

Te Whakaminenga o Kapiti update

Freedom Camping Policy 2012 Review

Focusing on:

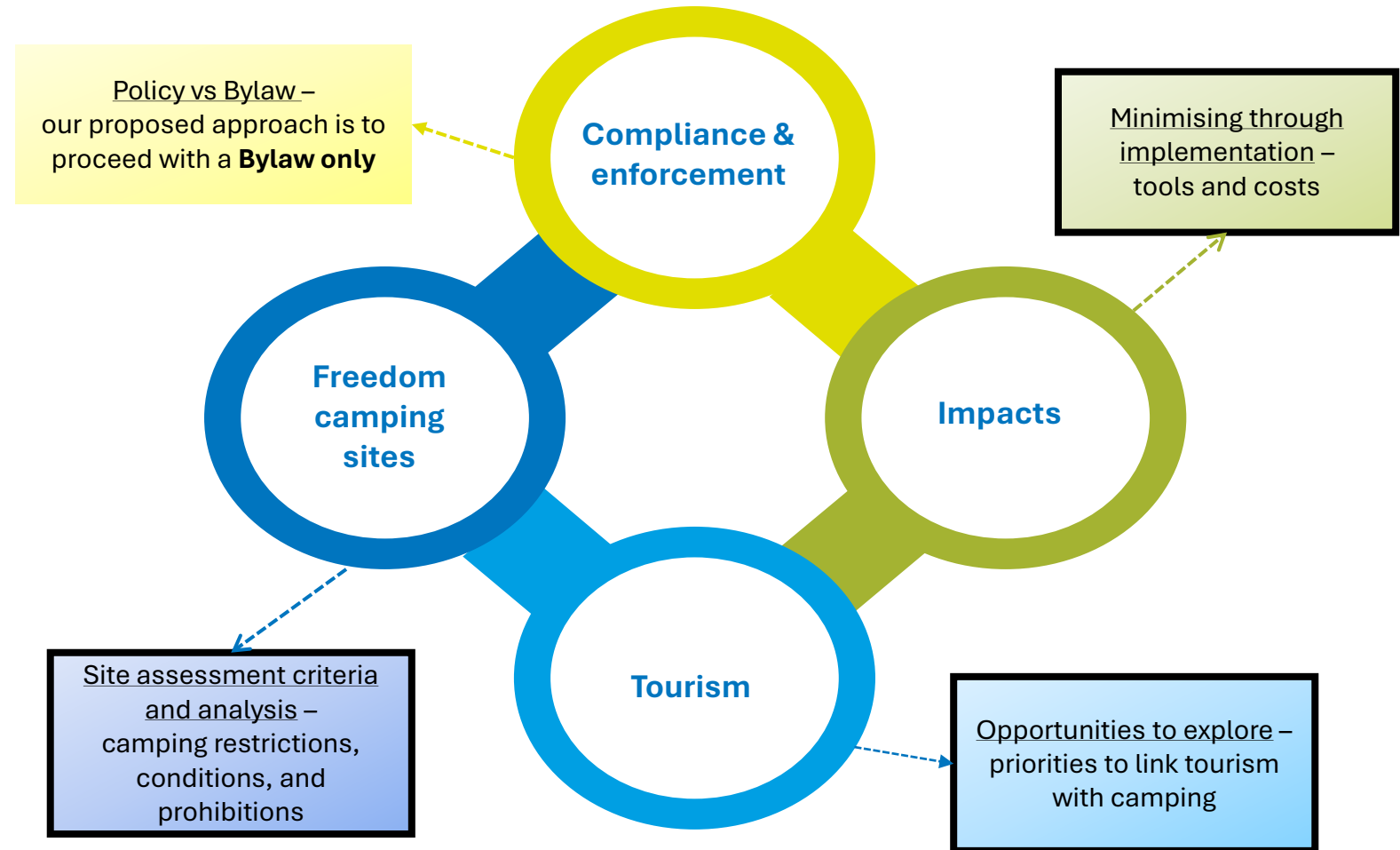
Need for bylaw

Site analysis

Implementation

Tourism links

Freedom camping key focus areas



The need for a Bylaw

Benefits

- Can be made under the FCA but must meet tests:
 - restrict or prohibit freedom camping at sites based on **protection**;
 - must be most appropriate/proportionate way of addressing problem; and
 - not inconsistent with the NZ Bill of Rights.
- Must be reviewed initially after five years (then every 10 years) or in response to any Government changes to the FCA.
- Council must have the capacity to resource compliance with the bylaw.

Impacts:

- Can **restrict** or **prohibit** where freedom camping may occur in certified self-contained vehicles and **permit** not self-contained freedom camping.
- Can specify the restrictions/conditions that relate to restricted, prohibited or permitted areas.
- Opens up a wide range of offences to enforce.
 - Infringement offences specific to breach of bylaw.
- Results in safe and practical sites that are not over-subscribed with minimal impact to local environment as compliance officers are empowered to manage.

Site assessment criteria & analysis

- Consultants assessed appropriateness of Council land for freedom camping.
- Includes council reserves to inform reserve management planning process.
- Internal project team has undertaken additional assessment of sites.
- Iwi engagement through iwi partnerships team.

1) Freedom Camping Act
“criteria” to restrict/prohibit:

- **Protect the area**
- **Protect access to area**
- **Protect health & safety of people visiting area**

2) Proximity to amenities, recreational opportunities (CWB), tourist attractions and eateries; visual appeal; natural surroundings etc.

3) Iwi values including proximity to waahi tapu.

Key shifts in the proposed approach to freedom camping

Under Policy, freedom camping is not permitted in any public place except for “approved” sites (in self-contained vehicles)



...self-contained freedom camping is permitted anywhere under the Freedom Camping Act 2011

Moving from “**approved**” sites by Policy (not enforceable) to...



...using a Bylaw to prescribe **restrictions** and **conditions** or **prohibitions** to **protect** areas (enforceable)

Current nine “designated sites” with 24 allocated spaces to...



...proposed 11 “restricted sites” with 44 allocated spaces (includes tenting only site)

Three of current “approved sites” (in Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Ōtaki) no longer available for camping ...



...replaced with six additional “restricted sites” (including one for tenting only) across the district

Current maximum stay of 24 hours at any one site (and unlimited no. of stays across district) to...



...maximum stay of 48 hours at any one site across district in a 4-week period (i.e. can stay 48 hours at each site in that period)

Site restrictions and prohibitions

Freedom camping is proposed to be prohibited across town centres and over 30 other sites.

- 11 restricted sites are proposed.
- 8 of these are not in reserves and will form part of proposed bylaw.

- 3 restricted sites are in reserves that have no Reserve Management Plan (RMP) or would be in contradiction to it.
- We will seek a Council resolution to allow camping until the RMP process aligns.

- 3 of the restricted sites with supporting facilities are proposed to permit not self-contained freedom camping.
- 1 site on the Te Araroa Trail is proposed for tenting only.

PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS

- Maximum stay of 48 hours at any one site across district in a 4-week period (i.e. can stay 48 hours at each site in that period)
- Most sites restricted to maximum vehicle length of 8m (2 sites have 10m)
- Self-contained or not self-contained vehicles dependent on restrictions specific to site

Roadside and town centre restrictions and prohibitions

Under the Freedom Camping Act Self-contained freedom camping is permitted at any location within 200m of a formed road or beach unless restricted or prohibited.

We propose to prohibit freedom camping in “mixed use”, “metropolitan centre”, “town centre” and “local centre” zones under the Operative District Plan.

Freedom camping is prohibited on roads where the speed limit is 80km/hour or greater *unless* you can park safely on the road margin clear of the formed carriageway.

Self-contained freedom camping on residential streets where the speed limit is less than 80km/ hour is permitted if you can park safely.

PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS

- Maximum stay of 48 hours at any one site across district in a 4-week period (i.e. can stay 48 hours at each site in that period)
- No maximum vehicle length if can park safely



Implementation

Basic implementation tools for safe, practical sites

- Appropriately sized marked out vehicle spaces to match motorhome size limits
- Adequate turning space for safe vehicle manoeuvrability.
- Clear signage on where to park with links to other useful information.



Implementation costs

- Based on above basic tools, average cost of \$1k-\$1.5k per restricted site.
- The work of compliance officers is covered by existing regulatory budget.



Competing uses

- No differentiation between freedom camping provisions for locals vs non-locals so as to enable equal opportunities.
- A permit system could be costly / difficult to administer.
- Exceptions to restrictions for e.g. overnight fishing.



Other implementation measures

- Potential for in-house booking system if pressures remain.
- Supporting infrastructure e.g. upgraded dump station.



Campervans & Motorhomes come in a range of lengths from say 4.7m for a van to a maximum permitted length in NZ of 12.6m for a fully integrated vehicle. Our proposed mainly 8m long parking space size restrictions are based on a typical self-contained motorhome like the one below which are 6 - 7.6m long.



Tourism link priorities

Align with Kāpiti Destination Management Plan

e.g. through enabling a longer stay per site to encourage visitors to stay.



Promotion of sites for camping

e.g. expansion of new Kāpiti tourism website – include freedom camping site maps and reference other camping opportunities in district i.e. commercial and DOC campgrounds; update camping apps.



Links to information for campers at site locations

e.g. QR code on sign to link with info on tourist attractions including website and maps showing nearby utilities such as dump stations, public toilets, pools etc.



Seek NZMCA “Motor Home Friendly Town” status

To encourage NZMCA members to stay in Kāpiti.



Paying to camp does not meet the definition of “freedom camping” under the Act but paid options support freedom camping by providing a range of opportunities in the district for camping visitors.



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- NZMCA campground partnership
- User pays amenities by 3rd party provider

Benefits and impacts of new approach

BENEFITS

Ability to enforce compliance with site restrictions/conditions and prohibitions through bylaw

Longer stays (48 hours) encourage camping visitors to spend whilst in district on attractions and eateries

An increase in sites creating and an overall increase in camping vehicle parks that are safe and practical

Restricted sites spread right across the district including new locations



IMPACTS

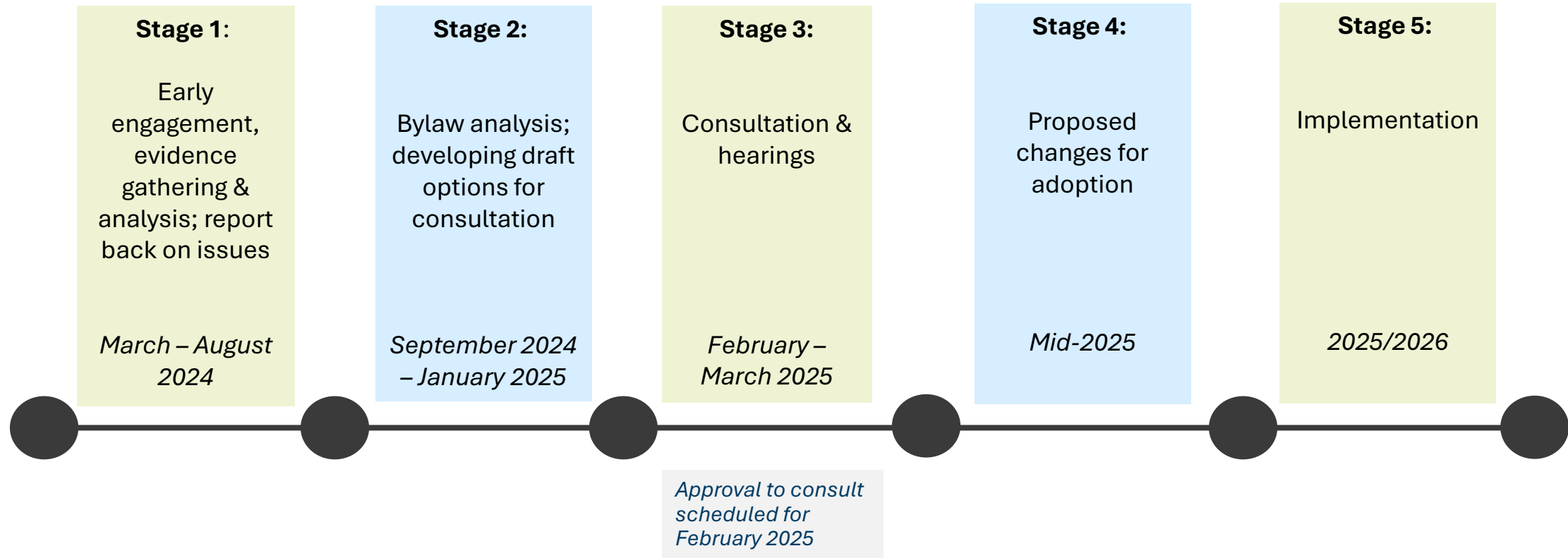
Expectation by community to manage impacts by using compliance and enforcement tools available

Less opportunity for prime beach locations to be used by campers passing through due to extension on 24-hour limit

Spaces are designed to fit a motorhome size of up to 8m+ meaning standard vehicle car park numbers are reduced

Three current designated sites in Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Ōtaki are no longer available for camping

Next steps and timeline



Questions

- Do you have feedback on the proposed approaches to:
 - Proceed with a Bylaw only
 - General prohibitions and restrictions outlined
 - Implementation
 - Tourism priorities