



26 June 2018

Mr Mark Thomas  
[fyi-request-7935-221e3168@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7935-221e3168@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Thomas

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act (the Act) of 24 May 2018 to the Office of the Minister of Tourism. Your request was transferred to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on 28 May 2018 as the information to which your request relates is held by the Ministry and is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry.

You have requested the following information:

“the meeting minutes of all meetings held in relation to the Working Party established to review the Freedom Camping Act.”

A copy of the documents that falls within the scope of the request is attached. Some information has been withheld under the following grounds of the Act:

- *Section 9(2)(a) as withholding the information is necessary to “protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.”*
- *Section 9(2)(b)(ii) as withholding the information is necessary to “protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it or who is the subject of the information.”*

Under section 9(1) of the Act, no public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

Also attached to this response is the agenda for the 4 May 2018 meeting as not all items were discussed at the meeting.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

Richard Davies  
Tourism Policy Manager  
**TOURISM, SECTORS, REGIONS & CITIES**







## Freedom camping working group – agenda

<b>Date and time</b>	Friday 4 May, 11.30am-1.00pm		
<b>Location</b>	15 Stout St, and via teleconference		
<b>Attendees</b>	Iain Cossar (Co-Chair) Helen Wyn Bruce Parkes	Steve Chadwick (Co-Chair) Tim Cadogan Andrew Turner	Chris Roberts Bruce Lochore Grant Webster
<b>Apologies</b>	Jim Boulton		
<b>In attendance</b>	John McGrath, Programme Manager Richard Davies, Manager, Tourism Policy, MBIE Charlotte Woolhouse, Senior Policy Advisor, MBIE Malcolm Alexander, Chief Executive, LGNZ		

Item	Topic	Lead	Time	Action Required
1	Welcome	Steve /Iain	5 mins	Welcome and introduction
2	Task set by the Minister	Steve/Iain	10 mins	<b>Discuss and note</b> the task set by the Minister and Terms of Reference
3	Proposed Approach	John	10 mins	<b>Agree</b> an approach focused upon: <b>Two</b> key work programmes: 1. short term initiatives for 18/19 2. longer term review of the place of freedom camping in NZ and <b>Three</b> Meetings of the Working Group to finalise the work programmes by end July
4	Member introductions	All	20 mins	2 minutes each to highlight key priorities bringing to the working group
5	Current Position, Key Issues and Opportunities	Iain/ Steve	10 mins	<b>Discuss</b> the issues, initiatives and opportunities identified at previous forums on freedom camping, including LGNZ workshops.



6	Actions Required for summer 2018/19	Iain	15 mins	Agree the priority list of initiatives to be progressed ahead of the 2018/19 peak season
7	Long term policy work	Iain	15 mins	Agree the policy parameters to progress work on the future role and place of freedom camping in NZ
8	Next Meeting(s)	John	5 mins	Identify calendar opportunities for the next two meetings of the Working Group
9	Any Other Business	Iain/ Steve		Offer of Advisor (Iain)

**Attachments**

*Attachment One* – Terms of Reference (for agenda item two)

*Attachment Two* – Information Paper (for agenda item five)

*Attachment Three* – Issues, initiatives and opportunities for 2018/19 (for agenda item six)

*Attachment Four* – The Place of Freedom Camping in NZ (for agenda item seven)

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## **Minutes of the First Meeting of the Freedom Camping Working Group**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 15 Stout Street,  
Wellington**

### **Attendees**

Steve Chadwick, Mayor, Rotorua Lakes DC (Co-Chair)  
Iain Cossar, MBIE (Co-Chair)  
Tim Cadogan, Mayor, Central Otago  
Andrew Turner, Deputy Mayor, Christchurch  
Chris Roberts, Tourism Industry Aotearoa  
Bruce Lochore, NZ Motor Campervan Association  
Grant Webster, Tourism Holdings Limited  
Bruce Parks, Department of Conservation  
Nick Law, Department of Internal Affairs

### **In attendance**

Richard Davies, MBIE  
Charlotte Woolhouse, MBIE  
Malcolm Alexander, Local Government NZ  
John McGrath, MBIE

### **Apologies**

Jim Boulton, Mayor, Queenstown Lakes DC  
Helen Wynn, Department of Internal Affairs

### **Agenda Item One Welcome /Administrative Arrangements**

Steve Chadwick opened the meeting, welcoming members.

John McGrath introduced himself as the Programme Manager for the Freedom Camping Working Group. He will be the main point of contact for the work programme and administrative matters.

Contact details, including phone numbers for the members of the Working Group were requested to be circulated.

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The Co-chairs will agree the key messages (media and otherwise) from each meeting of the working group, while LGNZ and the tourist industry participants will comment from their sectoral perspectives.

### **Agenda Item Two – Task Set by Minister**

The Terms of Reference were agreed, with the Working Group noting that

a twin track approach was proposed – with a short term focus on the key actions to be undertaken ahead of the next peaks season, alongside a longer term review of the entire freedom camping system and whether changes need to be made to the Freedom Camping Act or other relevant legislation, and

the Working Group agreed that they should be re-titled “the Responsible Camping Working Group to reflect the key issue to be addressed, to inform the responsible behaviour of campers.

### **The Chair moved to Agenda Item Six – Actions required for 2018/19 Peak Season**

#### **Hot Spots**

Freedom Camping hot spots throughout the country were not necessarily just about the numbers of campers in any given area, but the social and environmental consequences of those campers.

It was noted that every district faced different issues but in particular that Akaroa/ Banks Peninsula, Taupo and the West Coast also had significant issues in relation to camping – alongside Queenstown, Mackenzie/ Central Otago and Northland identified in the Working Group papers. There is an immediate tactical need to prioritise responsive efforts that could address issues for peak season 2018/19.

Joined up local solutions – Cross-sectoral local groups bringing the relevant sectors together should be established to take the lead role in identifying immediate needs, opportunities and solutions.

The Minister will be requested to facilitate an additional round of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund July 2018 for applications focused on freedom camping initiatives that could be implemented for peak season 2018/19.

A discussion took place on whether the Provincial Development Fund could be accessed to broaden the options available to this group. Officials will advise the next meeting of the Working Group on this.

The importance of OPEX funding for the ongoing maintenance and support of camping infrastructure was stressed.



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Strategic procurement - standardised design of facilities, eg toilets, would expedite the process of infrastructure development.

#### **Education**

The work of the Responsible Camping Forum was acknowledged - the key issue is informing the responsible behaviour of campers

Early education of campers on their responsibilities is important – when they are planning their trips and making investment choices

#### **Regulation/ Infringement**

The Mayor's on the Working Group explained that the infringement revenue recovered from freedom campers did not meet the costs of monitoring and regulating the system.

A nationwide card that could access facilities across the country would be of benefit.

There are significant health and safety risks (eg fire hazards) for Councils as a result of unregulated or irresponsible freedom camping.

#### **Data**

Section 9(2)(b)(ii) data – both from a demand and supply perspective – to assist with infrastructure planning ahead of the 2018/19 peak season.

The data, apps and tools are available to capacity plan New Zealand for the next peak season. The industry, local government and MBIE should drive this work.

#### **Agenda Item Seven – Longer term policy work**

The next meeting of the Working Group will have a significant focus on the longer term changes required.

The longer term focus of the Working Group will be on potential changes to the system of Freedom Camping in New Zealand and any required changes to relevant legislation. This could include a full review of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 if the Working Group so recommends.

Other aspects the group agreed to consider were:

- The self-containment standard and the application of the standard
- How to ensure health and safety considerations are taken into account (eg, the risk of fire spreading when vehicles are parked close together)

#### **Agenda Item Eight – Next Meeting(s)**



It was agreed that two further meetings of the Working Group would take place prior to the report to the Minister of Tourism at the end of July 2018. The secretariat will work to organise these meetings, co-ordinating the diaries of members.

### **Agenda Item Nine - Any Other Business**

The offer of support from <sup>Section 9(2)</sup><sub>(a)</sub> was acknowledged but deemed not to be necessary.

### **Actions Arising**

1. MBIE and LGNZ to facilitate a cross sectoral approach, representative of Local Government, Central Government and the Tourism Industry, to identify camping hotspots. While

- Queenstown
- McKenzie/ Central Otago
- Northland
- Taupo
- West Coast/ Buller
- Banks Peninsula Akaroa

were identified by the Working Group as particular areas of concern, all Councils will be invited to participate in an approach whereby local cross-sectoral solutions that could be put in place for peak season 2018/19 would be identified.

LGNZ will write to all Mayors informing them of the outcomes of the first meeting of the Working Group and inviting responses to address issues for peak season 28/19.

The Minister of Tourism will be requested to facilitate an additional round of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund in July 2018/19 to support this approach.

Lead Agency – LGNZ/ MBIE

2. MBIE to investigate the potential benefits of bulk procurement of related infrastructure and to report back to the next meeting of the Working Group  
Lead Agency - MBIE

3. MBIE to investigate creative options to address the inability of the TIF to fund ongoing OPEX.  
Lead Agency – MBIE

4. A Working Group sub-group – Iain Cossar, Malcolm Alexander and Grant Webster – to work together on the data, apps and tools available to capacity plan New Zealand for the next peak season.  
Lead Agency – LGNZ/ THL/ MBIE





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5. The Working Group proposes that an additional round of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund be organised, targeting facilities for freedom camping to address peak season issues for 2018/19  
Lead Agency – **MBIE**
  
  6. An officials group to be established to drive the programme of the Freedom Camping Working Group. A name/ lead agency would be assigned to each work stream, and a member of the working group nominated to support the ongoing work.  
Lead Agency – **MBIE**
  
  7. There will be two further meetings of the Freedom Camping Working Group prior to the report to the Minister of Tourism at end July 2018. The next meeting of the Freedom Camping Working Group will have a significant focus on the longer term changes required to the system of freedom camping in New Zealand.  
Lead Agency – **MBIE/ LGNZ**

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