

## **SBRRRA Freedom Camping Bylaw Update Jan 2019**

- Freedom camping bylaw was initially discussed at a meeting of Auckland Council's Regulatory Committee on September 13 2018. A draft bylaw was presented to the Regulatory Committee meeting on November 8 2018.
- The intent of the bylaw is stated to be to address the harms from freedom camping by increasing the supply of sites in suitable areas and providing for improved enforcement.
- The bylaw only applies to freedom camping in a motor vehicle – campervan, car, caravan, house truck. It does not apply to camping in tents.
- Rules are intended to be simple and regionally consistent.
- The bylaw applies to land controlled or managed by Auckland Council or Auckland Transport.
- Across Auckland:
  - 315 sites are proposed as prohibited;
  - 94 sites are restricted to vehicles that are self-contained;
  - Restricts freedom camping at another 13 sites, non-self-contained permitted.
- Each restricted site will have a designated maximum number of campers. Some have a maximum of 2 nights within a 4 week consecutive period. For sites where there is a high demand by other users during the day there will be a maximum stay of one night and a requirement to leave the site by 9.00 hours if there is a high demand by other users during the day. This does not apply to any of the Snells Beach sites. Perhaps it should, especially for Sunrise Boulevard, which can get very busy in peak periods.
- Vehicles must be parked within any marked lines in the designated site.
- For sites restricted to self-contained vehicles, those vehicles will be required to be certified to the NZ Standard for self-contained vehicles – NZS 5465:2001.
- There is no mention of size restrictions – for example the large converted coaches which are too long for the parking spaces and block other parts of the car park. This is already an issue in all 3 Snells Beach sites.
- The following sites in Snells Beach have been named in the by-law:
  - Prohibited:
    - Ariki Reserve
    - Goodall Reserve
  - Restricted:
    - Sunburst Reserve and Tamatea Esplanade, 5 spaces
    - Whisper Cove (Kohiki Lane), 2 spaces
  - Restricted, non-self-contained permitted:
    - Sunrise Boulevard, 4 spaces.
- There are satellite maps showing where the campervan spaces could be placed. The map for Sunburst reserve and Tamatea Esplanade (map RSR15) rather worryingly does not show the campervan spaces in their current position. It places them on the beachfront (which is currently signposted as 'No Camper Vans') and straddling the boat ramp. Thus encroaching on the current boat tractor and trailer parking spaces.

- An observation is that there seems to be a proliferation of ‘restricted, non-self-contained permitted’ sites in Rodney, compared with the remainder of Auckland. These are only designated in 3 Local Board areas as follows:
  - 1 in Albany
  - 1 in North Shore
  - 11 in Rodney, one of which is in Snells Beach.
  
- Public feedback for the bylaw is scheduled for the period from 3 December 2018 until 18 February 2019. Members of the public may provide their views:
  - Online on the website <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/freedom-camping/Pages/have-your-say-freedom-camping.aspx#panelLinks>. This also has links to the consultation documents and maps;
  - In person at a ‘Have Your Say ‘ event. There will be one in Warkworth on Saturday 16 February between 2pm and 4 pm at the Warkworth Masonic Hall, 3 Baxter Street. Note that this is very close to the closing date for submissions;
  - By post. Paper copies of the appropriate form (and online services) are available at libraries.

**Diane Taylor**  
**8 January 2019**