

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE KAIKOURA DISTRICT COUNCIL TO
HEAR SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT FREEDOM CAMPING
POLICY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST 2006 AT 1.30PM IN
MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.**

AGENDA

- 1) *Apologies*
- 2) *Summary of Submissions*

Submitters wishing to be heard:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Representation</u>
◆ 1.35pm	Paul McGahan	Individual
◆ 1.45pm	Maree Willetts	Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu
◆ 1.55pm	Digby & Eve Parkin	Kaikoura Holiday Park
◆ 2.05pm	Lynda Kitchingham	Individual
◆ 2.15pm	Ted Howard	Individual & Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society
◆ 2.25pm	Marie Simpson	Individual
◆ 2..35pm	Kevin Gough	NZ Top 10 Holiday Parks
◆ 2.45pm	Gerald & Lynne Nolan	Kaikoura Top 10 Holiday Park
◆ 2.55pm	Tony Partchett & John Reader	Individuals & Waipapa Bay Camp
◆ 3.05pm	Lee & Struan Boot	Alpine Pacific Holiday Park
◆ 3.15pm	Liz & John Mahony	KK Coastal Campgrounds
◆ 3.25pm	Joanie Throssell	East Coast Community Org
◆ 3.35pm	Graham Gibson	NZ Motor Caravan Assn
◆ 3.45pm	Maurice Manawatu	Te Tai o Marokura
◆ 3.55pm	Owen Woods	KK Coastal Marine Protection Society
◆ 4.05pm	Dave Hayes	Dept of Conservation
◆ 4.15pm	Steve Higgs	Transit NZ
◆ 4.30pm	Sim Bell	Clarence Fire Party

Submitters unable to attend or not wishing to be heard

◆ Denis & Lynette Buurman	Encounter Kaikoura
◆ Catherine & Bill Edwards	Individuals

- ◆ John & Waveney Teirney
- ◆ Fergus Brown
- ◆ Bud O'Connor
- ◆ Bonnie

- ◆ Takahanga Marae

Individuals
Holiday Accom Parks
Individual
A1 Kaikoura Motels &
Holiday Park
Unable to be contacted

Copies of all submissions are available for viewing at the Council Offices, 34 Esplanade, Kaikoura.

Draft Freedom Camping Policy

Summary Report and Recommendations Following Key Stakeholder and Community Consultation

August 2006

Background

Renewed concerns of the nation wide practise of freedom camping and associated impacts within the Kaikoura District were raised at a Kaikoura District Council Tourism and Development Committee meeting in December 2005. It was identified that issues associated with freedom camping could be effectively managed through the development and implementation of a policy clarifying the suitability of freedom camping practises in the Kaikoura District.

Concerns relating to impacts associated with the practise of freedom camping relate to negative effects on the public and environmental health and cultural features throughout the District. More specifically effects are linked with:

- litter,
- human faecal waste,
- restricted public access to sites frequented by campers,
- visual pollution caused by vans/cars parking for long periods

It is important to note that many of the sites associated with impacts from freedom camping are used by various groups. The sites are frequented during the day and night for recreational uses including surfing, fishing, walking, pull over points for car and truck drivers and others.

Key sites of concern throughout the District include:

- Kowhai River beds, Mangamaunu, Esplanade, South Bay Domain and Reserve managed by Kaikoura District Council;
- Paparoa Point, Point Keane Seal Colony managed by Department of Conservation;
- State Highway 1, in particular Black Miller managed by Transit New Zealand;
- Ngai Tahu managed land, including commercial coastal campgrounds, freehold land, nohoanga sites near the Kowhai River.

A Draft Freedom Camping Policy is currently being developed to assist in mitigating effects associated with freedom camping.

Research

In view of the varied impacts associated with numbers of visitors camping on public lands throughout the District, Council staff prepared a *Summary Report* ([Appendix 1](#)). The report outlined:

- freedom camping as an aspect of tourism in New Zealand,
- a summary of freedom camping in Kaikoura,
- examples of management approaches taken by other councils,
- potential positive and negative aspects,
- recommendations to Council.

From the research of the six Districts throughout New Zealand only one council had developed a by-law (Southland), the remaining five councils (Tasman, Central Otago, Gisborne, Central Hawkes Bay and Marlborough) are working to manage freedom camping with a policy. The by-law is largely not enforced, due to the expense associated with implementation, issuing and following up on fines. Of those councils with freedom camping policies, some rely on monitoring and reporting undertaken by community members, while others fund monitoring positions during the height of the tourist season.

Policy Development

Following input from the Tourism and Development Committee and Council, a Draft Freedom Camping Policy was developed as a starting point to work towards managing the effects associated with freedom camping while not discouraging this group of tourists from visiting Kaikoura.

The Draft Policy was presented to the Council Meeting on April 20th 2006 where it was '*...moved by Councillor Seddon, seconded by Councillor Pablecheque and resolved that key stakeholders and the public be contacted for feedback on the draft Freedom Camping Policy*' ([Appendix 2](#))

Planned time frame for Policy Development and Implementation	
December 2005	Concern raised
February 2006	Research collated
March 2006	Draft Policy developed
April 2006	Council requested Draft Policy be provided to key stakeholders and public/community for comment
June 2006	Key stakeholder comment on Draft Policy
July 2006	Public/community comment on Draft Policy
August 2006	Comments assessed and Policy amended
*September 2006	<i>Ongoing consultation regarding policy and implementation strategy development</i>
*December 2006	<i>Implementation of Freedom Camping Policy</i>
<i>* Proposed time frames only</i>	

Key Stakeholder Consultation

Gathering input into the suitability of the Draft Policy from each key stakeholder was considered necessary to work towards developing a policy that incorporated each agencies needs.

Key stakeholders/landowners were asked to provide comment on the Draft Policy Version 1 ([Appendix 3](#)). These stakeholders included Ngai Tahu, Te Runanga o Kaikoura, Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation, Transit New Zealand and New Zealand Motor Homes Association.

Summary

A total of five comments were received from land owners/stakeholders. Environment Canterbury chose not to comment while Ngai Tahu and Department of Conservation provided two separate comments.

Each agency provided comments relevant to their core goals, their interpretation of the policy and details of implementation of the Draft Policy. Details relating to the implementation of the Draft Policy were not considered a priority at this stage of policy development, as agreement was being sought to define the content of the policy. However comments regarding implementation have been included.

Following receipt of stakeholder comments some amendments were made to the Draft Policy Version 1. It was considered important to gather public/community input on the Draft Policy prior to gathering further commitment from key stakeholders.

Comments from key stakeholders are summarised below and copies of original comments are available for viewing at Council Offices.

Key Stakeholder	Support	Comments
Transit New Zealand		
<i>Steve Higgs, Regional Planning Manager, 21 June 2006</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the management of freedom camping- in particular traffic safety, landowners consent, impacts associated with effluent and rubbish, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted the policy does not (and should not) discourage tired drivers from stopping, ○ Clarified that camping within 9

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the provision of educational pamphlets with maps highlighting facilities and policy aims, ○ Support concentrating campers in specific locations with appropriate signage and services (i.e. non self contained campers encouraged to stay close to facilities and self contained vehicles encouraged to specific locations), 	<p>metres of the State Highway is unacceptable, particularly for safety reasons, ensuring that requirements of Transit Act would apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted administration requirements to provide 'written permission' for stays longer than two nights would be difficult.
Te Runanga o Kaikoura		
<i>Raewyn Solomon, 24 June 2006</i>	Due to conflicting time frames referred comments to <i>Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu</i> for the Draft Stage and requested involvement prior to final policy being adopted.	
Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu		
<i>Maree Willetts, Environmental Advisor, 16 June 2006</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the management of freedom camping and links with Te Runanga o Kaikoura Environmental Management Plan 3.4.4, ○ Support concentrating campers in specific locations with appropriate signage and services, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted concern regarding recommended site near molok bins, due to lack of toilet facilities and possibility of increased faecal contamination, ○ Noted education, monitoring and enforcement will be critical to success of policy and request further information regarding implementation.
<i>Second submission, received 28 July 2006 Maree Willetts, Environmental Advisor</i>	As above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted the policy contained a permissive approach to freedom camping, ○ Noted conflict in policy recommendations with commercial campgrounds, ○ Disputed the suitability of South Bay as a recommended camping site, unsure of suitability of Mangamaunu, ○ Offered amendments regarding clarity of policy.
New Zealand Motor Home Association		
<i>Nguyen T Ly, Resource Management Co-ordinator, 25 May 2006</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support the protection of the environment through management of freedom camping ○ Support provision for managing (rather than banning) independent over night camping in the District, ○ Support the provisions of public facilities (toilets and dump stations), ○ Support the maximum of two night stays, ○ Supported implementation proposed and requested involvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted options to recommend additional sites and restrict numbers of vehicles, ○ Noted correct terminology regarding self containment certification of vehicles, ○ Noted applicability of the policy from Central Otago relating to independent overnight camping
Department of Conservation		
<i>Dave Hayes, Area Manager, Marlborough,</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support for advocacy role the Department could play, ○ Suggested clarification of land ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted Department of Conservation are currently considering a national view and legal opinions on how

<p><i>Jim Herdman, Programme Manager, South Marlborough Office 13 June 2006</i></p>		<p>self contained campervans can be accommodated on Department of Conservation lands,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted potential impacts on marine mammals and coastal environment as a guide to the designation of appropriate freedom camping sites, ○ Noted lands managed locally by the Department of Conservation are currently not associated with negative impacts freedom camping, ○ Noted concerns regarding administration requirements to provide 'written permission' for stays longer than two nights as Department of Conservation have national and conservancy based guidelines for overnight stays.
<p><i>Second submission, received 1 August 2006 Katherine Hughes, Acting Planning Administrator for the Conservator, Nelson</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support for the management of freedom camping, ○ Support for the designated locations (outlined in requirement 5) and suggested removal of points 3 (stay of longer than two nights requires written permission) and 4 (parking within 9 metres of State Highway 1 is not permitted), ○ Support for implementation through education and signage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted the Policy should not apply to Department of Conservation lands in Kaikoura District, as department have relevant and specific management guidelines with provisions in place to undertake management as necessary, ○ Recommended the development of a bylaw to allow for enforcement, ○ Requested the removal of the reference to Department of Conservation's 'in principal support of the document'.

Public/Community Consultation

As directed from the Council meeting April 2006, the amended Draft Policy ([Appendix 4](#)) was made available for public/community comment for a four week period from Wednesday 5th July 2006 (advertised in the Kaikoura Star and on the Kaikoura District Council website). A copy of the policy was also posted to groups and individuals who had expressed interest in the occurrence of freedom camping, including Chris Ligard, Mangamaunu Toilet Working Group, Jane Milton, Paul McGahan, the Local Net- newsletter for the Goose Bay-Oaro Communities, caravan parks camping grounds throughout the District and the South Bay Rate Payers Association.

Summary

A total of 23 written comments were received from the community.

Of the 23 comments, 17 supported the development of a freedom camping policy to manage the associated impacts. Of the 23 comments received, six were supportive of the Draft Policy while 17 specified parts of the policy considered to be weaknesses.

Implementation actions were not included in the Draft Policy, as it was planned to clarify implementation once a final policy was developed, however comments relating to implementation have been included in this summary report.

Comments from the community are summarised below and copies of original comments are available for viewing at Council Offices.

Major points gathered from community comments regarding strengths of the draft policy		
<i>The Draft Policy is considered;</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate to promote use and locations of public facilities 	B.O'Connor, J&W Teirney	New Zealand Motor Caravan Association , private
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate to charge for the use of public facilities 	B.O'Connor	New Zealand Motor Caravan Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate to discourage destination camping 	J. Throssell	ECCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supportive of individuals who prefer to 'camp' responsibly outside a suburban camp ground 	J & W Tierney, T Howard, B. Dunnett, P.McGahan	Private, private, Forest and Bird, Private
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allocated an appropriate review period 	G. Gibson, P.McGahan, O.Woods	New Zealand Motor Caravan Association, private, Marine and Coastal Protection Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reasonable to allow maximum of 2 night stays in specified locations 	T. Howard, J. Throssell	Private, ECCO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well researched 	B.O'Connor, S. Farrelly, G.Gibson J&W Tierney	Private, New Zealand Motor Caravan Association, Private
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouragement for vehicles to attain self containment certification 	S. Farrelly	New Zealand Motor Caravan Association
Major points gathered from community comments regarding weaknesses of the draft policy		
<i>The Draft Policy is considered;</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inappropriate to encourage use South Bay 	D, Parker, M Simpson, J. Reader & T Patchett, L&J Mahoney, L&S Boot, G & L Nolan, O. Woods, P.McGahan	Peketa Campground, Private, Waipapa Bay Camp, Kaikoura Coastal Campgrounds, Alpine-Pacific Holiday Park, Kaikoura Top 10 Holiday Park, Marine and Coastal Protection Society, private
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negligent to the safety of campers (i.e. proximity to traffic, natural disasters, fire, fisheries offences, thieves etc) 	K. Gough, D Parker, J. Reader & T Patchett, F. Brown	Top10 Holiday Parks, Peketa Campground, Waipapa Bay Camp, Holiday Accommodation Parks of New Zealand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • likely to cause visual pollution through need to place signs throughout District 	D & L Burman	Encounter Kaikoura
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encouraging to 'free loaders' 	S.Bell	Clarence Fire Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unrealistic in terms of implementation and administration costs 	C&B Edwards, O.Woods, F Brown	Private, Marine and Coastal Protection Society, Holiday Accommodation Parks of New Zealand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting out an expense to rate payers for maintenance of public facilities 	F Brown	Holiday Accommodation Parks of New Zealand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preventing visitors from choosing how and where to enjoy 	L. Kitchingham, T. Howard	Private, private

their stay in the District		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lacking clarity regarding tents and non self contained vehicles 	J.Reader, B. Dunnett, O. Woods, P. McGahan	Waipapa Bay Campground, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Marine and Coastal Protection Society, private
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lacking in legal substance (i.e. requires By-law to enforce) 	C&B Edwards, O.Woods, L Kitchingham, P. McGahan	Private, Marine and Coastal Protection Society, private, private
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in direct financial competition to commercial campgrounds 	D Parker, J. Reader & T Patchett, L&J Mahony, G & L Nolan, F. Brown	Peketa Campground, Waipapa Bay Campground, Kaikoura Coastal Campgrounds, Kaikoura Top 10 Holiday Park, Holiday Accommodation Parks of New Zealand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> supportive of campgrounds commercial interests 	T. Howard	Private

Recommendations regarding the ongoing development of the Policy included the following major points:

- Clarify areas that are not appropriate rather than sites that are appropriate
- Exclude camping within 5-10km radius of town centre
- Dismiss the term *Freedom Camping* and replace with Off-road Camping, independent overnight stays
- Exclude camping from Oaro through to Mangamaunu
- Allow self contained vehicles to stay over night outside a determined radius
- Encourage overnight campers to make use of appropriate Department of Conservation facilities (ie Puhi Puhi Reserve)
- Manage the visual pollution from vehicles parked throughout the District.
- Administer a ‘user pays’ permit system
- Establish public toilet facilities along key areas of the coast

Recommendations for developing an Implementation Strategy included the following major points:

- Appoint a fixed term ranger to implement/enforce the policy
- Enforcement is necessary to alter behaviour
- Alter wording to a pro-active context (may monitor changed to will monitor etc)
- Place no camping signs in appropriate locations
- Alter the existing Traffic Control By-law to include sites that are known to have suffered negative impacts
- Use public Health Act to enforce
- Introduce a Waste Minimisation By-law
- Work with national tourism and car hire organisations to develop an environmental care code for freedom campers

Summary and recommendations

As directed by Council, the Draft Freedom Camping Policy was developed as a starting point to gather commitment and guidance from the key stakeholders and the community in relation to managing impacts associated with freedom camping.

Ongoing Policy Development

From comments received it is clear that managing impacts associated with freedom camping is a priority to the Kaikoura community. Therefore, it is recommended that the current Draft Policy be further developed to reflect the input received and extended to include details relating to implementation.

It is recommended that the following points be considered within the ongoing development of a policy to manage impacts associated with freedom camping throughout the District;

1. Specify sites that are not appropriate for over night stays.
Sites that are suggested as not appropriate for overnight stays include;
 - South Bay Reserve the beginning of Kaikoura walkway (Kaikoura District Council)
 - South Bay Domain (Kaikoura District Council)
 - Esplanade (Kaikoura District Council)
 - Seal Colony (Department of Conservation)
 - Any site within 9 metres of State Highway 1 (Transit New Zealand)

- Public land/reserves within 5 kilometres of the town centre (varied landowners)
 - Locations within 500 metres of a registered camping ground (varied landowners)
2. Locations not specified above are appropriate for certified self-contained motor vehicles to park over night
 3. Overnight parking will only be allowed for a maximum of two nights (excluding most lands managed by Department of Conservation)
 4. Public facilities are promoted (dump stations, toilets, and the Resource Recovery Centre).
 5. Include the core principles as developed by the Tourism and Development Committee.

Implementation Strategy

It is recommended that the following points be considered as part of the Implementation Strategy for a Final Policy;

1. Education material
 - Educational leaflets and web material should be developed to provide the following information:
 - Rationale for the policy (aim and core principles),
 - Minimal impact camping practises (i.e. locating public facilities, burying toilet waste in remote locations, removing litter, cultural sensitivity, fishing regulations etc),
 - Map;
 - detailing locations of public facilities (toilets, dump station, Resource Recovery Centre),
 - highlighting the 5km zone not suitable for over night parking.
2. Monitoring/education
 - Discuss opportunities for involvement of key stakeholders in education/ monitoring efforts,
 - Investigate opportunity to engaging volunteer fisheries officers as educational/monitoring officers.
3. Signage
 - Design signs to be placed at key locations clarifying the site as not suitable for overnight stays,
 - Include symbols and map.

APPENDIX 1

FREEDOM CAMPING in the KAIKOURA DISTRICT, February 2006

This report provides detail and direction for Council to formulate an official position relating to freedom camping by:

- examining freedom camping as an aspect of tourism in New Zealand,
- highlighting the main aspects of freedom camping specifically in Kaikoura,
- summarising some approaches taken by other councils,
- considering both the potential positive and negative aspects and
- including recommendations to council.

Freedom camping and NZ tourism

Unlike other accommodation users, the numbers of freedom campers are difficult to measure. But the general picture in New Zealand is that freedom camping is popular with both domestic and international travellers. As with other forms of tourism activity, freedom camping takes place throughout the year and experiences the same peaks and troughs.

A range of age groups and professional backgrounds are represented by freedom campers including retired people and those referred to as “empty nesters”. These latter categories are part of the classification known as F.I.T – Free Independent Travellers – F.I.T is one of the markets identified as a strong growth market in New Zealand.

Freedom Camping in Kaikoura

Within the Kaikoura District there are sites where freedom camping takes place frequently. A wide range of owners and managers take legal and voluntary responsibility for many of these sites – private owners, K.D.C, Transit New Zealand, Ngai Tahu, D.O.C and E-Can, and groups such as the Marine & Coastal Protection Society and the Kaikoura Coastal Guardians (Kaitiaki).

In addition, strategies such as the Coastal Management Strategy and District Plan exist to ensure careful management of the natural and social environment that is unique to Kaikoura. Furthermore, as a Green Globe community striving towards Zero Waste, environmental protection should always be at the very core of Council and community actions and policies.

There are designated areas within the district where camping is prohibited and this is governed by a bylaw.¹ It is for Council to decide if or how such regulations should be enforced.

¹ KAIKOURA DISTRICT (TRAFFIC CONTROL) BYLAW 1995.

2.1 Reserves

2.1.1 No person shall on any reserve:

(b) Camp in an area not set aside for that purpose. In this context camping shall include the use of any vehicle whether or not it is specially fitted out for sleeping;

Action has been taken by Council in South Bay where improvements to the toilets have been made and a dump station is also planned. Clearly the South Bay improvements have been carried out for the benefits of all users, whether local people or visitors to the district.

Concern over waste issues at Mangamaunu have been expressed at a recent Environmental Committee meeting. These concerns have been addressed by Council through the formation of a working group. This group has representatives from Council Mangamaunu Marae, E-Can and other stakeholders. The outcomes of this workshop will be extremely relevant to other areas of the coastline. The possibility of constructing additional public toilets to the north of the town is also being investigated.

It is important to remember that many of the areas popular with freedom campers are also used by surfers, fishermen, walkers, car & truck drivers and so on. This is a particularly important point to be aware of when discussing the freedom camping issue.

Interested parties

Camp site owners - Gerald Nolan and his colleagues met with Mayor Heays, Nicole Sherriff and Ann Paterson (12th January 2006) Main issues raised by this group

- Provision of toilets and bins by Council at various sites did not help to improve the condition of the environment.
- Freedom campers use and abuse free facilities resulting in litter, waste and general spoiling of the environment.
- Considerable investment has been, and continues to be made by the campsite operators to upgrade and maintain facilities and to meet council regulations.
- Freedom campers are free-loaders making no financial contribution to the upkeep of this environment and making very little contribution to the local economy.
- Suggested solution is to have a complete ban on freedom camping in Kaikoura District.

(Summary of this meeting in Appendix 1)

East Coast Community Organisation (E.C.C.O) – representatives of ECCO. met with Mayor Heays, Nicole Sherriff and Ann Paterson. Main issues raised by ECCO concerned the Black Millar site which was dominated by one large group of freedom campers for 3 weeks

- Significant noise pollution and visual impact issue
- Waste and litter issues
- Obstructed access to beach – for both residents and visitors
- Occasional abusive and insulting behaviour by some freedom campers towards residents.
- Over-fishing concerns

2.1.4 It shall not be a defence to any charge that an offence has been committed against this part of the Bylaw (other than where compliance with a sign, notice or road marking is an ingredient of the offence) if no sign, notice or road marking was in place at the time such offence was alleged to have been committed

- ECCO have no objection to overnight campers but believe the group at Black Millar (transit land) abused the privilege of being able to freedom camp in the District
(Summary of ECCO concerns in Appendix 2 & 3)

Kevin Genet (South Bay resident) – letter to Kaikoura Star

- Support for freedom camping with appropriate facilities
(Refer to Appendix 4)

Paul McGahan – Secretary of KM&CPS

Summary of a report sent to Mayor Heays 18th January 2006 (report appears in full in Appendix 5)

- Calls for an immediate management response regarding freedom campers with no self-contained human waste disposal facilities – achievable through use of “patrols” and enforcement of signage
- Employ a “ranger” for an educational and rule enforcement role
- Development of a low cost information strategy
- Introduce a bylaw relating to freedom camping as soon as possible
- Medium term measures – camping policy and strategy

Researched Outcomes

- Measures taken by other Councils:

Gisborne District Council - G.D.C allow freedom camping in designated freedom camping areas between Labour weekend and Easter. Campers must have permits to use these areas and permits are available from G.D.C office and from several shops and the i-site. This season, a charge of \$25 was introduced which covers the cost of 8 rubbish bags which are given out with each permit. Inspectors check the camps every day. There are various rules governing “approved structures” - importantly, each van/tent/caravan must have its own chemical toilet. (www.gdc.govt.nz)

Central Hawke’s Bay Council – freedom camping is permitted in designated areas. There are fewer rules than Gisborne. Campers are required to notify the Council’s Bylaw Officer where they are intending to camp and for how long - payment is not required. (www.chbdc.govt.nz)

Marlborough District Council – no camping is permitted in any M.D.C reserve area unless permission has been granted by Council. Permission usually only granted in relation to specific groups for an organized event. Currently an agenda item is being worked on which will introduce a new policy on camping allowing camping for limited stays (2days) in areas designated for self-contained campervans and caravans. (www.marlborough.govt.nz)

Tasman District Council – T.D.C owns several camping grounds (run under lease by private operators) and there are a number of reserves on which camping is allowed. These reserves have an honesty box or a caretaker who collects fees. T.D.C has a

policy for allowing camping by self-contained motorhomes only. In addition, there are areas where camping is expressly prohibited. (www.tdc.govt.nz)

- Transit

A site inspection by Transit of the long term camp at Black Miller in January 2006 - revealed there were no health, safety or environmental concerns. The campers had toilet facilities, recycling containers and were conscientious of the welfare of the site they returned to each year.

Discussions with Transit New Zealand have revealed that there is no bylaw/policy regarding camping on road reserves managed by Transit. As a safety precaution Transit do actively encourage drivers to pull over and rest on road verges.

- Food and Health

The environmental health officer inspected the Black Miller camp site and acknowledged there were no concerns with this site. The Health inspector also stated that faecal contamination of the coastal area where campers were frequenting was a potential concern dependant on the amount of contamination taking place.

- Survey results

For a 10 day period in mid January 2006 surveys were conducted at both Mangamanu and South Bay in order to gather an accurate figure of freedom campers using each area.

South Bay	Kiwa Road	
12	19	People per night
8%	9%	cars
57%	18%	motor homes
34%	33%	vans
0	40%	tents

Summary

- One of the crucial aspects highlighted by this report is the fact that freedom camping is a passionate topic – not unique to Kaikoura - many issues and many stakeholders are involved nationally and locally.
- Council must be careful to consider the varied issues and stakeholders not in isolation, as a successful outcome will only be achieved by considering the whole picture and not just one aspect of it.
- Clearly there are many potential positive and negative, real and perceived aspects associated with freedom camping.

Potential positive aspects include:

- Allowing visitors to experience New Zealand in a truly independent way – “getting away from it all”
- Enabling visitors to stay in an area even when all camping grounds are fully booked – e.g. at Christmas time

- By saving money on accommodation costs, campers contribute significantly to the local economy through participating in the activities and attractions of a particular area and by using local shops, restaurants and bars.

Potential negative aspects include:

- Environmental impacts involving a range of issues such as litter, sewage and damage to the natural environment
- Reduced opportunities for local businesses to receive economic gain from overnight visitors
- Fire safety, road safety and access issues

Recommendations

Given the fact that Kaikoura District Council has recorded concerns regarding freedom camping since 2004, Council needs to resolve the debate relating to freedom camping in the District.

Possible directions for Council

Recommended action	Role of Council	Consequence
Specific sites and limited stay allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate appropriate sites to allow freedom camping • Determine an appropriate length of stay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits for all stakeholders (including freedom campers), • Achievable management of environmental issues.
<i>Overlap between limited stay & total ban</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agreement of management of freedom camping on lands owned by Transit, DOC, Ngahi Tahu and KDC needs to be reached in combination with agreement as to how such management will take place.</i> • <i>Enforcement, signage, awareness need to be developed.</i> 	
Total ban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement needs would be greater. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income of holiday parks, • Potential decrease in income for other local businesses, • Is the active enforcement achievable? • Reduction in environmental impacts.
Take no action		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignoring stakeholders concerns • Increasing impacts associated with this increasing sector of visitors.

REFERENCES

Kaikoura District Plan, 2005

Coastal Management Strategy, 1998
Tourism Industry Association of New Zealand
Ministry of the Environment
Numerous councils throughout New Zealand (refer to websites included)

APPENDIX 2

Chronological Listing of Council and Tourism and Development Committee Minutes Relating to Freedom Camping

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE December 2005

Freedom Camping

Councillor Thomas tabled information gathered from Central Otago District Council and the internet regarding freedom camping within New Zealand and suggested prior to creating a policy a proactive approach be taken by handing out documents with information pointing out locations of camping grounds, dump sites, and sites where campervans were allowed to park.

D Cleall noted there were at least 2-3 campervans parked nightly at the South Bay turnoff and suggested the old Go Kart track be used for such parking, further suggesting a portaloos could be installed over the busy period.

P McGahan advised Council needed to formulate a policy and enforce it. The real issue was toileting and suggested a simple flyer be used to educate users such as the one tabled from Central Otago District Council.

D Smith advised he believed campervans would freedom camp regardless of policy or bylaws and as such facilities needed to be provided.

Councillor Macphail disagreed, noting Kaikoura was known as open slather with regard to freedom camping.

L Buurman advised while she didn't particularly support an enforcement approach, campervans should be educated and given the option to stay in the district in a more managed way, further noting it was a national problem and not just a local issue.

P McGahan suggested a paper be prepared and taken to Council and suggested the committee write a factual report on the issues and solutions for discussion, further noting he was happy to work with Councils Environmental Development Officer and Tourism Officer regarding this matter. Councillor Thomas advised he would also work with the group and would let the committee know when a workshop would be held to formulate a positive educational flyer for the coming summer season. A further meeting would be had to progress the matter to be taken to Council for consideration.

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 8th Feb 2006

Freedom Camping

Included in the agenda was an extensive report on freedom camping jointly compiled by the Tourism Officer and Environmental Development Officer. Tasman District Council Freedom Camping Policy was tabled at the meeting.

The Tourism Officer advised the report was the result of various parties approaching Council with concerns relating to freedom camping.

Councillor Thomas advised he believed freedom camping was a national issue and required action from Council.

The Environmental Development Officer advised a meeting was scheduled for next week with many stakeholders expected to attend such as Tourism Industry Association of New Zealand (TIANZ) and New Zealand Motor Home Association (NZMHA). She advised TIANZ had advised although freedom camping was a national problem it needed to be dealt within each District as desired outcomes varied between districts.

Councillor Thomas asked the committee if they wished to make a recommendation to Council for a policy to be developed.

Mayor Heays suggested a strategy for camping in the district be formed rather than a policy with an information sheet and guidelines available for distribution to campers and campervan hire companies.

W Stone advised the matter needed to be addressed and must be well-founded. He suggested the committee form a set of founding principles to assist Council as the pressure on the coastline would only increase rather than decrease and a by-law would be the technical term to give effect to it. He believed Council needed to come up with a conclusion and position on freedom camping, then work through the technical components.

Councillor Thomas reminded the committee that Council did have a bylaw for camping in its reserves however in order for it to be enforced appropriate signage needed to be erected. Councillor Thomas noted the reason freedom campers were wanted in the district in terms of tourism should not be forgotten.

W Stone commended camp ground owners in the district on the high quality of their camps.

Mayor Heays advised Council had been approached by many angry people within the community regarding freedom camping and suggested some form of guidelines be produced, discussed and passed to Council for ratification and advised the need for a by-law may well be identified within that process.

The Environmental Development Officer advised it may be difficult to put together information if freedom campers were allowed to camp in some places and not others and suggested the committee be specific as to sites where campers may be allowed.

P McGahan entered the meeting at 3.16pm.

W Stone advised in terms of making decisions, the committee's contribution needed to be based on values and principals and suggested three key values be identified to assist Council.

P McGahan expressed concern as he believed freedom camping had been a problem for several years and to date had been largely ignored. At best, signage had been erected however it had not been enforced. He advised enforcement should not be seen as being entirely negative and was sometimes necessary to uphold signage.

P McGahan congratulated the Environmental Development Officer and Tourism Officer on their report. He believed a short term solution needed to be put in place immediately and suggested this be achieved by way of a ranger over the next two months to help ensure the coastline was restored to the clean green image it urgently needed to be. There was also a need to sit down with a number of groups such as Transit, Department of Conservation, Ngai Tahu in order to provide

consensus to move forward with this matter and noted Transit were presently working on a national policy and looking to rationalize the areas of land in their ownership.

P McGahan commended Gisborne Council on their initiative of requiring a permit for freedom camping at a cost of \$25.00. He believed the ratepayers in the Kaikoura district were picking up the tab and such a system in this district would help offset the cost of litter collection and employing a ranger.

P McGahan recommended the Committee recommend to Council to consider employing a ranger until easter to undertake the role of upholding the existing Traffic Control By-Law and to educate freedom campers, and suggested that person could work 4 hours per day and also collect litter in the areas being patrolled.

Councillor Thomas advised while the Committee may wish to recommend it's principles to Council it was the role of the Chief Executive Office, not the role of the committee, to employ and manage staff resources.

L Buurman advised tools were required to educate and until educational resources were put together it would be pointless having a ranger approaching campers. The committee should be looking at communicating the message right away and suggested in the meantime an educational flyer be printed for immediate distribution.

The Committee acknowledged that the Council needed to adopt a clear policy position regarding the issue of freedom camping within the Kaikoura district.

Moved by W Stone, seconded by P McGahan and resolved that this committee recommends that the following core principles should be used as a guide in formalising future policies regarding freedom camping.

- ***That the protection of the natural environment is of paramount importance***
- ***That the health and safety of all users are protected***
- ***To promote awareness regarding the cultural importance of the coastline including its use for mahinga kai (food gathering).***
- ***That the opportunity for all users to interact with and enjoy the natural environment should be maximised***

The committee further asks the Council to consider extending the role of the West End caretaker to assist in reducing coastal pollution at camping and amenity areas along the Kaikoura coastline. A main focus of the role should include informing and educating coastal users regarding appropriate use of the coastline.

Council meeting 15th February 2006

RECOMMENDATION FROM TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE'

Included in the agenda was a recommendation from the Tourism & Development Committee recommending that the following core principles be used as a guide in formalizing future policies regarding freedom camping:

- That the protection of the natural environment is paramount
- That the health and safety of all users is protected

- To promote awareness regarding the cultural importance of the coastline including its use for mahinga kai (food gathering)
- That the opportunity for all users to interact with and enjoy the natural environment should be maximized.

The Committee further asked Council to consider extending the role of the West End caretaker to assist in reducing coastal pollution at camping and amenity areas along the Kaikoura coastline with a main focus of the role to include informing and educating coastal users regarding appropriate use of the coastline.

Also included in the agenda was a report provided to the Tourism & Development Committee at its meeting of 8 February, jointly prepared by Council's Environmental Development Officer and Tourism Officer.

Councillor Thomas advised the Tourism & Development Committee believed Council needed to address the issue of freedom camping and noted it was a national issue not just a regional issue. He advised there was a lot of reading in the report provided and believed Council needed to get a firm policy underway as to where it stood with regard to freedom camping in the district.

Councillor Macphail advised there was currently huge concern at the amount of litter left lying around the district and toileting on the beaches and there were often cars, tents and campervans parked overnight at the Lookout Point and at South Bay. He believed strong policy needed to go forward on what Council wished to happen in the district as the public were getting sick of the lack of action. He advised the recommendation from the Tourism & Development Committee set out a basic underlying theme and believed Council should develop a policy from that recommendation.

Councillor Seddon advised he believed Council must address this matter by next year as everyone that lived in Kaikoura loved the place and did not want to see it ruined. Councillor Seddon suggested instead of having a paid person, a person from each area could be a warden for their area once they had some powers to carry out the core principles set out by the Tourism & Development Committee. He believed it would be the best way to deal with it if they had the support of the Council.

Councillor Diver asked if there was a map of Kaikoura showing Council's jurisdiction and suggested this be looked at before Council went leaping into a policy. He further asked what jurisdiction Council had over land belonging to Department of Conservation, Ngai Tahu and Transit New Zealand.

The Chief Executive Officer advised while Department of Conservation, Transit New Zealand and Ngai Tahu each had land in the district there was still quite a lot of land that was no mans land. He advised he did not see the land ownership as the issue but rather where Council wanted to go as a district and what could be done to prevent it being spoilt and maintained as a pristine environment.

Councillor Woods advised she believed Council needed to progress with some form of enforcement by way of policy and legislation that backed up a volunteer and noted it would be a sad thing if people were not allowed to freedom camp and it may well have to be restricted to near by dump sites and public facilities.

Mayor Heays advised it was interesting to note of all the groups he had been approached by and spoken with, there had only been one group that felt freedom camping should be banned. While the majority did not object to one or two nights freedom camping, the issue was location.

Councillor Thomas felt the majority of campers wanted to do the right thing and needed educating on what the right thing was. He advised an educational approach along with a bylaw to allow authority to move campers on was required and believed a warden system would work.

The Chief Executive Officer advised he was unsure of what the main concerns were and asked was it actual campers, or people spoiling the environment, further adding freedom camping appeared to be an issue for about 3 weeks of the year. He advised of a Kaikoura guardians group that was currently trying to develop policies with a large number of stakeholder groups including representatives from Department of Conservation, Runanga, Recreation/Commercial Fishermen, Coastal Marine & Protection Society and Coastguard to put in place principals similar to those outlined in the recommendation from the Tourism & Development Committee and suggested Council may well like to write to that group on the matter.

The Chief Executive Officer also advised the local Iwi Management Plan was due to be launched at the end of February and there may well be some issues in that in terms of freedom camping. He advised in terms of statutory planning Council would be required to take those issues on board.

Councillors Macphail and Thomas advised freedom camping was not a perceived issue, but a real problem that occurred all year round.

Councillor Seddon advised a strong policy and strategy would be required to stop the type of freedom camping that had recently occurred at Black Miller, where a large group had monopolized a particular part of the coastline for three weeks.

Mayor Heays advised there appeared to be a consensus that direction needed to be made with a choice of one or two roads and suggested the Environmental Development Officer and Tourism Officer be charged with suggesting the direction Council should take.

Moved by Councillor Seddon, seconded by Councillor Woods and resolved that Council develop a policy on freedom camping for the district and that the following core principles be used as a guide in its formalization:

- **That the protection of the natural environment is of paramount importance**
- **That the health and safety of all users are protected**
- **To promote awareness regarding the cultural importance of the coastline including its use for mahinga kai (food gathering).**
- **That the opportunity for all users to interact with and enjoy the natural environment should be maximised**

Referring to the second part of the Tourism & Development Committee recommendation where the committee asked Council to consider extending the role of the West End caretaker to assist in reducing coastal pollution at camping and amenity areas, Councillor Diver noted it was not the role of Councillors to direct staff, but that of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer advised if specific resources were required to implement a policy then Council would be the first to hear of the resources required and noted staff liaised with Innovative Waste Kaikoura to pick up material from time to time.

Councillor Woods asked if the guardian group would be able to take this issue on.

The Chief Executive Officer advised once Council had arrived at a strategy for protecting the environment it would be passed to the guardian group and would also form part of the outcomes of Council's Long Term Council Community Plan.

Councillor Seddon supported recent comments in the Kaikoura Star where it was noted South Bay reserve could be used as a camping facility for overflow.

Moved by Councillor Seddon, seconded by Councillor Pablecheque and resolved that P McGahan have speaking rights.

P McGahan noted Council had a by-law that clearly made provision for the upholding of Council signage and asked why it had never been upheld.

Mayor Heays advised it was up to Council as to whether it wished to enforce the by-law and noted the by-law related only to Council owned areas and roads.

P McGahan stated he was passionate about the district's environment and very concerned that no action had happened toward protecting it when Council had adopted a Green Globe environment policy.

P McGahan expressed concern that he had identified serious rubbish and toileting issues throughout the district previously and Council had not taken ownership of it nor dealt with it. He believed good outcomes would not be achieved by volunteers and deferring the matter to another group was inappropriate.

P McGahan advised he did not believe it was a complex problem to deal with and that it was critical Council worked with Transit over the matter as they had a large role to play also.

The Chief Executive Officer advised Councillors to contact the Environmental Development Officer or Tourism Officer, whom were charged with developing a policy on freedom camping, with any points or issues they wished to see addressed.

Councillor Woods requested a map of the district with problem spots marked in order of priority.

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 12 April 2006

Freedom Camping

Councillor Thomas tabled the draft minutes from the last Council meeting where freedom camping was discussed. The Mayor advised a draft freedom camping policy would be included in the April Council agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.38pm.

COUNCIL 20 April 2006

Draft Freedom Camping Policy

Included in the agenda was a draft Freedom Camping Policy put together jointly by the Environmental Development Officer and Tourism & Economic Development Officer.

Councillor Diver asked if a map was included in the Policy. The Environmental Development Officer advised in the first instance she was seeking Council approval for the policy. The next step would be to identify potential sites and consultation with key stakeholders such as Department of Conservation, Transit and Ngai Tahu as part of the implementation process. She further advised she was seeking feedback from Council on the six points listed in the draft policy, being:

- A maximum stay of two nights be permitted
- Use of the local commercial campgrounds be encouraged
- Use of public facilities (dump stations and toilets) be encouraged
- Certificate of self containment campervans (those with toilet facilities) are not discouraged from overnighting in the district – unless an area is designated as “no camping” (i.e. Esplanade through to the Seal Colony).
- Vehicles without toilet facilities shall be encouraged to stay at locations with facilities (i.e. South Bay Domain and potentially Mangamaunu providing toilet facilities are adequate).
- A partnership between Council and other stakeholders and affected parties work on promoting an education campaign that highlights the use of suitable locations, Kaikoura’s environmental policies and philosophies and the four core principles mentioned above.

Mayor Heays advised much of the need for a policy had come about from the camp at Black Miller which was considered as “destination camping” and asked where destination camping fitted into the policy.

The Environmental Development Officer advised destination camping fitted into point 1 where a maximum of two nights be permitted, however Transit would also need to come on board.

The Mayor asked where Council would be left if Transit did not come on board. The Environmental Development Officer advised Council would potentially ask Transit if it could enforce the policy on their land.

The Chief Executive Officer advised Council could put the policy out to the public in its draft form for feedback however he believed it was going to be a policy that could polarize views on what Council should or shouldn’t do. He advised Council staff had been requested to provide a policy and this was a draft which Council could either adopt, reject, amend, agree in principal and work on other points and talk to stake holders. He advised the Environmental Development Officer could consult with key stakeholders, come back to Council with any changes it may want as a result of that feedback, make the changes and at that stage go out to the public for input. At the end of the day it was up to Council as to how far it wished to take the input from the public and noted whatever was put in place needed to be easy to administer, easy to understand and for the public to be able to see the benefits.

Councillor Macphail advised he felt a policy was certainly required and while he felt the matter had not been fully investigated, it was a good start. He felt vehicles without toilets should be encouraged to stay in camp grounds and not the South Bay reserve as the reserve was for picnicking rather than camping.

Councillor Seddon advised he felt there should be some haste in developing the policy and the easiest way was to go to key stakeholders and the public at the same time and adopt a policy after that process.

Moved by Councillor Seddon, seconded by Councillor Pablecheque and resolved that key stakeholders and the public be contacted for feedback on the draft Freedom Camping Policy.

Councillor McChesney advised she agreed with and supported the motion as Council needed to know what the public wanted in terms of freedom camping on the coastline.

Councillor Diver asked if mobile campervan hire companies would be asked for their input. The Environmental Development Officer advised at this stage she was looking for input from land owner stakeholders and the community further noting she believed it was up to the district to set the boundaries for campervan hire companies.

The Chief Executive Officer advised visitors to Kaikoura were stakeholders and would be perfectly entitled to make submissions on the draft policy. Campervan hire companies were potentially major players in reducing the amount of environmental defecation. They could be sent a policy, make a submission if they wished, and if they did not then at least they had had the opportunity. He believed the Motor Caravan Association would also be interested in putting comments forward.

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 10th May 2006

Draft Freedom Camping Policy

Included in the agenda was the Draft Freedom Camping Policy. Council had resolved at its meeting of 20 April 2006 to consult with key stakeholders and the public for feedback on the policy.

Councillor Thomas asked the committee if it wished to submit any comments to Council.

W Stone asked if there would be approved and non-approved areas and asked how would people know if an area was approved or not. The Mayor advised once areas were known signage would be erected.

Councillor Thomas advised the committee he had recently spoken with Tasman District Council regarding their zero freedom camping policy and had asked how it was policed to which Tasman District Council had advised it was not policed.

W Stone advised he saw enforcing of the policy as secondary. The first priority was for the policy to have clarity.

The Tourism Officer advised the draft policy before the committee was a starting point and had initially been drafted to determine if Council supported it or not and had been developed to provide a platform to move on with.

W Stone expressed concern that the policy did not provide more clarity and felt a lot of confusion and Council time would be taken up because of the lack of clarity within the draft policy.

Councillor Thomas advised he felt the draft policy would not affect a lot of what was presently happening in terms of overnight freedom camping but believed it would stop the likes of the large group camping at Black Miller.

W Stone advised it was up to individual communities and districts to identify what they wanted for their district in terms of freedom camping.

D Smith felt it was a nightmare policy to put out for feedback and felt it would be a waste of time unless the policing of it was clearly laid out. Policing of it would be a big task and unless there was an allocation for policing of it then he believed it would be a waste of time.

W Stone advised he felt enforcement should be a big part and noted the clearer the policy the easier the enforcement of it would be.

The Tourism Officer advised enforcement of the policy should not be focused on until the policy had been crystallized. She believed the concrete elements of the policy had to come first.

W Stone advised it came down to position, and a clear position was did the district have adequate infrastructure for the policy?

The Chief Executive Officer entered the meeting and advised the policy was included in the agenda for feedback from the committee. Any type of feedback was positive and allowed the community to have some views on where freedom camping should or shouldn't take place. It would also help with the development and implementation of the policy down the line.

W Stone advised vehicles with self containment would be able to do certain things that other couldn't and asked if vehicles without self contained facilities should be allowed to stay in areas that did not have facilities?

Councillor Macphail advised there were definitely areas that were more acceptable than others and believed there should not be any camping permitted within the town boundaries, from Kahutara through to Hapuku.

The Tourism Officer was asked to take the following question back to the Environmental Development Officer: *What is the position on freedom camping – vehicles without self containment facilities should not be allowed to camp overnight.*

The Tourism Officer advised when she was originally asked to draft the policy the main reason was in connection to the Black Miller group and that was what the policy had been passed on.

Councillor Macphail disagreed advising he felt it was more about people parking all around the town, at the seal colony, and on the Esplanade, and the development of a policy had been screaming out for a long time.

The Chief Executive Officer asked the committee for its position on the Freedom Camping Policy advising Council would be guided by feedback from the Tourism & Development Committee.

W Stone advised he had a strong view that if vehicles/campervans did not have self-contained facilities then they should not be allowed to camp overnight where facilities did not exist.

D Smith advised he agreed in principal with W Stone but it must be able to be enforced and have Council backing.

The Chief Executive Officer requested the Tourism Officer to develop a submission on what had been discussed today which would then be fed back into the Council decision making in terms of the policy.

COUNCIL 17 May 2006

Draft Freedom Camping Policy

Councillor Woods asked if the draft Freedom Camping Policy had been advertised. It was advised the Environmental Development Officer would be consulting with and seeking feedback from key stakeholders prior to taking it out for public consultation.

TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 12 June 2006

Submission to draft Freedom Camping Policy

The Tourism Officer tabled a copy of the latest draft Freedom Camping Policy and advised while a lot of concerns had been raised at the state of the draft policy by the Committee at the May meeting, she had not developed a submission on behalf of the committee as she felt Council's Environmental Development Officer had incorporated the committees concerns into the policy prior to it going out for public consultation.

P McGahan advised he felt the committee should be making a submission on the draft policy.

L Buurman advised she would personally like the time to read through the draft policy in order to be clear about it.

P McGahan advised the committee needed time to read the draft policy if they had not already seen it and noted it was a very important issue which he personally had a lot of concerns with. It was decided this matter would be further discussed and worked through at the end of the meeting.

APPENDIX 3

Draft Policy On Freedom Camping in the Kaikoura District April 2006

Introduction

Following and referring to the report submitted to Council in January 2006, the following policy sets a path forward in managing Freedom Camping throughout the Kaikoura District.

Council may wish to adopt the following policy while considering the following core principles:

- That the protection of the natural environment is of paramount importance
- That the health and safety of all users is protected
- To promote awareness regarding the cultural importance of the coastline including its use for food gathering
- That the opportunity for all users to interact with and enjoy the natural environment should be maximised.

Recommended Policy

It is recommended that Council adopt the following policy relating to freedom camping in the district, after which consultation and implementation of the policy shall take place.

In the Kaikoura District freedom camping on public lands shall be permitted in consideration of the following:

1. A maximum stay of two nights be permitted.
2. Use of the local commercial campgrounds be encouraged.
3. Use of public facilities (dump stations and toilets) be encouraged.
4. Self contained campervans (those with a certificate of self containment as issued by NZMCA) are not discouraged from overnighing in the district- unless an area is designated as 'no camping' (i.e. Esplanade through to the Seal Colony).
5. Vehicles without toilet facilities shall be encouraged to stay at locations with facilities (i.e. South Bay Domain and potentially Mangamaunu providing toilet facilities are adequate).

6. A partnership between KDC and other stakeholders and affected parties work on promoting an education campaign that highlights the use of suitable locations, Kaikoura's environmental policies and philosophies and the four core principles mentioned above.

Process from here

Once KDC have agreed upon the content of a Freedom Camping Policy, consultation will take place with stakeholders to ensure their commitment to the same policy and its implementation throughout the District.

Stakeholders and landowners include KDC, Ngai Tahu, DOC, Transit and community members

We envisage the implementation will involve consultation with stakeholders to determine:

- sites that are appropriate and inappropriate for overnight stays,
- suitability of and funding for signage at locations that are not appropriate,
- effectiveness of placing signage showing locations of toilets, dump stations, resource recovery centre etc,
- development of educational material and distribution processes,
- investigate placing honesty boxes for revenue generation,
- determine appropriate management process (i.e. funding a summer education position and/or or volunteer wardens),

APPENDIX 4



Kaikoura District Council are seeking comments on the Draft Freedom Camping Policy. Comments can be forwarded to Council no later than Monday 31st July 2006.

Kaikoura District Council
PO Box 6, Kaikoura
Phone: 03 319 5026
Fax: 03 3195308
Email: kdc@kaikoura.govt.nz

Following the assessment of comments the policy will be reviewed and finalised, allowing for implementation over the summer months of 2006/07.

Draft Freedom Camping* Policy June 2006

The draft freedom camping policy sets a path forward to manage appropriate camping practises throughout the Kaikoura District in consideration of the following core principles:

- The protection of the natural environment is of paramount importance;
- The health and safety of all users is protected;
- The awareness of the cultural importance of the coastline including its use for food gathering is promoted;
- The opportunity for all users to interact with and enjoy the natural environment should be maximised.

Freedom camping on public lands in the Kaikoura District shall adhere to the following requirements;

7. Commercial campgrounds and public facilities are promoted (dump stations, toilets, and the Resource Recovery Centre).
8. A maximum stay of two nights is permitted at designated locations, outlined in 5. Locations not listed are not appropriate for freedom camping.
9. Camping for longer than two nights in any location throughout the Kaikoura District requires written permission from the landowner.

10. Camping/overnight parking at locations within nine metres of the State Highway is not acceptable (including Black Millar).
11. Self contained campervans (those with a certificate of self-containment) are permitted to stay overnight in the following areas;
 - a. Kowhai River Mouth ,
 - b. Corner of South Bay Road and State Highway 1,
 - c. South Bay Domain**,
 - d. Kiwa Road **,
 - e. Bell Bird Corner (Inland Road),
12. Vehicles without certified self-containment are permitted to stay at the following locations with appropriate facilities.
 - a. South Bay Domain**
 - b. Kiwa Road, Mangamaunu**(once public toilet facilities are provided)

*Freedom camping is defined as staying at a location that is not actively managed for overnight stays (i.e. may not have public toilet facilities, power, safety barriers, rubbish bins etc).

**Overnight stays at South Bay Domain and Kiwa Road may require payment/permit system to assist in the maintenance of the facilities.

Implementing the policy

Following feedback from the public the Freedom Camping Policy shall be implemented in a manner reflective of the four key principles and welcoming visitors to the District.

The implementation of the policy shall involve:

- Education – information leaflets distributed throughout local businesses, hostels, NZMCA website, KDC websites, local business websites. The information shall state the Districts support of appropriate freedom camping in specific sites, and highlight the location of public facilities.
- Signage – locations where over night stays are and are not appropriate may be sign posted.
- Enforcement – Monitoring officers may conduct regular site visits throughout the District to ensure visitors are conducting themselves in an appropriate manner.

Review

The freedom camping policy shall be reviewed during May 2007. The review will determine how effective the policy has been in remedying the issues associated with freedom camping in the district, and whether additional actions need to be taken.

Support of the Draft Policy

This policy has in principle support from Department of Conservation, Transit New Zealand and Ngai Tahu.

