



# Picton Smart & Connected

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Submission by Picton Smart & Connected

To the Marlborough District Council

## **Freedom Camping Marlborough Proposed Changes to Bylaw Long Term Plan Submission**

**Following our prior submissions of May 2017, 2016 & 2015.**

**Our 4th submission is as follows:**

**We (PS&C) hereby request that a bylaw review be implemented, to allow the current Freedom Camping bylaw to be amended to suit the following recommendations.**

**Key principle:**

1. That it be agreed that only **certified self-contained vehicles** be permitted to Freedom Camp in Picton and wider Marlborough, in designated sites.
  - **Certified Self Contained** means a vehicle designed and built for the purpose of camping, which has the capability of meeting the ablutionary and sanitary needs of its occupants for a minimum of three days without the need for external services or the discharging of waste and complies with New Zealand standard 5465:2001, as evidenced by the display of a self - contained warrant, issued under New Zealand standard self - containment of motor caravans and campervans NZS 5465:2001. Vehicles that are designed to be used safely for the purpose of human accommodation and camping, that are and made from non retardant materials that satisfy New Zealand safety standards with particular focus on any LPG gas on board being fitted by an authorised person and or meeting AS/NZS 5601.2: 2010 Gas installation standards.
2. **That all non self - contained vehicles** without the above described facilities on board, pay to camp in Marlborough at either D.O.C camping sites or at Commercial campgrounds and parks.
3. **That any vehicle found camping** outside of D.O.C sites or commercial camping facilities in Marlborough without certification as a certified self - contained camping vehicle, be fined \$200.00.
4. **That it be agreed that Marlborough's townships become recognised NZMCA Campervan friendly towns** by offering designated freedom camping areas to NZMCA certified campervans in close proximity to shops and amenities. A maximum number of vehicles to be agreed per town and existing resource, to be acknowledged.

**As defined: To agree as a region that;**

**Freedom Camping:** To camp in a self - contained vehicle to enjoy the freedom of New Zealand's landscape.

**Free Camping:** To camp in a non self - contained vehicle to enjoy the freedom from paying.

**Important Considerations**

1. In our opinion (PS&C) Marlborough needs to be brilliant every day (to align with our regional tourism branding) and human waste and rubbish on our roadsides, beaches and in our forests is not brilliant nor good business for Marlborough. We believe that it is deeply degrading to our tourist economy and that it negatively impacts, on our environment & reputation as a 'clean green' region in *Pure New Zealand*. We believe it is inherently harmful, to our regions tourism values and marketing efforts.
2. Locals walking dogs regularly experience issues with human faeces in and around Picton and non self-contained free campers are still camping in side streets and urinating on sidewalks and in bushes.
3. As mentioned in the opening of this submission, Certified Camping vehicles are designed for camping, they use fire retardant interior materials and infrastructure. Cars, mini vans and other non - certified camping vehicles are not safe for camping, cooking with LPG and sleeping in and in our opinion (PS&C) should not be used for this purpose in local authority designated sites. It should be noted that the Marlborough District Council, in our consideration should not encourage this practice by supplying sites and facilities for non certified vehicles. Anyone camping in a car or other vehicle which is not designed for the purpose of camping, should do so at their own risk without encouragement from any local authority.

4. Marlborough like most other regions, has plentiful D.O.C camping sites and quality commercial campgrounds for campers to use and in our opinion (PS&C) the MDC does not need to supply camping grounds with facilities free of charge for non self-contained vehicles, at a cost to rate payers.

### **The purpose of these recommendations**

1. To protect Marlborough's environment (to assist in offering a brilliant environment, every day experience to visitors) to encourage all age groups of visitors, to use appropriate facilities.
2. To protect the interests of commercial business and support Marlborough's tourism economy.
3. To protect the health and safety of locals and visitors to Marlborough.
4. To protect local authority areas / land.
5. To offer a high level of social interaction and connection between our visitors and our Marlborough tourism ambassadors.

### **Other New Zealand regions**

Many regions in New Zealand have now adopted self - contained only freedom camping policies / bylaws through designed management, using a blend of the FCA 2011 and other acts, such as the Reserves Act.

These districts have created bylaws using the FCA 2011, by exploiting their right to apply restrictions under the act, using other acts that possess overriding qualities when used in conjunction with the act.

All of these regions have applied this regime to protect their environment for tourists and New Zealanders and to protect and support regional business.

A number of regions have adopted a bulk fully self-contained stance but still offer one or two sites to non self-contained vehicles. In some instances these sites require a permit to be obtained prior to camping, in a non-self-contained vehicle.

We (PS&C) note that both **Tasman District** and **Nelson City District** have adopted fully self-contained freedom camping only bylaws. We (PS&C) see this as a valuable opportunity to offer a 'Top of the South' uniform approach to freedom camping, to make it simpler for potential freedom campers to understand where they stand legally. We (PS&C) also see this as an opportunity for our respective RTO's to garner value for both individual and collective marketing strategies based on and around the 100% pure NZ national brand for our respective regions.

\*We note in this regard, the consideration of those visitors to New Zealand that do not freedom camp, their opinion of human waste and rubbish in our environment and the impact it has on this majority group's perception of New Zealand as a destination with an internationally respected brand.

### **Mayoral Meeting**

It is hoped that the recent meeting between the Tourism minister, Kelvin Davis and New Zealand's mayors in the capital, will lead to Marlborough's mayor, John Leggett recognising that Marlborough now needs to adopt, a self-contained only freedom camping policy for our region. It has never been Marlborough's desire to stand at the back of the pack nationally on issues that affect the regions environment and we truly hope that Marlborough, can now join the many regions that are saying, a firm no to non self-contained free camping in New Zealand. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/102077513/Tourism-Minister-Kelvin-Davis-meets-mayors-about-freedom-camping>

### **Funding**

Picton Smart & Connected request that annually, sufficient funding is set aside to implement and manage a Freedom Camping bylaw effectively.

### **Picton Smart & Connected Freedom Camping Work Group**

Richard Briggs, Rob Burn, James Wilson