

Council Briefing

Notice of Briefing

Briefing to be held in the Council Chamber, Forum North, Whangarei on:

**Thursday
25 May 2017
11.30am**

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson)
Cr Stu Bell
Cr Crichton Christie
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Sue Glen
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Cherry Hermon
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Sharon Morgan
Cr Anna Murphy

1. Camping in Public Places

Reporting officer: Shireen Munday (Policy & Bylaws Analyst)

Date of meeting: 25 May 2017

1 Purpose

To discuss the key components of the proposed bylaw to obtain direction on its final draft content before it is presented to Council for adoption for consultation.

2 Background

A briefing meeting was held on 16 May 2017 to discuss the outcome of the staff analysis and assessment of options for non self-contained freedom camping in the District, as directed by Council in August 2016. At that meeting staff were asked to report back on the proposed schedules as well as the wider content of the bylaw for discussion and feedback prior to the development of a draft bylaw for consultation purposes.

3 Discussion

Council talked about a variety of related issues. The matter of a freedom camping strategy was raised. It was discussed that such a strategy would be a suitable tool to inform Council's wider approach to camping in the district, including, for example, the provision of additional infrastructure and associated budgeting issues, as well as working with other Councils and the Department of Conservation to achieve a region-wide approach.

Council acknowledged that it would be preferable to develop such a strategy prior to proceeding with a bylaw, but confirmed that, given the issues experienced over recent summers, a bylaw should be developed prior to the 2017/18 summer. If, after a strategy is developed, it is deemed appropriate to make changes to the bylaw, then this would require an amendment. This was deemed an acceptable solution for the short-term while being able to accommodate a long-term view if required.

Council discussed the three proposed schedules of the bylaw:

- areas where freedom camping is restricted to a designated area or parking spaces
- areas where all types of freedom camping are prohibited always
- areas where non self-contained freedom camping may occur

The proposed schedules have the effect that self-contained freedom camping is permitted throughout the district, except for the prohibited locations, but that non self-contained freedom camping is limited to the 38 specified areas included in the draft schedule.

Council requested a further briefing to more fully discuss the proposed schedules, as well as the other key aspects of the draft bylaw, including for example, the maximum number of days/night in any one location.

A presentation at the meeting will inform the discussion on these issues. Through this briefing, staff are seeking guidance from Council to be able to develop a draft bylaw and the associated Statement of Proposal for consultation. These will be presented to Council for resolution and adoption in June.