

Minutes for deliberations of the Policy & Regulatory Committee on the Proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawaahia on **16 OCTOBER 2023** commencing at **9:30am**.

Present:

Cr C Eyre (Chairperson)
Cr C Beavis
Cr M Keir
Cr K Ngataki
Cr V Reeve
Cr L Thomson
Cr P Thomson
Cr T Turner
Cr D Whyte

Attending:

Mr R Hermann (Community Safety Manager)
Ms K Ridling (Senior Solicitor)
Mrs M Rinaldi (Corporate Planner)
Mr J Ebenhoh (Policy & Planning Manager)

Ms E Saunders (Senior Democracy Advisor)

The Committee opened the deliberations with a Karakia.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Resolved: (Crs Ngataki/Reeve)

THAT the Policy and Regulatory Committee accepts the apologies from:

- a. **Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs JA Church; Cr J Gibb; Cr E Patterson & Cr M Raumati for non-attendance.**

CARRIED

P&RHE2310/01

CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA ITEMS

Resolved: (Crs Eyre/Ngataki)

THAT:

- a. the agenda for a meeting of the Policy and Regulatory Committee deliberations of the Freedom Camping Bylaw held on Monday, 16 October 2023 be confirmed;
- b. all reports be received; and
- c. all items therein be considered in open meeting with the exception of those items detailed at agenda item 5 which shall be considered with the public excluded if necessary.

CARRIED

P&RHE2310/02

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cr V Reeve declared a non-financial interest as a Member of the NZ Motorhome Association and a member of the Tuakau Community Board (in relation to their submission).

REPORTS

Deliberations Report on Freedom Camping Bylaw
Agenda Item 4.1

The report was received under [P&RHE2310/02] and the following discussion was held:

General Discussion:

- Cr Whyte noted his concern with the process of consultation with the public particularly the pre-consultation process. There are instances where voices from the community weren't heard during the pre-consultation period and their views weren't captured. What changes can be made to ensure all the information and submissions received are captured?
- It was noted that all feedback received during the pre-consultation period has been considered however it was acknowledged that nothing shuts down community engagement faster than the feeling of your voice not being heard.
- The definitions of both Onewhero Domain and Te Kauwhata Domain were confirmed for the Committee.

- It was queried whether the Corner of Cliff & Bow Street (Raglan) were part of a reserve. As per Page 94 of the agenda it appears that some Community Board submissions have been captured and other Community Board submissions have not. This speaks to the initial concern raised by Cr Whyte that staff appear to be acting as gatekeepers and not passing community voices and submissions on.

Deliberations:

- The wording and definitions for Clause six was discussed and confirmed by the Committee.
- The definition around Car vs Person was also clarified for the Committee and the liability and the 3-night limit vs 5-night limit was also clarified.
- Table 2 (Stewart Street, Wainui Reserve & James Street, Raglan) – it was noted that the Raglan Community Board submitted on this topic yet their opinion does not appear to have been heard. It was noted that Cliff Street is off the table as it constitutes a material change and wasn't included in the draft proposal (even though the Raglan Community Board and Local Councillor supported it).
- This lack of voice in the draft proposal reiterates the concerns raised at the beginning of the meeting with our communities voices not being heard during the pre-consultation period.
- It was noted however that if a Community is in favour of having a particular area highlighted for freedom camping that Council can review a bylaw at any time. This bylaw needs to be reviewed every five years but it can be reviewed earlier if needed.
- The Ngaaruwaahia Point Reserve – it was noted that the majority of vehicles at the point were homeless whaanau and individuals – what does this bylaw mean for them? It was confirmed that homelessness is not addressed under this bylaw and no infringements will be issued.
- Clarity was provided around Aro Aro Park and the fact that it is prohibited.
- An extensive discussion was had around Cliff Street, Raglan and the area by the toilets being noted as a reserve. There were 118 pin drops on this location during the pre-consultation period and it's still not being considered as a suitable area.
- It was noted that at this point in time that James Street, Raglan (outside of the bowling club) is not restricted in terms of parking times. Is there any chance that a restriction can be placed on this site so that no campers can park there between 7pm and 7am? There was extensive discussion around this point and what potential bylaw could be used to enforce this.
- A further discussion was had around a few violent acts that have occurred towards campers in Raglan. There was evidence of violence sent through to Council in September 2023 and it was noted that quite a few members of the Committee support the time restriction in this area of Raglan.
- It was noted that lessons from these discussion need to be learned for future bylaws and the support for following due process today is there.

ACTION: Council staff to look at other tools or bylaws that could be used to ensure a time restriction can be put in place for James Street in Raglan.

Resolved: (Crs Beavis/Ngataki)

THAT the Policy and Regulatory Committee:

- a. considers all submissions and the contents of this report in their deliberations on the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023.
- b. makes the decisions identified in this report with regards to changes to the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023.
- c. requests the Chief Executive to direct staff to make changes arising from decisions made relating to the proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw 2023 and present the revised draft Bylaw to the Policy and Regulatory Committee on 14 November 2023 for recommendation to Council for adoption.
- d. determines that Council has followed the requirements for consultation under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 Section 11B(3) and the Local Government Act 2002 Section 83.

CARRIED

P&RHE2305/03

The deliberations closed at 11.08 am.

Minutes approved and confirmed this day of 2023.

C Eyre
CHAIRPERSON