other large vehicles.	<del><b>Note:</b> Road reserves consist of all land that has been vested in the Council for the purpose of a Road. Generally this includes the corridor of land between a property boundary facing on to the Road and the Road itself, including footpaths, drainage channels, berms, and grass shoulder. It also includes the carriageway (Road or street) itself.</del>  Council would then need to evaluate each village separately to determine where restrictions or prohibitions on freedom camping is reasonably justified on health and safety and/or access grounds.	homes of family or friends could be infringed.  The draft bylaw is more restrictive than most other cities and towns. This is disproportionate to the problem.  The Freedom Camping Act 2011 is not designed to be restrictive in nature but to support safe freedom camping.  Some prohibited areas described in Schedule 1 include State Highways. Council does not currently have written permission from the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) to declare these areas to be local authority areas for the purpose of including them in the bylaw.	corridors and passive recreation spaces were not intended for camping.  Access to residential properties may be obstructed.  Some villages have roads with unformed kerb and channel as well as open stormwater drains. Freedom camping on these road reserves could be a health and safety risk (potential for vehicles to tip into open drains) and camping could damage the berm and council's stormwater infrastructure.			
			Review Kimbolton Village Road Reserves  Consider removing the current prohibition that applies as follows:	People staying outside their properties or outside the homes of family or friends could be infringed.	Road reserves are generally unsuitable for freedom camping. Most roads in Kimbolton Village are narrow and	All residential and village road reserves have been scored together in the Site Assessment. It is recommended that the score for the Kimbolton Village Road Reserves be re-evaluated as follows: <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score							

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score		Management Recommendation																
					<p>even for the wider main roads parking of large camping vehicles could block access for other vehicles and affect site lines, creating safety problems.</p> <p>Road reserves used as pedestrian corridors and recreation spaces and risk to health and safety if use is shared with camping vehicles.</p> <p>Berms could easily be damaged by freedom camping vehicles as there is an unformed kerb and channel.</p> <p>Vehicles could slide into open swale drains during wet conditions and get stuck or tip.</p> <p>Need for visitors (family/friends) of property-owners to park on the road and risk being infringed is low because properties are large and there is normally space to park on the property. Anyway, this does not</p>	<table><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <p>Assessment of freedom camping types:</p> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	Area significance	1	Health and Safety	4	Access	4	Total	9	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	No	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No		
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Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation																		
					outweigh the above factors.																				
			<div>Review Rongotea Village Road Reserves</div> <div>Consider removing the current prohibition that applies as follows:</div> <div></div>	<div>Rongotea Road and Mersey Street are wide with formed kerb and channel. Campervans could park on these roads without causing visual obstruction or significant traffic safety issues.</div>	<div>The cultural and historical values of Douglas Square as a civic space and community meeting place mean that this local authority area is not suitable for freedom camping.</div> <div>Residential streets in Rongotea, outside of the main roads do not have formed kerb and channel.</div> <div>The parking of large camping vehicles could block access for other vehicles and affect site lines, creating safety problems.</div> <div>Road reserves used as pedestrian corridors and recreation spaces and risk to health and safety if use is shared with camping vehicles.</div> <div>Berms could easily be damaged by freedom camping vehicles as there is an unformed kerb and channel.</div>	<div>All residential and village road reserves have been scored together in the Site Assessment.</div> <div>Douglas Square has been assessed separately in the Site Assessment. No requests have been received to amend that assessment. Given the cultural and historical significance of Douglas Square, Officers recommend that the current prohibition be retained.</div> <div>It is recommended that the score for the Rongotea Village Road Reserves be re-evaluated as follows:</div> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance (excluding Douglas Square)</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>4 (1 for those streets with formed kerb and channel)</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>4 (2 for those streets with formed kerb and channel)</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9 (and 4 for those streets with formed kerb and channel)</td></tr></table> <div>Assessment of freedom camping types:</div> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance (excluding Douglas Square)	1	Health and Safety	4 (1 for those streets with formed kerb and channel)	Access	4 (2 for those streets with formed kerb and channel)	Total	9 (and 4 for those streets with formed kerb and channel)	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No	<div><b>That Schedule 1 of the Bylaw be amended</b> to remove the current prohibition on the main roads of Rongotea Road and Mersey Street, but to retain the current prohibition on all other residential streets, and around Douglas Square.</div>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score																								
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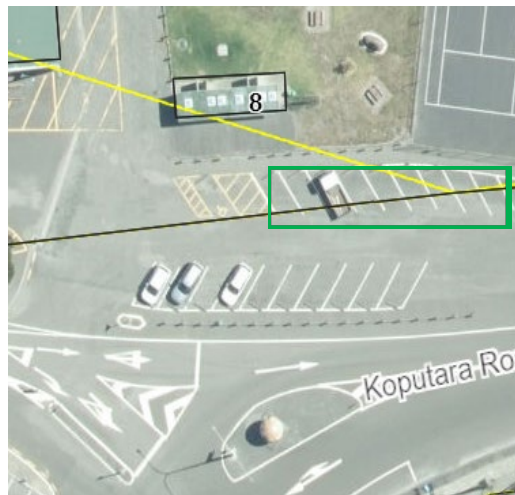
Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation
					<p>Vehicles could slide into open swale drains during wet conditions and get stuck or tip.</p> <p>Power poles and street trees within berms pose a hazard for vehicles and may be damaged by freedom camping vehicles.</p>		
			<p>Review Cheltenham Village Road Reserves</p> <p>Consider removing the current prohibition that applies as follows:</p> 	<p>The majority of the prohibited area is State Highway 54 Road Reserve. As NZTA has not given Council permission for this area to be included in the bylaw, it should be removed.</p> <p>SH54 is wide with kerb and channel.</p> <p>If freedom camping is prohibited, people staying outside their properties or outside the homes of family or</p>		<p>N/A – it is recommended that this area be removed from the bylaw given that most of it is NZTA land.</p>	<p><b>Amend the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>Remove Cheltenham Road Reserves from the bylaw as Council does not have authority to declare NZTA land (SH 54) as a local authority area and therefore cannot create a bylaw to restrict or prohibit freedom camping on this land.</p>

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation																		
				friends could be infringed.																					
			Review Sanson Village Road Reserves  Consider removing the current prohibition that applies as follows:  	The road reserves of Dundas Road/SH 3 and Cemetery Road/SH 1 are owned by NZTA and Council does not have approval from NZTA to declare these as local authority areas for the purpose of inclusion in the bylaw.  If freedom camping is prohibited, people staying outside their properties or outside the homes of family or friends could be infringed.	Local roads in Sanson are narrow, do not have formed kerb and channel and have open stormwater drains.  Large freedom camping vehicles could potentially impede access to properties.  Freedom camping vehicles could damage grass berms.  Vehicles could slide into open swale drains during wet conditions and get stuck or tip.	The Sanson Village Road Reserves should be separately scored in the Site Assessment as follows: <table border="1"><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9</td></tr></table> Assessment of freedom camping types: <table border="1"><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	1	Health and Safety	4	Access	4	Total	9	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	No	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No	<b>Amend the Bylaw.</b>  That the current map for the Sanson Village Road Reserves be amended to remove those road reserves that are owned by NZTA.  However, the current prohibition on freedom camping on local roads in Sanson should be retained.
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Tenting	No																								
Review Halcombe Village Road Reserves  Consider removing the current prohibition that applies as follows:  	If freedom camping is prohibited, people staying outside their properties or outside the homes of family or friends could be infringed.	Road reserves are generally unsuitable for freedom camping. Most roads in Halcombe Village are narrow and even for the wider main roads parking of large camping vehicles could block access for other vehicles and affect site lines, creating safety problems.	That the site assessment for Halcombe should be separately scored in the Site Assessment as follows: <table border="1"><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9</td></tr></table> Assessment of freedom camping types: <table border="1"><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	1	Health and Safety	4	Access	4	Total	9	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	No	<b>No change to the Bylaw.</b> Retain the current prohibition for freedom camping on Halcombe road reserves.							
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Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score		Management Recommendation				
					<p>Road reserves used as pedestrian corridors and recreation spaces and risk to health and safety if use is shared with camping vehicles.</p> <p>Berms could easily be damaged by freedom camping vehicles as there is an unformed kerb and channel.</p> <p>Vehicles could slide into open swale drains during wet conditions and get stuck or tip.</p> <p>Need for visitors (family/friends) of property-owners to park on the road and risk being infringed is low because properties are large and there is normally space to park on the property. Anyway, this does not outweigh the above factors.</p>	<table><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table>		Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No	
			Non-self-contained vehicles	No								
Tenting	No											
<p>Review Himatangi Beach Road Reserves</p> <p>Consider removing the current prohibition that applies as follows:</p>	<p>While roads are generally narrow with no road markings, the grass berms are wide and do not have deep swale drains.</p>	<p>Roads have grass berms with no kerb so could be easily damaged by vehicles.</p> <p>Large freedom camping vehicles could potentially</p>	<p>That the site assessment for Himatangi Beach be separately scored in the Site Assessment as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	3	<p><b>No change to the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>Retain the current prohibition for freedom camping on Himatangi Beach road reserves.</p>				
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score											
Area significance	3											

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score		Management Recommendation																	
				If freedom camping is prohibited, people staying outside their properties or outside the homes of family or friends could be infringed.	<p>impede access to properties.</p> <p>Power poles are mounted within the berms so could be a hazard for vehicles.</p> <p>Properties are generally large with space to park vehicles on private property off the road reserve.</p>	<table><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <p>Assessment of freedom camping types:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</th></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	Health and Safety	3	Access	3	Total	9	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	No	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No					
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			<p>Review Tangimoana Village Road Reserves</p> <p>Consider removing the current prohibition that applies as follows:</p> 	<p>While roads are generally narrow with no road markings, the grass berms are wide.</p> <p>If freedom camping is prohibited, people staying outside their properties or outside the homes of family or friends could be infringed.</p>	<p>Roads have grass berms with no kerb so could be easily damaged by vehicles.</p> <p>Footpaths are located close to the carriageway and the parking of vehicles in this location could restrict access and be a health and safety risk to pedestrians.</p> <p>Power poles are mounted within the berms so could be a hazard for vehicles.</p> <p>Properties are generally large with space to park vehicles on private property off the road reserve.</p>	<p>That the site assessment for Tangimoana be separately scored in the Site Assessment as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>9</td></tr></table> <p>Assessment of freedom camping types:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</th></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	3	Health and Safety	3	Access	3	Total	9	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	No	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Tenting	No	<p><b>No change to Bylaw.</b></p> <p>Retain the current prohibition for freedom camping on Tangimoana road reserves.</p>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score																								
Area significance	3																								
Health and Safety	3																								
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Total	9																								
Freedom camping suitability																									
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Additional Officer suggested changes																									

Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation																																	
That Council consider identifying a new freedom camping location in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserves.	N/A	<p>Submission 16 noted that referring to the proximity of campgrounds as part of the site assessment report may be in breach of the High Courts decision to revoke the Queenstown Lakes District Council’s freedom camping bylaw.</p> <p>In response to this, Council Officers reviewed all local authority areas in close proximity to campgrounds to ensure that we were not considering this as a matter when scoring these sites.</p> <p>During this review it was identified that there is a sealed carpark by public toilets at Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve that might be suitable for freedom camping.</p>	<p>Consider identifying a new freedom camping area in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve, as follows:</p> 	<p>These parks are sealed and formed.</p> <p>Close proximity to public toilets that are available 24/7.</p> <p>Enough space for manoeuvring.</p>	These carparks are used by visitors to the reserve, the public toilets, the playground, beach, and other recreational facilities. Use of these parks for freedom camping could reduce access for other visitors.	<p>That the Site Assessment scores for Himatangi Beach be amended as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td colspan="2">Significance score</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Himatangi Beach</td><td>Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve Carpark</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <table><tr><td colspan="3">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Himatangi Beach</td><td>Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve Carpark</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td><td>No</td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score			Himatangi Beach	Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve Carpark	Area significance	4	1	Health and Safety	2	2	Access	4	2	Total	10	5	Freedom camping suitability				Himatangi Beach	Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve Carpark	Self-contained vehicles	No	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	No	Yes	Tenting	No	No	<p><b>Amend the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>That Council amend the map for Himatangi Beach to include a new Schedule 3 site for vehicles only within the carpark in front of the Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve.</p> <p>It is recommended that Council consider restricting freedom camping to two or three vehicles per night to ensure there are still spaces available for other visitors to the reserve.</p>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score																																							
	Himatangi Beach	Himatangi Beach Recreation Reserve Carpark																																						
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Requested Change	Submitter/s	Reason behind the requested change	How this change could be given effect to in the bylaw	Supporting considerations	Limitations	Revised Site Assessment Score	Management Recommendation																				
That Sanson Domain be reclassified as a Schedule 3 site for self-contained and non-self-contained vehicles.	N/A – suggested by officers	There is a public toilet available at this site. For consistency, this site should also provide for non-self-contained freedom camping.	Sanson Domain would be amended from being a Schedule 2 site to a Schedule 3 site. However, a note would be included stating that it is only suitable for vehicles (i.e. not for tenting).	Toilets are open 24/7.	<p>The Site Assessment notes that there is potential for conflict with other users, particularly when Blokart events are held.</p> <p>The site is accessed from off SH1 within a 100km per hour speed zone. Access for large vehicles can therefore be hazardous.</p>	<p>No change to the score, which is as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>S11(2)(a) criteria</td><td>Significance score</td></tr><tr><td>Area significance</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Health and Safety</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Access</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>5</td></tr></table> <p>However, the assessment of freedom camping types should be updated as follows:</p> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Freedom camping suitability</td></tr><tr><td>Self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Non-self-contained vehicles</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Tenting</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score	Area significance	1	Health and Safety	2	Access	2	Total	5	Freedom camping suitability		Self-contained vehicles	Yes	Non-self-contained vehicles	Yes	Tenting	No			<p><b>Amend the Bylaw.</b></p> <p>That Sanson Domain is reclassified in the bylaw as a Schedule 3 site suitable for self-contained and non-self-contained freedom camping.</p> <p>The current restriction to three vehicles at any one time should be retained given the potential to conflict with other users and given the health and safety risks for vehicles accessing the site from the State Highway.</p>
S11(2)(a) criteria	Significance score																										
Area significance	1																										
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Submitter Number	Submitter Point	Proposed Response
01	Submitter requested improvements to clauses relating to temporary prohibitions or restrictions relating to extended parking time allowed during extreme weather events e.g., four days instead of five.	<p>Manawatū District Council (MDC) prioritises public safety when managing freedom camping. In the event of a severe weather event, MDC takes a pragmatic approach and may allow extended stays beyond the usual time limits if conditions make it unsafe for campers to leave. Any decisions on extensions would be assessed on a case-by-case basis, considering the severity of the weather and any guidance from Civil Defence and emergency management teams.</p> <p>For up-to-date information on freedom camping during severe weather events, we encourage campers to check the MDC website or contact our customer service team.</p>
01	Submitter requested proper dump station in Halcombe due to the fact that some freedom campers are currently using the public toilet to empty their cassettes.	At this stage, Council has no plans to provide a dump station in Halcombe, as there are existing facilities within reasonable driving distance. We encourage anyone who witnesses freedom campers improperly disposing of waste - such as emptying cassettes anywhere other than a designated dump station - to report this to Council via phone or the Antenno App so that appropriate follow-up action can be taken.
01	Submitter noted that street racers are causing damage to vehicles in designated camping areas	While Council does not currently have a specific policy to manage street racing, we recognise it as an important issue and encourage campers to report incidents to the New Zealand Police, who are best equipped to respond to unlawful or dangerous driving behaviour. Council will also continue to monitor concerns raised about freedom camping sites to ensure they remain safe and accessible for visitors.
04	Submitter noted that freedom camping sites should be limited to three nights as self-containment certification means a vehicle must have three days toilet and grey water capacity and concerns regarding where FCs will empty cassettes (04)	Council understands your concern about the proposed five-day stay limit and the potential impacts of longer stays. After considering a range of options, Council elected 5 days as a balanced approach. This aligns with practices in other parts of the country where limits of 4–5 days are used to manage site use, reduce environmental impact, and support local tourism. A 5-day limit gives visitors time to explore and contribute to the local economy, while still encouraging movement and preventing long-term occupation. Council also considers that dump stations are within reasonable driving distance, meaning campers are able to responsibly manage waste during their stay. We believe this strikes a fair balance.
04	Submitter noted surprise that neither the Pohangina Valley Community Committee nor the Pohangina Old School Reserve Committee were consulted during the consultation the process	Council can confirm that consultation documents were sent to the chair of Pohangina Valley Community Committee on 27 January 2025.

Submitter Number	Submitter Point	Proposed Response
07	Submitter requested that there be clear information available to inform campers if Old School Reserve, Pohangina is to be closed for a private function.	While Council acknowledges that the Reserve is frequently used by the local community and is voluntarily maintained and managed by the Pohangina Community Committee. Clause 8.1(l) of the Bylaw states that “A person must not Freedom Camp while an event is on within the Local Authority Area, except with prior written Council approval in association with that event.” If the Committee is holding a private function and wishes to prohibit freedom camping, they must request Council to restrict freedom camping as part of an event application. Council recognises the importance of balancing camper access with community use and will explore ways to communicate to campers when events are occurring.
07	Submitter requested that there be clear information available to inform campers if Old School Reserve, Pohangina is to be closed due to the ground being too wet.	Council is aware that access may be compromised during wet conditions. The site assessment recommends that a sign be installed on the entry gate that notes that vehicular access during wet conditions is at their own risk. In exceptional circumstances, Council could choose to restrict or prevent access to the site using the “Temporary Prohibitions or Restrictions” section of the Bylaw (clause 9). If Council did restrict access to the site, this would be communicated via our normal communication channels.
07	Submitter requested that pets must always be on leads and are not permitted on the playgrounds.	Any animals or pets being kept in a freedom camping area must meet the requirements of Council’s Dog Control Bylaw 2019 and/or the Animal Bylaw 2019. With regard to pets, the Old School Reserve (excluding the play area and swimming pool) is a Schedule 2 – Dog Exercise Area, meaning dogs are permitted off-leash but must remain under control at all times.
09	Submitter proposed that fines should be more.	To decide on appropriate infringements for those that breach the Freedom Camping Bylaw, Manawātū District Council follows the guidance set out in the Freedom Camping Act.
09	Submitter asked Council to consider making people purchase a pass to freedom camp anywhere.	<p>Council is unable to charge a fee/have freedom campers purchase a pass as paid camping is managed by other organisations, such as private camping grounds or some DOC campgrounds.</p> <p>Council has been working with Penny (previously Kiwicamp) regarding a possible app where people register to freedom camp at Council sites. However, this option is not preferred by officers at this time due to potential conflicts at popular sites</p>

Submitter Number	Submitter Point	Proposed Response
		between those that have booked and those already present at the site. Council could not require someone to leave a site if they have not booked and someone who has booked arrives.
10,11	<p>Submitter requested that all areas should be open to freedom camping (10)</p> <p>Submitter noted that freedom camping contributes to the economy and therefore the bylaw needs to be as open as possible (11)</p>	While Council recognises the value of freedom camping in contributing to the local economy, the bylaw needs to balance accessibility with the need to manage environmental and social impacts. Restrictions and prohibitions are applied on a case-by-case basis, following an evaluation in line with Section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act. This ensures that decisions are made based on a thorough assessment of each area. Council is committed to increasing freedom camping provision where appropriate, and during this review have identified new opportunities for safe and sustainable camping options.
10	Submitter disagrees with the large fines that are improbable for a transient community to challenge	<p>Manawatū District Council takes an education-first approach and works closely with the Freedom Camping community to ensure that fines are both fair and equitable for all community members and visitors. When determining appropriate infringements for breaches of the Freedom Camping Bylaw, we strictly follow the guidance set out in the Freedom Camping Act, which ensures that each case is assessed consistently and with consideration of the specific circumstances involved.</p> <p>For those that are infringed, fines can be paid directly at the Manawatū District Council. Should you have any questions or wish to dispute a fine, please contact our customer service team by phone or email. They are available to assist you and provide guidance on the dispute process to ensure that your concerns are addressed appropriately.</p>
10	Submitter noted that rubbish and dumping laws should be enforced to regulate freedom camping.	<p>The Freedom Camping Bylaw stipulates that all waste must be removed from the local authority area and disposed of in a Council approved facility (section 7.1(e) and 8.1(d)). Any person breaching the Freedom Camping Bylaw will be at risk of being infringed by council compliance officers.</p> <p>Rubbish receptacles cleared by Council's contractors. Any issues relating to rubbish or full bins should be reported to Council via phone or the Antenno App so appropriate action can be taken.</p>
11	Submitter questions whether the Council is wanting to take away camping as an option for families and whether they will now have to pay.	Manawatū District Council was required by legislation to review the previous Freedom Camping Bylaw. It is the aim of the review to continue to provide freedom camping locations within the district. We think there are a number of great freedom

Submitter Number	Submitter Point	Proposed Response
		camping locations within our community. For example, Bartletts Ford, and Londons Ford, which are both free. There is also Vinegar Hill and while there are fees to stay there between December 15th through to February 9th, outside of this time, camping is free.
15	<p>Submitter concerned that the proposal does not mention how Council will contribute to the review on the effects on homeless from the recent changes that the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 made to the Freedom Camping Act 2011.</p> <p>And questions when Council will be contributing to that review and whether homeless people will be able to make submissions as the people affected.</p>	<p>Based on the minutes of the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (link: <a href="#">cabinet minute</a>) the policy objective is for those experiencing homelessness not to be penalised under the freedom camping rules. Enforcement officers are encouraged to apply discretion and not infringe people experiencing homelessness and use Local Government New Zealand guidelines when engaging with freedom campers and unhoused persons.</p> <p>The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is conducting a review investigating the recent changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011 and homelessness. Council officers have had conversations with MBIE and other local authorities to inform this review and are in the process of completing the survey component review with the submission due on July 25, 2025.</p> <p>Council officers are also engaging with social service agencies in the area to ensure support is available to those that need it.</p>
15	Submitter disagrees with the notion of a tent being defined as a vehicle.	<p>The definition of “vehicle” in the Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 includes both vehicles as defined in section 2(1) of the Land Transport Act 1998, and as noted by the submitter:</p> <p><i>...a unit used for camping that is not itself a vehicle but is capable of being—</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(i) transported by means of being loaded onto a vehicle; and</i></li> <li><i>(ii) used for camping whether or not it is loaded onto a vehicle</i></li> </ul> <p>The grouping of vehicles and tents in the definition is because of the target of this legislation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- generally permit freedom camping in a tent or other temporary structure or a self-contained motor vehicle; and</li> </ul>



Submitter Number	Submitter Point	Proposed Response
		to prohibit freedom camping using a motor vehicle that is not self-contained, unless permitted in accordance with a bylaw or other legislation.
15	Submitted noted that there has not been sufficient evidence supplied by council that pollution or excrement, where a public toilet is provided, is from non-self-contained campers.	Through the site assessment, Council has evaluated each local authority area based on the criteria set out in section 11(2)(a) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011. As set out in the site assessment, Council's policy approach is to only provide for non-self-contained freedom camping where there is 24/7 access to public toilets. A lack of access to public toilets increases the risk to the environment and public health and safety. Certified self-contained vehicles are required to meet the ablutionary and sanitary needs of the occupants for a minimum of three days. While the provision of on-board facilities does not ensure their use, their provision lessens the risk of pollution.
15	Submitted noted that there has not been sufficient evidence supplied by Council from campers, farmers, and soil experts when assessing potential vehicle damage which has resulted in ill-informed evaluation of camping sites.	Manawātū District Council staff have assessed all sites to ensure a balance between allowing opportunities for freedom camping and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of both the community, campers, and the environment. This assessment has been limited to those criteria listed in section 11(2)(a) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
15	Submitter questions whether Council is surrendering democracy by using the Freedom Camping Act as a regulation tool and excluding the LGA in which provision is given for inclusion of all people. Highlights that the only legal way to avoid disclosing ones occupation to a compliance officer is if the FCA does not apply to oneself.	<p>Council's draft Bylaw has been made under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 as this is the primary piece of legislation in New Zealand that governs freedom camping. However, Council's Compliance and Enforcement Officers are still authorised to use tools that exist in other legislation such as the Local Government Act 2002 and the Trespass Act 1980.</p> <p>Council's Enforcement Officers may ask questions of a person freedom camping in a local authority area to try to ascertain whether that person is unable to live in appropriate accommodation and therefore excluded by the Freedom Camping Act 2011. However, Enforcement Officers do not have the legislative authority to require a person to provide this information. Council's Enforcement Officers are aware of people's rights under the Privacy Act and work within these bounds.</p> <p>Manawātū District Council takes an education first approach and works with the freedom camping community to advocate for fair and equitable outcomes for all community members and visitors to our area.</p>
15	Submitter proposes:	Manawātū District Council (MDC) is actively developing guidelines for all compliance officers. This includes those engaging with persons at freedom camping

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- that FCA will continue to violate human rights as compliance officers will use their own discretion when deciding if appropriate alternative accommodation is available and that Council intends to take actions against homeless persons violating their human rights.</li> <li>- that council guidelines around legitimate camping by unhoused individuals is lacking and that Council offers no alternative site for these individuals.</li> <li>- that there is a double standard as MDC amongst other government organisations require an address to manipulate homelessness statistics and to gain support services. Asks how council will manage the double standard this creates? And how this will stack up in court?</li> </ul> <p>Submitter questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- whether Council will be financially subsidising those unhoused individuals that stay in paid campgrounds.</li> <li>- whether Council will unlawfully use trespass against homeless persons to restrict access to FC sites? And will this extend to public libraries, toilets, and showers?</li> </ul>	<p>sites. Compliance staff follow Local Government New Zealand guidelines when engaging with freedom campers and unhoused persons This helps to ensure a safe, welcoming, and equitable environment for everyone.</p> <p>Statistics New Zealand report that the number of unhoused individuals in the Manawatū area without shelter increased from 33 individuals in 2018 to 51 in 2023. MDC collaborates with Ministry of Social Development, Police, and Kainga Ora, and we are engaging with other social support agencies to ensure that all members of the Manawatū community, including unhoused individuals, receive the support they need. We understand the concerns regarding equitable treatment and are committed to continuously reviewing and improving our processes to safeguard human rights.</p>
15	<p>Submitter proposes that Council is aligning their bylaw with the needs of caravan club members as opposed to the needs of non-self-contained freedom campers</p>	<p>Council has followed the legislative bylaw review process set out in the Freedom Camping Act 2011. Section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 requires that Council define the local authority areas in the district where freedom camping is restricted or prohibited, where -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) it is necessary for one or more of the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to protect the area:</li> <li>(ii) to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area:</li> <li>(iii) to protect access to the area; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Submitter Number	Submitter Point	Proposed Response
		<p>(b) where it is satisfied that a bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area; and</p> <p>(c) the bylaw is consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.</p> <p>Council's site assessment that evaluates local authority areas in accordance with section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act follows the Local Government New Zealand's <i>Good Practice Guide for Freedom Camping</i> (April 2018).</p> <p>It is important to note that the needs or wants of particular groups are not directly considered in the decision-making process. Instead, the focus is solely on whether restrictions or prohibitions are necessary to protect the area or address health, safety, and access concerns. This approach ensures that freedom camping provisions are increased where appropriate, in line with a balanced, evidence-based evaluation.</p> <p>As part of this process, prior to the draft bylaw being produced, Council sought feedback from a number of key stake holders including: organisations that promote freedom camping, freedom camping and tourism associations, iwi, government agencies, community committees, campgrounds and holiday parks, rental vehicle companies, and other interested parties such as The Coach House Museum, Hunting and Fishing New Zealand, and Keep Feilding Beautiful. Once produced, further feedback was sought via the process of public submission.</p>
15	Submitter proposes that Council should be including in the bylaw that enforcement authorities have right of entry to self-contained green stickered vehicles of the NZMCA	The Manawātū District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw must align with national legislation that is set out in the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (FCA). Under the FCA, enforcement officers can request to see a self-containment certificate but do not have the automatic right to enter self-contained vehicles.
15	Submitter identified that Londons Ford has been omitted from schedule 3 campsites on page 81 of the proposal	Thank you for your identification of Londons Ford been omitted from the list of Schedule 3 campsites on page 81 of the proposal. We can confirm that it this will be rectified, and it will be included in the final copy of the bylaw.
15	Submitter suggested that MDC contact HDC regarding their management of Kimberly Reserve	Manawātū District Council appreciates the merits of a permit system for managing freedom camping. However, at this time, we intend to keep freedom camping sites in our district permit-free to ensure accessibility and ease of use for campers. Our approach focuses on clear bylaw provisions and responsible camping practices rather than requiring pre-approval.

Submitter Number	Submitter Point	Proposed Response
15	Submitter proposes that Council needs to use the legislation to ensure that campgrounds are safe and appealing.	Thank you for expressing your concerns about safety and the experience of campers at Almadale and Apiti Reserves. Toilets are regularly cleaned and maintained by Council's open space and facilities maintenance contractor, and any complaints are managed on a case-by-case basis by Council's compliance officers. While proactive monitoring is not currently possible due to resource limitations, reserves are monitored whenever possible. There are clear guidelines in place for those staying at sites, and individuals may be asked to leave - or trespassed - if they engage in antisocial behaviour, breach the bylaw, or are involved in criminal activity. At this stage, there are no plans to change the current service levels. Rangiwhia is now a paid campsite and has therefore been removed from the bylaw.
15	Submitter noted that at Kimbolton Reserve there is water supply available from the toilet block and other public places in contrast to London's Ford, Bartlett's Ford and Almadale and proposed this should make this a site available to non-self-contained freedom campers.	Water availability was not a key factor in Council prohibiting non-self-contained camping at Kimbolton Reserve. The limiting factor is the availability of suitable sites for non-self-contained vehicles and tents in close proximity to the toilet block. The carpark is on the opposite side of the park.
15	<p>Submitter disagrees with the statement "minor damage to grass" by rain at Londons reserve and proposed that the site is severely pugged and prone to flooding, so much so, that the toilet block is locked and camping is not permitted in winter.</p> <p>Also, proposed that there is risk of poplar trees falling on campers.</p>	<p>The toilet block is locked over winter for cost reasons (i.e. number of users over this period does not justify the cost to keep the toilets maintained). Non-self-contained freedom camping is not provided for over winter due to the toilets being locked.</p> <p>Damage can be an issue during significant rainfall and Council recommend that during these times it is used at campers' discretion. The recommendation for this site includes signage that alerts people to the flood risk and lack of an emergency warning system.</p> <p>Regarding the poplar trees, we thank you for your feedback and wish to inform you that the trees have been assessed by a Manawātū District Council arborist. The trees are checked approximately annually by an arborist and Council is advised of any work that needs to be actioned. However, if you are on site and do have concerns, please notify Council via phone or the Antenno application.</p>
16	Submitter noted that we had referred to the proximity of a commercial campground as part of the site assessment report, e.g. Tangimoana Beach and this may be in breach	In the introduction to Ellison Reserve, Tangimoana Beach it was noted as part of the description of the reserve and its location that the reserve is in close proximity to the Tangimoana Campground. The site assessment also states that the nearby

Submitter Number	Submitter Point	Proposed Response
	of the High Court's decision to revoke QLDC's freedom camping bylaw.	<p>holiday camp has sufficient space to cater for demand. However, the existence of the commercial campground has not influenced the assessment or scoring, which is solely based on the area significance, health and safety, and access.</p> <p>The reasons given for prohibiting freedom camping at this site are the potential to adversely affect the high biodiversity value of the native vegetation at this site, and a lack of vehicle access (while also noting that the nearby Holiday Camp gives other options for campers).</p>

### Feedback from Tangimoana Community Committee

Matter Raised	Response 1	Response 2	Response 3
Freedom Camping at Ellison Reserve	Self-contained only; clearly signposted and monitored.	Fine for freedom camping but limited to 1 night.	Self-contained only; no more than two nights; no more than two vehicles.
Freedom Camping at West Square	Maintain prohibition.	No – due to proximity to town and harder to regulate.	Self-contained only; no more than two nights.
Self-Contained Camping on Tangimoana Beach Road	Maintain prohibition	No – hard to regulate, narrow road, already many cars speeding in this street would make it dangerous, possibility of waste dumping in trees	Unsure which carpark but if it is the boat ramp carpark this should be self-contained only and no more than two nights.
Freedom Camping on Road Reserves	Maintain prohibition	Yes, but only if person is known to the resident outside whose home they have parked.	No. because even if the person is known to the property owner, they are not known to the surrounding residents.
Freedom Camping at the Beach or River	Maintain prohibition	No comment.	In strong support of maintaining the prohibition.
Additional Points	Council continues to support Tangimoana Motor Camp as it's preferred location for overnight stays.		Any freedom camping changes should be done on a trial basis and any increases in rubbish in the are should result in the trial being terminated.

## Council

Meeting of 05 June 2025

Business Unit: Chief Executive's Office

Date Created: 28 May 2025

## Delegations Manual – RMA 1991 Amendments (Land Development Team)

### Purpose Te Aronga o te Pūrongo

To make amendments to Section 8.2 (Resource Management Act 1991) of the Delegations Manual, specifically with regards to delegation changes for the Land Development team.

### Recommendations Ngā Tūtohunga

That the Council approves the below delegation changes to Section 8.2 (Resource Management Act 1991) of the Delegations Manual, to officer positions within the Land Development team:

- a. Section 17: Duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects
  - ADD: Land Development Technician
- b. Section 22: Power to require certain information (Enforcement Officer)
  - ADD: Land Development Technician
- c. Section 332: Power of entry for inspection
  - ADD: Land Development Technician
  - ADD: Development Team Leader
  - ADD: Land Development Manager
- d. Section 343B and 343C: Approval of infringement notices and serving of infringement notices
  - ADD: Development Team Leader
  - ADD: Land Development Manager
  - REMOVE: Land Development Contractor

Report prepared by:

Ash Garstang

Governance and Assurance Manager

## 1 Background Ngā Kōrero o Muri

- 1.1 The Council's Delegations Manual records the authority delegated by Council to the Chief Executive and Council officers, and the delegations then made by the Chief Executive to officers to ensure the effective conduct of business. Amendments to delegations under the Resource Management Act 1991 require Council approval, in accordance with Section 34A of the Act.

## 2 Strategic Fit Te Tautika ki te Rautaki

- 2.1 This matter is administrative in nature and does not directly relate to strategic priorities. However, the decision supports Council's commitment to efficient internal processes and effective service delivery.

## 3 Discussion and Options Considered Ngā Matapakinga me ngā Kōwhiringa i Wānangahia

- 3.1 The Land Development team has undertaken a review of roles requiring specific legislative delegations under the Resource Management Act 1991. The proposed changes reflect updated team structures and responsibilities to ensure that the correct positions have the legal authority to undertake their duties.
- 3.2 These changes are consistent with best practice for maintaining clear accountability and enabling responsive regulatory processes. No alternative options are proposed, as these adjustments are role-specific and reflect operational requirements.

## 4 Risk Assessment Te Arotake Tūraru

- 4.1 There are no risks associated with the proposed amendments. Updating delegations ensures legal compliance and reduces the risk of operational delays or decisions made without appropriate authority.

## 5 Engagement Te Whakapānga

### Significance of Decision

- 5.1 The Council's Significance and Engagement Policy is not triggered by matters discussed in this report. No stakeholder engagement is required.

### Māori and Cultural Engagement



- 5.2 There are no known cultural considerations associated with the matters addressed in this report. No specific engagement with Māori or other ethnicity groups is necessary.

#### Community Engagement

- 5.3 No community engagement is required.

### **6 Operational Implications Ngā Pānga Whakahaere**

- 6.1 There are no operational implications resulting from these changes. Delegation amendments will support operational efficiency.

### **7 Financial Implications Ngā Pānga Ahumoni**

- 7.1 There are no financial implications.

### **8 Statutory Requirements Ngā Here ā-Ture**

- 8.1 In accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 (Schedule 7, Clause 32), Council may delegate functions to officers. The Council can also delegate “the power to delegate” to the Chief Executive – allowing the Chief Executive to subdelegate powers to officers, to ensure operational efficiency.
- 8.2 However, the Resource Management Act 1991 (Section 34A(1)(b)) is an exception to this rule and the Council must approve delegations to officers directly – the Chief Executive cannot subdelegate.

### **9 Next Steps Te Kokenga**

- 9.1 If approved, the Delegations Manual will be updated and warrant of authority cards will be issued to relevant officers.

### **10 Attachments Ngā Āpitihanga**

- Nil