



Freedom Camping changes

WHAT THEY MEAN FOR LOCALS AND COMMUNITIES

Purpose: This fact sheet seeks to show communities and locals what the changes to freedom camping in a vehicle will look like for them. It also includes answers to some questions raised by stakeholders during public consultation.

Key changes and timing: Please note these timeframes are subject to Cabinet and Parliament processes – any deferrals to timeframes will be communicated on MBIE’s website.

SUMMER 2022/23



- › Parliament amends the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
- › Vehicle-based freedom camping in your community should now be done in a certified self-contained vehicle. The old standard (blue warrant card) will still be used to certify self-containment.
- › Only vehicles with a fixed toilet (not portable) will be able to be certified self-contained from now.
- › Councils can now pass bylaws that designate sites appropriate for non-self-contained vehicles.
- › New freedom camping offences are introduced.

WINTER 2023



- › Green warrant cards (showing certification to the new requirements) will begin to be seen on vehicles used for freedom camping.
- › The public can access the register of self-contained vehicles to see whether a vehicle has been certified as self-contained.
- › Enforcement officers may now give out higher fines for those breaking the rules.

SUMMER 2023/24



- › Even more vehicles used for freedom camping will have fixed toilets.
- › Green warrant cards will become more prevalent.
- › Fewer vehicles will have blue warrant cards, as these will no longer be issued from now.

WINTER 2024



- › Rental vehicles must have a green warrant card - blue warrant cards will no longer be evidence of self-containment for rental vehicles.

SUMMER 2024/25



- › All vehicles used for freedom camping must now have a green warrant card.
- › Blue warrant cards will no longer be evidence of self-containment.

Frequently asked questions

Why is Government making these changes now?

Since 2018 the Government has provided funding for camping ambassadors, infrastructure, waste management and technology pilots. However, there is still evidence of visitors camping in places without the appropriate infrastructure to host them.

Will locals still have the ability to influence freedom camping bylaws?

Yes. Councils will still have the ability to set freedom camping bylaws, including designating sites as appropriate for freedom camping in non-self-contained vehicles.

Does this mean there will be no freedom camping in my region?

No. As with the current rules, Councils will not be able to issue a blanket ban or prohibition on freedom camping within its borders.

What are some of the new offences that will be introduced?

New offences for freedom campers are likely to include:

- › Breaking the new rule regarding freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle
- › Failing to display self-containment certification (e.g. warrant card) or proof of self-containment when requested by an enforcement officer
- › Falsely claiming certification to the self-containment requirements (e.g. a fake warrant card)
- › Freedom camping in excess of the certification requirements (e.g. more people sleeping in a vehicle than the vehicle is certified for).

New offences for certification authorities are likely to include:

- › Issuing self-containment certification without being an approved certification authority
- › Issuing a fraudulent self-containment certificate, warrant or sticker
- › Providing false or misleading information to the Regulator.

Will I still see tents at freedom camping sites?

Yes. Tents can still be used at freedom camping sites managed by councils or the Department of Conservation, as long as their use has not been restricted or prohibited through a bylaw or notice.

Will those that are experiencing homelessness be impacted by the proposed changes?

The Freedom Camping Act 2011 should not be applied to those experiencing homelessness. The Government is working with local councils to ensure there are referral pathways for those experiencing homelessness, and that there is appropriate guidance available for enforcement officers to ensure those experiencing homelessness do not receive infringements.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on the changes can be found at www.mbie.govt.nz/freedomcampingchanges