

Supporting Sustainable Freedom Camping in Aotearoa New Zealand: Summary information

Freedom camping

Freedom camping is camping free of charge on land managed by local authorities or the Department of Conservation, within 200 metres of where you can drive to, the coast, a harbour or a Great Walks Track. It includes camping in a tent, caravan or motor vehicle. In 2019, an estimated 154,000 international visitors and 91,000 New Zealanders freedom camped.

Why the Government wants to make changes to freedom camping

The increasing number of freedom campers in recent years has raised concerns about freedom campers' cumulative impact on the environment, and the cost to host them. The Government wants to ensure freedom camping is able to be appropriately managed, so that when we rebuild tourism it is on a sustainable model and we elevate Brand New Zealand.

What the Government is consulting on

The Government is consulting on four proposals to improve freedom camping. As shown in the diagram, two of the proposals are alternatives, and the proposals could be combined into a package of reforms.



Consultation period

The consultation period on the Government's proposals runs from Friday 9 April 2021 to Sunday 16 May 2021.

How to have your say

Further information on the proposals, including the full discussion document, can be found online at: www.mbie.govt.nz/freedom-camping-consultation. The website includes information on the ways you can provide your views to the Government, and a schedule of public information meetings in the regions and online.

