

## **Freedom Camping Policy**

*Adopted – Council 17 December 2010*

*See following page for policy.*

# Freedom Camping in the Queenstown Lakes District

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**Adopted – Council 17 December 2010**



**QUEENSTOWN  
LAKES DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

Prepared by the Queenstown Lakes District Council

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The Council acknowledges the use of graphic images kindly made available by I-Site New Zealand, Tourism New Zealand



## Our approach to freedom camping

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**Freedom camping is the use of public land for free overnight camping.**

**Many people consider freedom camping as a right – with that right comes the responsibility to camp with respect for the local environment and laws.**

**We welcome visitors who camp responsibly, have on-board facilities to remove their waste, respect public and private property and follow some simple rules.**

**Freedom camping within our townships, residential areas, parks and gardens is not acceptable.**

**We ensure a wide range of affordable accommodation is available for those who want to stay in our district.**

**We also want our roadsides, lakes and rivers to remain clean and our public places to be available for all to enjoy.**

## Freedom camping today

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Today freedom camping is an important part of the New Zealand tourism industry and is also popular among some New Zealand residents.

Freedom campers include:

- New Zealand residents who holiday or live and travel in mobile homes and who camp as part of their traditional summer holiday
- Visitors who rent purpose built mobile campervans for their holiday experience
- Visitors who rent or buy cars and vans modified (to varying degrees) for sleeping/camping
- Visitors who camp alongside their vehicle in a tent or otherwise “rough it”
- Transient workers seeking free accommodation

The Queenstown Lakes District is very popular year round for freedom camping.

Freedom camping enables campers to save considerable money on accommodation in turn freeing up money to spend on other

activities. Freedom camping also enables campers to experience some of the more remote and scenic parts of our district.

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

- Pollution of waterways, beaches, roadsides, parks and gardens and other public places with human waste and rubbish
- 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

## A national issue

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Freedom camping is an issue across the whole of New Zealand. In December 2007 a freedom camping forum was formed by the Tourism Industry Association of New Zealand with representation from:

- Tourism Industry Association New Zealand
- Local Government New Zealand (including QLDC)
- Tourism New Zealand
- Regional Tourism Organisations New Zealand
- New Zealand Transport Agency
- Ministry for the Environment
- Keep NZ Beautiful
- Youth Hostel Association
- Holiday Accommodation Parks New Zealand
- Maori Tourism Council
- Automobile Association
- Ministry of Tourism
- New Zealand Motor Caravan Association
- Department of Conservation
- New Zealand Police
- Bus and Coach Association
- Campervan Operators (United Campervans, Tourism Holdings Ltd (Maui, Britz and Backpacker rentals), KEA Campers NZ, Jucy NZ, Wicked Campers, Spaceships NZ.)

The Freedom Camping forum has produced the following outputs:

### **‘Camping our way’ website launched:**

[www.camping.org.nz](http://www.camping.org.nz) is now live. The site is designed in such a way that the ‘ask a local’ message takes centre stage, but it also includes information on ecowise practices, keeping safe, facilities, regional camping, what to do and where to stay in New Zealand.

Over 30 rental vehicle companies have been kept abreast of site development and we are asking all companies to link to the site and actively promote it to visitors during the booking process.

### **Campervan window stickers and posters:**

Campervan operators have been sent posters for their check-in areas and sufficient stickers to label their entire campervan fleet side-windows. Both the posters and stickers push the same ‘ask a local’ message and direct visitors to Department of Conservation (DOC) visitor centres, i-SITEs and holiday parks.

### **Training:**

Holiday parks, DOC visitor centres and i-SITEs have all been sent information summarising the campaign and requesting them to

find the answers to a range of potential camping questions, in readiness for visitors who want answers.

Rental companies too have been kept informed of progress and it is hoped they will fully support and promote the camping messages which are positive, welcoming and direct.

Rental companies have agreed to advise persons renting campervans without toilet facilities that they should only stay in campgrounds.

#### **i-SITE imagery:**

I-SITE New Zealand has developed a range of eye-catching images to help educate visitors on 'camping our way' principles. The images will be electronically available to businesses or organisations for their own use.

#### **'Waste contained on board' stickers:**

The Bus and Coach Association is coordinating the development of a sticker that will help identify existing campervans that have waste water and toilet waste onboard. A key principle agreed to by the NZFCF was: *Campers should have immediate access to, or on-board, toilet, wastewater collection and rubbish disposal facilities.*

#### **National Freedom Camping Guidelines:**

The forum has developed and unanimously adopted a set of camping guidelines. The guidelines have been created to help support the development of regional camping policies.

#### **Signage:**

A non-permissive camping sign has been developed; previously regions have developed their own version with mixed success. While councils are being urged to use the sign sparingly to avoid the visitor perception that *'if there's not a sign saying you can't, you can'* it was made clear to the NZFCF that every community has places of particular value which need strong 'no' type camping signage to get the point across.

#### **Unity:**

For the first time, New Zealand has a unified stance on how best to manage freedom camping. It is accepted by everyone that some degree of enforcement will still be required, but the group believes that the need for enforcement will be reduced through education helping campers to embrace the principle of Kaitiakitanga and 'camping our way'.

#### **Funding:**

The Ministry of Tourism has provided \$20k from the New Zealand Tourism Strategy 2015 fund and this money has been used to develop the camping website and associated information.

On a regional level the Queenstown Council's proposed approach has good alignment with neighbouring Councils who have jointly requested assistance with legislative changes from central government.

## The local issue

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Freedom camping is widespread across the district. Audits undertaken by Council show that most summer nights there will be around 50 - 100 vehicles camping in the rural areas each night, many without on board facilities or in proximity to public toilets. In addition to these there will be up to double that number parked within the streets, car parks and reserves in built up areas like the Queenstown and Wanaka town centres.

Given these numbers and allowing for seasonal fluctuations there could be around 150,000 “bed nights” per annum undertaken in the District by freedom campers.

Despite signage and compliance efforts, there will typically be between 10 – 20 campervans in popular “hot-spots” like the One Mile Reserve car park each summer evening.

An audit of the district roads in February 2009 identified 50 freedom camping “hotspots” – sites where campervans regularly frequent and where evidence of overnight camping could be found.

Of these 50 hotspots:

- 98% had camping related rubbish present
- 30% had evidence of a campfire
- 16% had evidence of human waste present
- 28% were clearly signposted “No Camping”
- 24% had facilities such as toilets nearby
- 14% were considered unsafe from a traffic safety perspective.





## Council's current response

Council regulates freedom camping via its traffic and parking bylaw.

### ***QLDC Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2006.***

*This Bylaw 15.2 requires that 'without the prior written consent of the Council, no person shall:*

*Bylaw 15.2.3:*

*Stop, stand or park any vehicle on any road or in any public place for the purposes of camping, within the District's Town Centre zone or Residential zones, with the exception of those areas identified as approved camping areas.*

*Bylaw 15.2.4:*

*Stop, stand or park any vehicle on any road or in any public place for the purposes of camping, outside the Town Centre zone or Residential zones, with the exception of those vehicles displaying a NZS 5465:2001 Self-Containment Certificate.*

The maximum fine for an offence against this bylaw is stated as \$100, however due to a technicality with the promulgation of statutes a fine of \$40 can only be imposed at present.

The Traffic and Parking Bylaw is inappropriate as it requires extensive signage (to the same degree as parking signs) to be enforced and only relates to vehicles (i.e it does not apply to camping in a tent alongside a vehicle)

The **monitoring of freedom camping** is currently undertaken by two independent contractors to QLDC

In the Queenstown area, patrols are generally undertaken on a seven days a week basis from late in the afternoon or early evening, to give information handouts and again in the morning to move freedom campers on. The focus of this patrolling is on the central business area of Queenstown and occasionally Sunshine Bay, Frankton Beach, Lake Hayes and Arrowtown.

In Wanaka patrols are undertaken in the morning, seven days per week focusing on the Council car parks in the centre of town, Glendhu Bay to the QLDC motor camp, Waterfall creek, Wanaka Station Park, Wanaka foreshore, boat ramp, Eely Point reserve, Penrith, fisherman's access road, Mount Iron and Albert Town.

Neither contractor is authorised to issue infringement notices for unlawfully parked freedom campers. Their roles have been advisory only.

The current cost to the community of this service is \$73,000 per annum. All of this cost falls on the ratepayer.

# Proposed Approach

## Goal 1 Freedom campers know where they can and can't camp and what is expected from them if they choose to freedom camp in our district.

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
1.1	<b>Web page</b> Up to date information is maintained on QLDC's webpage including camping rules, location of all camp sites, maps of dump stations and links to Department of conservation campsites, commercial camp sites and <a href="http://www.camping.org.nz">www.camping.org.nz</a>  Encourage other local and national visitor related websites to link to QLDC visitor webpage.	QLDC	To provide information to hire companies and visitors prior to their visit.	No direct cost – existing staff resources	Completed (and on-going as new information becomes available)	QLDC information strategy.  NZFCF
1.2	<b>Printed material</b> Revise QLDC Freedom camping brochure to align with this strategy and improve distribution including via i-site, service stations and rental companies.	QLDC	To provide information to visitors when they arrive in the District.	\$10,000 plus \$5000 p.a. in printing/distribution	July 2011	QLDC information strategy

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
1.3	<b>Visitor Information Outlets</b> Provide annual briefing and information sessions for information centres, service stations and community associations.	QLDC	To ensure locals provide a clear and consistent message to visitors about freedom camping opportunities and rules.	No direct cost – within existing budgets.	October each year and as required	i-site, DOC  Community Associations
1.4	<b>Information Kiosks</b> Provide information kiosks at key entry points to district describing camping opportunities and rules including consequences of not complying.	QLDC	To provide information to visitors when they arrive in the District and provide fair warning of fines for illegal camping.	\$50,000 plus maintenance. Funding for entrance signs in LTCCP	July 2011	NZ Transport Agency  QLDC Entrances Project

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
1.5	<p><b>No Camping signs</b></p> <p>Incorporate the no camping message in parks and reserve signs where required but limit and rationalise individual “No camping signs” to key trouble areas and limit sign numbers to minimum required.</p> <p>Adopt the NZ Transport Agency “No Camping” sign and include a supplementary message showing fine for non-compliance.</p>	QLDC	<p>There is no evidence that “No Camping” signs are effective (See Appendix 2) and their presence detracts from the amenity of the district. They are expensive to maintain.</p> <p>To provide fair warning of fines for illegal camping.</p>	<p>No direct cost – within existing budgets.</p> <p>\$500 per new sign plus annual maintenance</p>	On-going	QLDC sign policy



## Goal 2      Facilities for freedom campers are easy to find and help protect the environment.

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
2.1	<b>Carry-in, carry-out</b> Promote via all information channels (1.1 – 1.5 above) a “carry-in, carry-out” philosophy for all reserves and areas outside the town centres.	QLDC	To minimise the cost on the community of rubbish collection in remote areas.	No direct cost – existing staff resources	On-going	QLDC Waste Mgmt Strategy
2.2	<b>Rubbish Disposal</b> Provide and promote rubbish disposal and recycling options for visitors at rural collection points and transfer stations via the ‘on the road recycling’ initiative being developed by Wanaka Wastebusters for QLDC.	QLDC Wanaka Waste Busters	To provide a way for visitors to dispose of rubbish correctly and to share the cost of waste disposal.	Within existing budgets	On-going	QLDC Waste Mgmt Strategy
2.3	<b>Waste Dump Stations</b> Improve the visibility and presentation of existing dump stations and build new public dump stations in Lake Hawea, Albert Town and Frankton	QLDC	To ensure self contained campervans have ready access to waste disposal facilities	\$50,000 budget included in 10/11 Annual Plan	June 2011	QLDC Waste Mgmt Strategy  NZ Transport Agency

### Goal 3 Freedom camping areas are managed to either permit, prevent or mitigate freedom camping

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
3.1	<b>Permit freedom camping for self contained vehicles in remote areas</b> In consultation with local communities, identify places (see Appendix 1) where visitors with self-contained vehicles can continue to freedom camp.	QLDC DoC  NZ Transport Agency	To recognise that freedom camping is a positive contributor to our economy and visitors' experience of our district.  To accept that freedom camping is likely to continue in remote areas, patrolling is largely impractical and that if campers are responsible (including using self containment facilities) that effects on environment are minimal.	No direct cost – existing staff resources	On-going	Community Associations  Community Plans  NZ Transport Agency  DoC  ORC

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
3.2	<b>Prevent freedom camping in undesirable locations</b> In consultation with road controlling authorities and local communities identify 'hot-spots' where freedom camping should be prevented for road safety or environmental reasons by physical modifications to location to prevent vehicle access	QLDC  Land Transport Agency	To prevent camping in unsafe locations or where the environment is suffering from the effects of poor camping practices.	Unknown - Subject to individual site assessments and specific requirements	On-going	LTCCP DoC
3.3	<b>Reserve management plans</b> Include policies on freedom camping in reserve management plans to reflect community views.	QLDC	To provide local decision making on use or restriction of reserves for freedom camping	No direct cost	On-going	Reserve Management Plans
3.4	<b>Monitor hot-spots</b> Undertake six monthly monitoring and clean-ups of informal campsites to identify new 'hot-spots' and assess condition and compliance on freedom camping areas.  Report outcomes of monitoring to Council annually	QLDC	To ensure environment and road safety is not being compromised by effects of freedom camping  To keep Council and Community apprised of freedom camping issue	Monitoring within existing staff resource.  Clean up costs \$5000 per annum unbudgeted.	October and March each year	LTCCP



## Goal 4      Visitors comply with our communities' expectations for freedom camping and non-compliance is enforced via fines

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
4.1	<b>With the assistance of Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, pass a new Bylaw (or an amendment to the Control Of Activities And Obstructions In Public Places Bylaw 2010) that prohibits freedom camping within town centres and anywhere unless the vehicle is self contained and enables infringement notices to be issued for non compliance.</b>	QLDC and LE	Current Traffic and Parking Bylaw is ineffective. Central government needs to pass a regulation in accordance with section 259 of the Local Government Act 2002 to enable infringement notices to be issued.	\$5000 legal costs	May 2011	<b>Control Of Activities And Obstructions In Public Places Bylaw 2010)</b>

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
4.2	<p><b>Move from an advisory approach to enforcement approach</b></p> <p>Once an appropriate regulation and bylaw is in place and the bylaw is communicated via signs and other channels move to issuing infringement notices to campers in town centres, residential areas and other places where camping is not permitted.</p> <p>Raise infringement notice penalties from \$40 to \$100 or such other figure as prescribed in the regulation and QLDC bylaw.</p> <p>Seek Central Government support for increased powers to recover fines incurred by overseas visitors.</p>	QLDC and LE	<p>An advisory approach is not effective in preventing freedom camping in undesirable places and is costly for the community. (Currently \$73,000 p.a)</p> <p>Enforcement via infringement notices will recover the cost of compliance from those who don't follow the rule</p> <p>Currently there is difficulty recovering fines incurred by overseas visitors</p>	\$90,000 p.a. gross cost with expectation that large portion of this will be recovered	July 2011	LTCCP

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
4.3	<p><b>Empower field staff and local communities to monitor remote sites and parks</b></p> <p>Provide a delegation to suitable staff and community 'wardens' to issue infringement notices for camping in prohibited areas or without self containment in permitted areas.</p>	QLDC and LE	To extend reach of compliance beyond town centres by using suitable community volunteers and other field based Council staff	Allowance of \$5000 for warden training and certification	July 2011	<p><b>Control Of Activities And Obstructions In Public Places Bylaw 2010)</b></p> <p>Reserves Act 1977</p> <p>Local Gov Act.</p>
4.4	<p><b>Take a hard line on littering and dumping human waste</b></p> <p>Where evidence exists of littering or dumping of human waste or grey-water, use the Litter Act, Reserves Act 1977 or Resource Management Act to pursue a prosecution.</p> <p>Publicise successful prosecutions.</p>	QLDC and LE	To encourage compliance with environmental objectives and publicise non-compliance to raise public awareness	Including in existing LE budgets	On going	<p>Litter Act</p> <p>Reserves Act 1977</p> <p>Local Gov Act.</p>

**Goal 5      Maintain relationships with adjoining Councils, Department of Conservation and other organisations involved with the freedom camping issue**

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
5.1	<b>Continue involvement with the New Zealand Freedom Camping Forum</b>	QLDC	To maintain effective links with industry and freedom camping interests to obtain best practice and communicate local community views on Freedom camping	\$500 p.a within existing budgets	Ongoing	LTCCP

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
5.2	<b>Maintain liaison with Local Government New Zealand and South Island Councils and Department of Conservation</b>	QLDC	<p>To share information on emerging issues and successful strategies.</p> <p>To provide consistency in policy and approach across local authority boundaries while respecting local needs and community views.</p> <p>To better plan for freedom camping management across the district, through closer liaison with DOC.</p>	No direct cost	Ongoing	LTCCP
5.3	<b>Maintain liaison with local interests</b> Ensure effective communication with local holiday park operators, local communities, police etc over emerging issues and effectiveness of this strategy.	QLDC	To ensure effectiveness of strategy and consider emerging issues.	No direct cost	On going	Community associations  NZTA DoC ORC etc



## Goal 6 Ensure a range of camping opportunities exist in the District including free or low cost options

Ref	Action	Who will do this?	Why is it needed?	What will it cost?	When will it happen?	Linkages
6.1	<b>Implement QLDC Camping Ground Strategy</b> Implement development of Council owned campgrounds that provide a low cost camping option such as Glendhu Bay and Albert Town	QLDC	To provide affordable alternatives to freedom camping.	Subject to location and specific annual plan processes	Ongoing	LTCCP
6.2	<b>Consider opportunities for additional facilities</b> Review opportunities for low impact, small scale self registration camps on Council administered land in association with local communities  Encourage DoC to maintain and develop self registration campsites and low-cost camping options	QLDC	To ensure there is a range of low cost and environmentally acceptable campsites with basic facilities like toilets and running water.	Subject to site assessment and individual requirements	2011	Community Plans  Reserve Mgmt plans

## Appendix 1: Table of Camping 'Hot-Spots' – February 2009

Description	Rubbish found	Camp-fire evident	Human waste	No camping signs	Safe access from road	Public toilets on site
Glenorchy Road, waterfront car park	•	•			•	
Glenorchy Road, car park area near waterfall	•	•			•	
Glenorchy Road, waterfront, main use for boat access to Pig/Pigeon Island	•				•	
Glenorchy Road, waterfront, main use for kite surfing/boat access	•				•	
Glenorchy Road, Little Paradise village waterfront	•				•	
Glenorchy Road, small tracks off main road, view of lake and road		•			•	
Sunshine Bay boat ramp, waterfront area	•			•	•	
Kawarau Gorge, Roaring Meg car park	•				•	
Kawarau Gorge, Mad Dog access point	•	•	•		•	•
Kawarau River, near Mad Dog access point	•				•	
Kawarau River, kayaking access point	•	•	•		•	
Kawarau River SH6	•					



Description	Rubbish found	Camp-fire evident	Human waste	No camping signs	Safe access from road	Public toilets on site
Kawarau River SH6, open car park	•				•	
Kingston Road, Remarkables ski field car park	•				•	
Kingston Road, waterfront, picnic area, bins	•			•	•	•
Kingston Recreation Reserve	•	•		•	•	•
Kingston Road	•					•
Kingston Road	•				•	•
Kingston Road	•	•	•		•	•
Wye Creek	•	•	•		•	
Lake Hayes walking track car park	•			•	•	
Shotover Bridge carpark	•	•	•		•	
Glendhu Bay Road, small grassed area	•			•		
Glendhu Bay Road, car park near boat ramp, Mt Aspiring viewpoint	•			•		
Wanaka waterfront	•			•	•	•
Lake Hawea waterfront	•			•	•	•

Description	Rubbish found	Camp-fire evident	Human waste	No camping signs	Safe access from road	Public toilets on site
Lake Hawea boat ramp, Treble Cone turnoff	•		•	•	•	
Lake Hawea waterfront	•	•			•	
Lake Hawea waterfront	•	•			•	
Albert Town recreation reserve	•				•	
Lake Hayes pavilion picnic area	•				•	
Lake Hayes waterfront	•	•			•	
Arrowtown Butler Green car park	•			•	•	•
Arrowtown car park	•	•		•	•	
Coronet Peak car park	•				•	
Arthur's Point Tavern car park	•				•	
Fernhill roundabout	•			•	•	•
One Mile powerhouse car park	•			•	•	
Frankton beach front	•			•	•	•
Waterfall Creek	•	•		•	•	•

Description	Rubbish found	Camp-fire evident	Human waste	No camping signs	Safe access from road	Public toilets on site
Cardrona Ski field car park	•				•	
Cardrona Pub car park	•				•	
Cardrona Road gravel pit	•	•	•		•	
Cardrona Road roadside	•		•			
Cardrona Road roadside	•					
Crown Range Road	•				•	
Crown Range Road	•					
Crown Range Road	•				•	
Crown Range Road	•				•	
Crown Range Road	•					
Totals	98%	30%	16%	28%	84%	24%

## Appendix 2: Signs as a means of enforcement of 'No Camping', Queenstown

### Introduction

Councils through New Zealand use signs to inform visitors about camping rules and to control freedom camping where such camping is not permitted. Often the first response to complaints about freedom camping is to erect signs. Complainants often point to the lack of signage as a contributing factor to “illegal” freedom camping.

The One Mile car park is a popular freedom camping location, being only 1km from the Queenstown town centre. It is adjacent to Lake Wakatipu and St Omer Park. The site has capacity for approximately 40 cars and has picnicking, toilet facilities and a playground adjacent.

This study seeks to determine the effectiveness of signage in reducing the frequency of freedom camping.

### Objective

To determine the effectiveness or otherwise of a “No Camping” sign at reducing incidents of freedom camping in a specific location.

### Methodology

The One Mile Car park (see figure 1) has a single entrance of Lake Esplanade.



Figure 1. One Mile Car park - Queenstown

The car park has capacity for 40 cars or vans and is adjacent to the main road from Queenstown to Glenorchy.

During 2008, Land Transport New Zealand prepared a standardised “No Camping Sign” liaison with the New Zealand Freedom Camping Forum. The sign was officially authorised pursuant to subclause 4.4(4) of Land Transport Rule: Traffic Control Devices 2004, by the New Zealand Transport Agency in November 2008.

*Figure 2. Land Transport NZ No camping sign*



This sign is the only such sign to form part of the Land Transport Rules: Traffic Control Devices 2004 and as such is legally enforceable under the relevant regulations and bylaws.

The sign is legally described as follows:

**R6-40 No camping**

*No camping at any time in the area designated by the sign.*

Shape and Size: Rectangle 600 x 800mm

Background: White (R)

Border: Red (R) 30mm

Legend:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Size</i>
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“circle” with	Red (R)	diameter 400mm border 40mm
“diagonal bar” superimposed on	Red (R)	bar 30mm wide
“symbol A20-S5” (symbol of tent above a caravan) above	Black	240 x 300mm
“NO”	Red (R)	50/7.7
“CAMPING”	Red (R)	50/7.7

A sign meeting the above requirements was manufactured at RTL limited in Invercargill. The sign is mounted on a standard fluted aluminium pole painted white at a height of x m from the bottom of the sign to the ground and orientated so as to be clearly visible, perpendicular to traffic entering the car park.

The sign post was mounted in a concrete footing with a quick release sleeve.

The previous Council designed *No Camping* signs were removed so that the car park was free of no camping signs.

Each morning between 6am – 7am an observer checked the car park and recorded the number of vans and cars who had camped overnight in the car park. This occurred for a seven day period from Monday to Sunday.

The No Camping sign was then installed and the same observations undertaken for the next seven day period, each morning between 6am – 7am.

This was repeated for a period of eight weeks giving a total of four weeks without signage and four weeks with signage.

## Results

The following table shows the results recorded over the period from Tuesday 27 January to Monday 23 March inclusive.

Date	No Sign	No Camping Sign in place
Tuesday, 27 January 2009	20	
Wednesday, 28 January 2009	16	
Thursday, 29 January 2009	24	
Friday, 30 January 2009	20	
Saturday, 31 January 2009	21	
Sunday, 1 February 2009	25	
Monday, 2 February 2009	26	
Tuesday, 3 February 2009		25
Wednesday, 4 February 2009		23
Thursday, 5 February 2009		24
Friday, 6 February 2009		25
Saturday, 7 February 2009		16
Sunday, 8 February 2009		11
Monday, 9 February 2009		13
Tuesday, 10 February 2009	7	

Date	No Sign	No Camping Sign in place
Wednesday, 11 February 2009	5	
Thursday, 12 February 2009	10	
Friday, 13 February 2009	5	
Saturday, 14 February 2009	5	
Sunday, 15 February 2009	11	
Monday, 16 February 2009	12	
Tuesday, 17 February 2009		7
Wednesday, 18 February 2009		8
Thursday, 19 February 2009		6
Friday, 20 February 2009		8
Saturday, 21 February 2009		11
Sunday, 22 February 2009		7
Monday, 23 February 2009		16
Tuesday, 24 February 2009	9	
Wednesday, 25 February 2009	6	
Thursday, 26 February 2009	5	
Friday, 27 February 2009	5	
Saturday, 28 February 2009	8	
Sunday, 1 March 2009	13	
Monday, 2 March 2009	12	
Tuesday, 3 March 2009		12
Wednesday, 4 March 2009		6

Date	No Sign	No Camping Sign in place
Thursday, 5 March 2009		8
Friday, 6 March 2009		11
Saturday, 7 March 2009		9
Sunday, 8 March 2009		12
Monday, 9 March 2009		11
Tuesday, 10 March 2009	10	
Wednesday, 11 March 2009	8	
Thursday, 12 March 2009	6	
Friday, 13 March 2009	2	
Saturday, 14 March 2009	4	
Sunday, 15 March 2009	18	
Monday, 16 March 2009	8	
Tuesday, 17 March 2009		10
Wednesday, 18 March 2009		26
Thursday, 19 March 2009		12
Friday, 20 March 2009		1
Saturday, 21 March 2009		9
Sunday, 22 March 2009		6
Monday, 23 March 2009		8
<b>Total Campers</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>341</b>
<b>Average Campers per night</b>	<b>11.46</b>	<b>12.18</b>

### **Conclusions**

A total of 321 vehicles stayed overnight at the One Mile Car Park over the four weeks when no signs were present. In contrast a total of 341 vehicles stayed overnight at the One Mile Car Park over the four weeks when the official “No Camping” sign was installed.

The average number of vehicles camping overnight in the car park was 11.46 per night when no signs were present or 12.18 per night when the “No Camping” sign was installed.

It is therefore concluded that the sign installed had no significant effect on people’s attitudes to freedom camping. In fact more people camped in the car park when an official no camping sign was present.

Paul Wilson  
General Manager Community services  
Queenstown Lakes District Council



## Appendix 3: NZFCF Camping Code

### Campers should:

1. Respect the New Zealand environment – leave the site clear of all rubbish, waste and damage.  
*Understand that dumping of waste and litter is an offence and will result in instant fines or prosecution.*
2. Act responsibly, and respect the access and enjoyment rights of other public space users.
3. Have immediate access to, or on-board, toilet, wastewater collection and rubbish disposal facilities.
4. Use designated public spaces, camping areas (e.g. Department of Conservation sites) or commercial premises as available.  
*Seek the local i-SITE, DOC Visitor Centre, camping grounds, other camping guides or the local council web site, for information about the location of camping sites in the area. Appreciate that some environmentally or culturally sensitive, and built-up, areas will not permit any form of camping.*
5. Understand that freedom camping is a temporary activity, generally considered to be two days unless otherwise informed.

