

Submission



Extending the Government Procurement Rules to government entities in the New Zealand public sector

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SUBMITTED TO: Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
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Introduction

1. Ashburton District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to submit on the discussion document released by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 'Supporting sustainable freedom camping in Aotearoa in New Zealand.'
2. Located an hour's drive south of Christchurch, more than 35,300¹ residents live in the district, with the main town of Ashburton accounting for over 50% of residents. The rest of our residents live rurally or in smaller towns or villages.
3. Ashburton district has experienced moderate and sustained population increase since the mid-1990's, increasing by 23% between 2006 and 2013 (a 3.3% increase per year). This growth, however, is now slowing, with an average growth of 1.3% per year since 2013. The expansion of irrigation and agricultural diversification on the Canterbury Plains have been major factors in this growth.
4. While our district is not a popular tourist or holiday destination, we have noted an increasing number of freedom campers in our district, notably in our foothill and mountainous areas. We have the following information regarding freedom camping on our website [Freedom Camping | Ashburton DC](#)

Proposals

5. Council notes the four proposals under consultation and has made comments accordingly.
6. With regard to a preference over proposal 1 (mandatory for freedom camping vehicles to be certified self-contained) or proposal 2 (mandatory for freedom camping vehicles to be certified self-contained unless staying at a site with toilets), Council does not have a preferred proposal.
7. Proposal 2 does raise questions, however, particularly if this allows for a Freedom Camper to set up their own portaloo toilet facilities at a site, which they then arrange to be emptied and which can be used by family and friends also freedom camping.

¹ Source: Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates 30 June 2020

8. Council has found that many families in the past have traditionally set up their own sites with portaloos, which were maintained without any issues – until self contained restrictions came in.
9. Council supports Proposal 3 to improve the regulatory tools for government land managers, including both a regulatory system for self-contained vehicles and a stronger infringement scheme.
10. In particular, Council would support the introduction of a regulatory system for the SCVS and an infringement scheme for vehicles fraudulently claiming to be certified self-contained. The assessment for self-contained certification is already sufficiently rigorous. The issue lies with vehicles bypassing this assessment and fraudulently claiming to be certified self-contained. A regulatory system with an infringement scheme for fraudulent vehicles would reduce the negative impacts of freedom camping.
11. Council supports Proposal 4 to strengthen the requirements for self-contained vehicles, as the environmental impact from irresponsible freedom camping is a burdensome cost for local authorities and their residents.
12. Council supports the points made the Taituarā submission on behalf of the sector.
13. Council thanks MBIE for the opportunity to make a submission on the discussion document.

GM Strategy & Compliance

Jane Donaldson