



**Mackenzie**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Mackenzie District Council

### Responsible Camping Policy

October 2016



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## 1. Approach to Responsible Camping

The Mackenzie District Council welcomes visitors to the District. The Mackenzie District is a great place to explore, with rare wildlife, majestic landscapes and fantastic walks and cycling routes. In the interests of protecting this for the enjoyment of everyone, the Council is seeking that camping occurs responsibly.

We welcome visitors who:

- camp responsibly;
- have access to appropriate facilities to manage their waste;
- respect public and private property;
- respect the local environment and help ensure that our roadsides, lakes, rivers and townships remain clean and our public places are available for all to enjoy;
- respect both residents of and other visitors to the Mackenzie District.

## 2. Background to this Policy

The Mackenzie District is popular for camping. While some people do camp all year round the peak time for camping is in spring and summer. A variety of people camp, including:

- Mackenzie District residents who camp as part of their holidays.
- New Zealand residents who camp as part of their holidays.
- New Zealand residents who live and travel in mobile homes.
- Visitors who rent purpose built mobile campervans for their holiday experience.
- Visitors who rent or buy cars and vans which are used for camping.
- Visitors who camp alongside their vehicle in a tent.

The Mackenzie District Council wishes to encourage campers to the District and welcomes all responsible campers. Along with the right to camp in the District comes the responsibility to respect the District and maintain the quality environment we all value.

Freedom camping poses a number of issues for our communities. These include:

- Potential for pollution of waterways, roadsides, parks and gardens and other public places with human waste and rubbish.
- Potential of a risk of fire being started by campers unaware of fire rules and risks.
- Loss of amenity and privacy for residents living nearby popular freedom camping hot-spots.

- Lost revenue for camping ground operators including theft of services (showers, power) by some freedom campers.
- High cost of enforcement, signage, compliance and waste management.
- Poor image of campers sleeping and undertaking ablutions in streets and car parks.
- Loss of availability of parking for residents and workers;
- Risk of crime against campers and associated impacts on tourism.

This Policy seeks to encourage responsible camping in appropriate areas in the Mackenzie District. It works in conjunction with the Council's Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw, which controls freedom camping in some parts of the District. Freedom camping is defined as *the use of public land for free overnight camping*.

### 3. Mackenzie District Council Policy

#### Objective

To encourage and facilitate responsible camping within the Mackenzie District.

#### Goals

**Goal 1:** Responsible campers know where they can camp and what is expected from them if they choose to camp in the Mackenzie District.

#### Implementation Methods

1. Responsible camping is provided for and encouraged in appropriate locations, where vehicles or camping is self-contained.
2. Locations where responsible camping is provided for may be subject to site specific limitations.
3. Up to date information is maintained on the Mackenzie District Council website, including:
  - a) Information on formal camping locations (including commercial camping grounds and Department of Conservation Camping sites);
  - b) Information on locations where responsible camping is encouraged in the Mackenzie District and expectations of campers using those camping areas; and
  - c) Information on and maps of the location of dump stations.
4. Information on responsible camping is provided to other appropriate agencies and individuals, including:
  - a) Visitor centres (within and adjacent to the Mackenzie District);
  - b) Vehicle hire companies;
  - c) Information kiosks (if appropriate);
  - d) Providing information using available technologies such as QR Code, and in languages other than English.
5. Signage (where appropriate) is installed in areas where responsible camping is encouraged and where it is discouraged.
6. To investigate options for providing, funding and where appropriate charging for the enhancement of existing areas, or for providing new facilities in areas where camping is to be encouraged.

**Goal 2:** Campers meet the expectations of them to camp responsibly in the District.

**Implementation Methods**

1. Promote and encourage campers to be responsible campers and adhere to the “*camping our way approach*<sup>1</sup>” and the Mackenzie District Council Care Code (Schedule 1), and to protect the environment by:
  - a) Leaving no trace of your visit;
  - b) Not using the bush and natural environment as a toilet;
  - c) Using formal and authorised dump stations;
  - d) Adopt-a “carry-in, carry-out philosophy” in all camping areas, unless disposal services are provided; and
  - e) Camping in locations where it is encouraged and provided for.

**Goal 3:** Maintain relationships with adjoining Councils and other organisations involved in, or interested in, issues associated with responsible camping.

**Implementation Methods**

1. Maintain or establish liaison with other organisations to ensure a best practice and, where appropriate, consistent approach is being taken to responsible camping in the Mackenzie District. These organisations may include:
  - a) Adjacent local authorities;
  - b) Department of Conservation;
  - c) New Zealand Transport Agency;
  - d) Local holiday park operators;
  - e) Local communities;
  - f) New Zealand Motor Caravan Association, and
  - g) Other organisations as relevant.

**Goal 4:** Work with parties and private organisations with facilities that may be suitable for responsible camping in the District, and where appropriate facilitate the provision of information about these facilities to prospective campers.

**Implementation Methods**

1. In conjunction with landowners, identify additional areas that may be appropriate for responsible camping in the Mackenzie District.
2. With the agreement of landowners, facilitate the provision of information on the availability of these areas including any conditions that apply to their use.

**Goal 5:** Monitor the effects of responsible camping in the District.

**Implementation Methods**

1. Encourage staff and local communities to monitor responsible camping areas and provide feedback and information on any issues to the Mackenzie District Council.
2. To consider the development and implementation of a regular monitoring and enforcement programme, including any necessary financial resourcing.
3. Investigate ways to collect basic information on the type of camping and campers in the District (excluding camping grounds), including why and how long visitors are staying in the Mackenzie District and their daily spend within the District.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.camping.org.nz](http://www.camping.org.nz)

## Definitions

**Self-contained vehicle** means a vehicle designed and built for the purpose of camping which has the capability of meeting the ablutionary and sanitary needs of the occupants of that vehicle for a minimum of three days without requiring any external services or discharging any waste, and:

1. Complies with New Zealand Standard 5465:2001, as evidenced by the display of a current self-containment warrant issued under New Zealand Standard Self Containment of Motor Caravans and Caravans, NZS 5465:2001; and
2. The toilet facility must be readily usable within the vehicle including sufficient head and elbow room at all times, even with the bed made up.

**Self-contained camping** means camping in a self-contained vehicle or by alternative means not within a vehicle, providing that the individual camper(s) have the capability of meeting the ablutionary and sanitary needs of occupants of the camp for a minimum of three days without requiring any external services, relying on public facilities or discharging or depositing any waste into the environment.

For the avoidance of doubt, camping of any kind where ablution activities involve the use of portable toilets not located and used in a fully private facility, or undertaking ablution activities in the natural environment, are excluded from being considered self-contained camping.



## Schedule 1 : Mackenzie District Council Care Code

Mackenzie District Council land is for the benefit of all residents and visitors. Reserves and public areas are treasured by the community. Be considerate to other users.

Please:

- Help us treasure and protect the Mackenzie District's beautiful spaces and places.
- Keep vehicles to formed public tracks and parking areas. Keep clear of road ends with private gateways/thoroughfares as private landowners need access to their properties at all times.
- Use designated areas for rest stops or camping.
- Use public toilets or on-board facilities, and dump stations to empty campervan toilets and wastewater.
- Refrain from toileting on the ground or in the bush or forest.
- Take all rubbish with you when you leave.
- Place litter in rubbish receptacles or take it with you.
- Refrain from using waterways for bathing, washing clothes or dishes.
- Discharge black water (sewage) and grey water (sink and hand basin water) at designated wastewater dump stations only.
- Fires are prohibited unless in supplied BBQ areas and fireplaces and are not occurring in a restricted fire season.
- Respect our natural and cultural heritage.
- Treat all New Zealand's wildlife and plants with care. Many are unique and often rare.

### Reporting problems

Mackenzie District Council  
53 Main Street  
PO Box 52  
FAIRLIE 7949

**Freephone:** 0800 685 8514

Telephone: (03) 685-9010

Fax: (03) 685-8533



Email us on: [info@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:info@mackenzie.govt.nz)

Mackenzie District Council's facebook page: [www.facebook.com/mackenziedistrict](https://www.facebook.com/mackenziedistrict)