

QLDC Council
3 June 2021

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take : 11

Department: Corporate Services

Title | Taitara Submission on Freedom Camping (MBIE)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT | TE TAKE MŌ TE PŪRONGO

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the submission made to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE), in respect to proposed changes to Freedom Camping.
- 2 This report seeks Council's feedback and retrospective approval of the submission's content. The submission was made to MBIE on 14 May 2021.

RECOMMENDATION | NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

That Council:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** retrospectively the contents of the Freedom Camping submission [Attachment A].

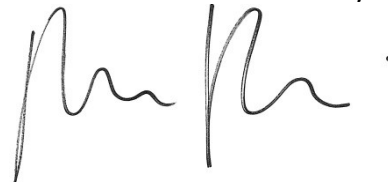
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20/05/2021

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21/05/2021

CONTEXT | HOROPAKI

- 3 The Government has consulted on how to make freedom camping in New Zealand more sustainable. The discussion document released outlined four proposals to improve freedom camping in New Zealand, asking for public feedback.
- 4 The Government considers that while the borders are closed to international visitors, now is the time to address some of the systemic issues facing freedom camping.
- 5 The discussion document presented four proposals for consideration:
 - Proposal one - Make it mandatory for freedom camping in a vehicle to be done in a certified self-contained vehicle.
 - Proposal two - Make it mandatory for freedom campers to stay in a vehicle that is certified self-contained, unless they are staying at a site with toilet facilities (excluding public conservation lands and regional parks).
 - Proposal three - Improve the regulatory tools for government land managers.
 - Proposal four - Strengthen the requirements for self-contained vehicles.

ANALYSIS AND ADVICE | TATĀRITANGA ME NGĀ TOHUTOHU

- 6 Broadly speaking, QLDC does not consider the review to be suitably extensive. The proposed changes may effect positive change for some parts of the country, but they are insufficient to ameliorate the challenge faced in the Queenstown Lakes District.
- 7 QLDC has instituted a bylaw which has effectively already delivered proposal one at a local level. The proposal will not reduce the pressure placed on the district by demand and volume. QLDC does not support proposal two.
- 8 Whilst QLDC does support proposals three and four, it recommends a more extensive review of the Freedom Camping Act, alongside a review of the (inter-related) Self-Contained Standards and Campground Regulations. The current review is too narrow and fails to recognise a system-wide approach to change. It is recommended that the findings of the Responsible Camping Working Group are revisited and considered in detail.
- 9 QLDC further recommends that a more detailed review includes measures to improve the disaster preparedness of freedom campers and to reduce emissions.
- 10 Option 1: to retrospectively agree the contents of the attached submission.

Advantages:

- 11 The submission will remain in MBIE's process and QLDC will have participated effectively.

Disadvantages:

- 12 There are no clear disadvantages to this option.
- 13 Option 2: to request the withdrawal of the attached submission from MBIE's process.
- Advantages:*
- 14 The submission will be withdrawn from the Commission's process and any inaccurate representations of QLDC's position will not be considered.
- Disadvantages:*
- 15 No aspect of QLDC's position will be represented in the process.
- 16 This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because Councillors have had opportunity to view and comment on the attached submission prior to its inclusion in the process and therefore should be reflective of the Council's position.

CONSULTATION PROCESS | HĀTEPE MATAPAKI:

> SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT | TE WHAKAMAHI I KĀ WHAKAARO HIRAKA

- 17 This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. However, this advice deals with a matter of interest to a range of individuals, organisations, groups and sectors in the community.
- 18 The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are all residents and ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes District communities.

> MĀORI CONSULTATION | IWI RŪNANGA

- 19 No specific or distinct consultation has been undertaken with iwi in preparing this submission.

RISK AND MITIGATIONS | NGĀ RARU TŪPONO ME NGĀ WHAKAMAURUTANGA

- 20 This matter relates to the Strategic/Political/Reputation. It is associated with RISK00038 within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a moderate inherent risk rating.
- 21 The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to implement additional controls for this risk. This shall be achieved by monitoring future changes in legislation based on the advice to government, in particular addressing those issues that directly affect QLDC and the Queenstown Lakes District community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS | NGĀ RITENGA Ā-PŪTEA

- 22 There are no financial implications.

COUNCIL EFFECTS AND VIEWS | NGĀ WHAKAAWEAWE ME NGĀ TIROHANGA A TE KAUNIHERA

23 The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:

- The outcomes and principles of the Vision Beyond 2050, in particular - Thriving people and Deafening Dawn Chorus
- Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Proposed District Plan
- 2018-2028 Ten Year Plan
- 2019-2020 Annual Plan
- Master Plans
- Asset Management Plan
- 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy.
- Climate Action Plan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2002 PURPOSE PROVISIONS | TE WHAKATURETURE 2002 O TE KĀWANATAKA Ā-KĀIKA

24 The recommended option:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by contributing to the development of a more effective and robust water services model.
- Can be implemented through current funding under the Ten Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

ATTACHMENTS | NGĀ TĀPIRIHANGA

A	QLDC Submission on Freedom Camping
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