

Statement of Proposal

Proposed amendments to the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 |
Ture ā-Rohe mō te Noho Puni Korehere 2025

What is this about?

Council's [Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 | Ture ā-Rohe mō te Noho Puni Korehere 2025](#) came into force on 1 December 2025. The Bylaw allows freedom camping in 15 carparks across the District, subject to a range of conditions.

Council received a relatively high number of complaints from the community about two restricted freedom camping areas: Allenby Place carpark and Beacon Point Road carpark.

Council asked for detailed research and analysis on the issues at both locations and, on 25 June 2026, decided to propose changes to the Bylaw to prohibit freedom camping at Allenby Place carpark, implement a summer prohibition during **[insert months here]** at Beacon Point Road carpark and increase the designated freedom camping spaces at Wānaka Recreation Centre from 18 to 21.

Before making a final decision, Council wants to hear your views. This document explains the proposal and how you can share your feedback.

Council's proposal

At a Council meeting on 23 July 2026, Council adopted this Statement of Proposal for community consultation.

The proposal is to:

- Amend the conditions at the restricted freedom camping area at Beacon Point Road carpark in Schedule 1A to prohibit freedom camping during **[insert months here]** annually in the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 | Ture ā-Rohe mō te Noho Puni Korehere 2025
- Remove the restricted freedom camping area at Allenby Place carpark from Schedule 1A and include that area in Schedule 2 – Prohibited freedom camping area of the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 | Ture ā-Rohe mō te Noho Puni Korehere 2025
- Increase the designated spaces for freedom camping from 18 to 21 at the Wānaka Recreation Centre.

Schedule 1A of the Bylaw, referred to in clause 8.1, lists each restricted freedom camping area in the District and the conditions that apply there. Attachment A shows the proposed amendments to the conditions at Beacon Point Road carpark and the Wānaka Recreation Centre carpark. Schedule 2 of the Bylaw, referred to in clause 7.2, shows the prohibited freedom camping areas in the District. Attachment B shows the proposed inclusion of Allenby Place carpark as a prohibited area. The complete Bylaw showing the proposed amendments is [\(accessed via link to be populated\)](#).

Reason for the proposal

The proposal is intended to address concerns raised by the community and to protect access to these areas and/or the health and safety of people who use them.

The [25 June 2026 Council report](#) and [attachments](#) sets out the research and analysis that

informed Council's decision to propose these changes.

Statutory determinations

Before amending a freedom camping bylaw, Council must make the determinations required under section 11(2)(a), (b) and (c) of the Freedom Camping Act. For this proposal, those determinations must be made for each part of the proposed amendments.

Council must be satisfied that:

- the bylaw is necessary for one or more of the purposes prescribed, being to protect the area, protect the health and safety of visitors to the area, or to protect access to the area (section 11(2)(a)),
- a bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem (section 11(2)(b)), and
- whether the bylaw gives rise to any inconsistencies with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (section 11(2)(c)).

Council made these determinations at its meeting on 23 July 2026. The [agenda report \(link to be populated\)](#) for that meeting includes more detailed information about these statutory matters. You can get a free copy of this report from Council offices at 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown, or 47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka, from any Council library in the Queenstown Lakes District, or by using the highlighted link.

Options

This consultation only covers the current restricted freedom camping areas at Beacon Point Road carpark, Allenby Place carpark and Wānaka Recreation Centre carpark. You are welcome to give feedback on the Bylaw more generally or on other locations, but that feedback will not lead to any further changes through this consultation process. Your feedback will still be passed on to Council, who may ask for further reports on the issues raised.

For each of the three locations you can choose your preferred option.

Allenby Place carpark

Option 1 – Council's proposed option: prohibit freedom camping in the restricted freedom camping area (RFCA).

Option 2 – Keep the current rules in place, so freedom camping is still allowed under the existing conditions.

Option 3 – Keep the RFCA but add new conditions: to prohibit freedom camping during **[insert months here]** each year and a freedom camping vehicle size limit.

Beacon Point Road carpark

Option 1 – Council's proposed option: Keep the RFCA but add a new condition to prohibit freedom camping during **[insert months here]** each year.

Option 2 – Keep the current rules in place, so freedom camping is still allowed under the existing

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conditions.

Option 3 – Prohibit freedom camping at Beacon Point Road carpark.

Wānaka Recreation Centre carpark

Option 1 – Council’s proposed option: increase the designated spaces for freedom camping at Wānaka Recreation Centre from 18 to 21.

Option 2 – Retain the current 18 designated spaces for freedom camping.

You can choose only one option for each location, but you don’t have to choose the same option for each.

If you do not support any of the three options, you can still tell us what you would prefer to happen at each location. Please note that if Council wants to consider an option other than the three proposed, it may need to consult the community again on that option before making a final decision.

How you can have your say

Anyone can make a submission online using the survey at [\(link to be populated\)](#), and/or you can attend the Hearing to present your views to Council in person.

You can also send a written submission by post, by hand delivery, or by email to letstalk@qldc.govt.nz. However, we recommend using the online survey if you can.

Submissions will open at 9:00am on 27 July 2026 and must be received by 5.00pm on 31 August 2026. All submissions should include:

- the submitter’s name¹,
- details of any organisation the submitter is representing (if applicable),
- the submitter’s contact details, and
- whether or not the submitter would like to speak at a hearing about the proposal.

You can get free copies of this Statement of Proposal and the draft bylaw from Council offices at 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown, or 47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka, from any Council library in the Queenstown Lakes District, or from the Council website at <https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz>. If you need help to make a submission, please contact Council on 03 441 0499 or visit one of Council’s offices. All written submissions received during the submission period will be acknowledged.

Submissions are public information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. After the consultation period ends, submissions will be made publicly available, including on our website. Your personal contact details will not be published².

Council intends to hold a hearing in the week of 26 October 2026. A hearing is an opportunity for you to share your views with Council in person. If you would like to speak at the hearing, you must register your interest during the written submission period by

¹ Note: if you do not feel comfortable providing your name or contact details in a submission, please contact Council, who can facilitate an anonymous submission.

² In accordance with LGOIMA section 7(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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ticking the box on the submission form by 31 August 2026. This meeting will be open to the public. If you say you would like to speak, Council staff will contact you to arrange a time for you to speak at the hearing, either in person or by audio-visual link. If you have any requirements for the hearing, please let us know.

Timetable for consultation

The dates below show the consultation timetable. If any of these dates change, Council will let the public know on its Facebook page and website.

Date	Activity
23 July 2026	Council adopted the statement of proposal for consultation
27 July 2026	Consultation period begins (9.00am)
31 August 2026	Consultation period ends (5.00pm)
Week of 26 October 2026	Oral submissions heard by Council hearing panel
17 December 2026	Deliberations and adoption by Council

What happens next?

After Council has received written and oral submissions, it is expected to make final decisions on the matters in this proposal at its meeting on 17 December 2026.

As explained in the scope section of this Statement of Proposal, Council is only asking for feedback on the three options for each area. Any additional feedback will still be reported to Council, but will be considered separately and may lead to future reports on the issues raised.

Once the hearing panel has considered submissions and made its recommendations, Council will make final decisions. Those decisions will be limited to one of the three options for each area.

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Attachment A: Proposed amendments to Schedule 1A, (in addition to removing Allenby Place carpark) showing amendments to the conditions at Beacon Point Road carpark and the Wānaka Recreation Centre carpark

Beacon Point Road Carpark, Wānaka



- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area: urban road

Freedom camping is prohibited at this location during [insert months here] annually.

- A person freedom camping in this location must:
1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
 2. use one of the 3 marked motor vehicle spaces;
 3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 6:00 pm;
 4. leave any marked space before 8:00 am;
 5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
 6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
 7. not leave any waste;
 8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.
 9. adhere to seasonal prohibition of [insert months here] annually.

Wānaka Recreation Centre Carpark, Wānaka



- Restricted freedom camping area
- Prohibited freedom camping area: urban road

- A person freedom camping in this location must:
1. use a certified self-contained motor vehicle;
 2. use one of the ~~10~~21 marked motor vehicle spaces;
 3. not arrive in any of the marked spaces before 8:00 pm;
 4. leave any marked space before 7:00 am;
 5. ensure any motor vehicle, camping equipment and any other personal items are fully contained within the one of the marked spaces;
 6. not stay more than 2 nights within any 30 day period, and not return to any of the marked spaces within a 30 day period;
 7. not leave any waste;
 8. not light any fires outside of the motor vehicle.

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Attachment B: Proposed amendments to Schedule 2, showing the inclusion of Allenby Place carpark as a prohibited area.

