

FREEDOM CAMPING COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Presented by:
Sean Judd & Glenn Irving



AGENDA

1. The Law – the framework in which we must operate
2. What we had – summary of the way things were before any action was taken
3. What we did – the actions we took last year
4. Feedback – community, visitor and MBIE
5. What we are looking to do next season



THE LAW

Freedom Camping Act 2011

s.5 Meaning of freedom camp

- (1) In this Act, **freedom camp** means to camp (other than at a camping ground) within 200 m of a motor vehicle accessible area or the mean low-water springs line of any sea or harbour, or on or within 200 m of a formed road or a Great Walks Track, using 1 or more of the following:
- (a) a tent or other temporary structure:
 - (b) a caravan:
 - (c) a car, campervan, housetruck, or other motor vehicle.

s.10 Where freedom camping permitted

Freedom camping is permitted in any local authority area unless it is restricted or prohibited in an area—

- (a) in accordance with a bylaw made under section 11; or
- (b) under any other enactment.

s.11.2a Bylaws are allowed for the following purposes only

- (a) **to protect an area**
- (b) **to protect the health and safety of people who may visit an area**
- (c) **to protect access to an area**

s.12 Bylaws must not absolutely prohibit freedom camping

- (a) **A local authority may not make bylaws under [section 11](#) that have the effect of prohibiting freedom camping in all the local authority areas in its district.**

OTHER CONSTRAINTS

Roadside Camping

It is not possible to ban camping alongside highways as these areas belong to NZTA. They have no legal way of putting a ban in place as people are allowed to sleep in vehicles next to highways for safety reasons.

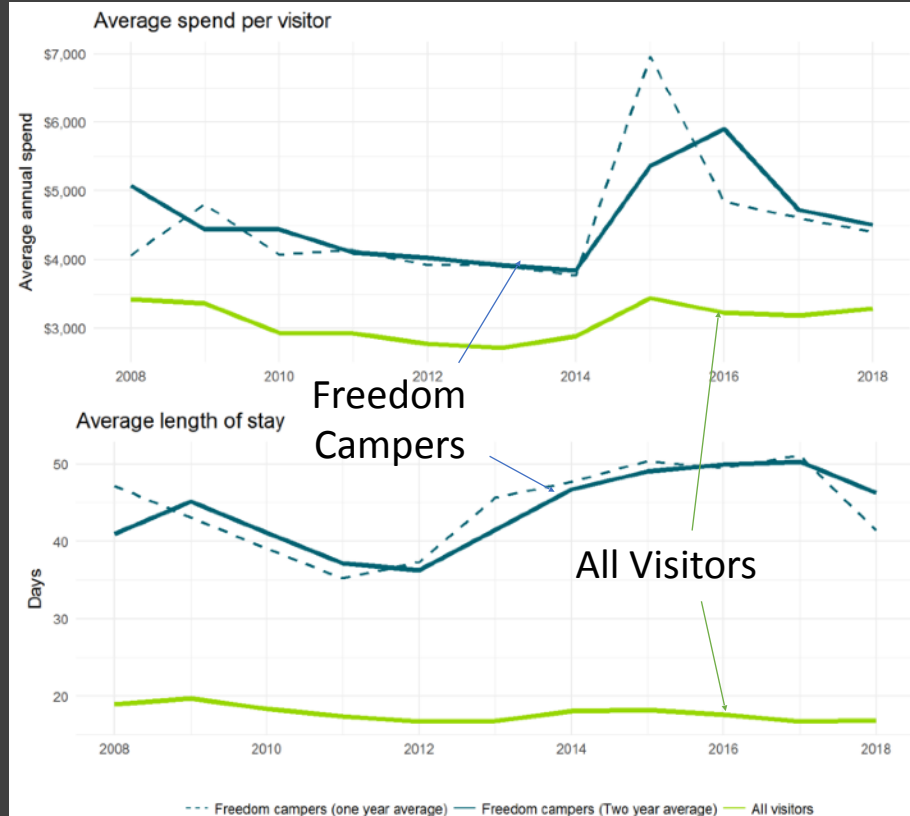
Self Containment (from NZMCA website)

- Certified self-containment is maintaining and certifying your motor caravan or caravan in accordance with the New Zealand Standard for Self-Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans, NZS 5465:2001
- A certified self-contained vehicle meets the ablutionary and sanitary needs of the occupants for a minimum of three days, without requiring any external services or discharging waste.
- A self-containment certificate, displayed warrant card, and blue responsible camper sticker demonstrate compliance with the minimum requirements of the Standard. Under the Standard, it is a requirement for a vehicle to display the warrant card and provide the certificate on request, in order to remain certified. Displaying the blue responsible camper sticker does not verify certification
- No new certificates will be given for people movers as of July 2018, however existing certificates will be reissued.

MBIE STATISTICS

(from International Visitor Survey)

- Only 3.4% of our international visitors did some freedom camping in 2017/18. They therefore make up a very small component of our overall visitors.
- Freedom campers stay longer and therefore spend more.
 - Freedom campers stayed on average 46 days
 - Non freedom campers averaged 17 days
- Freedom campers spent less per day
 - Spent half the money of other visitors
 - average \$99/day for freedom campers as compared to \$195/day for other types of visitor.
- Freedom campers visit more regions (average 6.2) than other visitors (average 3.1), so are more likely to end up in our part of the world...



WHAT WE HAD

- ONE SITE IN THE DISTRICT AT KAWATIRI BEACH RESERVE (ESTABLISHED BY DOC ON THEIR LAND)
- BLOCKED ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS
- NO INFORMATION SUGGESTING WHERE PEOPLE **SHOULD** GO
- NO INFORMATION ABOUT RUBBISH / DUMPSTATION FACILITIES
- RUBBISH SURROUNDING POPULAR AREAS
- ONE COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR THE ENTIRE DISTRICT WITH PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS TO DO AS WELL
- IRATE COMMUNITIES WHO WANTED TO HAVE THEIR RECREATIONAL SPACE BACK



DUMPED RUBBISH

WHAT WE DID

- CONSULTED WITH OUR COMMUNITIES TO IDENTIFY WHERE ISSUES EXISTED
- REVIEWED OUR BYLAW AND INTRODUCED NEW BAN ZONES AROUND PUNAKAIKI AND REEFTON
- INSTALLED NEW SIGNAGE ACROSS THE DISTRICT TO EDUCATE CAMPERS ABOUT WHAT WAS AVAILABLE
- ESTABLISHED 5 OVERNIGHT PARKING SITES TO TRY AND KEEP PEOPLE NEXT TO BASIC FACILITIES (TOILETS / RUBBISH)
- INCREASED OUR COMPLIANCE PRESENCE IN PUNAKAIKI AND REEFTON



WHAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE

- FIVE SELF CONTAINED FREEDOM OVERNIGHT PARKING SITES.
- THIRTEEN EXCLUDED SITES.
- ONE OF THESE THIRTEEN EXTENDS ACROSS 12 KM OF COASTAL HIGHWAY FROM FOX RIVER TO THE PUNAKAIKI RIVER.
- RUBBISH FACILITIES WHERE PEOPLE ARE STAYING
- MATERIAL ON CAMPERMATE THAT EDUCATES CAMPERS



TOILETS

- TWO SITES HAVE TOILET FACILITIES THAT WERE FUNDED BY THE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
 - FOX RIVER
 - KAWATIRI BEACH RESERVE
- TWO SITES NOW HAVE PORTABLE TOILET FACILITIES FUNDED THROUGH THE FREEDOM CAMPING FUND
 - HECTOR
 - THE STRAND - REEFTON



SIGNAGE



WE NOW HAVE 100 SIGNS THAT...

- IDENTIFY LOCATIONS WHERE SELF CONTAINED CAMPING IS ALLOWED
- IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE IT IS NOT
- GIVE ADVICE REGARDING HOW TO FREEDOM CAMPING RESPONSIBLY
- GIVE ADVICE REGARDING SOLID AND LIQUID WASTE DISPOSAL
- ADVISE TOURISTS OF THE COMMERCIAL CAMPING OPTIONS

COMPLIANCE



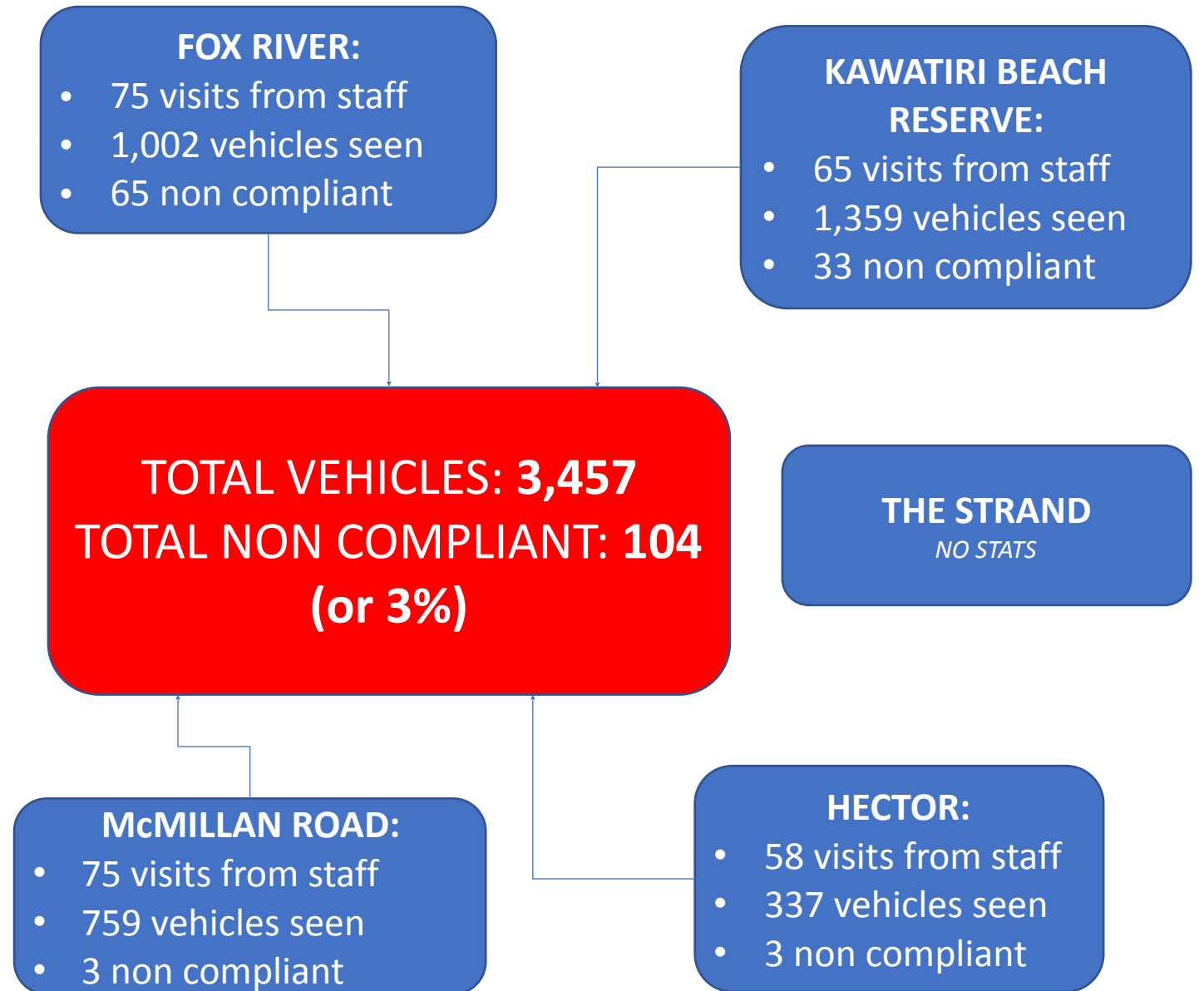
FIVE COMPLIANCE STAFF, TWO BASED IN WESTPORT, TWO BASED IN PUNAKAIKI AND ONE BASED IN REEFTON.

STAFF CONCENTRATED ON ADVOCACY RATHER THAN A PUNATIVE APPROACH – DIRECTING NON-COMPLIANT CAMPERS TO COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVES.

PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN OF OFFENDING VEHICLES AND SHARED WITH OTHER COMPLIANCE STAFF. NO INSTANCES OF REOFFENDING IDENTIFIED.

COMPLIANCE

What we observed
January 24 - 15 May



COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- THE DEVELOPMENT OF OVERNIGHT PARKING AREAS TAKES BUSINESS AWAY FROM LOCAL REGULATED OPERATORS
- THE PERCEIVED SAFETY RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CONGESTED OVERNIGHT PARKING SITES
- CHANGED THE 'VIBE' OF CERTAIN AREAS FREQUENTED BY LOCALS (REEFTON)
- THE COST TO RATEPAYERS OF CONTINUING THE TOILET/RUBBISH SERVICES
- FREEDOM CAMPERS DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL ECONOMY
- ADVERSE IMPACT TO ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNITY POSITIVES

- FREEDOM CAMPERS ARE CORRALED RATHER THAN SPREAD OUT
- NOTICEABLE REDUCTION IN ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT.
- POSITIVE EXPERIENCES FOR OUR TOURISTS
- SOME SECTORS OF LOCAL BUSINESS DO BENEFIT
- ACCESS TO PROPERTIES HAS BEEN MAINTAINED

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Yes we think at this stage you have solved our problem. We certainly don't have any more freedom campers which is wonderful. There is lots and lots of day swimmers here which is great. Talking to Pauline our local lady, she has only picked up a bag of KFC. We don't have trouble with human waste anymore. My family has been down at the river almost daily and they haven't seen any mess.

Our sincere thank you to you, and all your staff both at Buller D.C and Grey D.C. for what you have done for us. It was terrible. It is certainly a million times better now.

– Punakaiki Resident

- I swung past the camping zone last night on my way home about 10pm and you would be pleased to hear all the campers were safely ensconced within their zone. It sure does keep things tidier and them all rounded up :)

– Fox River Resident

VISTOR FEEDBACK

- Great spot, clean toilet beside the parking area. We were greeted in the afternoon by a friendly local who offered to show us around the area and tell us about the various points of interest
- Really great place and spotless washrooms! Lots of room to park :) friendly locals, you really get the feeling that they still love tourists there. A lady walking her dog came by and started chatting to us and giving us tips for the area, and then she said she's the one who cleans the toilets! So respect the toilets because they are very clean and she is so lovely :)
- What an amazing find - 2 incredibly clean toilets - thank you whoever keeps them spotless- Stone's throw from the beach, little store opposite, tavern across the bridge. They have it right on the west coast - if only the UK would do the same. Thank you 👍

MBIE FEEDBACK

WHAT'S WORKED NATIONALLY?

- The Ambassadorial Approach – educating our campers about the right things to do and helping people understand their obligations.
- Carpark cameras at hotspots in conjunction with Campermate to allow visitors to assess capacity at a site before they head there.

“WE DIDN’T CAUSE THIS
ISSUE BUT WE ARE DOING
OUR BEST TO MANAGE IT”

Councillor Phillip Rutherford

November 2018 Council Meeting - Reefton

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

- SITE / FACILITIES
- COMPLIANCE
- OTHER

ADVISORY GROUPS

- Area Specific
- Our connection to the wider community and their views
- Our eyes and ears in the field
- Are you willing to be a part of the solution?