

Urgent decision: Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

1 March 2017

Lesley Jenkins
Relationship Manager

Re: Freedom Camping Pilot Project

1. Purpose

The purpose of this urgent decision is to seek your approval to include the Orewa Reserve carpark in the Freedom Camping Pilot project.

2. Background

The council's current management approach to freedom camping is largely a reactive one, with the majority of resources being deployed where risks are perceived to be the strongest. This often means addressing a risk once it has become an issue. This approach is resource intensive and does not address the problem.

A new approach is proposed to be tested through a pilot. The pilot will occur across a range of sites in the region over for a two month period beginning early February to:

- actively manage supply by doubling the capacity for freedom campers to sleep in designated areas
- actively manage demand, by switching from a reactive approach - to a preventative one that proactively disperses campers before over-crowding occurs
- establish a quick-response team to respond to harm.

Through a workshop held in November 2016, the local board supported a detailed assessment of sites for potential inclusion in the proposed pilot. Community stakeholders have also been engaged and provided feedback on proposed sites. Where the community has not supported a site, the site has not been included.

3. Reason for urgency

Due to the timing of the pilot project, the council summer recess, and the associated peak season of freedom camping, this decision is required before the next scheduled business meeting.

4. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board approve the Orewa Reserve carpark from March 6 to May 6 2017.

Additional conditions required by the board


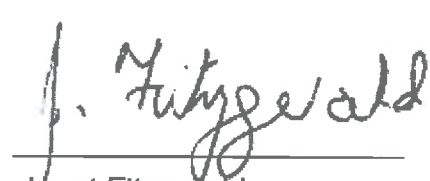
- Specific resources will be allocated to ensure adequate levels of enforcement and monitoring in accordance with the council's graduated enforcement policy
- That the camping pilot will have a maximum two day stay
- Freedom camping activity will only be allowed in fully self-contained vehicles and not in converted cars or tents
- Campers contravening regulations will be advised that they must move on if there are insufficient marked sites

- All sites involved in the camping pilot will be clearly identified with signage
- A set pilot period be agreed to and no extension of this pilot occur unless formally agreed to by the local board
- This pilot is just for passing tourists to park their self-contained vans not to be used as shelter for homeless people
- At the closure of the pilot, a report will be prepared by officers for the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board outlining the monitoring and enforcement that has occurred.

AUTHORISED FOR RELEASE



Lesley Jenkins
Relationship Manager, Local Board Services

Authorisation	
<p>This decision is authorised by Members Parfitt and Fitzgerald, who were delegated the power to make, on behalf of the local board, urgent decisions on matters that cannot wait until the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the local board. Resolution number HB/2016/195</p>	
 <hr/> <p>Julia Parfitt Chairperson</p>	 <hr/> <p>Janet Fitzgerald Deputy Chairperson</p>
Date: 08/03/2017	Date: 08/03/2017

Additional information

Sites approved for inclusion in the pilot will be prepared for limited use by campers overnight and where necessary service levels will be adjusted to ensure that toilet and waste management facilities are able to cope with the activity.

Attached to this report is land-owner approval documentation outlining how the pilot will be run in the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area. Only campers with a certified self-contained vehicle will be allowed to stay at temporary freedom camping spots in the local board area. Staff have reviewed service levels at the pilot sites to ensure infrastructure is appropriately managed. Where a site is not coping with demand and risks are unable to be effectively managed, sites will be removed from the pilot, in consultation with the local board.

Daniel Pouwels
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Land Owner Approval - Application Form Community Facilities –

Project Details - The following is to be completed for the assessment of the project

Project No: (Office Use)	LOA1 0 _ _ _	Project Name: (Office Use)	Freedom Camping Pilot
Site Details:			
Subject site:	Orewa Reserve Carpark		
Park name and address:	275 Hibiscus Coast Highway, Orewa		
This Application Is For			
	<p>Modifying an existing asset on the park By temporary marking out any car park for the intended use described below and then restoring the site back to the status quo after the pilot has completed.</p>		
	<p>Other – please describe: To designate part of the site for the purposes of overnight sleeping by freedom campers – that is, for no fee. The Freedom Camping Pilot will take place over a two month period beginning February 2017. Additionally there will be a shutdown period that will take place from the beginning of April until May 2017, where council officers and contractors will be dismantling the sites.</p>		

Project Details	
Detailed description of project :	Designate a restricted number of car parking bays for the purposes of freedom camping by the general public for the period February to May 2017. Marking out the site using signage and pavement markings as appropriate Conducting research and compliance monitoring at the site, including the execution of a traveller dispersal campaign and associated research activity (surveys)
Are you providing plans/aerial maps/sketches/photos? If so, please list names of attachments:	Detailed site assessment Dispersal Strategy
How will the project impact on park users and other stakeholders:	The project team has consulted user groups that may be impacted by the pilot at this site. The results of that engagement have been incorporated into the detailed site assessment documentation. Where a community group does not support the pilot being implemented at a site, that site has not been assessed as suitable for inclusion in the pilot.
Mitigation works for impact:	Signage installation and car park markings (as appropriate) according to parking management plan.
Proposed physical works start date:	27 February 2017
Proposed physical works completion date:	31 May 2017

Alternative Options Researched:	
Detailed description of other alternative options that have been explored:	This site has been selected from over 100 sites assessed across Auckland over a six month period.
Reason why alternative option was dismissed:	<p>Other sites have been excluded from this stage of the pilot due to one or more of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing demands for parking too high to support additional demands Local residents considered adversely impacted by noise and other activities associated with overnight camping There were physical works planned at the site during the period of the pilot Community groups have activities at the site that require the whole site to be available for use.
Contractors Details If Applicable:	
RTL Road Signs and Traffic control Equipment Limited	Phone and Mobile TBA
Gravitas - Research Agency	TBA

Applicant Details	
Name:	Daniel Pouwels
Postal Address:	C/- Community and Social Policy Department, Auckland Council Level 21, 135 Albert Street Auckland City Centre
Contact :	Mobile: 027 222 6858
	Daytime Phone: 09 890 8275 (ext 46 8275)
Email:	Daniel.pouwels@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
The applicant is:	Project Manager
Applicant Signature:	Date:

Please submit completed application form along with relevant plans via email to permissions@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Application Received Date:	Received Name:	Specialist Name:	Date:
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Detailed site Assessment

Name: Orewa Reserve Carpark

Address: 275 Hibiscus Coast Highway, Orewa

Number of suggested car parking spaces: 10 (local board suggested: 5)

Vehicle Types: small medium Large
Self-contained site only: Yes No(local board suggested : None SC)
Tent Suitability: Yes No
Toilet facilities: Yes No
Waste receptacles: Yes No
Nearby Waste dumping station: Yes No
Auckland Transport Monitored site: Yes No

Overall Suitability: Good Average Poor

Other Comments to support assessment:

- None.

AERIAL PHOTO (sample below)



