



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Open Minutes Attachments

Meeting Date: Monday 3 February 2025

Time: 9.30am (Freedom Camping Hearing)

Venue: Large Exhibition Hall
War Memorial Centre
Marine Parade
Napier

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Topics



Multiple sites needed including for large vehicles & day parks



Well planned access facilities and surrounds



Good signage and proactive management



The councils' problems and responsibilities



Growing community needs and travel styles

Multiple sites & for differing vehicles



Multiple sites & differing vehicles



- Large vehicle day parking
- Large vehicle overnight parking
- Small vehicles with less facilities
- 5-7m self contained vehicles

Good Signage, planning & ambassadors?

Nelson again provides a great example, suggesting other sites and informing of events etc. The mid city car park allows overnight camping beside showers and a laundry, allowing overnight parkers from 8-9am free parking if they put in their plate in the meter... after that it is paid parking. Ambassadors almost always call by to say "Hi" and have great suggestions. Hastings also has a inner city site opposite the police station.

Planning



Pump Track
FREEDOM CAMPING

This site is for certified self contained campers only.

This area is actively monitored. Infringement notices of **\$400** will be issued for breaches of the bylaw, including lighting of fires.

Maximum stay is three consecutive nights.

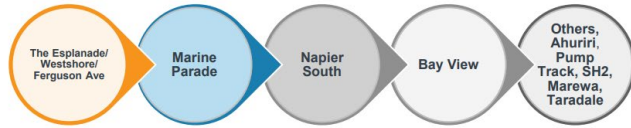
This car park is primarily designed for access to the Pump Track, please be considerate of other users.

No alcohol, no tents, no fires.

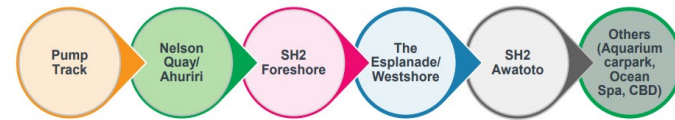
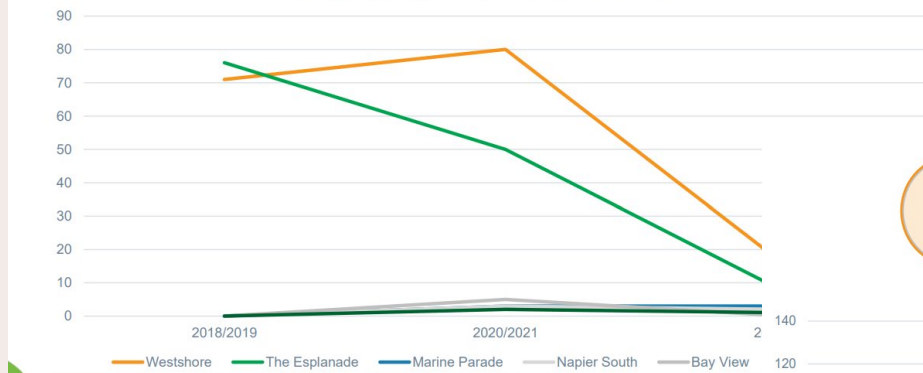
Please dispose of your waste responsibly.



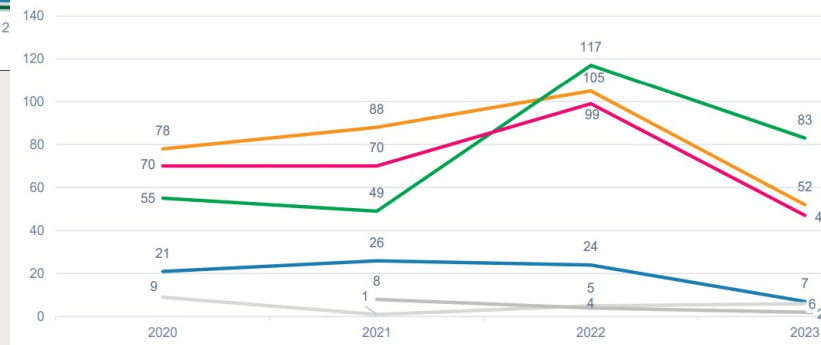
Problems responsibility



Complaints by Location from 2018 to 2023



Total Infringements by Location from 2020 to 2023

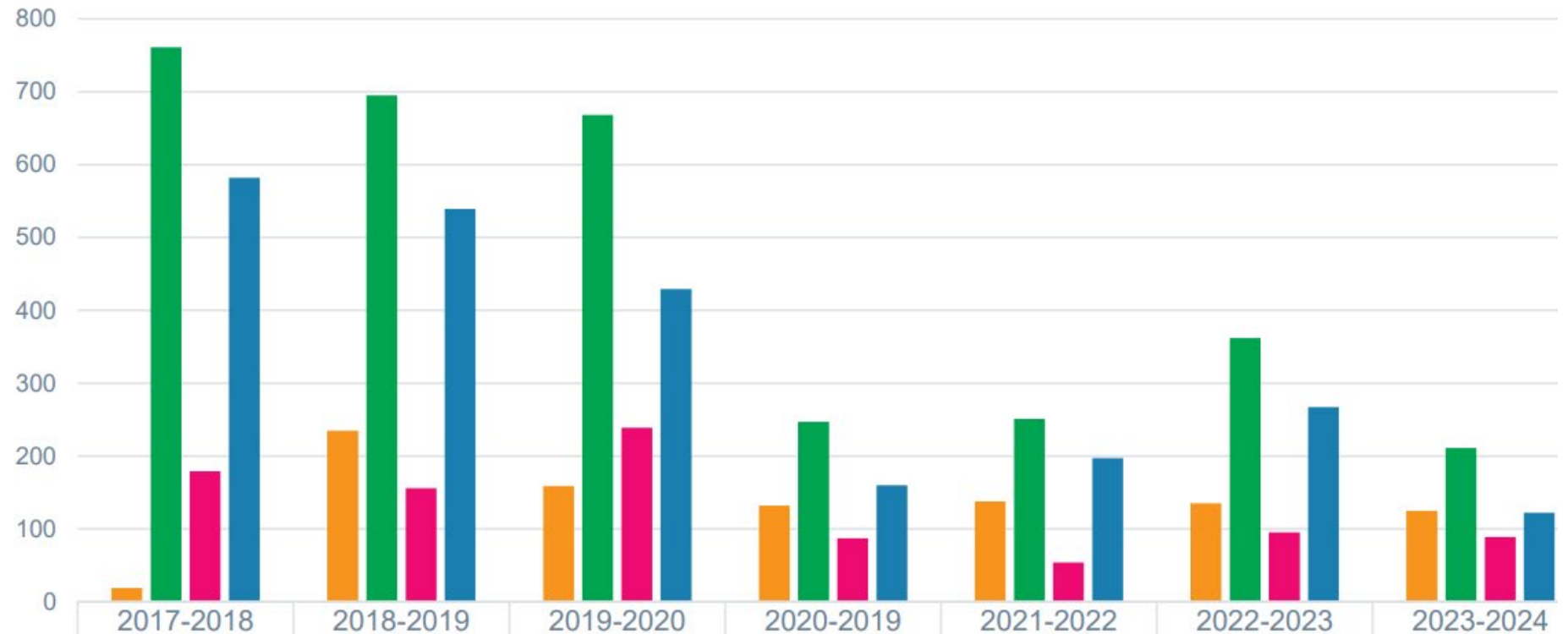


- Complaints
- Cleaning
- Costs
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Freedom camping act
- ✓ Attractive to visit napier

Afterhours Armourguard Costs



Freedom Camping Napier Data 2017-Current



FC complaints	19	235	159	132	138	135	125
FC Infringements	761	695	668	247	251	362	211
Cancelled	179	156	239	87	54	95	89
Total	582	539	429	160	197	267	122

FC complaints FC Infringements Cancelled Total

Comments



Jenny

We stayed here 1 night only. It used to be lovely here. But this time, it was overrun by rats. I think the council need to do something about all the homeless people and set more traps. We saw someone actually feeding them. Discusseting.

6 days ago



Mike

We stayed here, last weekend on Friday night and we were pretty uneasy. At least 6 different cars with young people pulled up over the night to get high. Seemed like a druggy hot spot. Wouldn't stay here again.

Tonight was our third attempt to stay at this site this week. We were lucky for once. As one of the few FC sites capable of taking long vehicles, unfortunately of the 20 bays capable of taking vehicles up to around 9 meters long, only 4 are vehicles are of that size. The remaining 16 bays in that row all contain vehicles of 3 to 4 meters long (vans and SUV's) whilst half of the remaining 20+ bays that are for vehicles up to 6.5 meters long remain empty. As someone else has noted here, a few do appear to be "victims of the times" but most appear to be backpacker type travellers doing it on the cheap and most are non CSC and NZMCA. Indeed the shorter sites do contain normal length motorhomes who are NZMCA members who have either thought about it or else just got here too late! I like to think that they actually thought about it. If you are driving a long vehicle you may be lucky but likely not. Also the parks are narrow and with peoples inability to park a relatively small vehicle between the lines, you could be

Napier



John

Swung by here today to check it out. It looks like overnight parking here is now permanently banned which is a great pity given the size of the area and distance from local residents. Day parking is still permitted.

9 months ago



David

Walked past here 13 /09/21 Signs says closed to camping

3 years ago

Trends

- There are now over 120,000 NZMCA members, plus 1000's more of rental vans.
- ✓ Plan ahead with new areas, share the impact over many areas in the city.
- The size of vehicles are getting bigger. Busses and many more caravans.
- ✓ Think about access. Westshore was the only place that could cope with 9+ m & even that made the turning in difficult.
- Smaller vehicles have difficulty meeting self containment standards.
- ✓ Freedom camping areas can be smaller but need more support facilities to stop pollution. Over night within a city provides both safety to visitors & local security

continued

- Large numbers of retirees who can no longer afford to live in their homes. Many are investing in larger vehicles. Many are now permanent residents in old camps
- ✓ Some are still working, thus a resource, many use NZMCA and DOC facilities
- Other misplaced and homeless people. Cars, small caravans and small vans. Cooking, food preparation and dealing with waste are big problems.
- ✓ The Department of Conservation have been installing great amenity blocks [not just toilets] in their camps. They allow solar or cold showers, toilets and dish washing facilities. The rats in our freedom camping area may be controlled by something like this.



6-8 of these cater for Uretiti camp 800-900 persons

Are some parts of Napier more equal than others



You have probably heard of the term "Queen's Chain" referring to strips of land beside rivers and foreshores of lakes and sea coast. It is commonly thought that the Queen's Chain guarantees free access to all and sundry to any lake, river or foreshore provided that one stays within 1 chain



New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.

"Because you'll never be alone on the road again..."

28 January 2025

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Verbal submission on the Napier City Council's Freedom Camping Bylaw Review 2024

Introduction

- 1 Due to other commitments, the NZMCA is unable to attend the public hearing on February 3, 2025. We appreciate the Council's understanding and the opportunity to provide this brief verbal submission in writing.
- 2 Over 2,400 members reside in Napier. Many of them enjoy freedom camping around the city and in other districts throughout New Zealand. The NZMCA is a ratepayer and campground operator. We have a good relationship with the Council marketing (for free) local events and Napier as a Motorhome Friendly Town. Key to this free promotion is the understanding Napier will maintain a friendly approach to responsible freedom camping in certified self-contained motorhomes and caravans, and that any bylaw will be lawful, and generally permissive as per the premise of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.
- 3 The draft bylaw is less permissive than the current version, which concerns the NZMCA for two main reasons. First, the demand for freedom camping is growing particularly amongst those who have paid to be certified under the government's new self-containment regime, which the Napier City Council supports. A less permissive bylaw will inevitably result in overcrowding exacerbating community concerns and undermining a positive visitor experience. Second, the site assessments do not support a less permissive bylaw, particularly as some of the results do not meet the threshold for prohibition and the new self-containment regulations will address relevant concerns that Napier and its communities have had with irresponsible campers.
- 4 With respect, we disagree with the officer's report that no substantial changes to the draft bylaw are required. Not all prohibited areas were assessed by Sage and the analysis of submissions notes the consultation process elicited mixed feedback from residents and campers – there certainly wasn't consistent support from residents to introduce a more

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prohibitive bylaw. Rather, there was good support for responsible freedom camping in the city and many submitters highlighted the positive benefits, particularly due to Napier's camper friendly reputation. This should at least trigger another review of the scope of prohibition proposed in the draft bylaw.

- 5 Many residents and some submitters want the bylaw to protect their private amenity values, however curiously the analysis does not consider this to be a key concern in support of the officer's recommendation nor does it offer alternative or lawful solutions to help address these concerns. The Council as lawmaker is obligated to ensure any decisions to restrict or prohibit freedom camping are transparent and consistent with section 11 of the Freedom Camping Act. The Council should be familiar with recent case law that addresses the irrelevant consideration of private amenity values and requires local authorities to have made a genuine attempt at the site assessment analysis when applying section 11(2) criteria to restricted and prohibited areas.
- 6 We strongly disagree Clause 10 does not require any further amendments. We are adamant the Council breached the law and its own bylaw when it effectively prohibited freedom camping at Westshore Beach Reserve. It is disappointing the Council continues to ignore the issue we have raised and refuses to resolve the breach. This matter alone would prompt a judicial review given there is a risk Council may use the clause again in a similar fashion.
- 7 We strongly disagree the Council can lawfully prohibit areas simply because they ranked lower against a predetermined list of sites for freedom camping. As noted in our original submission, a low-ranking score is not by itself a reason to prohibit freedom camping under the section 11 FCA analysis criteria.
- 8 The NZMCA reiterates its recommendations to amend Clause 10, reconsider whether Westshore Beach Reserve, Foreshore Reserve, and some of the other 18 sites assessed by Sage could be made available for freedom camping and determine whether other prohibited areas should have been assessed too, prior to consultation.

End.

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